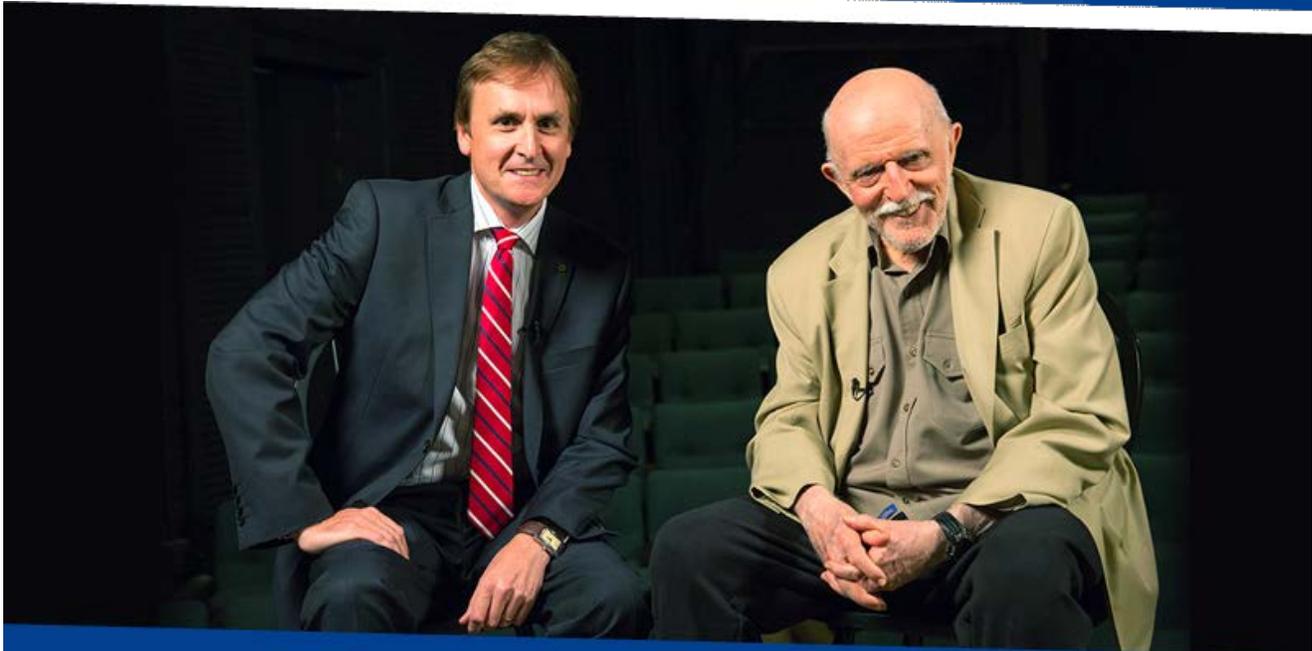


# news

July 2015

&gt; from the University of South Australia



HUMANITIES

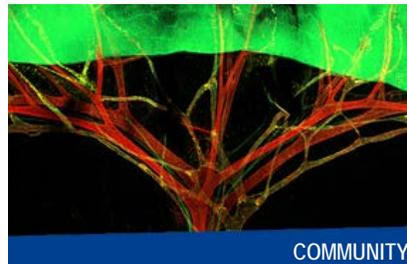
## The return of Gomez Addams

The Addams Family is a rare phenomenon, a TV show with cross-generational appeal which transitioned from our black and white TV screens to the big screen and then the stage. [more](#)



INSIDE UNISA

Students excel at Southern Uni Games [more](#)



COMMUNITY

Showcasing our top research images [more](#)



HEALTH

Sky's the limit in UniSA-RFDS collaboration [more](#)



INSIDE UNISA

From the Chancellery [more](#)



INSIDE UNISA

The latest achievements and announcements [more](#)



INSIDE UNISA

UniSA research on the global stage at G20 Youth Forum [more](#)



BUSINESS AND LAW

**Jessica takes a bite of Big Apple** [more](#)



HUMANITIES

**Sharing wisdom and communication in Hong Kong** [more](#)



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

**Research to save lives and energy** [more](#)



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

**Innovative talent honoured at iAwards** [more](#)



RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

**Understanding the Chinese wine palate** [more](#)



NEW BOOKS

**The latest books from UniSA researchers** [more](#)



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

**A bonus for UniSA's international research partnerships** [more](#)



BUSINESS AND LAW

**Budget research shows people want consistency** [more](#)



IN PICTURES

**On campus this month** [more](#)

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[top^](#)

## Students excel at Southern Uni Games

[Back to story index](#)

by **SUG Student Media Officer Kirralee Thomas**



INSIDE UNISA

Rob Wighton competes in Ultimate Frisbee.

UniSA has achieved its best result at a Regional University Games, finishing in third place overall and the top-placed SA university at the Southern Uni Games held in Adelaide this month.

More than 1800 students from universities across South Australia, Victoria and Tasmania competed in 14 different sports during the week (July 5-9).

Over 135 UniSA students, coaches and support staff were involved, in what was the University's largest ever regional games team.

At the Southern Uni Games Pennant Presentation at the end of the competition, UniSA finished third in the John Campbell Trophy for Overall University winner and second in the Hugh McKenchnie Trophy for Per Capita Champion.

Team UniSA won five medals in the Games, to help seal the third place finish – UniSA's best result at a Regional University Games.

The women's hockey and volleyball teams won gold; a silver medal was won in men's tennis; and bronze medals were won in both women's tennis and women's futsal.

UniSA also competed in: men's hockey, ultimate frisbee, cross country, men's basketball, mixed netball, women's netball, touch football, men's volleyball and women's basketball.

The women's netball team had a tough week, with one win despite putting in a great effort.



Finishing in ninth position overall in their sports were the mixed netball team and the ultimate frisbee team.

Both the men's volleyball and basketball teams won their final games of the tournament to finish in seventh position overall.

In the cross country event, UniSA's three competitors finished well. Zainulabideen Sarfarali finished sixth in the men's race while Elise Bennett finished eighth and Amy Lee finished 18th in the women's.

The touch football team was competitive throughout the week to finish in fifth position out of 14 teams.

The women's basketball team and the men's hockey team had strong weeks and both played off for a bronze medal, however despite fighting hard, both lost to finish in fourth position.

The women's futsal team capped off a great week by triumphing in their bronze medal match. Playing against La Trobe Uni, the women won 4-1 to finish the competition in third place.

It was a successful week on the tennis court, with two medals being won. Michelle Burdon won the bronze medal in the women's competition, while Son Hung Nguyen was the silver medalist in the men's.

The women's volleyball team went undefeated through all four days of the competition on the way to their 3-1 victory in the thrilling gold medal match.

The women's hockey team had a 2-0 victory against RMIT in the gold medal match, earning themselves qualification in the Australian Uni Games.



The Southern Uni Games was a highly successful and, most importantly, highly enjoyable competition for Team UniSA. The UniSA athletes will now be looking forward to the Australian Uni Games, being held in September on the Gold Coast.

For more photographs from the Southern Uni Games, go to the [In Pictures](#) section of this edition.

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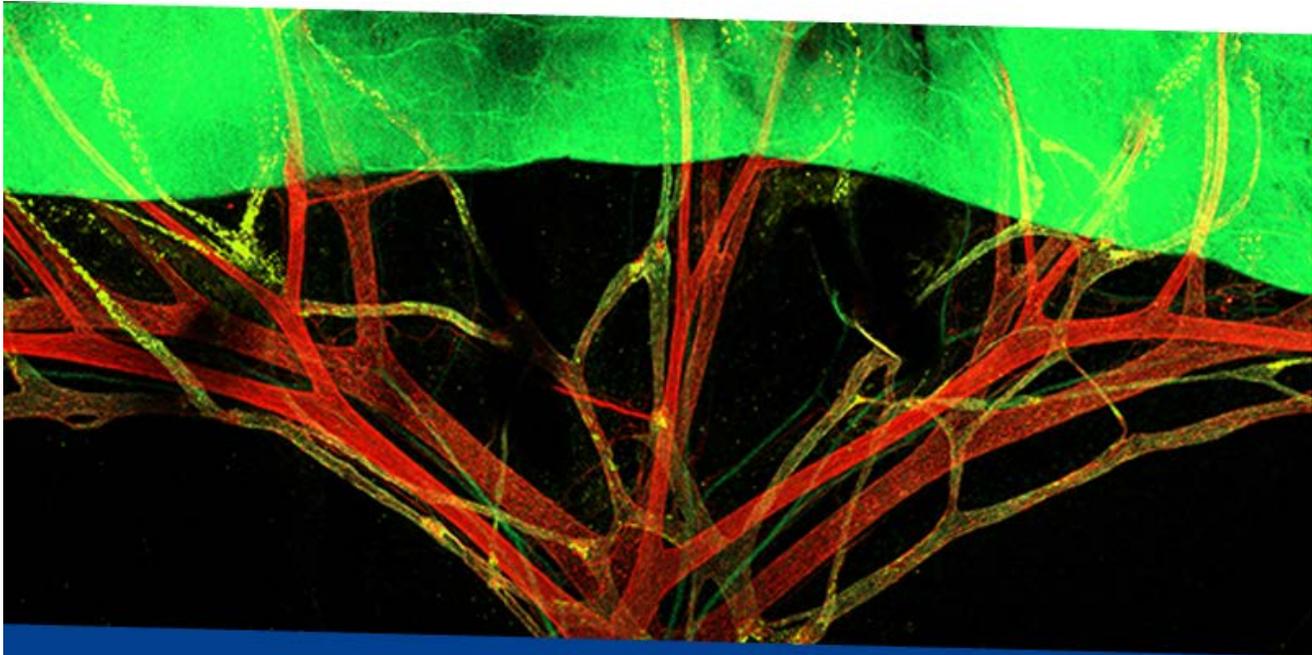
[top^](#)



## Showcasing our top research images

[Back to story index](#)

by Will Venn



COMMUNITY

UniSA's inaugural Images in Research competition attracted almost 150 entrants, showcasing the work of staff and students across a range of research areas in stunning photographs.

Dr Genevieve Secker (pictured right) from the Centre for Cancer Biology took out first prize for her image *Vascular Tree*, while researcher Saad Al-Sharrah claimed second prize for his image *Desert Wanderer*.

Competition entries were judged by a selection panel that included Deputy Vice Chancellor: Research and Innovation, Professor Tanya Monro, who described the quality of submissions as 'outstanding'.

"This competition truly highlights the diversity of our research. The purpose of the competition is to source and recognise outstanding examples of intriguing photographs that inspire people to want to know more about the research activities at UniSA," Prof Monro says.

"We see these images as a powerful way of demystifying research and telling some of the stories of how our researchers engage with real-world challenges."

Dr Secker described winning the competition as 'fantastic'.

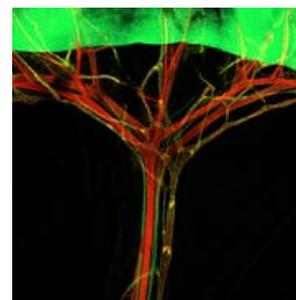
"I captured this image because every time I look at the developing blood and lymphatic vessels associated with the intestine I was amazed at how much it looked like a tree with its larger trunk-like vessels leading up to the smaller branching network of vessels," Dr Secker says.

"The image was taken using a confocal microscope, which is able to take in-focus images from selected depths within a sample. When you take multiple images at



different depths you are able to reconstruct a three-dimensional image. This allows us to look at structures on a whole tissue or whole organism level, giving us extra information about tissue structure in normal and disease states.

“I think this competition is a fantastic opportunity for us to display the amazing images that we can take of biological systems. I hope someone looks at my image and wants to learn more about what we do as a research group.



“Our research focuses on lymphatic vessels and their associated disorders, including lymphoedema, inflammatory diseases and cancer metastasis. By understanding how the lymphatic vessels are built, we aim to improve current therapies for people suffering from these debilitating conditions.”

Saad Al-Sharrah’s black and white photograph of a sheep herder in Morocco captured a very different, yet equally captivating image of research related to the environment.

“I was in the Moroccan desert heading towards my study site, which was located south of the Atlas Mountains in the Meknès-Tafilalet region in north central Morocco and we stopped at a water point to refill our drinking bottles,” he says.



“I came out of the car for a stretch and a drink of water. I saw the herder approaching with his flock towards the water and he stood there while the sheep would drink. I was inspired by how much life and mysticism that moment contained ... I just reacted by lifting my camera and taking a snap. I am glad I did.

“When I saw the advertisement for the competition I was really excited. I have many photographs from my research visits and the competition was the perfect avenue to share them with different audiences. The competition has shed light to what my research is trying to achieve, providing ecological assessments that can help us to develop action plans for these fragile desert ecosystems suffering from land degradation.

“Winning the second place was such a great joy. I am thankful to the people of the desert and everybody involved in creating a sustainable future, they are my inspiration. This is dedicated to them.”

Now it is your turn to be a part of the competition – help us determine the winner of the People’s Choice Award. Simply click [here](#) and check out the images in the running for the People’s Choice Award, select your favourite, and cast your vote.

These images will also be displayed via an installation on George Street, City West campus, at UniSA Open Day, Sunday August 16. The competition closes at 5pm August 16.

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## Sky's the limit in UniSA-RFDS collaboration

[Back to story index](#)

by Will Venn



HEALTH

When Port Pirie resident Crystal Fleming went to bed on a Monday night she was surprised to discover she was having contractions, as she was just 26 weeks pregnant at the time.

A trip to Port Pirie Hospital a few hours later confirmed that Crystal's labour had actually already started and she now faced the risk of a premature birth, or infection due to broken waters.

Crystal was advised she urgently needed the specialist care available at Adelaide's Women's and Children's Hospital and she would need to be airlifted to Adelaide as soon as possible.

The Royal Flying Doctor Service was alerted and a RFDS aircraft and crew were soon on the way to Adelaide, with Crystal receiving care from the RFDS Flight Nurse during the journey.

"The Flight Nurse was fantastic," Crystal says.

"I was so upset – and really scared about losing my baby. But she talked to me a lot and kept me calm."

The drive from Port Pirie to Adelaide takes two and a half hours, but the RFDS aircraft covers this ground in just 50 minutes.

On arrival at the Women's and Children's Hospital, Crystal learnt that she was in the late stages of labour and her baby was going to be born that morning.

Following an emergency caesarean her baby, Lara, was born, weighing just 2lb 4oz (1020 grams).

"I just can't thank the RFDS enough," Crystal says.

"If it wasn't for their help, I might not have my little girl with me today."



The happy ending to Crystal's story – and thousands others like her who have been cared for by the RFDS, is not down to chance.

Rather, it is the outcome of positive collaborations between RFDS Central Operations and organisations including UniSA and the Women's and Children's Hospital, which has resulted in the development of clinical simulation training programs in the fields of Midwifery, Rural Nursing and the transfer of patients from country to metropolitan hospitals.

A formal launch of the training material and acknowledgement of these partnerships recently took place at Adelaide Airport, involving UniSA Chancellor and RFDS Board member Dr Ian Gould and RFDS Central Operations CEO John Lynch.

The launch provided an opportunity to highlight the relationship between UniSA and the RFDS with the aim of improving healthcare in rural and remote locations, while recognising the role of simulation training for both undergraduate and clinicians' professional development.

Those in attendance learned more about the RFDS collaboration with UniSA, including a demonstration of the highlights of the programs, as well as the production of a 90-minute teaching video featuring an emergency obstetrics scenario.

John Lynch talked about the value of the UniSA-RFDS partnership at the launch.

"We are partnering with UniSA to develop educational tools whereby we are sharing our intelligence and experiences and opening up new horizons," Lynch says.

"We have a responsibility to continue to deliver quality healthcare but we also need to base that on good education and training."

Pro Vice Chancellor: Health Sciences, Professor Robert Vink, expressed the benefits of that education.

"Through collaboration between UniSA and RFDS on simulated learning initiatives, we have been able to provide training for Flight Nurses simulating real-world obstetrics emergencies such as breech birth, shoulder dystocia and neonatal resuscitation," Prof Vink says.

"Patients living in rural communities will benefit from having highly skilled health care workers looking after them.

"Videos produced as part of this collaboration, showcased at the launch event, provide insight for students of the journey rural patients experience when being transferred from a rural health care service via the RFDS to a major metropolitan hospital."

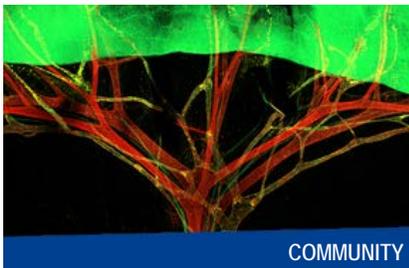
Every year the RFDS provides emergency aeromedical and primary health services to more than 280,000 people across Australia – someone every two minutes.



(L-R) UniSA Chancellor and RFDS Board member Dr Ian Gould, PVC Health Sciences Prof Robert Vink, and RFDS Central Operations CEO John Lynch.



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[top^](#)



# news

July 2015

&gt; from the University of South Australia

## From the Chancellery

[Back to story index](#)


You know what I'm like on planes. Lots of time to stare out at the sky and think. I was on my way back from offshore graduations where we had bid farewell and good luck to around 400 students who had come to us from Malaysia, Singapore and Hong Kong to further their studies. It struck me then how courageous these people were, to take their futures into their own hands, to try education in another country, another environment, thousands of miles away from the support structure of home, family and friends.

How many of us have done that? How many people, born and bred in South Australia, have ever lived anywhere overseas for any significant amount of time? How many of us would have the courage to pursue education in an unfamiliar environment? How many of us have given ourselves the same opportunities as the engineers and accountants, the communicators and marketers who we graduated last month? These are the people who will take leadership roles in the globalised economy in which we all work.

They have given themselves a globalised experience; they've tested their skills in unfamiliar environments, taken the best of what we had to offer and returned home to career success.

People like Singaporean PhD student Melissa Tan (Bachelor of Medical and Pharmaceutical Sciences with Honours 2012) who is developing a vaccine for chikungunya, a severe mosquito-borne virus re-emerging in Asia and the Caribbean with a heightened risk of spreading to Australia.

Angelica Cheung is an MBA graduate from UniSA who is now Editor-in-Chief of Vogue China; award-winning UniSA graduate in architecture, Desmond Tan has opened offices in Singapore, Dubai, Kuala Lumpur and Shanghai; alumnus artist BJ Cowie is Creative Director of Artglass Solutions in Singapore; and Linda Burgoyne, one of the first students to enrol in UniSA's Masters in Communication run in Hong Kong through the Australia Pacific Management Institute, and who is now Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the Matilda International Hospital in Hong Kong.

We talk a lot about graduating globally capable citizens; people who will bring their new knowledge to work for international industry and the professions. Success stories like these, and the 400 students we've just graduated in Asia, are the new elite, people who have fostered intercultural understanding and who contribute to an internationally diverse and globally aware community.

Join them. I'm looking at you current students. Instead of planning to backpack through the tired old footsteps of foreign hotspots and hostels like your parents did (that's so not cool anymore), plan on going offshore for further study and get the global literacy that future careers will demand. It's never too late to change your direction. Michelle Howie is a great example of that. She's a local student who took a gap year after high school, listened closely to advice about what she should study and did exactly the opposite. Having initially dismissed engineering as a boring, stale career she studied it anyway and after her first year was awarded one of the Australian Government's New Colombo Plan scholarships. Michelle is now the inaugural Korean Fellow studying at South Korea's most prestigious science and technology institution, KAIST. She has her eye on an internship with Samsung.

Michelle was not constrained by cultural boundaries, and neither should you. Take the time to roam the wider world and open your minds to difference, to challenge and to the unfamiliar. You could start now by checking out [unisa.edu.au/About-UniSA/Global-Engagement](http://unisa.edu.au/About-UniSA/Global-Engagement).

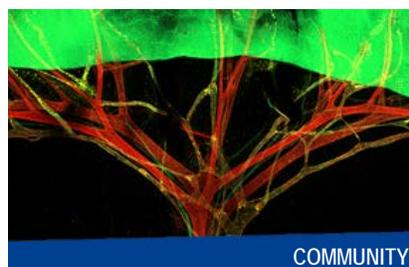
**Professor David Lloyd**  
Vice Chancellor and President

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University of  
South Australia

## Achievements and Announcements

[Back to story index](#)

[UniSA's new Chancellor](#)

[Transforming Topham Mall](#)

[Genetic sequencing revolution an Australian first](#)

[Sarre to be honoured in Sweden](#)

[Celebrating 50 years of Pharmacy at UniSA](#)

[World-class augmented reality researcher to benefit SA industry](#)

[Recognition for our Indigenous educator](#)

[Star performance](#)

[Architecture accolades for JSB](#)

### UniSA's new Chancellor

Defence high flyer Jim McDowell (pictured right) has been appointed as the University's new Chancellor.

Chairman of the Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation, McDowell will bring a wealth of international industry experience to the role, at a time when UniSA is forging stronger national and international research partnerships in support of future industries.

Current Chancellor Dr Ian Gould says McDowell's 35 years' experience on the world stage in one of the most competitive industry sectors – aerospace and defence technologies – will bring an important global view to future planning and governance.



"In addition to that global experience, Jim also brings a real passion for the transformational power of education in people's lives to the role of Chancellor," Dr Gould says.

Educated in Belfast, McDowell moved to England's University of Warwick to complete his degree in Law with Honours before joining British Aerospace, Singapore in 1996.

Working his way through the company, he became CEO of BAE Systems Australia in 2001 and later led its operations in Saudi Arabia as head of a workforce of more than 5000 and overseeing sales of more than \$5 billion a year.

For more information, read the [media release](#).

### Transforming Topham Mall

A sculpture created by UniSA Visual Arts Honours student Alex Perisic is helping to showcase a newly transformed Topham Mall in the city.

Adelaide City Council has been transforming Topham Mall Plaza, between Currie and Waymouth streets, with the opening of new businesses, the creation of an outdoor dining area and revitalising the walkways with street art including Alex's prominent sculpture.

Alex won a \$3000 prize as part of the inaugural Topham Mall Sculpture Hire Program for emerging UniSA sculpture students. Her artwork, *Something like this, but not this 2015* (pictured right), is an abstract steel sculpture that is situated outside the new Bendigo Bank Branch on Topham Mall Plaza.



The sculpture was installed and launched earlier this year by members of Adelaide City Council and the Aretzis Group. It will remain in Topham Mall until the end of the year.

Alex says her sculpture does not have a conceptual meaning.

“During the making process, I simply allowed the forms to take shape through a very organic and unrestricted method,” she says.

“This process inspired the title *Something like this, but not this 2015*, as I struggled to communicate the visual image I had in my head when making each piece.”

Alex says it’s rewarding to see months of her hard work pay off now that her sculpture is established in the mall.

“I feel very fortunate as a young artist to have had the opportunity to exhibit my work within a public space,” she says.

The initiative is an ongoing opportunity that aims to link educational processes with paid employment outcomes. The project stimulated collaboration between Dimitri Aretzis, owner and CEO of *Aretzis Group*; Sarah Maddock, Placemaking Officer; Ed James, Public Art Officer; and their team from Adelaide City Council which sponsor the hire program, as well as Dr Julie Henderson, Lecturer and Studio Head (Sculpture) at the University.

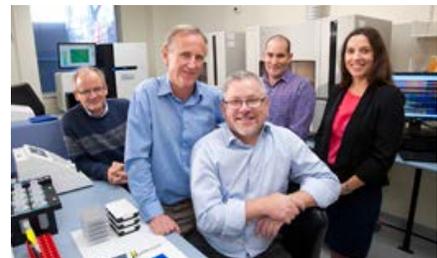


### Genetic sequencing revolution an Australian first

The Centre for Cancer Biology – an alliance between UniSA and SA Pathology – has become the first organisation in Australia to receive National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA) accreditation for ‘whole exome sequencing’.

SA Pathology’s Genetics and Molecular Pathology laboratory, in collaboration with the Centre for Cancer Biology’s genomic research facility, received NATA accreditation for the testing of the complete set of human genes in a single assay.

The laboratory has also been accredited for testing disease-targeted gene ‘panels’, based on new technology known as Next-Generation Sequencing (NGS), which has the potential to revolutionise diagnostics and the entire provision of healthcare.



CCB genetics team, image courtesy SA Pathology

Professor Hamish Scott, Head of the Department of Genetics and Molecular Pathology and Director of CCB’s ACRF Cancer Genome Facility, said that for the first time, genetic testing can precede attempts at diagnosis.

“This is the frontier of medical science” he said.

“It’s such an exciting, complex area. In human DNA there are six billion data points, two per cent of them our genes, which can be sequenced in an ‘exome’. We’re searching through over a hundred million bases to try and find an anomaly or a mutation that may be causing disease.”

### Sarre to be honoured in Sweden

UniSA’s Professor Rick Sarre will be awarded an Honorary Doctorate from Umea University in Sweden in October, acknowledging his contribution to criminal law, legal theory and criminology, and to police education in Sweden.

Announcing the award, the University paid tribute to Prof Sarre’s contribution to research at Umea and in particular his work in evaluating its police education programs and in fostering research collaboration as host of visiting researchers from Sweden to UniSA.



The award acknowledges his international reputation for research into legal theory, criminal law and police operations.

“A committed collaborator with parties also outside the academic sector”... he is “practised in the fields of his research, both as a barrister and solicitor as well as someone active with pro bono appointments on boards, with crime victim support and within organisations working in relation to rehabilitation and support for perpetrators,” the announcement release says.

Prof Sarre spent a year on sabbatical at Umea University in 2004 and will deliver the occasional address at the graduation and awards ceremony there on October 17.

## Celebrating 50 years of Pharmacy at UniSA

This year marks an important milestone for the School of Pharmacy and Medical Sciences, celebrating 50 years of pharmacy teaching at UniSA and its antecedent institutions.

Over the past 50 years, thousands of pharmacists have graduated from the University and now contribute significantly to the community.

In honour of these graduates, an event was held at City East campus last month, with invited alumni and special guests including Provost and Chief Academic Officer Professor Allan Evans, who graduated with a Bachelor of Pharmacy in 1982, and current Head of School Professor Jason White.

Attendees heard from distinguished Australian health and pharmacy educator, researcher and policy adviser, Emeritus Professor Lloyd Sansom AO.

The University named its Sansom Institute for Health Research after Prof Sansom, who began working as a pharmacist in 1962. He gained a PhD in biophysical chemistry in 1972 before embarking on an academic career which included being Head of the School of Pharmacy and Medical Sciences from 1995 to 2000. Prof Sansom continues to contribute to Australian health care as a member of numerous professional and scientific authorities.



Also speaking at the event were Alan Christie, one of UniSA's first pharmacy graduates, who graduated with a Bachelor of Pharmacy in 1966, and Naomi Burgess, who is Director of Medicines and Technology Policy and Programs at SA Health and Chair of the Bachelor of Pharmacy Advisory Group.

## World-class augmented reality researcher to benefit SA industry

UniSA has welcomed an internationally renowned augmented reality and virtual reality researcher and facilitator of Google Glass technology, as part of a fellowship program to expand the state's research and directly benefit industry and the economy.

Formerly the Director of the HIT Lab New Zealand (HIT Lab NZ) at the University of Canterbury in New Zealand, Professor Mark Billinghurst (pictured right) joined UniSA in late May, bringing his knowledge on developing innovative computer interfaces that explore how virtual and real worlds can be merged.



He has produced over 300 technical publications and presented demonstrations and courses at a wide variety of conferences.

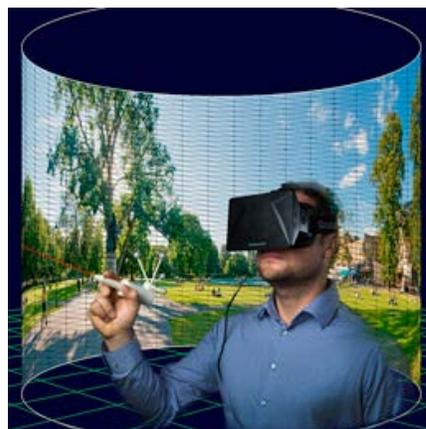
Prof Billinghurst says he hopes he can contribute to South Australian industry during his time at UniSA.

"I will be researching new ways for remote people to collaborate together using augmented reality, virtual reality, wearable computers and other emerging technologies," he says.

"As work has become more distributed there is an opportunity for technology to be used to enable remote people to work together as easily as if they were face to face. The research will develop novel technology for remote collaboration and test the technology with local industry in real scenarios to see how useful it is.

"The research will hopefully produce new tools that will enable industry to be more productive than ever before. I hope that, in the long term, the research will improve the productivity of at least one South Australian industry."

Prof Billinghurst earned his PhD from the University of Washington and conducts research in augmented and virtual reality, multimodal interaction and mobile interfaces.



He has previously worked at the Advanced Telecommunications Research Labs, British Telecom, Nokia, Google[x] and the MIT Media Laboratory.

In 2001 he co-founded ARToolworks, one of the oldest commercial AR companies. One of his research projects, the MagicBook, was winner of the 2001 Discover award for best entertainment application, and his AR Tennis project won the 2005 IMG award for best independent mobile game.

In 2012 he was awarded the ISMAR lasting impact award for the paper with the greatest impact in AR over the previous 10 years, and the 2013 IEEE VR Technical Achievement Award for contributions to research and commercialisation in AR.

In 2014 he was elected as a fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand in recognition of his significant technological accomplishments in the field of augmented reality.

Working alongside Prof Billinghamurst, Prof Bruce Thomas says having such a high profile researcher at the University will boost UniSA's research strengths internationally.

"Having Mark join our team will considerably increase our research capability in virtual and augmented reality, making us the largest VR and AR research group in Australia and one of the strongest in the southern hemisphere," Prof Thomas says.

"Through our research, Mark and I hope to develop custom collaborative systems that will significantly improve the ability of business remote connections."

### Recognition for our Indigenous educator

A pioneer of Indigenous higher education in South Australia, UniSA's Emeritus Professor Paul Hughes AM has been honoured with the inaugural Lifetime Achievement Award at this year's SA NAIDOC Awards.

Prof Hughes ran the first Teacher Education Program for the Aboriginal Task Force at UniSA's antecedent, the South Australian Institute of Technology in the late 1970s.

Today, still passionate about the importance of education for Indigenous people, he is a Research Associate with the More Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Teachers Initiative (MATSITI).

A proud Yunkunyatjajara/Narunnga/Kaurna Aboriginal Australian, he has chaired the Australian Council for Educational Research Indigenous Standing Committee and is a member of the Commonwealth Management Committee for the implementation of the 'Dare to Lead' school principals program and the 'What Works' in Indigenous education for schools. He was awarded a Fellowship of the Australian College of Education.

The NAIDOC Lifetime Achievement Award recognises his distinguished career as a teacher, policy maker, manager, consultant and researcher on Indigenous education issues worldwide.

At the same awards event, UniSA alumnus Haydn Bromley (Bachelor of Education) won Business of the Year for his company Bookabee Tours. His successful SA tourism business distributes a range of bush foods called Outback Pride. They have begun to take prominence in mainstream food media, featuring on reality programs including *Master Chef Australia* and *The Cook and the Chef*.

### Star performance

UniSA is now one of only two Australian universities to win acknowledgement for the long-term quality of its MBA program from the Graduate Management Association of Australia (GMAA).

The commendation acknowledges five years of five star rating but UniSA has earned the top rating for seven years and is now one of the most consistently recognised quality MBA programs in the nation.

Program Director for the MBA Dr Don Clifton says the significance of the achievement can't be underestimated.

"The GMAA has recently published a thorough analysis of its methodology, so for anyone taking a closer look at the ratings, they can see how stringent the assessment is," Dr Clifton says.

"What UniSA can take great pride in, is the fact that the MBA program has consistently ranked in the top 10 MBA's in Australia and for seven years now we have earned a five-star rating.



Paul Hughes at the NAIDOC Lord Mayor's reception, including Flag Raising and NAIDOC SA awards. Photograph courtesy NAIDOC SA, pic by Ben Searcy 6/7/2015.



“That reflects that our degree program is evolving in-step with the demands of the business world and that the content is at the forefront of knowledge.

“The GMAA award is a great incentive for us to continue to deliver innovation in business management education.”

And the quality acknowledgements continued this month with news that UniSA has been awarded top Ratings for Excellence by Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) in nine categories.

UniSA was given an overall rating of five stars and individual five-star ratings for research, teaching, the employability of its graduates, internationalisation, social responsibility, inclusiveness and its facilities, and its program offerings in Architecture and the Built Environment also won the top accolade.

The QS Stars audit evaluates an institution against more than 50 different indicators and awards universities between one and five stars over eight wider fields, as well as an overall rating.

### Architecture accolades for JSB

UniSA's new learning centre, the Jeffrey Smart Building (JSB) at City West campus, has won three accolades in the South Australian Architecture Awards 2015.

Designed by John Wardle Architects in association with Phillips/Pilkington Architects, the JSB won the Derrick Kendrick Award for Sustainable Architecture, won the SA Chapter Award for Educational Architecture and received a commendation for Interior Architecture.

The JSB opened on the southern side of Hindley Street west in April 2014, providing leading edge student and teaching services and boasting \$8 million worth of technology within its five-star green star walls.

Named in honour of great Australian artist Jeffrey Smart, University alumnus and Honorary Doctor who passed away in Italy in 2013, the eight-storey JSB wraps around the Høj Plaza, a central courtyard 'green common', featuring an open air cinema screen and green public area.

The awards citation described the JSB and its immediate surroundings as a “highly accomplished architectural work, which demonstrates an integrated sustainability approach has been at the core of creating good architecture”.

The citation says the JSB “provides a rich piece of architecture that contributes to the city while skilfully delivering its own internal programs”.

Accepting the awards were John Wardle Architects representatives Meaghan Dwyer, Minnie Cade and Amanda Moore, and Phillips/Pilkington Architects representatives Susan Phillips, Brett Julian and Alison McFadden. Attending for UniSA were Capital Projects Director Robert Lustri and Senior Project Manager (Major Projects) Rebecca Lawson-Cooke.

“These awards are a wonderful recognition of the tremendous team effort and the University's commitment to great place-making and creating an outstanding student experience,” Lustri says.

The South Australian Architecture Awards 2015 were held at the Adelaide Entertainment Centre this month.

The JSB is part of UniSA's major development program, with current projects underway including the Great Hall and Health Innovation Building. See the Enterprising Spaces [website](#) for more information.



[top^](#)



## UniSA research on the global stage at G200 Youth Forum

[Back to story index](#)

by Will Venn



INSIDE UNISA

G200 Conference Dinner (L-R) Stewart McDougall, Dr Amy Baker, Dr Monika Ferguson, Dr Elissa Pearson, Ms Kari Vallury.

UniSA figured prominently on the world stage at the G200 Youth Forum this year.

Six young UniSA researchers were among 500 young leaders, academics and students from 200 countries who attended the international week-long event in Garmisch Partenkirchen, Germany.

UniSA's delegates Dr Amy Baker, Dr Monika Ferguson, Dr Elissa Pearson, Kari Vallury, Stewart McDougall and Dr Tom Raimondo took part in the forum's youth summit, conference and joint sessions.

The forum enables young people to network and share ideas on a global platform, and provided a great opportunity for the UniSA contingent to discuss research outcomes and knowledge across areas including child protection, health and the environment.

Dr Amy Baker (School of Nursing and Midwifery), who jointly presented with Dr Monika Ferguson (School of Nursing and Midwifery) on the subject of Indigenous youth suicide in Australia, described the forum as a "fantastic opportunity".

"The opportunity was to share our research and to learn from academics and students from so many countries around the globe," Dr Baker says.

"The Joint Session on Perceiving Happiness was a real highlight for me personally, providing the chance to unpack and discover what happiness means from a diverse range of cultural perspectives."

Kari Vallury (Department of Rural Health) participated in the Healthcare Through Ecological Education Summit, learning about the functioning of a diverse range of governments and social systems from Saudi Arabia to South Africa.

Dr Elissa Pearson (School of Psychology, Social Work and Social Policy) participated in the Future of Science Summit and chaired the Sustainable Agriculture Opportunities Joint Session while Dr Tom Raimondo (School of Natural and Built Environments), participated as an observer and in the Forum Joint Sessions.

Stewart McDougall of UniSA's Australian Centre for Child Protection presented on Addressing The Neglect of Neglect: Understanding Child Neglect and Potential Actions for Prevention and Early Intervention.

"Bringing together people from a wide range of countries and academic disciplines provides a good opportunity to introduce this broader audience to some of the key issues facing child protection in developed countries," McDougall says.

"The neglect of neglect is not a new phenomenon. In the 1980s, researchers began to contend that neglect was being overlooked compared to other maltreatment subtypes such as physical and sexual abuse.

"Neglect is the most commonly substantiated maltreatment subtype and the rates of neglect have increased dramatically in developed countries over the past two decades.

"Differential responses and targeted interventions such as home visiting show some promise in preventing neglect and alleviating further instances where a child has already been neglected. However these services alone are insufficient in creating lasting change for children and families.

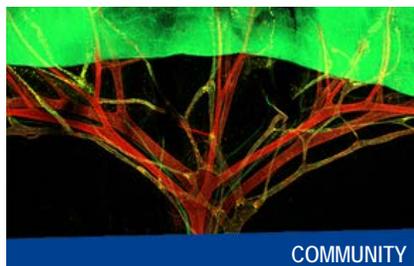
"Broader moves towards a public health approach to child abuse and neglect are necessary given the associations with issues such as poverty and isolation.

"Moves towards a public health model with increased availability of health care, childcare and education for all, and a system for ensuring families in which there is a risk of child maltreatment receiving access to evidence-based services are needed."

The work conducted across the forum came together in the production of a final report; which contained reports from the various summit committees, joint sessions and parliamentarians' debate. Copies of the final report are sent to organisations throughout the world, including the G20 heads of state and organisations such as the IMF, World Bank, OECD and the European Commission.

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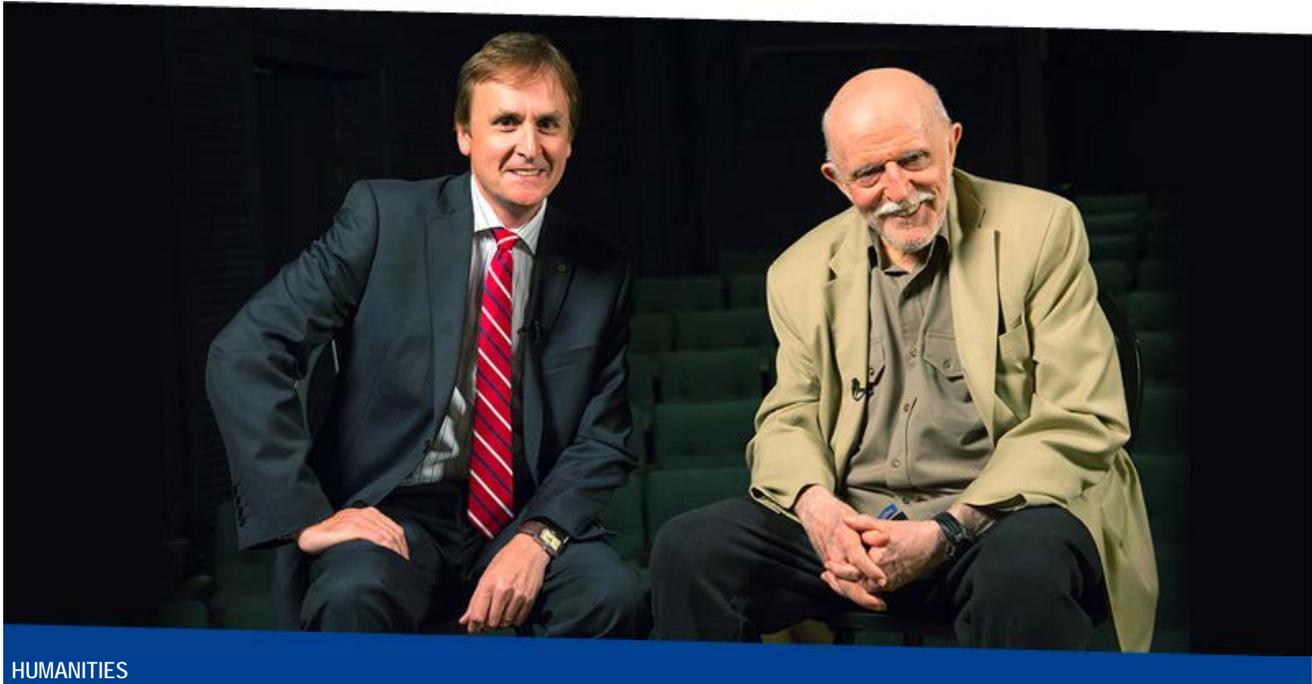
**Innovative talent honoured at iAwards** [more](#)

[top^](#)

## The return of Gomez Addams

[Back to story index](#)

by Will Venn



HUMANITIES

Professor Anthony Elliott with John Astin who played Gomez in The Addams Family.

The Addams Family is a rare phenomenon, a TV show with cross-generational appeal which transitioned from our black and white TV screens to the big screen and then the stage.

An American sitcom about an eccentric and macabre family created originally by American cartoonist Charles Addams, its cultural impact far outstripped its two series run in the mid-1960s, thanks to its catchy finger-clicking theme and array of memorable characters including Morticia, Uncle Fester, Lurch and Thing.

Gomez Addams is the family patriarch and the actor who portrayed him, John Astin, reveals how the character was developed in the latest edition of 'Hawke Talks' – an online video series from the flagship Hawke Research Institute. The series of online video interviews comprises in-depth discussions with world-renowned public intellectuals in the fields of social sciences, humanities and the creative arts.

Although widely celebrated as Gomez, Astin's career has spanned TV and film roles in shows as diverse as West Side Story, Batman and The Love Boat. Today, at the age of 85, Astin is back at his alma mater, Johns Hopkins University, where he is Professor of Drama and Director of the Hopkins Theatre Studies Program.

It was there that Hawke Research Institute Director Professor Anthony Elliot travelled to interview Astin, an opportunity that he describes as 'magnificent'.

"It was an opportunity to interview one of the great comic geniuses out of the United States in the past century," Prof Elliott says.

"I interviewed him on the stage where he first performed as an actor in the 1950s, before he was in films such as West Side Story. The theatre was renamed the John Astin Theatre by Johns Hopkins University.

"He's had an incredibly prolific, diverse career but globally he is best known for one role – Gomez in The Addams

Family.”

The interview finds Astin in a reflective mood as he reveals how The Addams Family was conceived and how the character of Gomez owes a slight debt to the Marx Brothers and Nat Perrin.

“Nat Perrin, the producer of The Addams Family had scripted with the Marx Bros in Hollywood and there is a connection between Gomez and Groucho; their physical similarities are apparent,” Prof Elliot says.

“It is interesting to hear John Astin talk about this. The difference is that where Groucho was razor sharp, quick witted, worldly wise and jaded, Gomez actually believes in people, he is witty, yet inspiring, stressing new possibilities.

“It’s a show which has transferred generation to generation because there’s something about that show that transcended the time of its era.”

That ‘something’ is reinforced by fans of The Addams Family, whose online comments and fan blogs show how the comedy holds up well as a social commentary.

Regular episodes often find outsiders visiting the Addams House and departing abruptly after encountering a family so strange and spooky. Yet despite their alternate lifestyle the Addams family is a loving family who find the outside world strange.

“The people around them were leading conventional lives that were stilted and cut off but the Addams family had spontaneity and love,” Prof Elliot says.

The non-conformist message of living your life in your own way and respecting the rights of others to do the same, finds easy parallels in the beatnik and burgeoning hippy culture of the era, with the show’s final broadcast being a year before the Summer of Love came to San Francisco.

Particularly Gomez, in his relationship with Morticia, leapt the generational divide, transcending the more traditional and staid portrayal of TV matrimony in the early-mid 1960s.

“It was the most egalitarian, democratic and inspiring relationship on TV in the mid-60s. It was Astin’s idea that the relationship should be erotically charged and really intense,” Prof Elliott says.

It’s a point that Astin expands on in the interview.

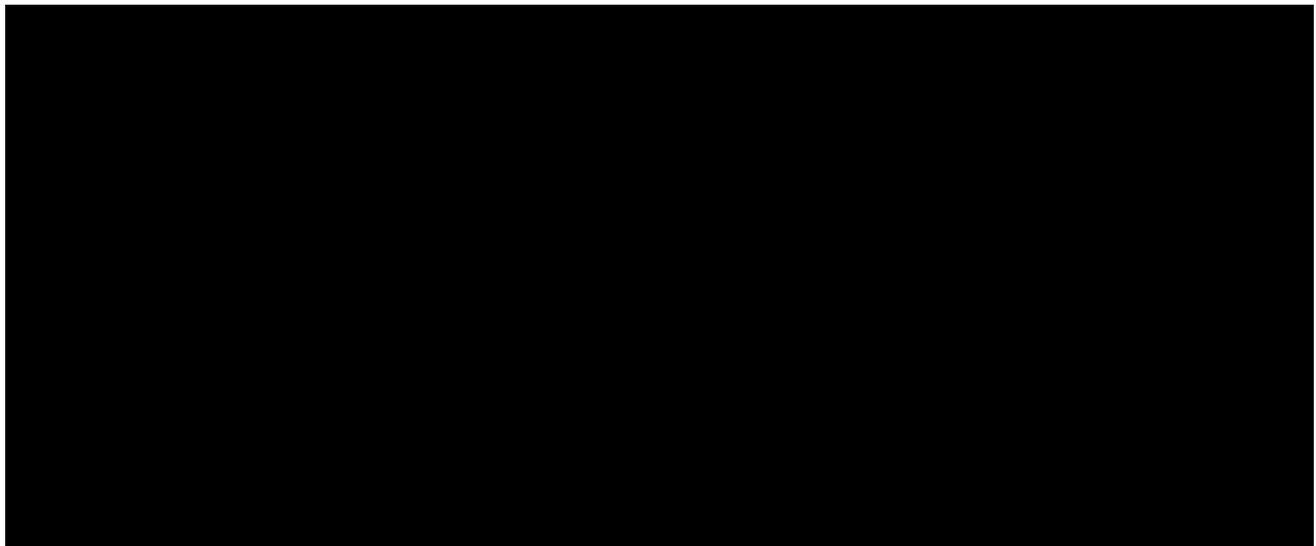
“I felt that Gomez and Morticia should have this intense relationship and thought the romance should be worn in a grand manner, that we were passionately in love which was unusual for TV in those days,” Astin says.

“We could have real children; it was a real relationship – whereas in other shows it was the stork that truly brought the baby in.

“I used to joke we were the best adjusted couple on TV.”

The irony is that the public affection with which Gomez and Morticia are held has ensured the longevity of the show, which as recently as last year was performed on stage in Adelaide, drawing a new generation to appreciate its peculiar power and positivity, a legacy in no small part attributable to John Astin.

The full interview of Prof Elliott talking with John Astin can be viewed below.





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[top^](#)

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University of  
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## Jessica takes a bite of Big Apple

[Back to story index](#)

by Katherine Cox



BUSINESS AND LAW

UniSA student Jessica McMullen has begun an internship in New York, at one of the top 10 property firms in Manhattan.

The third year Bachelor of Business Property and Bachelor of Management student is participating in an internship at Platinum Properties for two months, where she is working in residential and commercial sales.

"The experience has been truly life changing," says Jessica.

"Not only have I learnt so much about my industry, but also about the culture and the people here in New York."

"I have been faced with so many new and exciting experiences and challenges which have been both eye opening and rewarding. I have also met so many new friends who I have explored the city with!"

The opportunity to apply for an internship came about when Jessica received a merit award for her first year of university, making her eligible to become a member of the Golden Key International Honour Society.

"I was accepted into a program called Dream Careers which organises internships across the US.

"They provided me with some interview training and submitted my resume to the top five companies of my choice. My first preference contacted me directly for an interview and I was placed at the company."

Originally from Whyalla, the ex-country girl moved to Adelaide in her second year of university. Jessica says she was initially a bit apprehensive about going to university, but she soon overcame any doubts.

"It did slightly scare me but it wasn't long before I was in a routine and understanding what was expected of me," she says.

"I was excited to begin a new chapter in my life and was also excited to be able to study something that I'm really passionate about.

“The best thing about studying my degree is that the Bachelor of Property is really interactive; you get a lot of theory but at the same time you get to apply it practically. There’s also a lot of emphasis on building relationships and networking.”

Jessica will continue her double degree at UniSA when she returns from New York, and has high hopes for when she graduates at the end of next year.

“Once I graduate, I hope to secure a graduate position in a property firm here in Adelaide and I hope to be able to get my commercial valuers licence,” she says.

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University of  
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## Sharing wisdom and communication in Hong Kong

[Back to story index](#)

by Eleni Tsonis



HUMANITIES

The first cohort of UniSA Communication and Media students in Hong Kong has formed a social club called WisComm, led by president Li Po Hung (Paul).

With every program at Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU) having its own social club, Paul (pictured right) and his classmates were proactive in pioneering the club for students in the Bachelor of Communication and Media (HKBU) – one of a five new degrees launched in 2014 to mark the 20-year anniversary of the UniSA-HKBU partnership.

Paul says WisComm is allowing classmates in the program to connect and create a social network, as well as organise events and run activities for future students.

“As we are the first year of UniSA students in Hong Kong, we aim to bring our classmates together so students do not feel alone,” he says.

Some of the activities WisComm holds include study groups, games, second hand book sales and sports days.

Paul plans to introduce orientation activities for new Communication and Media students so they can ease into the study environment.

“We want to hold a Welcome Day for future students to introduce the course, play games, meet new friends and build good relationships so that they can enjoy their university life,” he says.

The name WisComm (in Chinese 慧言) comes from the words wisdom and communication as the club aims to promote the ‘wisdom of speaking’. The club has also produced a jacket with the WisComm logo.

Paul says WisComm members plan to visit public relations and advertising companies to get an insight into their



future career paths and to make industry connections in Hong Kong.

Communication and Media Program Director Dr Collette Snowden says WisComm students are paying close attention to the dynamic Communication and Media industry in Hong Kong, where their initiative and enthusiasm will be highly valued.

“With a second cohort of students starting the Communication and Media program in September, the WisComm club’s future is assured,” Dr Snowden says.

The UniSA and HKBU partnership began 21 years ago. In 2014 a new suite of full time degrees were launched to mark the 20 year celebration of the UniSA and HKBU partnership. The new degrees offered at HKBU include a Bachelor of Business (Management); the Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting); the Bachelor of Business (Tourism and Event Management); the Bachelor of Communication and Media; and as a part time degree program, the Bachelor of Psychological Science.

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[top^](#)



## Research to save lives and energy

[Back to story index](#)

by Michèle Nardelli



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

UniSA has won funding for five industry-partnered research projects in the latest ARC Linkage grants.

Five industry-partnered research projects at UniSA have received funding in the Australian Research Council's latest Linkage Grants round.

The grants, totalling just over \$1.7 million, will support key research undertaken in partnership with industry, in everything from better search and rescue technologies to mathematical modelling to discover the best cereal crop varieties.

UniSA Deputy Vice Chancellor: Research and Innovation Professor Tanya Monro says the most exciting aspect of Linkage Grant funding is that it supports research that has shape and purpose.

"This is the kind of research that is inspired by challenges our industry partners face – a new treatment, a vastly better system or technology, or the kind of knowledge that helps to transform the way an industry operates," Prof Monro says.

"The Linkage Grant Scheme is so important because it is a co-investment – it is where industry says 'I think this technology has huge potential to make our business or industry better' and government shares the investment in that potential.

"That kind of collaboration drives our national capacity to excel and advance, and builds our research capacity in areas where it can make a tangible difference."

Congratulating the grant recipients, Prof Monro said all five projects have something significant to contribute to the community.

**Professor Clive Prestige** (pictured right) and his team have been supported to further research how nano and micro sized particles are taken up by intestinal cells. In

partnership with Ceramisphere Pty Ltd, the project aims to develop and validate an advanced in-vitro model of the human intestinal epithelium to support testing of next generation medicines. The intestine-on-chip model should deliver new insights into the way particulate carriers can be specifically targeted and transported across the intestinal epithelium. The model should also reduce the need for animal studies.



Experts in satellite systems, **Dr Gottfried Lechner** and his team will be working to improve the Cospas-Sarsat search and rescue system to ensure faster, more reliable, more accurate, and more cost effective search and rescue operations. The satellite-based Cospas-Sarsat system has assisted with the emergency rescue of more than 35,000 lives worldwide since its introduction in 1982. While a second generation of this system is currently under development, right now the system's performance is often compromised due to interference and atmospheric effects, leading to false detections that waste valuable resources and can put lives at risk. With industry partners Honeywell Global Tracking and the Australian Maritime Safety Authority, this project aims to develop novel techniques to improve this performance.

Mathematician **Prof Stan Miklavcic** and his team are working on the development of mathematical tools that will help to identify cereal plant varieties that deliver the highest yields. With efficient and high yield food production critical to ongoing sustainability, the tools will give plant breeders a more powerful way to analyse their research. The development of the mathematical tools will, for the first time, allow the co-analysis of the heterogeneous and high-dimensional data to give plant breeders an understanding of how external and internal factors correlate with the major growth and development stages at the crop level. Ultimately, these sophisticated statistical tools will give producers more valid information on which crops to plant. Their industry project partner is Australian Grain Technologies Pty Ltd.

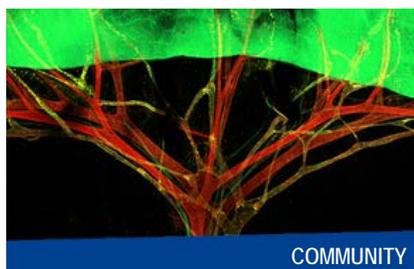
Already successful in developing train driver advice systems that are now used globally, **Dr Peter Pudney** (pictured right) and his research team have won support to develop new train control theory to determine the efficient movement of multiple trains, and to demonstrate a practical system for coordinating trains, on busy intercity rail corridors. Working with partner organisation, TTG Transportation Technology Pty Ltd, this project aims to improve timekeeping, smooth the flow of traffic, increase capacity and reduce energy use on congested rail networks.



The development of a highly sophisticated roadside drug testing tool is the goal for **Prof Nico Voelcker** and his research team at Mawson Lakes campus. The research will bring the power of mass spectrometry to the nano scale by developing semiconductor chips that are surface functionalised to enable molecular capture without extensive sample processing and subsequent drug detection by a novel combination of techniques. The aim is that the technology can be applied to testing sweat, saliva and urine to allow simple illicit drug detection in the workplace or on the road. This project is partnered by Perkin Elmer Pty Ltd / EG and G Perkin Elmer Pty Ltd and Forensic Science SA.



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## Innovative talent honoured at iAwards

[Back to story index](#)

by Will Venn



### SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

UniSA PhD students Zhenglin Wang and Kalana Patuwatha Withanage with Michael Luchich from Dimension Data and Hon Susan Close MP.

The cream of UniSA's creative talent has been recognised at the recent iAwards, with innovations in pain management, wearable cameras, spatial augmented reality and evidence gathering being celebrated at the event.

University nominees in two categories received a merit for their innovations, while another two nominees achieved the state award in the postgraduate tertiary category, both in South Australia and Canberra.

The iAwards, hosted by the Australian Information Industry Association (AIIA), honours organisations at the cutting edge of technology innovation.

UniSA PhD students Zhenglin Wang and Kalana Patuwatha Withanage were named SA state award winners in the postgraduate tertiary category with their creation *PinCam*, offering computational wearable camera solutions.

Zhenglin says winning the award was a big surprise.

"We invented a novel compound pinhole lens set which utilises a simple thin convex lens behind the pinhole aperture, to improve the imaging quality as well as increasing the light efficiency," Zhenglin says.

"The resulting pinhole lens camera could achieve comparable imaging quality to a DSLR lens camera. Based on this innovation, we are developing a *PinCam* project aiming for wearable cameras.

"*PinCam* cameras can be pinned onto users' clothes and instead of pressing the camera button, users can just say a specific instruction such as 'take photo', and then the camera will take a photo immediately."

Mobile evidence gathering platform, *MyEvidence*, received a merit in the start-up category of the iAwards.

*MyEvidence*, which operates as a phone app, is the brainchild of UniSA student Tung Tran and Jerome Lienert.

It enables investigators to seamlessly collect digital evidence, create a brief of evidence and present it in court and is designed to streamline investigations and enable court cases to flow quicker through the judiciary system.

The achievement of *MyEvidence* at the iAwards builds on its earlier success as a recipient of seed funding from Venture Catalyst – a joint partnership between the State Government and UniSA which provides early stage capital funds of up to \$50,000 to help entrepreneurial students realise their ideas and potential.

A collaborative effort involving the use of augmented reality for the treatment of chronic pain has seen Dr Ross Smith, Professor Lorimer Mosely and Dan Harvie also achieve success at the awards, being recipients of a merit in the research and development category, for their Motion Simulation System (MSS).

“This is a great honour and we are very excited that the community is supporting us with the progress of our virtual reality simulation system that aims to treat chronic pain, a condition that affects one in five and costs the Australian economy \$35 billion each year,” Dr Smith says.

“The iAward merit was received for the development of the MSS that explores the scientific understanding of pain and demonstrates that the perception of chronic neck pain sufferers have, can be altered through the MSS tool.

“The MSS is a state-of-the-art virtual reality tool which adapts a technique called re-directed walking to increase chronic neck pain sufferers' pain free movement.

“We hypothesised that movements and body positions become inextricably linked to pain, such that even after injury healing, pain is automatically produced when the brain detects these movements and body positions. Using the MSS, we have validated this theory in a scientific trial.

“The MSS tool is a novel virtual reality based system which has not only sparked a new innovative experimental paradigm for pain research, but has enabled the development of an innovative and highly promising brain-based treatment tool for sufferers of chronic pain.

“The novel system is a product of a fruitful collaboration between experts in two scientific fields, computer science and pain neuroscience. This scientifically evaluated system has paved the way for virtual reality treatment tools that aim to improve pain sufferers' quality of life.”

UniSA PhD student Matt Adcock, who also works at CSIRO, was the winner of the Postgraduate Tertiary award in Canberra for the *Spatial Augmented Reality for Physical Teleworkers* project.

Matt's PhD research established new techniques for an expert to guide a novice over the internet in the completion of a physical task. His system employs commodity cameras and data projection hardware to demonstrate the benefits of employing real-time 3D sensing directly within the user interface.

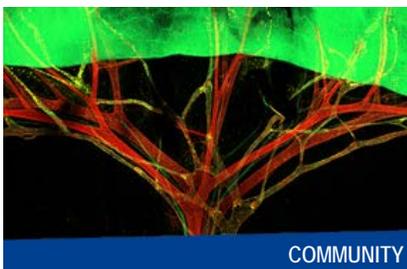
Professor Bruce Thomas, Deputy Director of the Advanced Computing Research Centre and Director of the Wearable Computer Lab at UniSA said that the successful projects at the iAwards highlighted the breadth and impact of UniSA research.

“I am extremely proud of our success at this year's iAwards. The projects represented at the iAwards showcase UniSA's focus on solving real world problems,” Prof Thomas says.

Matt's project, along with MSS, *PinCam* and *MyEvidence* are now all in the running for the national iAwards, which will be held in Melbourne on August 27.

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University of  
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## Hints of wolfberries or strawberry jam? Understanding the Chinese wine palate

[Back to story index](#)

by Dr Armando Corsi, Dr Justin Cohen, and Prof Larry Lockshin



### RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

Wine culture is a term bandied about quite readily in western countries. It is that shared idea of people discussing, tasting, comparing and enjoying wine. And with the culture comes the full language of wine appreciation – commonly understood notions of fruit, flavour and the inevitable comparisons of different flavours and tastes.

But the question for wine producers wanting to sell their wines in countries with relatively ‘immature’ product knowledge has always been – beyond the obvious idea of encouraging people to try wines – how to effectively describe the flavours and styles of wine in a new cultural context.

Two years ago, our research team at UniSA Business School’s Ehrenberg-Bass Institute embarked on the Chinese Lexicon Project, an initiative funded by the Australian Grape and Wine Authority (AGWA) to find what flavours in the Chinese culture correspond to the more traditional Western descriptors for wine and, more in general, to learn more about the way Chinese consumers describe wines.

The project brought together responses from more than 250 Chinese wine consumers from three major Chinese cities – Shanghai, Guangzhou, and Chengdu – who were invited to taste and describe a selection of Australian white, red, sparkling and dessert wines.

The Chinese tasters had the possibility to describe what they tasted using a series of generic terms – such as mellow, fruity, lingering – as well as specific wine descriptors. These descriptors included a variety of fruits, vegetables, spices, and food items that Chinese consumers might use when describing a wine. The novelty aspect of the research was that while half of the sample was presented with well-known (at least for us) Western descriptors, such as strawberry, lemon, pineapple, the other half of the sample could describe the wines via Chinese terms, such as yangmei, kaffir lime, jackfruit, which were suggested to be equivalent to the Western

descriptors. This approach allowed the research team to learn more about the way Chinese consumers describe wines on three different levels. Firstly, by identifying what terms Chinese consumers use more often overall; secondly, revealing whether Chinese consumers prefer to use Western or Chinese terms to describe wines; and, finally, verifying the equivalences across countries that hold and those that did not.

The findings are interesting indeed.

Chinese wine consumers are actually three times more likely to use generic descriptors than specific descriptors. The most commonly selected generic descriptors are smooth, fruity, sweet, mellow, and lingering.

In terms of specific descriptors, the research found that the most commonly used terms are represented by a mixture of Chinese and Western flavours, with Chinese terms being more selected in relation to commonly eaten fruits in China, while vegetables, spices and food being mentioned more often in their Western context. In particular, the five most common terms to describe red wines and tawny dessert wines are yangmei, red plum, dark cherries, dried Chinese hawthorns and dried wolfberry, while the most common terms to describe white wines, sparkling wines and moscato are lemon, grapefruit, grass, citrus fruits and lychee.

Third, the research found that while the majority of the suggested equivalences – such as strawberry and yangmei, red plum and persimmon, guava and passionfruit – for specific Chinese and Western descriptors were confirmed across all wine styles, others weren't, thus opening more opportunities for the Ehrenberg-Bass Institute research team.

The project also looked at the likeability, willingness to pay and perceived price points of different wine styles and interestingly here the findings showed that the wines that are perceived to be more expensive are not necessarily the ones consumers like the most. This is a very insightful finding for Australian producers, as it tells them that China is not only a market to target with ultra-expensive high-end wines, but it is a market where more accessible and preferred wine styles could enter the market and grow in demand.

This has been an important research project because it has the potential to transform the Australian wine export market to China as the Chinese rapidly develop a taste for wine. If producers understand more about the Chinese palate they can decide which styles of wine will be more successful, while distributors, wine educators and sales people can more effectively describe products to their Chinese consumers.

The research also underlines that we cannot take our own understanding of wine culture as a standard in the global marketplace. We need more sophisticated knowledge about the marketplace and about consumers. Whether that be in China or other potential new markets, such as India, there is scope to discover more knowledge and give the Australian wine industry a competitive advantage against other wine producing countries.

For more information about the research, please visit the [website](#).



## New Books

[Back to story index](#)

### Connecting Peace, Justice and Reconciliation

How important is reconciliation for healing wounds, building trust, rebuilding relationships between former enemies and rectifying injustices? Can a post-conflict state move from armed violence to peace and justice? These are the questions Elisabeth Porter asks in her provocative book *Connecting Peace, Justice and Reconciliation*, where readers are encouraged to evaluate and respond to her ideas, practices and strategies.

Professor of Politics and International Relations at UniSA, Porter has drawn from content in her advanced year international relations course, *Peace, Justice and Reconciliation*, to explore the core challenges that a war-torn state confronts once the violence has ended.

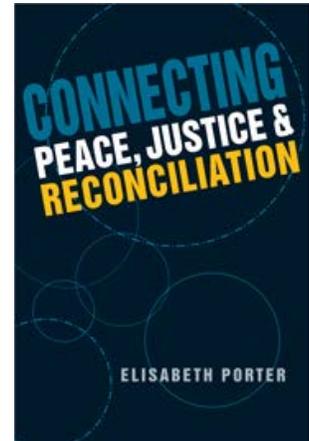
The book highlights narratives of hope, to signify that while disturbing acts have taken place, good work is going on to further peacebuilding, justice and reconciliation.

"Because so much of the content of the course is about seriously disturbing issues of war, violence, loss of lives, rape as a weapon of war, genocide etc, I seek to balance this by showing examples where individuals have been able to overcome the most incredible degrees of trauma, to coexist, apologise, forgive and reconcile," Porter says.

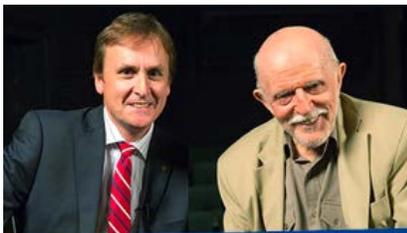
There is an emphasis on the importance of listening to people's stories, about how war and violence affects them differently and therefore how important it is to respond with compassion in ways that are sensitive to gender, culture, age, ethnic and religious difference.

Porter's interest in the topic stems from her time lecturing at the University of Ulster during the 'Troubles' period of conflict, and later as Director of Research at INCORE, an international conflict research centre in Northern Ireland, during the period of the peace negotiations.

Chapter 1 is available [online](#).



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## A bonus for UniSA's international research partnerships

[Back to story index](#)

by Michèle Nardelli



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

A research project looking at mitigating the risk of systems inefficiencies and failures in the oil and gas industries that began on a volunteer basis, has now received funding support from the Premier's Research and Industry Fund.

The project led by UniSA's Professor Markus Stumptner has won \$300,000 as part of \$2.2 million awarded by the State Government for research projects being undertaken with international partners.

Prof Stumptner says the research undertaken at UniSA's Advanced Computing Research Centre in the School of Information Technology and Mathematical Sciences in collaboration with MIMOSA, IBM, Assetricity, Worley Parsons, Rockwell Automation, Bentley, AVEVA, and Intergraph, hones in on the vulnerabilities inherent in large scale oil and gas operations, where design and operations data are usually developed in isolation from each other.

"The potential for major and catastrophic system failures is heightened when systems are designed in isolation," Prof Stumptner says.

"Some of the largest disasters, such as the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico are the result of little system failures – it might be as simple as a switch that does not automatically engage when it should.

"But beyond the most serious consequences of these system glitches and failures are a whole host of everyday operational problems and inefficiencies that cost the oil and gas industry money.

"This new grant will help us to further develop our research. Working with Assetricity LLC in the US, we will be using the grant to develop and refine flexible data transformation software that can be used by oil and gas facilities to improve safety and efficiency."

UniSA researchers secured five of the eight International Research Program grants awarded.

Grant winners include:

- Dr Erica Donner, \$400,000 to work with the Volcani Centre (Israel) and the University of Cyprus to better understand and address the challenges posed by the emergence and transfer of antimicrobial resistant bacteria in non-clinical environments. Antimicrobial resistance is designated by the World Health Organisation as a 'global health security emergency'.
- Assoc Prof David Beattie, \$300,000 for research in collaboration with Ingredion Incorporated (US) to identify natural materials that can make food products last longer and taste better, and provide new unique eating experiences.
- Dr Craig Priest \$298,000 to deliver new fundamental and applied knowledge, and a working micro-extraction prototype, to fast-track a UniSA-developed advanced manufacturing technology. The proposed technology targets faster, safer, and cheaper refining of platinum group metals.
- Dr Frank Bruno, Dr Martin Belusko, Dr Ming Liu, Dr Nguan Hwee, Steven Tay \$167,700 to work in collaboration with GREA Innovació Concurrent, Universitat de Lleida (Spain), Gen-Gurion University of the Negev (Israel), Universitat de Barcelona (Spain), University of Lyon (France), the University of Auckland (New Zealand), and Auburn University (US) to research phase change materials as an advanced thermal energy storage system.

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## Budget research shows people want consistency

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by Michèle Nardelli



BUSINESS AND LAW

Research from the Institute for Choice is showing national acceptance of a budget may have more to do with people's expectations than it does with a general sense of fiscal wisdom or even fairness.

Surveying some of Australia's most densely populated regions, the Institute's Dr Ali Ardeshiri examined how people have received recent budget decisions and what factors influence how they feel about them.

And they are not 100 per cent happy.

"We took responses from more than 650 Australians in Victoria, NSW and Queensland using a best-worst survey method on Federal Government expenditure across 54 sub-functions in the budget," Dr Ardeshiri says.

"What we were measuring was the difference between how Australians wanted the \$370.1 billion of their tax dollars spent and how the Government had decided to allocate the spending.

"There were some striking points of divergence. For example, Australians believed increased spending on school education was a high order priority but it was in this very area that spending was cut by half."

Dr Ardeshiri says the negatives from big differences between where voters believe taxpayer dollars should be spent and where they are actually spent, are magnified if people believe the government had promised to support a particular sector and then gone back on that pledge.

"So when governments promise to support school education or health services and the budget shows spending in these areas is neutral or only marginally improved, people feel disappointed. And if the funding is cut then they are very disappointed," Ardeshiri says.

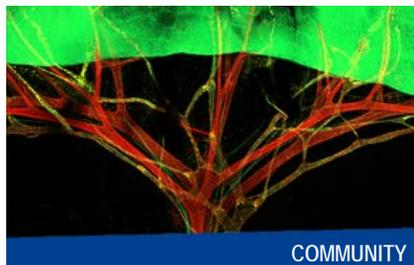
"In the most recent budget our research shows that people were quite dissatisfied with what the budget brought down for school education, health and hospital services because of proposed cuts to those areas, but there were other areas, such as immigration, where decreases in funding were supported by the people surveyed.

“The message to all governments is that voters appreciate consistency. There’s no point making showy campaign promises to support growth in specific areas, if later on those areas are targeted for reductions in spending. At the same time, they should be alert to the facilities and services people believe are performing well, because they may be the right areas to target for budget savings.

“As a rule of thumb, following through on what was promised is the best way to get budget acceptance and satisfaction.”

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# news

July 2015

> from the University of South Australia

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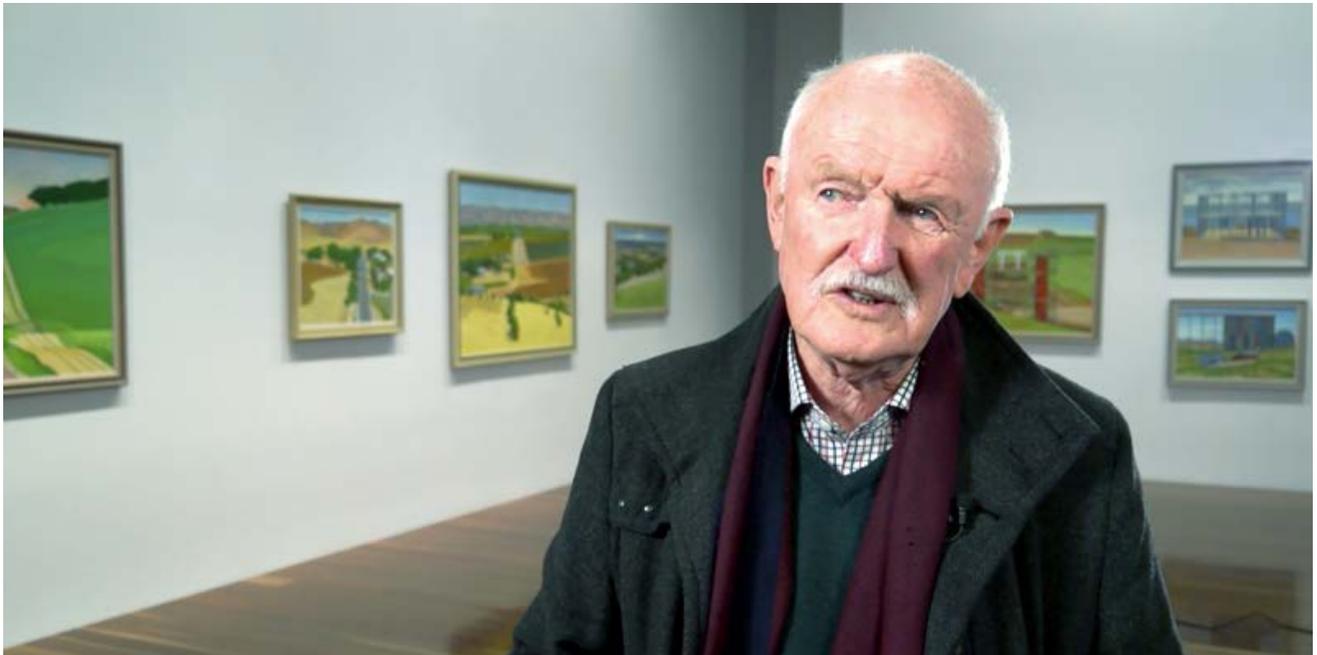
[Back to story index](#)





UniSA achieved its best result at a Regional University Games, finishing in third place overall – and the top-placed SA university – at the Southern Uni Games. Over 135 UniSA students, coaches and support staff were involved in the games, held in Adelaide from July 5-9.

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The Samstag Museum has launched two new exhibitions, 'Birth of the Cool' and 'Geoff Wilson: Interrogated Landscape'. Pictured is Geoff Wilson, whose Interrogated Landscape exhibition recognises the lifetime achievement of an exceptional artist whose career has been largely uncelebrated in the public eye, until now. Both the Geoff Wilson exhibition and 'Birth of Cool' are at the Samstag until September 18.

[top](#)

