

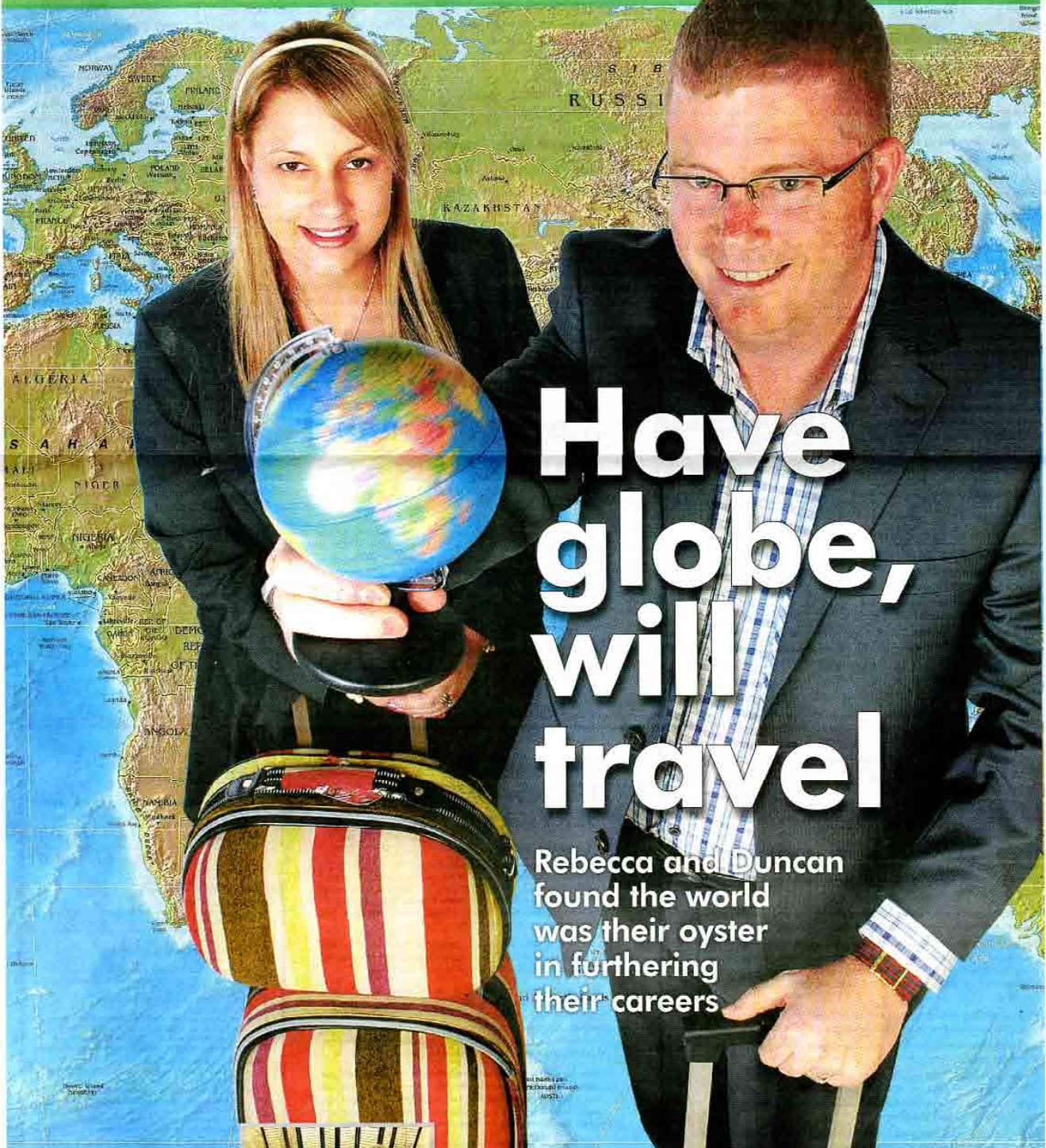
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Have globe, will travel

Rebecca and Duncan found the world was their oyster in furthering their careers

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Global exposure

Jessica Leo
 Editor CareerOne

If you think taking a gap year is all about working in pubs or is exclusively the domain of young students, think again.

Rather, globetrotting is one of the best ways to put you at the top of the pack when it comes to advancing your career.

Just ask Rebecca Razzano and Duncan Bainbridge who, thanks to successful career stints abroad, are now making serious in-roads in their respective industries.

The travel-ready pair represent a growing number of career professionals who have garnered greater business acumen by heading abroad and are bringing that experience back to Adelaide.

Like many graduates fresh out of university, Ms Razzano - who studied IT in the mid-90s - headed to the UK in 1998.

However, unlike many of her peers, Ms Razzano wasn't looking to work in hospitality, on the European ski slopes or as a nanny. Instead, she was preparing to dive head-first into her career of choice in a new culture and entirely different country.

"I was the opposite to my friends in the UK. Many worked bars and I had worked bars (in Australia) while at uni and couldn't think of anything worse," Ms Razzano says.

Instead, she took a job at UK firm Securacore Services and mainly carried out Y2K testing in the lead-up to the new millennium.

After a year-long stint she returned to Adelaide, taking up a position with Adam Internet. Today, she is Adam Internet's national solutions manager and is constantly looking for opportunities that will allow the Adelaide family business to improve its dominant position in the local ISP market.

Ms Razzano says that after graduating and taking the leap of faith by moving overseas, she was in a unique position as one of very few females in the IT industry. However,



GLOBETROTTERS: Duncan Bainbridge, of Hassell, and Rebecca Razzano, of Adam Internet, have travelled to develop their careers. Pictures, cover and above: **MATT CARTY**

rather than being daunted by this, Ms Razzano thrived on it.

"To any young females who are scared to travel I'd say, do it. I did it on my own," she says.

"But you have to be open-minded and independent."

Duncan Bainbridge - who recently moved to Adelaide to work at architecture, design and planning firm Hassell - agrees you need to have the right attitude to further your career abroad.

A Sydneysider, Mr Bainbridge travelled to the UK 17 years ago, planning to work for six months.

"Six months became 17 years and I got a job in the architecture profession," Mr Bainbridge says.

Working his way through multinational firms in London, Mr

I have never worked in a pub . . . I have always been on the right side of the bar

Bainbridge met his Adelaide-born wife at Christmas, 1999.

But it wasn't until just recently that he was lured back to Australian shores, settling in Adelaide a matter of weeks ago.

"With the way the workplace was

going in the UK and ageing parents, we started looking at returning," he says. "There were three practices I wanted to work. One of them was Hassell and they were recruiting in the UK."

Like Ms Razzano, there was no notion of taking a break from his profession at any point during Mr Bainbridge's time overseas.

"I've never worked in a pub, I've always been on the right side of the bar," he says.

But despite the difference in CVs, the pair do agree that harnessing an international experience can pay dividends.

"I think the local industry values international experience," Mr Bainbridge says.