

Beautiful Minds...100 years of Nobel creativity opens in Sydney

The determination, creativity and foresight of a Swedish inventor who died more than 100 years ago, is celebrated in *Beautiful Minds, the Centennial Exhibition of the Nobel Prizes*, which opens at UTS, Sydney on Wednesday 19 April.

Alfred Nobel was a wealthy man when he created his will in 1895. As the inventor of dynamite, which incidentally claimed the life of his brother, he had more than 90 factories in 20 countries producing dynamite. His distrust of lawyers meant his will was written on a scrap of paper at the Swedish Club in Paris in front of four witnesses. His amazing legacy, which aimed to reward those who "conferred the greatest benefits on mankind", continues annually to this day, in the form of the six Nobel Prizes for Peace, Literature, Medicine, Chemistry, Physics and Economics.

The prizes consist of a medal, a diploma and a sum of money – in 2006 it was valued at around \$US1.4 million per prize.

This international exhibition, which has toured the globe since 2001, is an insight into the history of the prize and its recipients. It also explores the notion of creativity – where does it come from? How it is harnessed? UTS is the only Australian destination for the exhibition.

UTS Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ross Milbourne, says, "The Nobel Prizes recognise the highest standards of excellence and ingenuity. This is a wonderful exhibition and a great chance to be inspired by some of the greatest creative thinkers of our age.

"Australia itself has a commendable number of Nobel Laureates, most recently in Barry Marshall and Robin Warren, who won the 2005 Medicine Prize for their hard-fought discovery that stomach ulcers and gastritis are caused by the bacterium, *Helicobacter pylori*."

"We are also honoured to welcome the Director of Stockholm's Nobel Museum, Svante Lindqvist, to launch the exhibition and deliver a free public lecture, 'The Nobel Prize as a Mirror of 20th century science and culture' on 18 April at 7pm."

An extensive free lecture, panel discussion and special events program, featuring many distinguished Nobel Laureates, will accompany the exhibition, which runs until 30 June.

Confirmed Nobel Laureate participants include: J.M Coetzee (Literature, 2003) who will participate in a panel on 26 April, Sir James Mirrlees (Economics, 1996) on 2 May, and Peter Doherty (Medicine, 1996) on 6 June.

Beautiful Minds, the Centennial Exhibition of the Nobel Prizes is sponsored by UTS, the Nobel Museum and Volvo Australia.

Full information on the exhibition and special event program can be obtained by visiting the web site at www.nobel.uts.edu.au

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Further information and images:

Sue Nelson, Quick Thinking Communications,
0403 343 275 qtcom@optusnet.com.au

Robert Button – UTS Media Office
02 9514 1734 or 0418 403 246