The University of South Australia’s expansive global Alumni network provides access to a growing package of benefits and rewards. Apply for your free Alumni Network card and stay connected to the University and our global network. We’ll keep you informed with all the latest university news and events including Knowledge Works, the enormously popular public lecture series focusing on UniSA’s world-class research in action. Plus you’ll receive University Library membership, networking opportunities and access to professional services.

If you are a graduate, sign up or update your details to receive the card that will keep you connected.

unisa.edu.au/alumni
One hundred days into his role as the new Vice Chancellor of the University of South Australia, Professor David Lloyd was on a plane returning from his first successful visit to China. If there is one great thing about long-haul international flights, it’s that they give you time and space to think.

For Prof Lloyd the flight offered a breather from the cracking pace of his first few months and a chance to reflect on the scale and speed of events.

A snapshot of those first 100 days shows they have been nothing if not up tempo.

David and his wife and two children leave Dublin on December 28. The temperature is 4˚C. They arrive in Adelaide for New Year’s Eve, temperature 34˚C. His first official university event is a premier state function to celebrate an international bike race. Sponsored by UniSA and attended by thousands of locals and internationals – it’s Australia’s version of “Le Tour” – the Tour Down Under.

The Lloyds are in their new home only a few days when the neighbour’s children come over to play. It is a pleasant surprise; in Ireland they did not know their neighbours.

Excited by his first graduation ceremonies, David is given the unique honour of an Indigenous welcome to country. It is not his first encounter with the didgeridoo – a lover of all things musical he has two of his own which he brought with him from Ireland – but its haunting and solemn sound, along with the chanted welcome and pervasive smell of eucalyptus are an overwhelming experience. He is deeply moved by the privilege and books his first short holiday in Australia to take the family to see Uluru and learn more about Indigenous culture. He also signs a commitment to a reconciliation action plan at the University.

In February weekday temperatures soar to 42˚C, Australia delivers one of its hottest summers on record – and as the weather heats up so does the politics. In his first 100 days, David meets two state ministers for education and two state opposition leaders. In the Federal sphere there is a failed leadership coup (before Rudd’s successful coup in the next 100 days) and a cabinet reshuffle that delivers the third Minister for Higher Education in that period and finally the announcement of a September election and funding cuts to higher education by $2.8bn, somewhat ironically to help deliver more resources to school education.

He’s kind of taken by the fact that in Australia these cuts are to be known as “efficiency dividends” – here George Orwell’s Newspeak from the classic novel Nineteen Eighty-Four lives.
feature >

Prof Lloyd says if the rate and scope of change of those first few months is a reliable guide to life as a Vice Chancellor in Australia, he will be living in the proverbial ‘interesting times’. And just to mix things up a bit and push the traditional expectations around planning in those first “100 days in office”, he made up the planning challenge by staging something big and highly consultative.

At the end of May, Prof Lloyd headed up unijam – a 38-hour online global conversation about the future of the University. A first for Australia and for any university in the world, the crowd sourcing technology was pioneered by IBM and has been used to increase collaboration, consultation and planning in major organisations such as NATO, the United Nations and Citi.

The whole concept of unijam fits Prof Lloyd’s transparent, inclusive and engaged approach to leadership.

“I’d seen the technology used before and taken part in it. I knew it showed what universities can inspire and what can be done when we bring together the power of ideas and the engagement of the community. I’m excited about that community; it’s also about building relationships within that community.”

He says other initiatives will be actions that bring the thought and ideas from unijam to bear on the University. “I want to set down some achievable changes that will hold the institution in good stead for the future – actions that set a pattern for our evolution as a university of enterprise.”

Among them is a plan to reimagine the Adelaide University campus. Far from deserting the site – Prof Lloyd wants to reshape the campus as an education hub. The ideas being discussed include the co-location of a reception centre to Year 12 school onsite to provide special insights about teaching practice for education students and supporting a range of mutually beneficial research and practical projects at the core that will increase opportunities for experiential learning.

He says other initiatives will be actions that bring the notions of research informed teaching, graduate quality, and a modern university to life. At the heart of many of the “quick wins” to come out of unijam is a refocus on students and building a better student environment, more emphasis on care and community and opportunities to share pride in the institution.

Some student conversations in unijam were quite surprising for us,” Prof Lloyd said. “There were the almost perennial student complaints – we want more variety of food in the cafeteria – but there were also some striking threads that spoke to students wanting to find new ways to build a better community environment.

“I want to respond to those in particular because it is in building community that we build the kind of engagement and pride in UniSA that will be enduring.”

Some of the initiatives include community gardens on campus, piloting a shuttle bus service between campuses, full video recordings of all UniSA lectures, and the development of a phone app to help students organise their timetable and keep up with what is around campus.

The initiatives will hold in what can only be seen as a refreshed and energetically engaged university environment where bringing people together to develop great ideas, better ways of approaching problems and taking up and delivering improvements, is central.

The more poetic among us will see a real synergy between the new Vice Chancellor’s research expertise, his private passion and his leadership style.

Now Australia’s youngest Vice Chancellor, it is no surprise that David played in two bands and is the owner of more than a handful of musical instruments, including a much loved Gibson guitar. At the vanguard of youthful leaders in Australia’s education sector he has been named in The Australian as someone to watch in higher education. In the parlance of the music industry he’s 39 with a bullet.

Music is perhaps his first love and coincidently was the path to meeting his great love, wife Anne. They met in the parlance of the music industry he’s 39 with a bullet.

Music is perhaps his first love and coincidently was the path to meeting his great love, wife Anne. They met in the music shop where he worked part-time while studying history and politics at University College Dublin. Music is perhaps his first love and coincidently was the path to meeting his great love, wife Anne. They met in the music shop where he worked part-time while studying history and politics at University College Dublin. Music is perhaps his first love and coincidently was the path to meeting his great love, wife Anne. They met in the music shop where he worked part-time while studying history and politics at University College Dublin. Music is perhaps his first love and coincidently was the path to meeting his great love, wife Anne. They met in the music shop where he worked part-time while studying history and politics at University College Dublin. Music is perhaps his first love and coincidently was the path to meeting his great love, wife Anne. They met in the music shop where he worked part-time while studying history and politics at University College Dublin. Music is perhaps his first love and coincidently was the path to meeting his great love, wife Anne. They met in the music shop where he worked part-time while studying history and politics at University College Dublin.

Seeing the parts and all their potential and to imagine how they can be brought together in a way that is both effective and splendid – a capacity so important to developing new drugs and to writing and playing new songs – that will be an asset in the evolution of the University of South Australia.

By Michele Nardelli

As Vice Chancellor Prof David Lloyd has noted, the unijam consultation helped to compress time by allowing wide, broad and intense dialogue with key university stakeholders in the space of just 38 hours.

That consultation has been one vital platform to inform a strategic action plan for the next five years for UniSA.

Crosing the Horizon is a focused action plan that will deliver the aspirations of UniSA’s Horizon 2020 vision and underpin its ambition to be Australia’s university of enterprise.

It features seven key action sets – enhanced education and student experience; industry engaged research and curriculum; increased human capital and efficiencies; transnational infrastructure and enrichment of institutional culture; engagement with wider societal reach and visibility; and the development of governance and administrative efficiency to achieve change.

Key actions include a commitment to boosting key research areas and strengths with the appointment of more than 100 new professors in the next five years; a plan for greater emphasis on masters level professional qualifications underpinned by a move to a three-two model – where students complete a three year bachelor degree followed by a two year professional masters; and the development of an Australian PHD which includes suitable coursework and transferable skills components.

At the same time UniSA will enhance infrastructure and teaching equipment and laboratories for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math education at Mawson Lakes and deliver a new Centre for Cancer Biology and an Allied Health Professionals Clinic on a single site on the northern side of North Terrace to enhance the University’s contribution to the South Australian Health Precinct.

The plan includes a pledge to engage all academic staff, including research professors in some teaching, including lecture series or master classes, a commitment to strengthening the University’s advisory board structures and engagement with industry and the professions; and a strategy to become the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander “University of Choice”. In delivering the plan Prof Lloyd says it is the University’s obligation to focus its activities on end-users.

“We need to deliver the best education we can provide our students, the most innovative and world-class research and to meet the high expectations society has of our sector,” he says.

You can access the full strategic action plan Crosing the Horizon online at www.unisa.edu.au/ Strategic-Directions.
A MODEL OF INNOVATION

Conceived in times of great flux, the Australian model for Cooperative Research Centres has stood the test of time. Results show that these university-industry research partnerships work, but researchers say there’s always room for improvement.

It started in the 1990s when Australia’s steady transition to modernity kicked up a notch. The Cold War ended, the internet was truly born into modernity kicked up a notch.

The Hubble space telescope was launched and after a small glitch, it was a boon for world astronomers and while they focused on the extraterrestrial, we were busy globalising our economies and remaking our sensibilities to become more sustainable and multicultural.

In Australia, the reforming Hawke Government was in its fourth term. Having revamped our economic relationship with the world it was time to boost the platforms for global engagement. They created more universities. The Dawkins plan to amalgamate colleges of advanced education and form new educational institutions saw the numbers of universities in Australia double. At the same time, determined to halt an Australian “brain drain” and build a research and development system that would drive innovation and underpin economic growth, they designed a model for research with industry that would stick.

The Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) model would foster collaborative research focused on the most pressing economic, social and environmental problems and be driven by the needs of end-users.

With its roots stretching back to WWI, the CSIRO had been Australia’s main industry-linked research institution and while the universities were working with industry on individual research projects, it was very hard to pull together the resources for coordinated, wide-scale, industry-related research.

Former Pro Vice Chancellor for Research at UniSA, Emeritus Professor Ian Davey says the introduction of the CRC model for research funding was more than just sensible. Today he remains on the board of one CRC but over his career he served on at least 11.

“CRCs provided the right environment for innovation – the security of longer term funding and a platform for industry and experts to work together over several years with much more capital behind the projects,” Prof Davey says.

“In the main, that’s a pretty good recipe for success and when they introduced the CRC system it was one of the first times that Europe showed some interest in what we were doing to support research.

“CRCs provided that all-important bridge between industry and universities and other research organisations. It pulled people together. It meant we developed innovation with purpose and research that flowed into products and services.”

More than 20 years on and CRCs continue to thrive. In 2012 an independent study of the impact of the CRCs conducted by the Allen Consulting Group concluded that the CRC has a vital role to play in Australia, stating: “By linking researchers with domestic and international end-users, significant economic, environmental and social impacts have been produced.

The study found that CRCs generated the equivalent of an annual contribution of $278bn, or 0.03 per cent to GDP. That is a net economic benefit of around $7.3bn since the program began in 1991.

But it is not all about the dollars. According to UniSA’s Professor Ravi Naidu, head of the CRC for Contamination Assessment and Remediation of the Environment (CRC CARE), CRCs work in an interesting space, often tackling industries’ most challenging problems.

“We tend to take on the problems no one else can solve, the ones consultants shy away from,” Prof Naidu says.

And as one of the oldest CRCs (established in 2005 and funded for a further nine years in 2010), the CRC CARE has quietly been going about making a stunning impact on the environment nationally and globally.

It’s work is truly collaborative and international with projects ranging from groundwater decontamination to rehabilitation of soils in industrial settings, investigated and researched by 233 researchers worldwide and 80 researchers and PhDs working in South Australia.

With 25 industry partners on board, Prof Naidu says clarity of communication is one of the keys to CRC success.

“Communication is vital,” he says. “You need to manage the participants so that it is very clear what the research is about and what the CRC can deliver.

“The key point of difference from other models is that CRCs develop an environment of cooperation, collaboration and innovation but then take the fruits of that out into the field where they can test, prove, demonstrate and transfer technology or solutions. That is a powerful process of informed innovation and shared understanding.”

“While the United States and many northern European nations spend more on research and development and embed many more postgraduates and researchers in research and development departments within companies and businesses, that concept has never been a strong feature of Australian industry.

Prof Naidu believes that is a loss for Australian innovation. He says there is still some criticism about the practicality of university-based research – the notion that it is too “blue sky”.

“I think CRCs are playing a very important role in improving industry confidence in university research and researchers by delivering very complete graduates,” he says.

According to the Allen Consulting Group’s study, more than 4000 doctorates and masters degrees by research were awarded to students working in industry related projects through CRCs from 1991 to 2010. Since it began CRC CARE has awarded 58 PhDs.

“Having worked in a CRC environment, our PhD students are not only across the research, they also understand commercialisation, intellectual property management and they are capable and experienced project managers,” Prof Naidu says.

“When companies see this, it shifts their stereotype.

Prof Naidu says there are other benefits to CRCs but they are by no means perfect in driving innovation.

“The beauty of the CRC model is that innovations generated can be used and applied by industry partners but the intellectual property for them rests with the CRC so there are opportunities to take great ideas and spin them out,” he says.

“But for really sustained benefits, CRCs need to be funded consistently. The nine years extension of funding was most welcome for the CRC CARE but if after 15 years of successful research the funding stops – you scatter a wealth of expertise to the four winds.

“For the system to continue to provide benefits industry should be given better tax incentives to partner with universities on CRC projects and if we are delivering results we should be given more security of funding. Quality innovations don’t happen overnight.”

By Michele Nardelli

“A WE TEND TO TAKE ON THE PROBLEMS NO ONE ELSE CAN SOLVE, THE CONSULTANTS SHY AWAY FROM”

Star Award for pig fertiliser project

CRC CARE was recently awarded a Federal Government 2013 Star Award for a project that is turning 1.4m tonnes of Chinese pig poo into alternative energy and fertiliser. Prof Ravi Naidu explains that China has 1.8m pig farms and over 700m pigs that produce a lot of waste but only 10 per cent of this waste is currently treated. The project has developed a two-step anaerobic biodigester for treating pig waste in bulk.

“CRC CARE has also been working with the pork industry in Australia to transfer the biodigester technology from China to Australia,” Prof Naidu says.

“This will enable Australian pig producers to gain a new income stream from their waste, which will help support farm operations, grow algae and produce biochar to provide soil nutrients, and increase the sequestration of carbon in soil.”

The Chinese project is run by the CRC CARE, Chinese firm HLM Asia PL and Huazhong University of Science and Technology, while in Australia CRC CARE has been working with the pork industry including the Pork CRC.
WINTER 2013

11

DEFUSING THE HEALTH TIME BOMB

Today’s generation could become the first to live shorter lives than their parents.

It’s a startling statement, often cited by health professionals, and is indicative of just how far our sedentary, junk food-fuelled lifestyles are beginning to impact on our life expectancy. It’s also a statement that Professor Allan Evans, UniSA Provost and Chief Academic Officer (and previously Pro Vice Chancellor of the Division of Health for four years), does not shy away from using in his diagnosis of the healthcare challenges facing Australia.

These challenges relate to the rapidly rising cost of healthcare, the increased incidence of chronic disease and disabilities, and a rising elderly population. In today’s world, it’s not just food portions that are being supersized; Australia’s annual health expenditure is expected to almost double by 2030, as are the number of people aged over 65 living in South Australia.

“People are living longer and there is greater capacity to keep people alive longer, but at the same time we are living less healthy lives, our level of physical activity has decreased and our food intake has increased,” says Prof Evans whose health career spans 30 years.

“Love physical activity and a high intake of processed foods, often nutrient-poor, but rich in fat, sugar and salt can raise the risk of conditions such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and some forms of cancer and arthritis. Obesity now ranks with tobacco as the number one preventable cause of death in South Australia.”

The vast medical and pharmaceutical advances of the past 50 years have been accompanied by an information revolution, making it easier for people to access advice on how to live healthier lives. So why are we on the cusp of an evolutionary step backwards in terms of how long people live?

“People make choices on a day-to-day basis,” Prof Evans says.

“We’ve known for decades that smoking causes cancer, yet it has taken decades for rates of smoking to go down. Changing peoples’ behaviour is much more of a challenge than simply telling them what’s healthy and what isn’t.”

“It’s vital to link public health strategies with education messages and ensure that these strategies are supported through evidence-based research.

“Another factor to consider is the ease with which people can access healthy choices. A healthy diet is more difficult to achieve than an unhealthy diet. It’s a simple fact that fast food outlets are liable to be open 24/7 whereas fruit and vegetable shops are not.”

“It’s a view shared by Professor Kerin O’Dea from UniSA’s School of Population Health, whose research into health and nutrition focuses on diet and lifestyle, particularly in remote areas of Australia.

“It’s not just about knowledge – many people know what a healthy diet can be but either they can’t afford it or they are susceptible to the very powerful and effective marketing messages of the food industry where supersized portions cost little more than regular portions,” says Prof O’Dea.

Currently involved in a project in the Northern Territory where the cost of fresh fruit and vegetables and low calorie drinks is being subsidised by 20 per cent, Prof O’Dea wants to see what impact the subsidy has on peoples’ diet choices. The subsidy will be in place for six months in 20 communities. Food sales in all communities have been monitored from electronic sales records for 12 months prior to commencing the intervention, and monitoring will continue throughout the intervention and for at least six months after it ends.

“This will allow us to clearly document whether the subsidies significantly increase the sales of fresh fruit and vegetables, and whether sugar-sweetened beverage consumption is replaced to a significant extent by artificially-sweetened drinks.” Prof O’Dea says.

Prof Evans explains that the consequence of resetting the default switch from unhealthy to healthy, will also have a knock-on effect.

“Making healthy food cheaper and more accessible than unhealthy alternatives will start changing the next generation’s attitudes to leading healthier lives.”

“Making healthy food cheaper and more accessible than unhealthy alternatives will start changing the next generation’s attitudes to leading healthier lives,” he says.

“If you can provide healthy alternatives early in peoples’ lives you will dramatically reduce the burden of chronic disease later in life.”

That particular burden, at an economic level, has led the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare to predict that Australia’s health expenditure will almost double from $130.3bn in a year in 2013 to $246bn a year by 2033.

“Economics is incredibly important,” says Prof Evans. “When people get a disease they are going to be expensive to the health system. If you can delay that, or ideally prevent it, their quality of life will be better and they will cost the health system a lot less.”

This philosophy is at the heart of the Division of Health Sciences, where 7000 students are learning about the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of health conditions in a practice-based environment. Through their practice they also serve the community, forge industry collaborations and government links.

The Division has several free clinics that provide students practical experience while playing a vital role within the community. Its clinics include physiotherapy, podiatry, psychology, dietetics and clinical exercise physiology.

“Clinical exercise physiology is a new allied health profession, where exercise is prescribed to improve people’s health,” Prof Evans says.

“It’s not quite as simple as telling people to go out and do exercise. You have to understand their physiology and provide support.

“Support means reminding people of the proper way of doing exercise; they need to understand why they are doing it and be fully appraised of the benefits. If you are trying to prescribe exercise for someone who has had a heart attack or a stroke, which is what clinical exercise physiologists do, you also have to also understand the disease-process itself.”

Education, informed self-help, empowering people to take control of their health; these are the recurrent themes Prof Evans advocates against a more permissive quick-fix approach to health care where pills and drugs so often treat the symptoms but not the cause of a condition.

“A large proportion of current medication use is to reduce the impact of poor lifestyle choices,” he says. “Top prescription drugs include those for lowering cholesterol, Type 2 diabetes and managing gastric hyperacidity.”

> continued page 12
"There is a legitimate reason to use those drugs but are we intervening appropriately to help people to adopt healthier lifestyles earlier in their lives before they develop these conditions? I don’t think we are."

"What about using funding to provide better alternatives and ingrain those interventions into the whole social policy framework. It’s about the way kids and parents are educated and it is also about creating healthier environments – this has to pervade the system if we are to achieve change."

System change, through public health campaigns, requires political impetus; and for politicians to pick up the health baton, possibly tackling powerful industry lobby groups on the way, Prof Evans says there needs to be strong evidence-based research to support change.

"The sorts of studies that are required are often long-term and intervention studies," Prof Evans says.

"Typically we don’t get funded to do a 20-year intervention study so we rely on epidemiological data and comparisons between individuals who do and don’t do things. To do this we need large data sets and this fits squarely into what the School of Population Health does."

"Population health researchers will be moving into the new South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI) building and our aim is that they can put population health methodologies and strategies right alongside more traditional medical research activities, and try to influence the sort of research that gets on the table."

"The more research you put in the face of politicians and decision makers, the more solutions you can provide, the more likely you are to influence change. The media can also excite decision makers, the more solutions you can provide, the more sort of research that gets on the table."

"The more research you put in the face of politicians and decision makers, the more solutions you can provide, the more likely you are to influence change. The media can also excite decision makers, the more solutions you can provide, the more sort of research that gets on the table."

"The University’s role is to build that evidence base so politicians will eventually have the courage to implement strategies that will benefit society.”

By Will Venn

The CCB is one of the top three cancer research centres in Australia. It drives the development of innovative therapies through fundamental discoveries and patient-focused research.

Co-Director of the CCB, Professor Sharad Kumar says the new partnership with UniSA will allow the centre to expand and build upon its current work.

"Our expertise is in fundamental cancer biology, differential diagnosis and translational research and we are looking forward to bringing that expertise to UniSA and being able to expand in the new facility," Prof Kumar says.

"The CCB is a centre of excellence, with several top people in cancer biology, genetics and translation, including a number of emerging young leaders."

"We definitely have overlapping interests with UniSA and we see the partnership as an opportunity to complete the circle of fundamental research, drug development and translation for patient use with this in turn driving more discovery research.”

The CCB will form part of the University’s significant health and biomedical presence in the North Terrace hospital precinct and will be housed in a new facility now being planned.

"In order to maximise the health benefits that the CCB and the expansion of the new health precinct will deliver, we will build a major science, health and biomedical education and research facility on the north side of North Terrace," UniSA’s Vice Chancellor, Professor David Lloyd says.

"This state-of-the-art infrastructure will bring many allied health professionals together under a single roof; it will house our new CCB colleagues, specialised clinics and a centre for healthcare innovation, as well as a major new outreach initiative.”

The first building set to be completed in the new health precinct is the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute’s $30m research facility which will house top researchers from all three SA universities.
It has always been my dream to work in London but I graduated just before the Global Financial Crisis hit, so it was a longer road than I imagined to get here. After saving enough money to move to the UK, I spent several months applying for jobs and backpacking – which wasn’t so bad.

In my permanent position with Flanagan Lawrence I’m heavily involved with a project on site, and a normal day could involve hopping on the tube to provide input on site, to meetings with any of the other specialist consultants. My role as lead consultant (and designer) entails a large degree of responsibility.

I love the pressure and demands the project brings. You could be working on one aspect of the project, but an email or phone call can utterly reshape your day. The firm itself attracts blue chip clients, ours in particular is the Grosvenor Estate (the Duke of Westminster being the sole shareholder), with our building going up in the heart of Mayfair.

The skills I gained throughout study have kept me in good stead, and created a solid base from which to build and grow.

One of the joys and curses of London can be the transport system. I never get tired of the fact that there is a tube arriving every 45-60 seconds to whisk me away, especially after waiting 20-30 minutes for buses back in Adelaide! When the tube breaks down though, you just pray you’re not stuck in a tunnel somewhere, standing in a carriage with hundreds of other people. An iPod crammed full of music is an essential piece for the commute.

The social life I have here is wonderful. My group of friends range from locals to people from all over the world: Spain, Italy, China, USA, and Australia (it’s always good to hear an accent from home!).

The biggest difference between here and Australia has to be the weather. The grey skies can get to you, but the ability to cheaply hop onto a plane and head somewhere sunny – Italy, Spain, Miami – to recharge, does help. I have inherited the other English trait of apologising when people knock into me. Where I used to chuckle, I now follow suit.

UniSA has alumni working all over the world. Two alumni share a snapshot of their overseas working lives with us: Bachelor of Architecture (Masters) graduate Tristram Taylor is an Architect with Flanagan Lawrence in London; and Bachelor of Illustration Design graduate Michelle Milette is a Communication Officer with Cambodia’s National Blood Transfusion Centre.  

It’s hard to believe I have been in Cambodia for nearly a year now. It all began with a blur of orientation sessions, intensive language lessons in a small village and moving into an apartment. I live near the riverfront, the Old Market and the Night Market which come alive on the weekend with music, traditional food and fresh sugarcane juice.

The Old Market is a great place to buy fresh fish, fruit and vegetables or – if you are more courageous – snails, frogs and crispy crickets.

Every day is a new experience.

I walk to work past the ice man sawing a block of ice into chunks on the back of his hand driven cart. The streets are buzzing with motorbikes, bicycles, tuk tuks and traditional cyclo. Phnom Penh is rich in history and alive with culture - the magnificent Royal Palace, orange robed monks, the smell of incense burning - and in spite of their tragic history, the people are very friendly and always smiling.

My job at the Blood Transfusion Centre is quite challenging as you can imagine. On my first day I watched a donor give blood and I almost fainted. Fortunately, a couple of days later I joined a mobile blood collection team and watched over 30 students donate without a problem... phew! I wouldn’t be a good advocate for blood donation if I was fainting all the time.

The other week we had an emergency blood collection for a patient who was in surgery with abdominal hemorrhaging from a car accident (road accidents are the most common cause of death here). His blood type was O negative which is very rare for Cambodians so we contacted foreigners and a plea was broadcast on local radio. It was heart-warming to see the number of donors arrive to help save the life of a person they didn’t even know.

We have had some occupational therapy students here from UniSA volunteering at Komar Pikar. Lots of people here are doing great work.
“Being a stay at home dad can be a little alienating,” Garth explains. “The activities and support groups available still cater mostly for mothers. There are some programs out there for fathers, but they’re mostly an afterthought.”

For the Cochranes, the decision for Bianca to return to full-time work after 12 months of maternity leave, while Garth took over the day time childcare responsibilities, was a logical one for their circumstances. Garth had been working as a contractor and the hours and conditions weren’t ideal. He decided to make a career change and spend the next year studying and taking care of their son while Bianca returned to work.

They appear to exemplify a modern Australian family, reaping the benefits of a society where many of the struggles for gender equality have been won. Yet for some reason their decision to make Bianca breadwinner and Garth caregiver still makes some people feel just a little uncomfortable.

“There are those who see our situation as less than ideal,” Bianca says. “I sometimes get the sense, especially from other mothers, that I’m not being the best mother by choosing to work full-time. But usually that’s from mothers who don’t fully understand our position.”

“We’ve on occasion felt certain pressure to conform to the traditional family stereotype. We often have people offering advice as if our situation needs fixing!”

According to Professor Barbara Pocock, Director of the University of South Australia’s Centre for Work + Life, Australia has experienced a huge shift in family dynamics in recent decades. The Centre’s research also shows that modern Australian families are under enormous pressure, as they strive to keep up with and adjust to the changes that have occurred.

“Nevertheless the average amount of time women devote to domestic and caring work hasn’t shifted much in the past 30 years. Our research also shows that in the past decade, the average hours of paid work for fathers of children under four has increased by almost a working day a week. At the same time, young fathers who would like to be involved with their kids often don’t feel comfortable enough in their workplaces to ask for flexibility. Something has to give.”

Despite enormous leaps forward in women’s participation in the workforce, the Cochranes appear to be bucking a trend, where women still undertake the majority of domestic duties. In the Cochrane household, cleaning and other duties are evenly shared and “usually get done when Jude is asleep or preoccupied with food or Iggle Piggie”.

Besides caring for young family members, Prof Pocock says many Australian families will be affected by another significant change occurring in Australia – the need to care for elderly relatives and friends.

On a warm day on Australia’s Sunshine Coast, the Cochranes are enjoying their first holiday as a young family. Bianca sits behind the camera lens photographing her husband Garth and their toddler Jude delighting in his first experience of splashing in waves on a sandy beach. The image captures a beautiful moment between father and son. A few weeks later, when Bianca returns to work and Garth takes Jude to the nearby park on a Monday morning, the picture is somewhat different.

“In terms of who the modern family is, the structure of a family with children is almost unrecognisable compared with those of 50 years ago,” says Prof. Pocock.

“In the 50s and 60s the family model was a male breadwinner and a female carer at home – that was the way it was configured.

“When the children came along, the woman was often required to surrender her job to be the carer at home. We’ve now shifted to the majority of family units being dual-earner households. As soon as you switch to this model, all of the work – family care, household maintenance – that in the past was done by women at home now becomes something that has to be built around that second job.”

“Nevertheless the average amount of time women devote to domestic and caring work hasn’t shifted much in the past 30 years. Our research also shows that in the past decade, the average hours of paid work for fathers of children under four has increased by almost a working day a week. At the same time, young fathers who would like to be involved with their kids often don’t feel comfortable enough in their workplaces to ask for flexibility. Something has to give.”

Despite enormous leaps forward in women’s participation in the workforce, the Cochranes appear to be bucking a trend, where women still undertake the majority of domestic duties. In the Cochrane household, cleaning and other duties are evenly shared and “usually get done when Jude is asleep or preoccupied with food or Iggle Piggie”.

Besides caring for young family members, Prof. Pocock says many Australian families will be affected by another significant change occurring in Australia – the need to care for elderly relatives and friends.
"Many Australians will find themselves caring for the elderly – and it won’t just be aged parents – it will be aged friends and aged partners," Prof Pocock says. "This is a big caring change that will impact on an enormous number of families, and will continue to impact on society as the baby boomers age."

And the diversification of modern families is having an impact in the workplace. Director of UniSA’s Centre for Human Resource Management, Professor Carol Kulik has been investigating the impact of such diversity. Her research examines the roles of women and mature aged workers in the workforce and the challenges these important groups face in becoming successful, fully engaged participants in the workplace. While Prof Kulik supports the theory of diverse workforces, she admits it's not an easy path. She believes Australia is still struggling to adapt to the changes modern families have brought.

"I don’t necessarily subscribe to the idea that diversity itself is good for organisational effectiveness – it can be good or bad," says Prof Kulik.

"Diversity automatically makes organisations less cohesive, there’s more conflict... diversity is a lot of work. If you only care about organisational efficiency, you might say that diversity is bad.

"But efficiency isn’t the only thing organisations care about. Organisations also care about creativity and creativity is always about different perspectives. Those different perspectives might derive from gender, life experiences or different majors at university – any kind of diversity can give organisations access to different kinds of information, which in turn helps innovation and decision-making.

"It’s fantastic that our families are becoming so complex and diverse but we also need to acknowledge that the changes are hard work. Life was a lot easier when there was only one bread winner and we knew exactly what hours organisations and people worked."

In recent years, changes in legislation have made way for organisations to accommodate requests for extended periods of unpaid leave. As of January this year, working dads or partners can now access two weeks of paid parental leave. Women with young children or a child with a disability under the age of 18 have the right to ask for flexibility in the workplace and under proposed legislation from the Federal Government, this right may be extended to fathers and other carers.

Flexibility in the broad sense – to work different hours, to take chunks of time off and to embark on a career that travels along different courses, in which people can work part-time or take time off, and not be penalised on the career ladder for their decision – could be one solution to the demands of modern families in a modern workforce. While it is not the only answer in this complex equation, both UniSA experts agree that flexibility has an important role to play.

"Flexibility is only one part of the story but it’s really important and needs to be part of our workplace culture for all carers at a minimum," Prof Pocock says.

"There’s nothing magic about five days a week and there shouldn’t be – Australia needs to start thinking about job design and flexible career management. We need to do things differently – we have to look at serious, quality options for part-time workers and we need to understand that the workplace has to accommodate requests for extended periods of unpaid leave."

Prof Kulik agrees. "We do a really great job at designing part-time jobs but how do we design part-time careers?" she says. "Flexibility isn’t the be all and end all – but it is one part of managing this increasingly diverse workforce."

In the meantime, families like the Cochrane’s will continue to adapt to the changing circumstances they find themselves in, and researchers like Professor Pocock and Kulik will continue to seek answers to these questions that lie at the heart of our notion of what it is to become a happy, productive modern family.

By Rosanna Galvin

**“FLEXIBILITY IS ONLY ONE PART OF THE STORY BUT IT’S REALLY IMPORTANT AND NEEDS TO BE PART OF OUR WORKPLACE CULTURE FOR ALL CARERS AT A MINIMUM”**

TIME FOR CHANGE

A group of 30 experts in work, care and family policy have identified eight policy areas that are of particular importance for Australian families leading into the Federal election.

The expert group, including Professor Barbara Pocock, make up the Work + Family Policy Roundtable and they have not only identified the key contemporary issues facing Australians as they attempt to combine work, care and family but also the policy changes that may support them.

Among their recommendations are:

- Extending the Australian Government funded Parental Leave Pay to 52 weeks of shared/paid parental leave
- Increasing job security for working carers by introducing measures to support casual workers moving to an ongoing contract after a certain period of employment
- Reviewing effective marginal tax rates and their impact on women’s workforce participation
- Investigating the introduction of ‘carer credits’ into superannuation accounts for those with significant carer responsibilities
- Extending the right to request flexibility to all employees.

The Work + Family Policy Roundtable said surveys showed that work and family pressures were affecting many households but especially women’s lives. They said change was needed to ensure a good society, one that enables workforce participation while supporting social and family relations, where work and care can be more easily combined.

"In the long run, productivity is dependent upon social reproduction before all else, making the successful combination of work and family an ongoing national economic – as well as social – goal," says Dr Elizabeth Hill, co-convener of the Roundtable.

As in the past two elections, the Work + Family Policy Roundtable has published a set of research-based benchmarks against which election proposals for improving work and care outcomes in Australia can be assessed.

The Roundtable called on all Australian political parties to consider the evidence in favour of change, and to respond to the evidence in support of new policy reforms.

The Work + Family Policy Roundtable will publish an evaluation of policy proposals put forward by all parties in the context of the upcoming election, considering them against the benchmarks.

For full details see www.workandfamilypolicyroundtable.org/

---

CULTURE FOR ALL CARERS AT A MINIMUM

NEEDS TO BE PART OF OUR WORKPLACE STORY BUT IT’S REALLY IMPORTANT AND NEEDS TO BE PART OF OUR WORKPLACE CULTURE FOR ALL CARERS AT A MINIMUM

FLEXIBILITY IS ONLY ONE PART OF THE STORY BUT IT’S REALLY IMPORTANT AND NEEDS TO BE PART OF OUR WORKPLACE CULTURE FOR ALL CARERS AT A MINIMUM

Back to contents page
The prospect of having a job for life with the same company in the same industry following a well mapped career trajectory and culminating in the gift of a carriage clock to mark decades of devotional service are appearing even more Dickensian as the 21st century progresses.

According to Professor Anthony Elliott, Director of UniSA’s Hawke Research Institute, current graduates can expect to hold around 12 different positions in their lives and change their skills set three times.

If that doesn’t sound daunting enough, at the other end of the career ladder, the number of senior executives undertaking cosmetic procedures including plastic surgery to ensure they remain employable and competitive in the workplace, is beginning to rise, as the retirement age extends upwards.

“Reinvention is nothing new; it’s been a fundamental aspect of human society for a long period,” says Prof Elliott.

“What is new is the speed with which reinvention is now taking place. The forces of globalisation and new information technology are what drives the process of reinvention and there is no going back. The rate at which the world has changed, even in the past 20 years, has been radical and in the new project-based economy there exists an environment that previous generations haven’t had to cope with.”

The concepts of speed, mobility, disposability and plasticity, which are hallmarks of this environment, are now being played out in careers where employees are expected to meet ever-tighter deadlines, undertake short-term contracts and face the risks of having their jobs outsourced – either to automated processes or to cheaper labour sources around the world.

The growth of computer-based production technology and the decline of primary and manufacturing industries in first world economies is accelerating this process.

“It is a disposable society and the casual ways in which we dispense of everyday objects, even relationships and marriages – no longer: ‘till death do us part’ – more ‘until further notice’, this is one of the prompts of modern anxiety,” Prof Elliott says.

“It extends to the workplace where contracts can be terminated at the click of a mouse.”

And as for that traditional passport to employment, the humble CV, representing the summit of experiences gained and education received – this too could be rendered obsolete.

“There is now a slow move away from the culture of the CV as employers are becoming less interested in past achievements,” Prof Elliott says.

So how can today’s graduates get off the career starting block in a world in which even the concept of a resumé is starting to look a bit passé?

The answer appears to lie in something called future orientation and multi-media networking.

Prof Elliott says employers today are more interested in how candidates can handle future challenges, whether they are mobile in the workplace, as well as how they present themselves and how they can link their skills to what is expected of them.

Resilience, flexibility and adaptation would appear to be the keys to survival and Prof Elliott points to the proliferation of training courses offered by human resource departments as an example of one way in which employees can ensure their skills are relevant and updated.

“At a corporate level one of the best examples of adaptation is Nokia,” says Prof Elliott.

“Following a big fall in profits in 2010, this is a company which is now looking at developing more in the world of mobile devices rather than mobile phones. It is also a company which started out life manufacturing paper.”

Of the 8500 students who will graduate from the University of South Australia this year, those seeking to join the workforce will do so with expectations that in many ways are different from those of the previous generation.

“REINVENTION IS NOTHING NEW; IT’S BEEN A FUNDAMENTAL ASPECT OF HUMAN SOCIETY FOR A LONG PERIOD”
The leaps and bounds that major technology vendors such as Apple have taken over the past decade, in the world of mobile technology, demonstrates an adaptability and an almost prophetic ability to divine what it is the market needs – and then to deliver it.

Having a flexible attitude and adaptable skills is important but so too is the ability to demonstrate and communicate these traits in appropriate ways.

Catherine Klimes, manager of UniSA career services, says strengths-based interviewing, knowing what to say in a job interview and knowing how to relate and connect the core values of the advertised position with the candidate’s own experience, is vital. “Providing evidence-based examples of experience through university life, work placements, volunteering and community involvement and being able to link those to the requirements of the outlined role is valuable,” says Klimes.

“Candidates should think about what they are going to say in the interview that will demonstrate their relevant strengths. Highlight your experiences as evidence that you are able to work independently and or as part of a multi-disciplinary team. Understand the terminology of your chosen field of work and know for example what it means to project manage a task.”

“What students learn in school or university may become outdated but it is the skills that students develop over the period of their education, rather than the sum of knowledge learnt that will prepare them for their careers. These are the skills of critical, evaluative reasoning, of being curious about the world and of knowing where to find answers to your questions – without having to resort to Google.”

As educational practices start to reflect the changes taking place in the world of employment, graduates can take some comfort in the fact that they will not be entering the 21st century workplace totally unprepared. Gone are the days of a job for life, but in a rapidly changing work landscape there is one constant which still remains, as Prof Elliott says, “education is the best insurance policy there is”.

By Will Venn

“Generation Y, the Facebook or LinkedIn generation therefore has another advantage in growing up in a world where the speed of change is something they are familiar with.” Prof Elliott says.

“They are computer literate from an early age.”

“The wide use of networks and the ability to access those face-to-face personal skills are vital. It is important for candidates to project an image that demonstrates they are up to date with new technology, with a skill set that will enable the job market for the first time belong to a generation at work today.”

“Candidates should think about what they are going to say in the interview that will demonstrate their relevant strengths.”

WHAT THEY ARE GOING TO SAY IN THE INTERVIEW THAT WILL DEMONSTRATE THEIR RELEVANT STRENGTHS”

People around the world rely on trains as an efficient form of transport. But despite their efficiency, trains still use a lot of energy, which impacts on the environment and running costs. UniSA mathematicians from the Scheduling and Control Group have spent the past 30 years perfecting a system that minimises fuel or energy use while also helping train drivers stay on time.

The Energimiser® system is now installed in more than 500 cabs of freight and passenger trains in Australia and the UK, where it is already the market leader. It is also being trialled by eight train operators in five countries around the world, with more expressing interest in using the system.

“Extensive trials in Australia, India, the UK and New Zealand under a variety of conditions showed fuel savings between 5 and 25 per cent, with an average of about 10 per cent,” says Dr Peter Pudney, Senior Research Fellow in the School of Information Technology and Mathematical Sciences.

“For the rail industry, energy is the second highest cost after people, so it does amount to millions of dollars a year. And of course if you are using 10 per cent less fossil fuel then you are generating 10 per cent less CO₂. For passengers it means trains are more likely to run on time.”

The system is a portable device that advises drivers on how to drive at each point along the route. The mathematical algorithms and software take into consideration the performance of the train and the gradients, curves and speed limits that will be encountered during the journey.

“We advise the driver to cruise at a speed less than the speed limit when we can do it without becoming late,” says Dr Pudney. “We also anticipate hills to reduce speed variations, and do more coasting and less braking than most drivers.”

While the rights to the technology have been sold to TTG Transportation Technology, UniSA’s Scheduling and Control Group is still heavily involved in the system, analysing the data from trials and customising the system to meet the needs of specific clients, as well as ongoing research.

Its latest work sees the group converting the system to run on a smart phone or tablet which would be particularly handy for long haul drivers who already have to carry a lot with them on each journey. The team has an ARC grant that continues to support the research into saving energy on long, heavy freight trains, and integrating the on-train system with train scheduling systems to smooth the flow of trains through congested rail networks.

A SIMPLER TEXT-BASED DISPLAY FOR CONGESTED RAIL NETWORKS IN THE UK (PICTURE COURTESY FREIGHTLINER)

A GRAPICAL DISPLAY/INDICATOR DISPLAY SHOWING THE DRIVER THE OPTIMAL SPEED PROFILE, GRADIENTS, CURVES AND FEATURE LOCATIONS FOR THE NEXT 4 KM (PICTURE COURTESY TTG TRANSPORTATION TECHNOLOGY)

FORMULA FOR EFFICIENT TRAINS

UniSA researchers are using maths to create the most efficient formula for train operations.
During that time, one mineral flotation processing project alone has saved industry more than $1bn as well as netting environmental benefits.

"Ore bodies today are getting more and more complex, the size of the particles of the minerals that companies want are getting smaller and the total amount of valuable material is decreasing," says Professor Bill Skinner, who leads the flagship AMIRA P260 Project at The Wark.

"For example, one tonne of ore could contain less than one gram of gold that needs to be extracted.

"Any improvement in extracting that mineral in a more efficient way has flow-on benefits financially to the company but there are also benefits in regards to using less water, energy and chemical agents.

"This has follow-on environmental and economic savings as less water may be required from natural sources and the greenhouse footprint of operations, particularly in remote areas, is reduced."

Australia’s mining industry is a keystone of the country’s economy, contributing $121bn a year plus $138bn in export income, and providing thousands of jobs across the country.

Prof Skinner says The Wark’s expertise in physical chemistry, metallurgical processing and physics has helped to create flotation technology solutions specific to individual mine requirements and is therefore helping to keep Australia’s mining industry competitive.

Flotation processing involves crushing ore, and allowing specific particles (such as gold, iron ore or copper) to attach to bubbles which are then collected in a froth. South Australia’s mining industry can benefit from the work, with something like 130 deposits that need considerable time and money put into them before they are fully-developed into concentrate production.

"It’s a long process from deposit discovery to mining and processing unless you have the science knowledge base and technology to develop the resource," Prof Skinner says.

"Rich ore bodies are deinding so companies are going for more marginal bodies that need better and more effective technologies to extract the valuable minerals.

“Developing new technology and methods of extraction helps to keep the mining industry competitive, not only on a world stage but it’s also important for the Australian economy.”

The ongoing project work is funded through an ARC Linkage Grant as well as industry partners who come to The Wark to ask its experts to help them solve a specific problem that onsite management can’t address.

The work in the AMIRA P260 project, now in its silver jubilee year, was recognised as a stellar performer in the ATN-Go8 Excellence in Innovation for Australia assessment report at the end of 2012.

By Katrina Phelps
Lost In Space is not just the title of a wacky sci-fi show made in the late 1960s, the same era in which Australia joined an elite list of countries to successfully launch its first Earth satellite. It’s also the title of a Standing Committee report, published in 2008, which highlighted Australia’s shrinking foothold in the space community and which alarmingly referred to Australia as a country adrift in the area of space science, decades after its promising start.

The launch of Australia’s first ever Cabinet approved space policy – Australia’s Satellite Utilisation Policy – by the Federal Government in April this year effectively responded to that challenge. The policy prioritises satellite technology as a beacon which could contribute between $6bn and $12bn a year to Australia’s GDP by 2030.

Senator Kate Lundy, has said that cost effective access to space capabilities was essential to Australia’s future.

"That is why this policy focuses on supporting space-related research, education and innovation activities to nurture and grow our space industry," Jeff Kasparian, Business Manager of UniSA Institute for Telecommunications Research says its researchers are the space industry’s future. "That’s why we have been working on developing mission-relevant tracking from space is in practical ways with an emphasis on the environment, national defence and security.

"The technology that has resulted from launching missions to the moon has evolved to us here on Earth developing practical gains for everyday life - more commercial use of data from satellites".

"With systems like this we will also be able to contribute significantly to remote environmental monitoring, collecting information such as the condition of surface and underground water sites, for example, that otherwise would not be possible without an affordable, global solution. Current satellite solutions are not flexible enough or able to deliver the information in a cost effective way."

It’s been over 40 years since the last moon landing and will be at least 20 years before a possible mission to Mars, but between these lofty outcomes, millions are starting to reap the benefits of the down-to-earth applications that arise from Australian space science research.

"Space exploration has accelerated man’s understanding and thinking about satellite technologies and their potential – we know now they have the power and capacity to help society at a much wider level," Kasparian says.

"Far from being rarified or fantasy technologies, space science is delivering very practical gains for everyday people."

By Will Venn

---

Reframing the research and partake in a simulated space walk exercise at the bottom of a scuba training pool. Previous graduates of the school are now beginning to pursue space-related careers off the back of their experiences on the program.

Yi’s involvement in the program, recounting fascinating stories of living and working in space, has proved inspirational in her capacity as a space ambassador, visiting schools in her home country and encouraging children to study maths and science.

"I only had 10 days in space,” Yi says. "At night I would look through the window and see the Korean peninsula – it would look so small.

“The constellations are the same but from space there is colour in the stars. They look different as we don’t have atmosphere or reflection so they don’t all look yellowish white like they do from Earth.

"It was really beautiful and looking at thunder and lightning shooting in space was incredible.

"In space I grew more than other astronauts who were older than me. I was 29-years-old when I went to the ISS, so it may be that my body is more flexible, but I grew 3cm in two hours when I was in space.

"When I got back to Earth I drank by the same amount and that caused huge back pain, but it went away after a few weeks.

"Since then I’ve met so many kids in Korea and their reaction to watching videos of Russian and American astronauts doing experiments in space is different to them seeing an Asian person like me in the same environment.

“They can identify more, there is a person similar to them – they feel like maybe they can do that also; so there is an influence there.”

As well as highlighting educational initiatives, the Lost In Space report maintained some realistic boundaries around its hopes for Australia’s future in space.
NEWS BITES

NEW LEADER FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Leading materials and manufacturing science researcher Professor Rob Short (pictured right), has been appointed as Pro Vice Chancellor for Information Technology, Engineering and the Environment, based at the Mawson Lakes campus.

Prof Short comes into the position after being the inaugural director of the University’s Mawson Institute where he developed its operations from a paper concept and basic business plan to a thriving research institute with more than 100 researchers from around the world actively engaged in three national Cooperative Research Centres. The institute is also the lead organisation in the new CRC in Cell Therapy Manufacturing.

Prof Short says he is enthusiastic about his new role and keen to support the University in the advancement of science education.

“I have a real passion for research-led and research-informed teaching and learnt to encourage the Division of Information Technology, Engineering and the Environment to build an increasingly dynamic and engaged learning environment for our students so that their careers and professional expertise become a reflection of both our quality and our relevance,” Prof Short says.

ALLAN EVANS TAKES NEW ROLE

Former Division of Health Pro Vice Chancellor, Professor Allan Evans (pictured right), has taken up the newly created UniSA position of Provost and Chief Academic Officer.

Vice Chancellor Professor David Lloyd says he is delighted to welcome Prof Evans into this new role, a position designed to lead the University’s teaching and learning strategy and oversee its four academic divisions.

“Allan brings years of experience to the position and personal expertise from every level in university management from lecturer and senior lecturer, to head of research and head of School, and then right through to Pro Vice Chancellor in Health Sciences,” Prof Lloyd says.

Since Prof Evans took on the role of Pro Vice Chancellor in 2009 the Division of Health Sciences has undergone significant growth in student numbers and has experienced sustained improvement in research activity.

But Prof Evans says it is the big improvement in student satisfaction and graduate employment across the Division’s academic programs and a sustained rise in the participation of Indigenous students in health programs which make him most proud. This is an achievement he attributes to the commitment of his leadership team and the academic and professional staff.

NEW HEAD ANNOUNCED FOR UNISA BUSINESS SCHOOL

Professor Marie Wilson (pictured right), takes up the role of Pro Vice Chancellor of UniSA’s Business School following the retirement of Professor Gerry Griffin.

Prof Wilson is former Dean (Academic) of Griffith University’s Business School where her responsibilities included quality improvement and accreditation and performance excellence in teaching, research and industry engagement.

In accepting the role, Prof Wilson said she was looking forward to leading the Business School and building on the worldwide reputation of the Business School, the Law School and the University.

“It is a great opportunity to work with a new leadership team in a dynamic, high quality university.” Prof Wilson said.

“I am attracted by UniSA’s vibrancy and the potential to make a real difference to the business and professional communities of South Australia.”

NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS

Two new members have recently been added to UniSA’s governing body, the University Council.

Eric Granger (pictured right) joins the Council with more than 30 years in marketing and retail and a distinguished record of community service. As the General Manager of Bupa in South Australia, he has many years of experience in the health insurance and management sectors.

Granger is a keen participant in fundraising activities and is well known for his community work. Granger was conferred the Honorary Award of University Fellow in 2004.

Joining Granger on the University Council is Miranda Wilson, (pictured left), who is Deputy Chair of the Training and Skills Commission (South Australia). She is also currently a member of the South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission, and a member of the Premier’s Council for Women.

Silva has more than 20 years’ experience in a dynamic, high quality university,” Prof Wilson said.

“I am attracted by UniSA’s vibrancy and the potential to make a real difference to the business and professional communities of South Australia.”

At the University of South Australia we have a strong vision for our university and community founded on values of excellence, equity and diversity. We believe education should be available to all talented individuals regardless of social advantage or disadvantage. By supporting our Scholarship Fund, you will be supporting this vision.

Some of our most able students could not go to university without the support of a scholarship or grant. Each year we assist students from all walks of life and you can be sure that your donation will make a difference.

MY DETAILS

Title: __________________________
First Name: ______________________
Last Name: ________________________
Address: __________________________
State: ____________________________
Postcode: _________________________
Phone: ___________________________
Email: ____________________________

ACCEPT PLEASE MY TAX DEDUCTIBLE GIFT OF:
$0.00 $50 $100 $250$400 OR (Indicate your choice)

Would you like to include the University of South Australia in my Will?
Yes __________ No __________
My cheque is enclosed — cheques to be made payable to the University of South Australia.

Please delete: ______ VISA ______ MasterCard ______
Card No: _________________________
Expiry date: __/____
Cardholder’s name: __________________________
Signature: __________________________

Your gift is tax deductible. Be assured your details remain confidential as we do not supply our information to any other organisation. Should you wish to be removed from our mailing list but would like to donate by credit card, please contact us on 8302 9770.

Support the Scholarship Fund

Back to contents page

WINTER 2013 20

AWARDS FOR ASTHMA WORK

Associate Professor Kay Price (pictured right) from UniSA’s School of Nursing and Midwifery has received an award for her work on Asthma Australia’s National Research Council.

She was one of six Council members recognised by Asthma Australia’s Board for their work in launching, on behalf of Asthma Australia, a national research program which focuses on strategic research grants, grants for asthma research and scholarships.

Asthma Australia is the recognised national community voice of people with asthma and linked conditions, and their carers. It comprises the Asthma Foundations from each Australian state and territory working together on national policy, advocacy and programs – and promoting research.

Dr Price, who is researcher theme leader with UniSA’s Safety and Quality Health Research Group, joined the National Research Council in a voluntary capacity in January 2012.

COMMUNITY AWARD FOR EMERITUS PROFESSOR

One of UniSA’s leading child protection experts has received a Community, Action, Leadership and Inspiration (CALI) award from Five Point Five, a community development and lifestyle website.

Emeritus Professor Frieda Briggs (pictured right) was recognised for her leadership role in the field of child protection.

Five Point Five cited Prof Briggs as an everyday hero, stating, “With over 50 years of experience within the field, Frieda is considered to be one of Australia’s pre-eminent voices in child protection and has become a respected advisor and a champion of child protection issues around the world.”

TELECOMMUNICATIONS ENGINEER RECEIVES ENTREPRENEUR AWARD

Director of UniSA Institute for Telecommunications Research (ITR) Professor Alex Grant (pictured right), has received the Pearcey Entrepreneur Award for South Australia.

The Pearcey Award recognises people who have “taken a risk, made a difference and leveraged an inspiration in the Australian ICT and Digital Media industries,” says Pearcey Foundation chairman Wayne Fitzner, who presented the award in June.

Prof Grant is a telecommunications engineer and his research focuses on the mathematical foundations of communications. Based on research done at the ITR, Prof Grant together with colleagues Dr Paul Alexander and Dr Lars Rasmussen co-founded spin-off company Cohda Wireless in 2004.

Cohda Wireless, the company behind the so-called “talking cars” – an advanced wireless communications technology which allows cars to communicate with each other to avoid accidents.

Back to contents page

NEWS BITES

NEW APPOINTMENTS

NEW APPOINTMENTS

LAURELS
$8m Research Boost

More than $8m in funding from the Australian Research Council (ARC) and industry partners will support new research at the University of South Australia.

Twelve projects funded under the ARC’s Linkage Project scheme will improve agriculture and the environment, water quality, teacher retention, mining productivity, road safety, diversity and safety in the workplace and better transitions to retirement for older Australians.

The overall government support of $2.8m is matched with funding and in-kind support from a wide range of industry and business partners.

City west Learning Centre Update

The Hindley Street side of the City West campus is on its way to being expanded with the $80m Learning Centre well underway.

The building is set for completion at the end of the year, ready for students at the start of 2014.

The seven-storey building is designed to improve student learning experiences and services and will have the capacity to accommodate a further 1800 students in the CBD.

“The Learning Centre is part of the City West Master Plan which seeks to transform the West End precinct,” says Facilities Management Senior Project Manager Rob Lustri.

“We are creating a building that enhances the student experience by providing a diversity of learning spaces and support services in an environment of great quality. Enriched by resources and technologies, it is integrated to provide a strong framework for memorable social, learning and teaching experiences.”

A key feature of the building is that every space has great access to natural light and views to the outside, which in themselves are found to be beneficial to learning outcomes,”

The main entrance to the building is via a plaza that includes civic space for social recreation and study. It will also include a café, forum and gallery suitable for events and exhibitions.

UniSA will honour the life and contribution of great Australian artist Jeffrey Smart by naming the centre the Jeffrey Smart Building.

To see a time lapse video of the building construction, go to the UniSA website and search “learning centre construction video”.

Honours for our Alumni

Acclaimed Australian artist, former lecturer in photostudies at UniSA, SA School of Art, and honorary doctor of the University, Fiona Hall was awarded the Office of the Order of Australia for her contribution to art and society in the Queen’s Birthday Honours List in June.

She joins a group of 18 alumni and friends of the University who have been acknowledged for excellence in their fields. Dr Pamela Schulz who began her studies at UniSA in the 1980s was awarded an OAM for her contribution to society. Among the other winners were many professionals were honoured in a wide range of fields for their contributions.

“The institution which is just 22 years old, to be placed in such an advanced position is a great achievement,” he says.

“With what is important that we are moving up and what’s clear is that much of our improvement relates to core university activities such as teaching and research and our strong relationships with industry.”

Honours for our alumni

Acclaimed Australian artist, former lecturer in photostudies at UniSA SA School of Art, and honorary doctor of the University, Fiona Hall was awarded the Office of the Order of Australia for her contribution to art and society in the Queen’s Birthday Honours List in June.

She joins a group of 18 alumni and friends of the University who were honoured in a wide range of fields for their contributions to society. Among the other winners were many professionals who have been acknowledged for excellence in their fields. Dr Pamela Schulz who began her studies at UniSA in the 1980s was awarded an OAM for his outstanding leadership and management in the force. He completed a Graduate Certificate in Management at UniSA and a Bachelor of Business in human resource management.

A full list of the UniSAs Queen’s Birthday honours can be found on the UniSA website by searching alumni achievements.

City West Learning Centre Update

The Hindley Street side of the City West campus is on its way to being expanded with the $80m Learning Centre well underway.

The building is set for completion at the end of the year, ready for students at the start of 2014.

The seven-storey building is designed to improve student learning experiences and services and will have the capacity to accommodate a further 1800 students in the CBD.

“The Learning Centre is part of the City West Master Plan which seeks to transform the West End precinct,” says Facilities Management Senior Project Manager Rob Lustri.

“We are creating a building that enhances the student experience by providing a diversity of learning spaces and support services in an environment of great quality. Enriched by resources and technologies, it is integrated to provide a strong framework for memorable social, learning and teaching experiences.”

A key feature of the building is that every space has great access to natural light and views to the outside, which in themselves are found to be beneficial to learning outcomes,”

The main entrance to the building is via a plaza that includes civic space for social recreation and study. It will also include a café, forum and gallery suitable for events and exhibitions.

UniSA will honour the life and contribution of great Australian artist Jeffrey Smart by naming the centre the Jeffrey Smart Building.

To see a time lapse video of the building construction, go to the UniSA website and search “learning centre construction video”.

On Campus

UNIBAZAAR

Tuesday has become market day at UniSA metropolitan campuses.

Each Tuesday UNIBAZAAR heads to a different campus, giving staff and students the opportunity to experience live music, market treats and some of Adelaide’s finest food truck offerings. Student events coordinator Rebecca Meston says UNIBAZAAR is a fantastic way to bring students and staff together on campus.

“It’s a great opportunity for students to sell their wares such as jewellery and artefacts,” she says.

For more information on the dates and campuses for the rest of 2013 visit the UNIBAZAAR Facebook page.
Knowledge works
UniSA's free public lectures.

If you enjoy finding out about the latest research and staying informed on contemporary issues, be part of the University of South Australia’s popular free public lecture series - Knowledge Works.

Leading researchers from across the University showcase their latest research on a range of subjects including health and wellbeing, sustainability, technology, marketing and business and society and culture.

For more information and to view past lectures please visit unisa.edu.au/knowledgeworks