

news

June 2017

> from the University of South Australia



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UniSA continues to rise in international rankings

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by Michèle Nardelli



INSIDE UNISA

UniSA has again moved up in the QS World University Rankings, rising nine places to 279 in a field of almost 1000 institutions globally.

The improvement builds on positive results across a range of rankings in the past year and cements UniSA's place in the top two per cent of universities worldwide.

In 2017 UniSA rose to [32 in the Times Higher Education](#) World's best 200 universities under 50 years old and moved up 141 places to 254 in the Leiden Rankings for university research citations.

UniSA Vice Chancellor [Professor David Lloyd](#) says the improvements reflect the growing confidence of the University and its strong commitment to quality research and quality teaching.

"Our aspiration as Australia's University of Enterprise is clear, we have earned our place as one of the world's best young universities and one which is dedicated, not only to research excellence, but to delivering relevant research that makes a tangible contribution to society," Prof Lloyd says.

"Rankings matter because they say something about our ambition and our dedication and they help to attract the best researchers, academics and students to the State and to UniSA.

"As we build our reputation as Australia's university of enterprise, these quality indicators are a marker that while we are deeply engaged with industry and the professions, we underpin that outreach with real quality."

Last year UniSA's nursing program ranked in the top 50 globally and Architecture, Art and Design all ranked in the top 100. UniSA's Business School is ranked in the top one per cent worldwide. The school has held [EQUIS accreditation](#) for the past 13 years, longer than any other Australian business school.

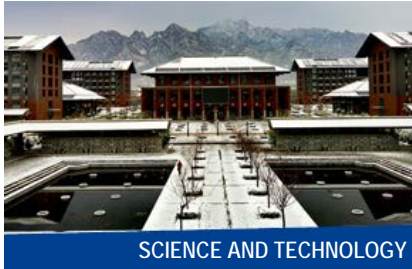


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UniSA geoscientist 'rocks it' as a top researcher under 40

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by Michèle Nardelli



COMMUNITY

Dr Tom Raimondo in Norway examining weakened rocks.

UniSA's [Tom Raimondo](#) is aiming to use the opportunity of being named in [ABC Radio National's 2017 Top 5 researchers under 40 years old](#), to spread the word about the fascination and usefulness of geology – a science sometimes seen as an “oldie”, but one he believes is still very much a “goodie”.

In between studying the significance of hot rocks under the Antarctic ice sheets and scaling rock faces shaped by deep earthquakes in Norway, Dr Raimondo also visits primary schools, hoping to get more kids interested in the environment through the wonders of geoscience.

“It is a bit of a tragedy that all the interest in fossils, dinosaurs, rocks and minerals that is really heightened in young kids, somehow dissipates in high school – geology just isn't a key subject anymore,” Dr Raimondo says.

“There is also this stereotype that if you study geology you end up being in the mining industry, working a fly-in, fly-out lifestyle, in completely remote areas, to dig things out of the ground.

“But there is just so much more you can do, there are a range of different jobs out there for people with geoscientific skills, and much of what we are researching and learning about the geological evolution of the planet is extremely important for its future survival.”

Drilling into the Antarctic subsurface to determine global risk

One of his current projects is to explore the impact of hot rocks on the stability of the east Antarctic ice sheet.

Many rocks produce heat as part of the slow, natural breakdown of small minerals enriched in elements such as thorium (Th), uranium (U) and potassium (K).

Understanding at what point these rocks at the base of glaciers may affect the stability of the ice above is important because there may be a tipping point where the sheets are lubricated enough to accelerate their movement and become unstable.

"Dramatic instability of the largest ice sheet in east Antarctica has the potential to raise global sea level by 3.5 m if it were to completely melt," Dr Raimondo says.

"Conducting this kind of research is never going to be easy because getting a measure of the temperature of the earth, represented by the hot rocks below, means having to drill down hundreds of metres into the subsurface – no mean feat in the Antarctic.

"To date it has only been achieved six times in this region. But here is where past scientists and our geological knowledge comes into play.

"Rocks brought back from the Antarctic by the famous South Australian explorer, Sir Douglas Mawson, on his first expedition in 1911, along with additional samples that have been brought back by other expeditions since this time, form a collection of thousands of specimens that we can use to measure their U, Th and K content and calculate how much heat energy they release.

"But as well as those samples, by looking back in time and reconstructing the jigsaw puzzle of the Earth's tectonic plates, we know Australia and the Antarctic were once joined. So we have found that rocks in the Nullarbor share the same geological history as those in the Antarctic.

"Right now one of my PhD students, Alicia Pollett, is working on a drill rig on the Nullarbor Plain, running a very long thermometer down drill holes to take the temperature of the Earth.

"What we have found is that these particular rocks have heat flow values about twice the global continental average and this is vital information in predicting the stability of the Totten Glacier in east Antarctica."

Dr Raimondo says this is just one of the significant and fascinating projects geoscientists are working on.

The geology on our door step is internationally important

"I think we really undervalue the sites we have in Australia that are of global geological significance," he says.

"Geologists around the world know about Hallett Cove because 600 million years of Earth's geological history can be found carved into this landscape, including a key period when it was covered by a major glaciation.

"Likewise, the Flinders Ranges are home to shattered rocks that witnessed a huge meteorite impact, sedimentary layers that tell of a time when the whole planet was covered in ice, and some amazingly well-preserved Ediacaran fossils, the oldest complex organisms found anywhere in the world – in a general sense we don't celebrate this as much as we should.

"Everything we can learn about the geology of the past will help us navigate the environmental challenges of the future."

Radio National's [Top 5 Under 40](#) are selected each year through a national search for early-career researchers who have a flair and passion for communicating their work. The five winners become *Scientists in Residence* across ABC RN, communicating their research and learning more about the media and broadcasting.

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University of
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SA's first biofilm test facility to help fight chronic infections

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by Sophia Moshakis



HEALTH

Dr Nicky Thomas (centre) with PhD students Chelsea Thorn and Yassamin Al-Bayaty in the Biofilm Test Facility at UniSA's City East campus.

> [International recognition for Biofilm Test Facility](#)

The University of South Australia is now home to South Australia's first test facility specialising in the most successful form of life on Earth – biofilms – and will join a global battle against the chronic infections they can cause.

The Adelaide Biofilm Test Facility (BTF) aims to improve treatment and prevention of biofilm-associated diseases through a variety of testing methods. It will also offer research students unique learning opportunities.

UniSA research associate Dr Nicky Thomas, who heads up the facility, says they want to work with companies which make antibiotics, wound dressings, band aids and disinfectants to help fight the infections caused by biofilms.

"Biofilms are surface attached bacteria which are the cause of infection, they are also the most successful form of life on Earth and can colonise both living and non-living surfaces," Dr Thomas says.

"In the body, biofilms can be found as plaque on teeth, chronic lung and sinus infections and in wounds."

The facility can create a variety of biofilm models to replicate real-life scenarios.

"For instance, we can create an artificial wound infection without using a human or animal body. We can then

use this to test and evaluate biofilm inhibition and killing efficacies of antibiotics, wound dressings and band aids," he says.

"Historically, the standardised method to analyse things like the efficiency of antibiotics, is to look at bacteria in a fluid. However, 99.99 per cent of all bacteria does not exist in such a form, they exist in an immobilised, attached form which is why these new models of testing are so important."

Dr Thomas is a co-founder of the BTF and was recently awarded a prestigious Australian National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Early Career Researchers Fellowship worth \$309,436, in relation to his translational research on nanomedicine interactions with antibiotic-resistant biofilms.

Dr Thomas and his colleagues from the [Sansom Institute for Health Research](#), Professor Clive Prestidge and Dr Rietie Venter, established South Australia's first experimental BTF after being awarded a grant from Adelaide Integrated Biosciences (AIB) Laboratories and TechInSA. UniSA's Sansom Institute for Health Research and the School of Pharmacy further funded the launch of the BTF and invested in state-of-the-art equipment.

The BTF provides academics, healthcare providers and industry a range of in vitro (test-tube based) and in vivo (in living organisms) efficacy tests for compounds, formulations and medical devices against biofilms that are associated with recurring and difficult to treat chronic infections.

The BTF also provides Masters and PhD students with advanced learning opportunities relating to their field of interest.

PhD candidate Chelsea Thorn is aiming to develop smarter ways to deliver antimicrobial compounds to biofilms by developing a topical treatment in the form of a gel, so that antibiotics can work better.

"The BTF is a huge benefit for me as I am able to easily access the expertise and techniques of renowned, high-standard biofilm models. I was also able to conduct research within the BTF during my Honours project, as part of the [Bachelor of Pharmacy \(Honours\)](#)," Chelsea says.

"My findings resulted in a co-authored publication in the Journal of Pharmaceuticals and I also received an award from the [Society of Hospital Pharmacists Australia](#). To achieve this from a four-month project was very rewarding."

The BTF was modelled on the [Costerton Biofilm Centre](#) at the University of Copenhagen. BTF researchers not only collaborate closely with Australian organisations such as the [Queen Elizabeth Hospital](#), but also internationally with [SickKids](#) in Toronto Canada and the [Laboratory of Pharmaceutical Microbiology](#) at Ghent University in Belgium.

Read more on the [Adelaide Biofilm Test Facility website](#).

International recognition for Biofilm Test Facility

Adelaide's Biofilm Test Facility is already attracting interest from international researchers.

A postdoctoral researcher from Malaysia has been awarded an Australia - APEC Women in Research Fellowship to work at the Biofilm Test Facility. She will work under the supervision of Dr Thomas for three months from July.

The fellowship recipient is from The University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus.

The [Australia - APEC Women in Research Fellowship](#) provides financial support for high-achieving female researchers from developing APEC economies to pursue research opportunities in partnership with Australian education and research institutions.

A maximum of ten fellowships are awarded each year and are extremely competitive across countries including China, Indonesia, Mexico, Malaysia and Peru.

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University of
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From the Chancellery

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INSIDE UNISA

Even as we huddle together for warmth this winter – and I’m now Australian-enough to complain about the cold this side of the Equator – I wanted to update you on our response to the Federal Government’s higher education reforms.

I had an opportunity a few weeks ago to put our case before the Education and Training Minister Senator Simon Birmingham. I’d like to share with you what I told him in a speech at the [CEDA](#) (Committee for the Economic Development of Australia) higher education review:

“Education is a big business in this State. Higher education in particular. We produce the human capital and workforce for the future prosperity of South Australia. Our international student education constitutes the single largest service export in the State. We employ tens of thousands of people in South Australia and have a collective constituent population well in excess of 100,000 people.

I’m privileged to act as the chief executive of our largest university. I believe that I have one primary shareholder – the people of the state of South Australia. Our institution was constituted in 1991 to be the university for South Australia. We now graduate around 8000 people a year. Our graduate employment rate is the highest in the State. We work very hard to support local business and innovation.

South Australia has achieved 33.1 per cent participation in higher education compared to the [Bradley target](#) of 40 per cent national participation. We have a lot of work to do to reach the national participatory target.

The minister has proposed legislation which will expand the demand driven system to support what we call sub-bachelor places. That is to be applauded – it will enable us to prepare students to succeed in higher education. Similarly the minister has proposed to protect the [higher education participatory pathway program](#) (HEPPP) in legislation – to provide support for the most vulnerable in our society to attain a university education. The [UniSA College](#) is a model in this regard.

Protecting HEPPP is the right thing to do. I applaud that.

The minister has proposed that a percentage of university funding be linked to a focus on outcomes – I welcome that principle, although he and I will doubtless debate the quantum and its implementation – 7.5 per cent of annual funding being deemed ‘at risk’ will make forward budgeting nigh on impossible. The minister has sought to address inequity in the national allocation of funded postgraduate places – again, a positive step.

But these positive reforms are coupled to elements which I cannot readily endorse.

The students of this nation have and will doubtless continue to voice their concerns around the proposed increase in the amounts they will have to pay for their education as the Commonwealth reduces its contribution to the funding envelope. They will also rightly be vocal about the proposed lowering of the HECS repayment threshold and what equates to a tax increase for the lowest paid graduates in our society.

Mine is a not for profit organisation. It is also a not for loss organisation. We do not run a deficit. Our operational turnover is a shade over \$600m which is expended here in South Australia. I am fortunate to have a very competent [university council](#). My finance committee mandates that we run a prudent and fiscally responsible ship. A lean ship. Our targeted operating margin is between four and six per cent annually.

That margin is ‘put away’ for reinvestment in our core business of teaching and research. That margin is not funded by the Commonwealth Government, although I clearly recognise that the contribution made by the Commonwealth in funding the higher education of the Australian people enables our operation to positively leverage their funds into external and international revenues, which facilitated the generation of our so called surplus.

Let me get back to that operating safety margin: four to six per cent. The last investments made by the Commonwealth Government in higher education infrastructure were back in 2012/13. Five years ago. Our institution was fortunate to receive \$40m towards the construction of the [Health Innovation Building](#), currently nearing completion on North Terrace. The University is approaching the end of a cycle of capital development which has been transformational in the city’s West End. We are delivering over \$300m of new facilities, coming online in the next 12 months.

\$300m of facilities which were financed without debt. Funded from the safety margin we put away for that very purpose over many years. Over \$300m of new infrastructure to underpin our competitiveness, to underpin student experience and to attract greater investment to this State. \$40m of this came from the Federal Government. The rest was our so called surplus.

And what does that \$300m do? Well, aside from the benefits of the infrastructure to the operation of the University, this investment has supported 2000 jobs outside the University during the construction phase. 2000 jobs in South Australia. In a state that needs jobs now more than ever.

There’s \$300m from UniSA. There is also \$250m next door in the University of Adelaide’s new facility and \$120m in Flinders’ new facilities in Tonsley. Well over \$600m. That’s 4000 jobs sustained in the wider economy over the past three years. All funded from so called surpluses. Supporting and retaining jobs in this State outside of the universities themselves.

I do not believe in blunt instruments. Another proposed measure of reform is the so called efficiency dividend. Let us call it what it really is. This is a blunt budget cut of 2.5 per cent, which will compound to five per cent and will remain in situ thereafter. It is apparently predicated on the fact that we are overfunded organisations. I have not been asked for any evidence of my operational efficiency or otherwise. My finance committee members would have a view of that. The fact that my institution is positioned among the world’s top 25 young universities would suggest we are doing something right, especially when one adjusts for the funding dollars available per student for the universities which feature on that ‘best of’ list. On that measure we appear pretty efficient.

I do not believe in one size fits all. Australia deserves a differentiated university sector. South Australia relies heavily on the sustainability of its universities, perhaps now more than ever as we transition our economy from manufacturing to innovation. Surely cutting the budgetary envelope as proposed does not ensure sustainability.

The application of the so called ‘efficiency dividend’, the application of a 2.5 per cent funding cut, which compounds to five per cent in 2019, will almost wholly erode the ability of this State’s universities to advance infrastructure programs into the future. It will reduce our competitiveness on the international stage. It will undoubtedly erode our ability to support jobs and innovation in this State – within and outside the universities themselves. This measure, this legislative sting in the tail, has nothing to do with reform, and everything to do with a budgetary clawback from a system which is already funded at significantly below the OECD average. It takes away – by definition. But more disappointing, it takes away from what could otherwise be seen as steps towards positive reform. It is retrograde in the extreme and it is not good for the future economic prosperity of this

nation.”

Professor David Lloyd
Vice Chancellor and President

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**University of
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AWARDS

Student and alumnus recognised at the Australian Accounting Awards

UniSA student Arlen Dabinett and alumnus Chris Hooper were awarded two of the prestigious [Australian Accounting Awards](#) late last month.

Business School student Arlen was named Accounting Student of the Year while recent MBA graduate Chris Hooper won the Editor's Choice Award.

As one of 10 finalists, Arlen beat students from across the country with the criteria including extracurricular activities related to a career in accounting, employment/internships and academic achievements.

Arlen says the win was "a truly amazing experience ... something I will always remember and cherish". He also said being a part of UniSA's business school was "immensely valuable".

"It is this Business School that has given me the opportunities to move abroad, be a Business School student ambassador, UniSA international ambassador, business mentor and president of the Commerce Student Association."

Arlen will graduate next year with a double degree and continue working at his accounting firm Pitcher Partners.

Winner of the Editor's Choice Award, Chris Hooper, completed a Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting) in 2009 and his MBA in 2015 and has since gone on to tutor several subjects for the University.

Hooper started working as a junior accountant at the age of 19, having completed his first year of university.

"Getting experience in public practice accounting before graduating fast tracked my career," he says.

Hooper and his company Accodex previously won the Accounting Innovation Award in 2015 and are active participants in the University's Industry Placement Program.

Staff feature in Queen's Birthday honours list

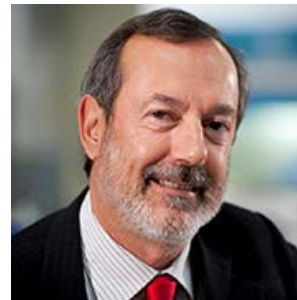
Three UniSA staff have been recognised for their services to research, education and the community in the 2017



Arlen Dabinett proudly holds his award after the event in Sydney in late May.

Queen's Birthday honours.

Centre for Cancer Biology [Adjunct Professor Angel Lopez](#) has been made an Officer in the General Division of the Order of Australia (AO). The award was for distinguished service to medical and scientific research in the areas of immunology and cell biology, and through innovative developments in cancer treatment, particularly acute myeloid leukaemia.



Prof Lopez says it was a tremendous honour to be a recipient, and that he felt "humbled and undeserving".

"The credit of these medical and scientific achievements should go in reality to the fantastic team at the Centre for Cancer Biology (CCB)," Prof Lopez says.

"Recognition should also go to SA Pathology which provides an environment where pathology services and medical research are integrated in such a way that makes progress all the more rapid, tangible and meaningful, as well as to the University of South Australia, which has been instrumental in supporting CCB researchers in more recent years."

See the [Alumni network website](#) for details on alumni who received honours.

[Emeritus Professor Dorothy Scott](#) was made a Member in the General Division of the Order of Australia (AM) for significant service to the community, particularly to child protection and wellbeing, as an advocate for children's rights reform, and to education.

[Associate Professor Denise Wood](#), a Senior Research Fellow in the School of Communication, International Studies and Languages, was made an AM for significant service to education as an academic, researcher and practitioner in the field of participation, inclusion and access.

Other recipients include Bangarra Dance Theatre artistic director **Stephen Page**, an honorary doctor of the University of South Australia, who was made an Officer (AO) in the General Division in the Queen's birthday honours.

Jack Condous, publicity officer and immediate past president of the Friends of the South Australian School of Art (SASA), was presented a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for service to the visual arts, and to education.

UniSA's Verse Magazine named best student publication

UniSA's student-run publication, *Verse Magazine*, has won Best Student Publication at the recent [Campuslink Awards](#).

The awards are run by Tertiary Access Group (TAG), a not-for-profit co-operative owned and run by its 70-plus member organisations including UniSA's Student Association.

TAG's 2017 Campuslink Awards were held in Canberra on 8 May and *Verse Magazine* fought fierce competition from the likes of the University of Sydney's *Union* magazine, UNSW's *Student Life* and *ActivateUTS* to take home the award.

The annual awards recognise excellence in marketing, services, student programs and innovation in the tertiary sector. The Best Student Publication award recognises outstanding achievement in student publications across Australia.

Verse Magazine is entirely student run, featuring a range of student contributions including opinion pieces, creative writing, poems, artwork, travel stories and band reviews. Six editions are circulated each academic year with 13,000 copies printed and distributed across six campuses.

Verse Magazine's 2017 Head Editor and UniSA journalism student Caitlin Tait says one of the magazine's key strengths is the commitment to include diverse voices.

"We offer a platform for a range of opinions and a safe place to discuss difficult topics, like gender, racism, and sexuality," she says.



2017 Verse Magazine student editors celebrating with their award. Rubina Chitrakar (Editor), Bridget Kerry (Communications Editor), Caitlin Tait (Head Editor) and Rachael Sharman (Graphic Designer).

“*Verse Magazine* allows a place for students to use their power and to celebrate it.”

Grant to support research into infant leukaemia

A team of researchers led by UniSA **Associate Professor Simon Conn** from the [Centre for Cancer Biology](#) (CCB) has been awarded a coveted grant from the Ray and Shirl Norman Cancer Research Trust towards understanding how mutations which lead to cancer arise.

While it has long been accepted that environmental and/or hereditary factors are responsible for all mutations seen in cancer, Assoc Prof Conn’s team has made ground-breaking discoveries to show that naturally occurring molecules in the individual can also cause specific mutations.

The team hopes its research will assist with diagnosis and guiding the treatment of cancers, in particular infant leukaemia.

The Ray and Shirl Norman Cancer Research Trust was set up following the death of Raymond Simpson Norman to fund research into the prevention and cure of cancer.



Top award for graduate research supervision

The Australian Council of Graduate Research has presented UniSA’s **Associate Professor Jill Dorrian** with an award for excellence in graduate research supervision.

The Australian Council of Graduate Research (ACGR) announced the winners of its inaugural national Excellence in Graduate Research Education Awards at a ceremony at the University of Technology Sydney earlier this month. The awards promote outstanding performance in higher degree research supervision, leadership and industry engagement.



Assoc Prof Dorrian, who is Associate Head of School: Research and Associate Professor: Psychology, was one of just three winners on the night, and the only one in her category.

Since 2006 Assoc Prof Dorrian has supervised 21 graduate students to completion and supported her students to author more than 50 high quality journal articles, book chapters and industry reports.

She is committed to enhancing her students’ future employability and not only encourages them to publish work from their theses, but also provides opportunities to work on extra projects to give them industry experience.

“It’s always been my desire to inspire interest in science, to identify and nurture talented students, and to provide research training, particularly in research design and communication of results,” Assoc Prof Dorrian says.

“Receiving this recognition from the national body responsible for promoting excellence in research training is an honour and a testament to the wonderful students who I have been fortunate to work and learn with.”

UniSA Dean of Graduate Studies Professor Pat Buckley says that to receive the inaugural national award for best research degree supervision is “a tremendous achievement”.

“This award recognises the quality of Jill’s commitment and talent in graduate research training,” Prof Buckley says.

“I was fortunate to be at the awards ceremony, and it was wonderful to hear how well received her award was, in a room full of people who understand the dedication and work that goes into exemplary research supervision.”

For more information about Assoc Prof Dorrian’s award, visit the [ACGR website](#).

A student trifecta takes out the 2017 Ehrenberg Scholarship

A high calibre of marketing students has resulted in three Ehrenberg Scholarships being awarded this year.

Awarded to top tier students, the prestigious Ehrenberg Scholarship rewards winners with a year of paid HECS fees, the option to undertake paid, part-time work with the Ehrenberg-Bass Institute, and direct entry to invitation-only marketing masterclasses.

Typically awarded to a single high-achiever, 2017 has seen the unprecedented appointment of three winners—Georgia Butterworth (Port Augusta Secondary School), Alexandra Green (Mercedes College) and Oliver Main (Pembroke School)—selected from a large pool of premier candidates, who had each achieved an Australian

Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) of 95 or above in their Year 12 results.

Director of the Ehrenberg-Bass Institute at the UniSA Business School, Professor Byron Sharp, says he was impressed by the quality of the applicants.

“We had a large number of outstanding candidates this year which is fantastic,” Prof Sharp says

“As every scholarship applicant graduated in the top five per cent of high school students in the State, it’s always hard to select a winner.

“But this year it was astonishingly difficult, which is why we decided to award three.”

Named after the late Professor Andrew Ehrenberg, one of the Institute’s namesakes and one of the world’s greatest marketing scientists, scholarship applicants must have an ATAR of 95+ and be enrolled in one of two UniSA marketing degrees. Selected candidates are then invited to attend an interview and the scholarship is awarded based on students’ potential for excellence in marketing.

“The interview is our first look at the marketing scientists of the future,” Prof Sharp says.

“It’s great to meet these passionate students at the very start of their careers.

“Over the span of their university degree, they develop marketing knowledge that’s grounded by marketing science, placing them in good stead for a successful and confident career.”

He says it’s the world-class reputation of the Ehrenberg-Bass Institute that attracts high-achievers to undertake marketing degrees with UniSA.

“Scholarship applicants are aware of our reputation as a leading Institute – we are the world’s largest centre for research into marketing – so the experience they can have while studying marketing at the UniSA Business School is unique.”

First-year marketing student Georgia Butterworth, from Port Augusta, says she’s excited about where the prestigious scholarship could take her.

“I knew that learning industry-relevant information from marketing researchers would provide me with a number of opportunities,” Georgia says.

“Winning the Ehrenberg Scholarship has given me verification that I can achieve a lot more than what I originally thought.”

Oliver Main, who was head prefect at Pembroke School, says studying marketing had a strong appeal.

“I’ve been interested in marketing and advertising for a while, so choosing to study marketing at UniSA was a logical choice,” Oliver says.

“This scholarship will let me make the most of my time at university, especially given the opportunities to talk and meet with people in the marketing world.”

After commencing a law degree last year, Alexandra Green found that she wanted to embrace her creative side. She says UniSA’s marketing and communication degree will provide this opportunity while also working closely with the Ehrenberg-Bass Institute to explore the ever-changing world of marketing.

“I love the idea that what isn’t invented today, could be the crux of my future career,” Alexandra says.

“Marketing has to adapt to changes in technology and social demands, and being able to be a part of this, through the Ehrenberg scholarship, is really exciting.”

APPOINTMENTS

UniSA VC appointed to Universities Australia board

UniSA Vice Chancellor Professor David Lloyd has been appointed to the board of the peak body representing the university sector, Universities Australia.

[Universities Australia](#) represents Australian universities in the public interest, both nationally and internationally.

Prof Lloyd says it’s an important time to be represented on the board, with the federal Government’s proposed changes to higher education funding and legislation currently being considered by parliament.

“Universities Australia’s mission is to influence the national policy framework in which Australia’s universities operate in ways that affirm Australia’s position as a highly innovative and educated nation,” he says.

"It's both an honour and a valuable opportunity to be involved in the discussions and decisions that drive the voice of Australia's universities."

Prof Lloyd's appointment to the Universities Australia Board of Directors was ratified in May.

At the May meeting, Vice Chancellors expressed concern about the impact of cuts to public investment in universities and fee rises on students, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

UniSA researchers receive funding towards game changing defence capabilities

UniSA researchers have received more than \$200,000 to help develop game-changing defence capabilities in partnership with the Department of Defence.

Defence Industry Minister Christopher Pyne announced in May that 59 projects across 22 Australian universities had been selected to receive the first round of funding under the Next Generation Technologies Fund. The aim is to engage industry and academia to research priority areas identified in the 2016 Defence Industry Policy Statement.

"The Next Generation Technologies Fund allows us to draw on the expertise in Australian universities to initiate research into emerging technologies of interest to Defence," Mr Pyne says.

The following projects at UniSA have been selected for funding:

- DeepRay glider robust autonomy, \$88,000, by Professor Markus Stumptner, Professor Javaan Chahl, Dr Ivan Lee, Dr Wolfgang Mayer, Mr Ryan Green
- Multi-objective optimisation for autonomous UAV location planning over dynamic networks, \$98,255, by Association Professor Regina Burachik, Dr C Yalçın Kaya
- Anomaly detection in satellite communications networks, \$39,947, by Associate Professor Mark McDonnell, Dr Daniel Padilla Baez.

A total of 428 project proposals were received from 31 universities across Australia in a highly competitive field. For more information visit www.business.gov.au/cdic.

Join alumni events in Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne

UniSA alumni in Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne and Canberra have the chance to join Vice Chancellor, Professor David Lloyd to hear about some of the latest research from academics.

UniSA Alumni Cocktail receptions are being held in the four capital cities in June and July and all alumni are welcome.

Some of the topics being presented include Professor Michelle Baddeley from UniSA's Institute for Choice, speaking about "Copycats and Contrarians: Why we herd and when we don't", in Sydney on 20 June.

Dr Gabrielle Todd from the School of Pharmacy and Medical Sciences, whose research interests include, investigating early motor signs in Parkinson's disease and the long-lasting effects of methamphetamine on movement, will be speaking in Brisbane (21 June) and Melbourne (18 July).

Dean and Head of UniSA's School of Law, Professor Wendy Lacey, will be the guest speaker at the event in Canberra (19 July).

For details and to register, visit the UniSA [Alumni events page](#).

UniSA's global reach to improve health care

UniSA's Division of Health Sciences is hosting 13 Australia Award Fellows for eight weeks (April to June) as part of an Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) grant awarded to the University.

The visitors, educators and academics mainly from universities in Myanmar, and are here to learn from the University's program structures, curricula and teaching practices to possibly adapt components of the teaching and learning models to education settings in Myanmar.

The areas of expertise include nursing (in liaison with the University of Adelaide) and midwifery, allied health (pharmacy, physiotherapy, medical radiation/radiotherapy) and population health.

One of the Fellows, Dr Kyaw Soe Nyunt, works in the Ministry of Health and Sports in Myanmar and hopes to expand his knowledge in medical education. He says he's impressed with what he has experienced in Adelaide.

"I have already seen the current teaching and learning methods and especially case based problem based learning," Dr Nyunt says.

"I hope to share what I have learned [in Australia] with my Ministry, my department and our universities for academic improvement of capacity building in higher education."

Since 2015, 40 Australia Awards Fellows from Myanmar have visited Australia through grants awarded by DFAT to UniSA.

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Australia Awards Fellowships assistant director Raji Samprathi; Sports Australia Awards Fellow, and Myanmar Ministry of Health employee, Dr Kyaw Soe Nyunt; Australia Awards and Alumni Branch assistant secretary Cheryl Johnson; and health specialist Jill Bell.

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Latest content revision: Monday, 19 June 2017



New health clinic to open in the West End

[Back to story index](#)

by Katrina Phelps



COMMUNITY

Bachelor of Human Movement student Karly Bartlett and Bachelor of Health Science graduate Alexander Jackson at the Magill Allied Health Clinic, which will complement the new City West Health and Medical Clinic.

The finishing touches are being put on a new \$4.3 million state-of-the-art health clinic at City West that will offer services to the public.

The City West Health and Medical Clinic is expected to open in a few months, with the majority of treatment undertaken by the University's health students under the supervision of qualified practitioners.

UniSA Division of Health Sciences Dean of Clinical Education and Equity, Professor Esther May, says it's an exciting development for the University and builds on the existing clinics at the City East and Magill campuses.

"This development is seen as an important addition in clinical teaching facilities that brings together real world learning with community service," Prof May says.

"Clients who attend the clinic will be able to have dedicated time with skilled and enthusiastic students in training and know at all times that qualified health professionals are overseeing the services provided.

"Students will learn from clients about what having a health conditions means to their quality of life and performance.

"Members of the community have the opportunity to join a learning environment where their health and wellbeing will be the focus of a dedicated team, and a program of intervention will be worked up with them at the centre.



Artist impressions of the City West Health and Medical Clinic that are currently under construction and will complement existing clinics at the City East and Magill campuses.

“They become important teachers of the students about what the ‘lived experience’ of having a health condition means.

“We want our students to really understand what it is like to live with a health challenge and how they can partner with clients to improve their situation.”

Prof May says a significant benefit of the clinic is that UniSA health students will have the opportunity to practice in a clinic that is run as an actual health service, therefore providing valuable additional placements.

“Within health degrees there is a need to apply theory learnt in the classroom and online to working with clients and communities,” Prof May says.

“We partner with health, aged care and other community agencies to organise placements for students to learn from and with health professionals and their clients – these partnerships are critical but with health care changes and increased student numbers there has been a need to provide additional placements through our own University clinics.

“To date these clinics have been stand-alone podiatry, physiotherapy and exercise physiology clinics but with the development of the City West Health and Medical Clinic we have the opportunity to provide services and programs with inter-professional teams of students under the supervision of health professionals.”

Last year the existing clinics provided 16,000 occasions of service to patients and this will increase significantly with the new clinic.

Professional health services to be offered at the new clinic include physiotherapy, podiatry, exercise physiology, occupational therapy, nutrition, midwifery, nursing, psychology and social work.

“Patients will be provided with holistic care, optimising shared and inter-professional services wherever possible,” Prof May says.

“The clinic will be very much run as a patient-centred and family-centred facility.”

Once fully operational, the clinic will cater for 350-400 placements for students each year.

The clinic will be located at 27 North Terrace in the Adelaide CBD, next to the new Royal Adelaide Hospital and the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute. There are also future plans to develop an inter-professional clinic at UniSA’s Whyalla campus.

The student assisted allied health, nursing and midwifery services to be offered at the new clinic are being finalised but will depend on patient referrals that fit with the programs being developed.

At this stage there will be an emphasis on chronic disease management, rehabilitation following stroke and other neurological conditions, children with disabilities, complex conditions suited to inter-professional support and people challenged by healthcare costs or availability.

Anyone interested in finding out more about the referral process or the clinics should contact Dr Kuan Tan, Manager Health and Clinical Education on kuan.tan@unisa.edu.au or (08) 8302 2033.

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UniSA leads Australia with new joint college in China [Back to story index](#)

by Michèle Nardelli



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

XAUAT University will build new, purpose-designed facilities to house the College on its historical campus.

The University of South Australia will establish a new joint college with a Chinese university and offer bachelor and master degrees in engineering and IT.

It's the first time an Australian university has established a joint college offering both bachelor and master degrees with a Chinese university partner.

The partnership will allow UniSA to offer six programs (four at bachelor and two at master level) in conjunction with [Xi'an University of Architecture and Technology](#) (XAUAT), one of China's highest ranked universities for civil engineering.

The new programs will be offered through the new XAUAT UniSA An De College, located in [Xi'an China](#), and supported by UniSA's Division of Information Technology, Engineering and the Environment.

> [Why the name XAUAT UniSA An De College?](#)

The agreement follows a visit to UniSA in May from a senior delegation from XAUAT, led by their Vice Chancellor Prof Xiaojun Liu, herself a civil engineer.

The partnership was approved in May by the Chinese Ministry of Education.

UniSA Vice Chancellor Professor David Lloyd says the new joint college is underpinned by a 10-year agreement to work together to provide excellence in engineering education on an international scale.



“Chinese students at both undergraduate and postgraduate level will have an opportunity to study part of their program here in South Australia, enriching their understanding of engineering as a global career,” Prof Lloyd says.

“An De College also affords invaluable opportunities to develop research relationships and staff exchanges that again support UniSA’s global engagement.

“I am delighted with the success of this collaboration and pleased that it has been so strongly endorsed by the Chinese Ministry of Education.”

Pro Vice Chancellor for UniSA’s Division of IT, Engineering and the Environment, Professor Simon Beecham, says the new college will enrich UniSA’s engineering programs.

“Working together, UniSA and XAUAT can explore the synergies and differences in Chinese and Australian engineering practices and that gives students broader perspectives that are highly relevant in our region,” Prof Beecham says.

“For Chinese students choosing to take part of their degree in Australia, there is a real benefit in having the experience of studying abroad, sharpening English language skills, accessing new styles of learning and work experience opportunities.

“For outgoing Australian students, we are confident that the agreement will open up international placement opportunities, which are invaluable for engineering careers.”

Director International at UniSA, Gabrielle Rolan, a key driver of the relationship, says support from the Australia Education Management Group (AEMG) has been vital for the relationship.

“AEMG is highly experienced in establishing joint programs in China and UniSA is grateful for the role the group has played in getting this agreement up and running,” Rolan says.

“We are also delighted to see the strong investment being made in this relationship, with XAUAT University building new, purpose-designed facilities to house the College on its wonderful historical campus.

“We look forward to the success of XAUAT UniSA An De College, to welcoming students from China to South Australia, and to opening opportunities for our academics to teach in China.”

Joint programs to be offered through XAUAT UniSA An De College, include:

- Bachelor of Construction Management & Economics
- Bachelor of Engineering Honours (Civil)
- Bachelor of Engineering Honours (Electrical & Electronic)
- Bachelor of Software Engineering Honours
- Master of Engineering (Civil and Infrastructure)
- Master of Engineering (Water Resources Management).

Students from China successfully completing two years of their bachelor degree or one year of their masters degree in Adelaide will be awarded dual degree certification from both UniSA and XAUAT.

In other news, 16 UniSA third-year Bachelor of Education students are completing [international pre-service teaching placements in China](#).

Why the name XAUAT UniSA An De College?

An De has been chosen as the name for the college based on the names of the two cities in the agreement.

An (安) comes from the name of the city Xi’an, which means security or peace.

De (德) was chosen from the city of Adelaide – in Mandarin Chinese, Adelaide (阿德莱德) is written as a four-word script with “De” having the best meaning. De (德) means either good morals or good character.

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**University of
South Australia**

PhD student working on 'next generation' medication [Back to story index](#)

by Katrina Phelps



HEALTH

Second year PhD student Hayley Schultz was recently awarded the Gould Experimental Science Grant.

A UniSA PhD student is advancing research that could lead to improved oral delivery of medicines, including treatments for prostate cancer patients, thanks to the [Gould Experimental Science Grant](#).

Second year PhD student Hayley Schultz was recently awarded the UniSA grant, which will allow her to extend her experimental work into a project that is looking at developing a more effective formulation for medication for prostate cancer patients.

"Receiving this grant means that I am able to take this project one step further, allowing me to collect more data of higher quality," Hayley says.

About 40 per cent of current and new drugs are poorly water soluble and because of this are not well absorbed in the body after they are taken orally as a tablet, capsule or liquid.

"This results in these drugs being given to patients at large oral doses or intravenously, which generally is not preferred by patients," Hayley says.

"Research has shown that formulations containing oils can improve the absorption of drugs with poor water solubility but the use of oils is limited because of their low drug loading.

"Through my PhD research, I am aiming to develop the next generation of oil-based pharmaceutical formulations to improve the absorption of poorly water soluble drugs."

The first stage of Hayley's PhD has seen her fabricate a novel oil-based formulation.

The Gould Experimental Science Grant – established by former UniSA Chancellor Dr Ian Gould – will fund the next stage of Hayley's research to test the application of her formulation on a chemotherapy agent used to treat prostate cancer which has significant oral delivery challenges.

"The drug is used to prolong the life of men with [castration-resistant prostate cancer](#) but due to its poor water solubility, no more than five per cent of the administered drug is absorbed," Hayley says.

"Because of this, patients must take large doses of the drug – 1000mg per day in the form of four tablets, leading to additional undesirable side effects.

"Furthermore, there are restrictions on their food intake for two hours before and after taking the medication – when a patient is unwell from cancer, hungry from fasting, and suffering nasty side effects from the many tablets they have ingested, you can see why a patient may struggle to follow their medication regimen.

"I plan to apply my oil-based formulation to this medication which will provide patients with a new and improved medication that is more effective, requires smaller doses and can be taken with or without food.

"This would greatly improve the quality of life of the patients who need to take this medication."

Castrate-resistant prostate cancer is defined as progressive disease despite castrate levels of testosterone.

Hayley developed the new drug delivery technology based on combining a new "supersaturation" approach and the silica-lipid hybrid concept developed in the lab of her supervisor, Professor of Pharmaceutical Science, Clive Prestidge.

Prof Prestidge says Hayley's work is at the forefront of pharmaceutical science.

"Her research will utilise state-of-the art characterisation methods and in vivo models to drive the pre-clinical development of an improved medicine that will be able to be orally dosed with or without food," Prof Prestidge says.

"Commercial opportunities for the project outcomes are already being investigated."

In late May, Hayley presented her preliminary research at the World Pharmaceutical Science meeting in Stockholm, Sweden. She also attended talks by the leading researchers in her fields, co-chaired a communications session and made life-long connections with other students and researchers.

By the completion of her PhD, Hayley aims to have developed the new and improved medication for metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer, which will have less of an impact on patients' day-to-day lives than existing medication.

"The most enjoyable thing about pharmaceutical science research is that we have the opportunity to develop new medicines that can ultimately improve the lives of many individuals," Hayley says.

"On top of this, the research that we undertake is novel and has never been attempted before, so this adds to the excitement of performing experiments and analysing data – you never know what you're going to discover." The Gould Experimental Science Grant was one of 130 scholarships, grants and prizes awarded by UniSA at a ceremony earlier this month. See [In Pictures](#) for more details.

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**University of
South Australia**

Turning points: from referendum to recognition

[Back to story index](#)

by Dr Peter Gale, Program Director: Aboriginal Studies, School of Communication, International Studies and Languages



COMMUNITY

UniSA flew the flags at half-mast on 26 May to honour the life of pioneering Aboriginal educator, graduate and Honorary Doctor of UniSA, Alice Rigney, who died in May.

To coincide with the 50th anniversary of the 1967 referendum, and following [National Reconciliation Week activities](#) across the University, [Dr Peter Gale](#) reflects on the progress of the past and the hurdles we must overcome to achieve a just future for Aboriginal people.

There are times in the history of a nation that there is an opportunity to change direction.

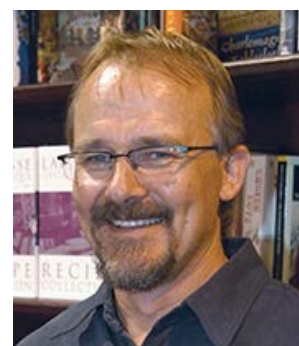
Fifty years ago Australians took that opportunity and said yes - an overwhelming yes, with more than 90 per cent voting to end the exclusion of Aboriginal people from the constitution.

It is important not to downplay the significance of the campaigning for the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people leading up to the referendum in 1967.

This Yes, was grounded in an extensive campaign over many years and the support of both major political parties.

The efforts of Faith Bandler as an activist with a vision for change and Charlie Perkins and the Freedom Ride signalled the need for substantive changes in Australia and not merely the symbolic changes that were represented in the constitutional change.

However, nearing 50 years on and Aboriginal Australians remain the most disadvantaged group in Australian society.



The amendment to the constitution offered the nation an opportunity to change a history of exclusive practices and policies of segregation and assimilation.

The movement surrounding it, the capturing of hearts and minds in support of equality, was an opportunity to root out racism.

The referendum result was a turning point, a hope for a new way forward, a commitment to share the lucky country.

[Ian Lowe](#) recently reflected on 50 years as a lucky country that as a nation we could really only say, 'lucky for some'.

And today many would argue that there has been very little substantive change for our First People.

Much of the policy focus in recent years has been on "closing the gap" but gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians across priority areas of health, education and employment remains [grim](#).

The first 25 years post the referendum did hold some promise.

Milestones such as the first land rights bill and the symbolic handover of the land title to Vincent Lingiari in August 1975 with Prime Minister Gough Whitlam's words that "...these lands belong to the Gurindji people, and I put into your hands this piece of the earth itself as a sign that we restore them to you and your children forever" were significant and remain powerful moments of positive intent.

Recognised as one of the most significant events in Australia's history, it sought to redress the dispossession of Indigenous peoples.

At the 25th anniversary of the referendum there was another leap towards Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander recognition.

The Mabo High Court decision in 1992 opened the door on our history and acknowledged the intimate connection to country so central to the lives and identities of Indigenous Australians – it was a chance to lead reconciliation in meaningful ways.

But the Mabo decision did not have widespread community support.

When politics entered the fray, the implications of the recognition of land rights, and subsequent Native Title legislation became tools for fear-mongering and division.

Despite the Mabo High Court decision, it wasn't long before the introduction of limits on and the recognition of Native Title.

While it was another major legal turning, there was a flipside to the Mabo decision.

Those with a fear of change, that deep-seated colonialist voice whispering this was a bridge too far, saw Aboriginal land rights as a threat to the national interest.

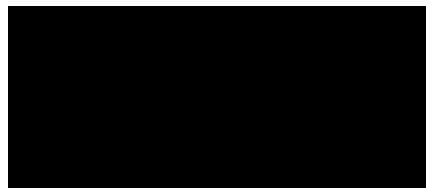
Media appetite for discord and the opportunism of politicians, fuelled that fear, helping to build a growing opposition to Indigenous rights to land.

Instead of being celebrated as a decision that corrected the wrongs of the past, Mabo was characterised as shifting the balance too much in favour of Indigenous Australia.

Soon our history discourse came under concerted attack. Commonly referred to as the 'history wars' there was much public debate and retelling of the colonisation of Australia from opposing perspectives, opening up a divide in public opinion and once again, bringing the rights of Indigenous people in Australia into question.

It could be said that the release of the Human Rights Commission report on the '[Stolen Generation](#)' in 1997 was another turning point. The report laid bare the systematic attempt over many generations to disrupt Aboriginal kinship and family connection – the lifeblood of any society.

This too shifted public opinion. A growing level of awareness of the terrible injustices against Aboriginal communities translated to emerging support for a national apology to the 'stolen generation' especially among generations of Australians born after the 1967 referendum. Despite growing support for a national apology, it took another decade and a change of government, before the apology was made in 2008 by then Prime Minister Kevin Rudd.



Vice Chancellor Professor David Lloyd speaking at the Mawson Lakes Reconciliation Week event with Narungga-Kaurna elder, UniSA graduate and Honorary Doctor of the University, Kevin O'Loughlin OAM.

While the apology was an important step in healing deep spiritual wounds, while it acknowledged the injustices of the past – it didn't provide a way forward.

Today we can see that there are some significant differences between the 1967 referendum and Mabo. The referendum, much like the apology, was seen as a symbolic change, while Mabo was a substantive change recognising more tangibly the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Similarly, there are significant differences between the 1967 referendum and the changes to include recognition of Indigenous peoples in the constitution being considered now.

There has not been a strong level of bipartisan support by both major parties for the proposed changes in the constitution, and secondly, there is not a similar level of public support for constitutional change as there was 50 years ago.

It could also be argued that the 1967 change in the constitution was more than symbolic – that it was a first step in a journey to justice and recognition.

This remains the sticking point today.

If the changes being considered now are more symbolic than substantive then it raises question – why bother? But if the proposed changes are more substantive, then the level of bipartisan support is likely to be contested.

The 1967 referendum was a turning point in history for Australia as a nation.

Fifty years on and we are at another turning point. What we have is an opportunity for real change – a chance to more fully recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in our constitution as the First People of our nation.

It is an opportunity to go beyond fear, beyond the symbolism of an apology, and indeed to look for a time where there will be no gap to close and where walking together over bridges will be daily life, rather than an act of civil protest.

History teaches us that positive outcomes from real turning points require both political leadership and a shift in public perception. Our next steps need to move from fear of change to hope for a just future – a hope that embraces the inclusion of Indigenous rights in the constitution.



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The road to the Invictus Games

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by Katrina McLachlan



COMMUNITY

Participants, ambassadors and key representatives at the launch of the UniSA Road Home Invictus Pathways Scholarship.

UniSA has joined forces with The Repat Foundation – The Road Home to harness the power of sport and support the physical, psychological and social wellbeing of returned service men and women.

As part of the [Invictus Games](#), an international sporting event for wounded, injured and sick servicemen and women, a new program will provide allied health training services to competitors and draw on the expertise of health professionals and UniSA students. In doing so, it will generate wider understanding and respect for those who serve the country.

The Invictus Pathways Program is the first initiative of its type in Australia and will help prepare South Australian veterans seeking to participate in the Invictus Games. The program will also provide a fully-funded PhD scholarship to investigate the long-term value of that participation.

Sydney will host the Invictus Games in October 2018.

Pro Vice Chancellor of Health Sciences, [Professor Robert Vink](#), says UniSA is proud to support the Invictus Pathways Program.

“This unique collaboration between a veteran’s peer support program and the University of South Australia offers exceptional opportunities for participants, staff and students to harness the power of sport to support wounded, injured and sick service personnel physically, psychologically and socially,” Prof Vink says.

“The program provides access to UniSA’s state-of-the-art facilities and expertise from staff and students for baseline physiological testing and profiling as well as training and support programs

for aspiring Invictus Games athletes.

“The [UniSA Road Home Invictus Pathways Scholarship](#), in partnership with The Road Home will also provide funding to support research, data collection, travel to games and conference attendance to evaluate the psychological, social and physical health and rehabilitation of the service personnel.”

The Road Home raises awareness and funds to support health and wellbeing research and projects into conditions such as post-traumatic stress for the nation’s veterans, emergency first responders and their families.

Acting Chair of The Road Home, Brigadier Alison Creagh CSC (Ret'd), says The Road Home is proud to be working in collaboration with UniSA.

“It is fantastic to see different providers work together to create a program which gives veterans such a life changing opportunity, all informed by research,” Brigadier Creagh says.

“This program has been enabled through The Road Home's generous community of donors and we look forward to seeing the outcomes of this innovative PhD research project through the Invictus Pathways Program.

“I’m sure this research will improve our understanding and inform development of more health and wellbeing models and programs to ensure injured veterans, and their families, get the care they need to improve their wellbeing.”

[South Australia's Mental Health Commissioner](#), Chris Burns CSC, says the program will be a model for strengthening the mental wellbeing of South Australian veterans.

The [UniSA Road Home Invictus Pathways Scholarship](#) is open to domestic students (Australian and NZ citizens and Permanent Residents of Australia) undertaking a research degree in the field of health sciences or psychology. Applications close 31 July 2017. For details on how to apply, contact Deborah Williams by email deborah.williams@unisa.edu.au or telephone (08) 8302 2887

For more information on participating in the Invictus Games Pathway Program, visit the [website](#) or contact The Road Home on (08) 7002 0880.

Invictus program helping to improve lives of veterans

The opportunity to compete in the Invictus Games can be life-changing for participants.

There are currently nine Invictus Pathways Program participants.

The Road Home Wellbeing Program Manager, Mark Reidy, says the program has given him “the mental and physical tools to believe in myself again”.

“Cycling is more than physical fitness it's is my therapy, it is my medication, just as being part of a team such as the pathway program with similar veterans with physical and invisible wounds,” he says.

Emily Young is participating in the Invictus Training Program to meet people with a common background and who have had similar experiences.

“The team at UniSA have been very welcoming and accommodating and I’ve been fortunate to work closely with sports scientists in the School of Health Sciences as they help me train for selection for the 2018 Games,” Young says.

“The Invictus Program is fantastic for veterans’ physical and mental health, which are so closely aligned.”

Brendan Hardman says he’s found a sense of purpose through the program after he was forced to leave the Army last year and return home with a severe back and knee injury.

“Leaving the Army injured was extremely difficult for me because I felt like I lost the sense of purpose as I no longer had structure or daily goals to achieve,” Hardman says.

“Training in wheelchair basketball through this program is keeping me engaged and is a long term process that I feel will maintain my mental health drive, something no other organisation has been able to provide.”

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University of
South Australia

From helpdesk to classroom: Karsan fulfils his dream

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by Simon Ruppert



INSIDE UNISA

Former UniSA employee and student, Karsan Hutchinson, is now teaching Year 6 at Rose Park Primary School.

For Karsan Hutchinson working in IT at UniSA was a great job but the opportunity to undertake a Master of Teaching allowed him to achieve his dream – and he took an unusual route to get there.

While completing a Bachelor of Arts (Multimedia and Professional Writing) in 2004, Hutchinson was offered a contract in the then Division of Education, Arts and Social Sciences' IT team.

“That got my foot in the door. It was my first real job. I was earning money, but the main thing was that I enjoyed working with people and helping them with their IT problems,” he says. “I wasn’t necessarily your typical IT-geek; I just knew how to do it and enjoyed helping people.”

One contract led to another and Hutchinson would remain at UniSA for 16 years, before deciding he was ready for a new challenge.

“I’d always wanted to be a teacher, but it was on the backburner because it took time and I had a young family. Plus I was really happy at UniSA. They’re a great employer and I liked my job and the diversity of people I got to work with,” Hutchinson says.

After discussing with family, he decided to return to study.

“I thought for my own personal satisfaction that teaching was the way for me.”

He approached UniSA about continuing his IT role whilst studying for a [Master of Teaching](#) (Primary & Middle)

and found they were receptive to the idea of linking his work and studies.

Hutchinson says the support he received from UniSA was invaluable and he found that his studies allowed him to give something back to both the IT team and the School of Education.

“Because I was studying education, and working with the School of Education, there was a direct synergy.

“Before studying in the School, I’d just fix up staff computers or install software that I didn’t necessarily know how they’d be using it or what it was for. But now that I was studying in the School, I could understand the software, ICT and the teaching methods that were being used to deliver learning to students and ways of improving it.

“So, it actually helped the IT team and the School. The experience of working at UniSA and in the School of Education has been incredibly beneficial to me in my transition to the public education sector. Not only do I understand the networking and infrastructure, but I am also able to improve the digital literacy and proficiency of the students in my class.”

Working and studying at the Mawson Lakes and Magill campuses allowed Hutchinson to balance his study commitments with his job.

“I was able to attend to my lectures and return to work on the same campus; either at Mawson Lakes or Magill. UniSA really supported me. I couldn’t have asked for a more supportive supervisor and director,” Hutchinson says.

Upon graduating in mid-2016, Hutchinson created a unique web page showcasing his abilities and studies, and with business cards printed, set off to distribute them to local schools.

Hutchinson found temporary relief teaching work at a number of eastern suburbs schools, including Linden Park Primary School, St. Joseph’s Primary School and Rose Park Primary School. On the back of his success as a relief teacher, he considers himself fortunate to have been offered a full-time contract in 2017 in a Year Six class at Rose Park Primary School.

He puts some of his success in being offered work in such a short time down to being a mid-year graduate.

“One of the advantages of being a mid-year graduate is not competing against a larger group of final year students and it provided me with two terms of relief teaching. Which is a good stepping stone – it gets you known.”

Hutchinson is just starting out but is proud his dream of teaching is finally being realised.

“Teaching is a rewarding experience and the kids and I are doing a lot of learning together,” he says.

UniSA Pro Vice Chancellor for Education, Arts & Social Sciences Professor Denise Meredyth says Hutchinson was a dedicated and committed member of staff over many years.

“I would like to take to acknowledge Karsan’s extensive contribution to the university and our division over the past 16 years,” Prof Meredyth says.

“We wish him well as he embarks on his new journey as a teacher.”

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New Books

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[A new ethic of 'older': subjectivity, surgery and self-stylisation](#)
[Behavioural Economics: A Very Short Introduction](#)

A new ethic of 'older': subjectivity, surgery and self-stylisation

When people think of body modification, it's often young people who spring to mind, using piercings, tattoos and cosmetic surgery for self-expression.

In her new book, *A new ethic of 'older': subjectivity, surgery and self-stylisation*, psychology researcher Dr Bridget Garnham explores the meanings and motivations of 'older' people who engage with cosmetic surgery.

"Population ageing is transforming society — and older people are transforming cultures of ageing as they engage in new experiences that break with traditional stereotypes of being old," Garnham says.

"Through engagement with body mod practices like cosmetic surgery they're challenging and changing meanings of older age and older bodies. And this should prompt us all to rethink assumptions about older people."

She says that in today's ageist society, many people think cosmetic surgery is chosen to produce a more youthful appearance. But her interviewees cast this in a different light. Many had undergone procedures such as liposuction and breast reduction to 'look better' in what they considered modern and stylish clothing. Many suggested that they did not intend to undertake surgery to look younger or more youthful, and considered it an ageist assumption, stating that if younger people can have cosmetic surgery, why shouldn't they.

Drawing on the thought of renowned French philosopher, Michel Foucault (1926-1984) and researched through myriad interviews with 'older' people and cosmetic surgeons, Garnham critically examines how cosmetic surgery is used by older people in connection with ideas about self-care and self-stylisation. Ideas about active ageing and having choice about how to express an 'older' self-identity were central to participants' narratives about surgery.

Through its themes of subjectivity, surgery, and self-stylisation, the book critically examines ideas about ageing, anti-ageing and older people and suggests that a new cultural politics of 'older' has emerged with its own values, aesthetics and practices.

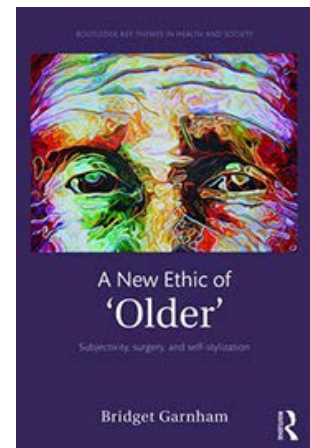
A new ethic of 'older' is available through [Routledge](#) and will appeal to those in the fields of cultural gerontology, ageing studies, critical psychology, sociology, and cultural geography. The methodological approach will be of interest to academics and students exploring the application of Foucault's work on care of the self to contemporary contexts and practices.

Behavioural Economics: A Very Short Introduction

Rational thought. The art of arriving at accurate beliefs, acting with reason, and in accordance with the facts. Most people hope they are projecting rational thought every day through work, life and general being.

For economists, rational thought has been something of a cornerstone, based on the assumption that humans are rational beings, capable of using information efficiently to make decisions that work well for them as individuals—both now and in the future.

But increasingly, this appears not to be the case and behavioural economists are





exploring how and why traditional economic models miss essential elements of real world behaviour. In her new book, *Behavioural Economics: A Very Short Introduction*, UniSA Professor Michelle Baddeley explains people's lives are not that simple, and that decisions are often far more complex than people realise, and intertwined with their psychology.

"Each of us makes mistakes every day," Prof Baddeley says. "We don't always know what's best for us and, even if we do, we might not have the self-control to deliver on our best intentions."

Using ordinary scenarios, she presents many examples of everyday lapses in self-control.

"People struggle to stay on diets, to get enough exercise and to manage money. We misjudge risky situations, and regularly procrastinate—and these behaviours are all just a part of normal life."

In this *Very Short Introduction*, Prof Baddeley explores the reasons why and how decisions can be distorted, blending insights from both economics and psychology to explain a range of problems: why people make mistakes in risky situations; the tendency to procrastinate; when and why people decide too quickly, in ways which often are not in an individual's long-term interests; and how people are affected by social influences, personality, mood and emotions.

"Analysing the drivers of people's behaviour helps us understand what motivates us, our impulse purchases, and why we struggle to save," Prof Baddeley says.

"It can also help retailers, including supermarkets, manipulate what and how much we buy."

The implications of understanding better the rationale for an individual's economic and financial behaviours are huge.

Beyond purchasing, behavioural economics also has the capability to help policy-makers to understand the people behind their policies, enabling them to design more effective policies; or for marketers - to better understand the psychology of buyers.

This pocket-sized book from Oxford University Press offers a succinct perspective on behavioural economics, showing the relevance of the topic to people's lives and their everyday financial and economic problems. *Behavioural Economics: A Very Short Introduction* is available for purchase [online](#).

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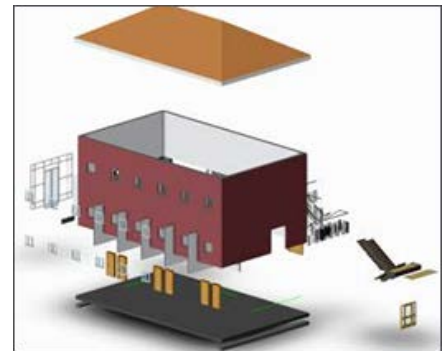
From students working and studying in leading defence organisations to pre-service teaching placements in China, here are some of the top news stories from our [Media Centre](#):

[Adaptable, changeable building parts and products delivered on a cloud - New UniSA research wins support from global firm, ARUP](#)

UniSA researchers have secured one of only eight prestigious ARUP Global Research Grants to further a project that aims to deliver an innovative business model to provide changeable, adaptable parts of buildings via a 'cloud data platform' linking physical components to virtual models.

The one-year research project is expected to revolutionise the building industry, not only creating new business opportunities in the service sector, but also deriving more value from built resources by their reuse, adaptation and life-cycle stewardship.

[Adjunct Associate Professor David Ness](#) says the concept for the project arose from the team's previous research on smart, reusable components, product-service system solutions and resource efficiency.



[UniSA builds global defence skills with new student exchange to France](#)

UniSA has signed a memorandum of understanding with French graduate engineering school, [IMT Atlantique](#), which will open up important opportunities for South Australian students to study and complete work placements in some of the world's leading defence organisations.

UniSA Deputy Vice Chancellor External Relations and Strategic Partnerships, [Nigel Relph](#) says UniSA is consolidating its collaboration with France's defence education and development institutions and broadening its global connections.

"This agreement with IMT Atlantique will provide some terrific opportunities for post graduate students to study in France and get real world experience of the defence sector at some of the most sophisticated global companies, as part of their studies," Relph says.



[A dinky-di Chinese language experience for new South Aussie teachers](#)

Sixteen UniSA third-year [Bachelor of Education](#) students handpicked to undertake international pre-service teaching placements in China are currently completing their 20-day program in Shanghai.

The [UniSA Shanghai International Placement](#) program for pre-service teachers is being run in four different settings, all of which operate within the [Xiehe Shanghai United International Schools](#) within 250km of Shanghai City.

The UniSA Shanghai Xiehe International Placements are the first of a three-year project funded by the [New Colombo Plan \(NCP\) Student Mobility Program](#) through the Australian [Department of Foreign Affairs and](#)



[Trade \(DFAT\)](#) with additional funding from a University of South Australia travel grant.

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Reconciliation Week at UniSA

National Reconciliation Week has been held in Australia every year between 27 May and 3 June since 1996. It provides the opportunity for all Australians to reflect on the relationship between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and other Australians.

At UniSA's City West Reconciliation Week event, there was a free cooking demonstration of Indigenous food as well as a special symposium, *Aboriginal Futures, Post Referendum 1967, Where to From Here?* The symposium was an opportunity to discuss the 1967 Referendum and where to from here for Aboriginal futures.

The City East Reconciliation Week event included a bush food tasting and barbecue, as well as basket weaving and rock painting.

The Mawson Lakes Reconciliation Week event included a barbecue, painting, bush food planting and tasting and potato picnic at Wadajaden Scrub.

At Magill, there was a range of events including a reconciliation afternoon tea, artwork viewing for local school students, staff and parents, as well as movie screenings and tile painting.

Mawson Lakes



Magill



City West



Scholarships, grants and prizes ceremony

Each year thousands of UniSA students benefit from scholarships and grants worth millions of dollars. Earlier this month UniSA presented 130 named scholarships, grants and prizes at a special ceremony held at the Kerry Packer Civic Gallery. The University continues to work with donors to establish new opportunities for students.

For more information, visit the [named scholarships, grants and prizes page](#).



Recipients of scholarships and grants offered by the Pank Family.



Recipients of the Pearce Family Transition Grant, pictured with Pearce Family representatives Erica Diment (back left) and Tom Pearce.



Gayle and Bob Cowan (centre) pictured with Cowan Grant recipients (l-r) Georgina Axford, Victoria Zawko and Courtney Anderson.

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