

# news

March 2015

> from the University of South Australia



COMMUNITY

## Hon Doc for world music champion Peter Gabriel

Just on 33 years ago, in Britain's bucolic Somerset region, when the young, energetic and progressive rock musician Peter Gabriel performed at the world's first World of Music, Arts and Dance (WOMAD) festival, he couldn't have known that he and the co-founders of the festival would change the music scene forever. [more](#)



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

**Why changing the surface of wound dressings could save your life** [more](#)



HEALTH

**Pop up meals to boost nutrition of elderly** [more](#)



INSIDE UNISA

**UniSA unveils \$1 million gift of art by acclaimed artist Sydney Ball** [more](#)



INSIDE UNISA

**From the Chancellery** [more](#)



INSIDE UNISA

**The latest achievements and announcements** [more](#)



HUMANITIES

**The scar of domestic violence** [more](#)



BUSINESS

Student drives life-changing fundraising campaign [more](#)



HEALTH

New lab set to fast-track vaccine development [more](#)



INSIDE UNISA

Seed funding starts to grow security app [more](#)



COMMUNITY

Students to get taste of the United Nations [more](#)



RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

More progress needed on equal pay and gender diversity [more](#)



NEW BOOKS

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



IN PICTURES

On campus this month [more](#)



INSIDE UNISA

Welcoming the class of 2015 [more](#)

[top^](#)



## Why changing the surface of wound dressings could save your life

[Back to story index](#)

by Hannah Saldaris



### SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Developments in nanotechnology are going to transform the healing capability of a small piece of fabric, according to UniSA researcher Dr Louise Smith (pictured below).

Dr Smith is part of a team of researchers at UniSA's Mawson Institute who are developing super-engineered dressings to heal chronic wounds. Contributing to the Wound Management Innovation Cooperative Research Centre, Dr Smith's research focuses on wounds that don't heal.

"If you are exhausted, not eating properly or ill, you may feel like going into hibernation. This is exactly what your skin does when it is not getting the proper nutrients," she says.

"Cells can't move in to repair the wound if there is excess inflammation or bacterial infection. What we are developing are dressings – similar to Band-Aids – that help cells overcome that.

"It is critical to establish the healing process while there is a fresh, active blood supply. This stops the wound becoming chronic which is important because wounds like this can continue for anywhere from three months to 30 years or longer without healing.

"Using a dressing, similar to what we are working on, will hopefully kick-start the wound healing process."

Dr Smith says engineered dressings, which not only prevent dehydration and bacterial infection in wounds but also target specific damaged skin cells, will be customised depending on the nature of the wound.

"Our dressings can be designed for different purposes. For example, plasma polymer-based fabric tuned for





surface chemistry will encourage skin cells to migrate, proliferate and thrive while a plain non-functional coating will not interact with the cells,” she says.

“Our aim is for engineered dressings to closely replicate the functionality normally found in body, acids, amines and alcohols, which means we get better reaction from the cells in the wound because they are familiar with this type of chemistry.

“We need to take into account chemistry variations for different body sites. A wound in your eye would be treated differently to your skin or cartilage, as different cells behave in different ways.

“We also have to work across the three different layers of the skin and the cells found there – the keratinocyte cells in the outer layer (epidermis), the fibroblast cells surrounded by collagen in the middle layer (dermis) and the epithelial cells which line your blood vessels. Each is surrounded by different proteins and has its own environment it likes to be in.”

“We can currently engineer dressings for one cell, but trying to tune that for more than one at a time – all three at once- is the challenge we are trying to overcome with our current research. Once we have the specific chemistry, we can decorate our dressings with different surfaces and fine tune the repair process.”

Bringing together the fields of biology, chemistry and engineering, these small, innovative dressings are set to have a big impact. This month's Annual Wound Awareness Week, running from March 23 to 27, will shine the spotlight on how important the issue of chronic wounds actually is.

The Australian Wound Management Association estimates that approximately 400,000 Australians are living with a hard-to-heal (chronic or ulcer) wound right now and treating chronic wounds puts a substantial cost on the healthcare system, as well also bringing pain and anxiety to patients.

By developing super-engineered dressings capable of accelerating the body's own healing process, wounds will be able to heal before they become chronic – essentially fixing the problem before it even begins.

## RELATED STORIES



HEALTH

**New lab set to fast-track vaccine development** [more](#)



NEW BOOKS

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

[top^](#)



## Pop up meals to boost nutrition of elderly

[Back to story index](#)

by Kelly Stone



### HEALTH

Improving poor nutrition among the elderly is the driving goal behind a new *Test Kitchen* program being run by a UniSA researcher and Meals on Wheels.

The brainchild of Dr Matt Haren, and friend, chef-turned-medical scientist, Julie-Ann Hill, the *Test Kitchen* program uses social interaction through shared lunches and other social outings to increase food intake among Meals on Wheels recipients.

Dr Haren says he and Hill came up with *Test Kitchen* in a bid to solve the issue of older people eating alone during a period in the life-course when there is a real risk of under-eating.

"It can be hard to pump yourself up to eat a good meal; when your drive to eat is reduced, you have the issue of cooking for one, and eating alone can reinforce feelings of loneliness. It can just tie meal-times up in a package of negative emotions," he says.

"*Test Kitchen* is about reclaiming meal-times as positive emotional and sensory experiences – reclaiming fullness of life through good food and good company.

"Under-nutrition in older people is a complex problem. There is a physiological basis for a reduced drive to eat in older age, and this is compounded by social isolation."

*Test Kitchen* was one of three winning initiatives at The Australian Centre for Social Innovation (TACSI) awards for innovation in ageing announced recently. Other winners of the TACSI awards included [SeniorPreneurs](#).

Dr Haren says there is evidence that older people who eat with others eat more food, especially when the social interactions are positive. Dr Haren and Hill are looking at multiple models of social meal delivery.

"One model is the pop-up community dining rooms which we trialled in Port Augusta last month," he says.

“Another is Host@Home where, for example, within the Meals on Wheels organisation we would look to bring three or four individual Meals on Wheels deliveries into a single, privately-hosted lunch in the home of a willing customer or volunteer.”

Dr Haren says *Test Kitchen* will also be examining the experiences of eating alone, and barriers and enablers to social eating, in 2015.

“Certainly there are a whole range of factors to look at,” he says.

“Transport can be a problem, as can shopping for one where inevitably some of the fresh food you buy will go off rather than get used.

“Reduced appetite and limited physical capabilities are important factors, as well as social disengagement.

“Food is an important part of how we socialise in society, and I think a large impact on people’s wellbeing can result from simply combining good food with social interaction.

“I hope *Test Kitchen* can help people to reclaim control of their meal-times and turn them back into positive, life-giving parts of the day.”

*Test Kitchen* will be trialling numerous social eating models in regional areas throughout 2015.

Dr Haren says the first trial, held in Port Augusta in February, was a great success, with about a third of local Meals on Wheels recipients enjoying a shared lunch at the local bowls club.

“Seeing those present enjoying great food, coupled with social interaction and stimulation, was heartening,” he says.

“This showed us that people do see life value in eating together, and will choose to do it if the right factors are in place.”

Dr Haren and Hill, who both grew up in Port Augusta, say the *Test Kitchen* idea was born after they became aware of personal stories about meal-time challenges in the town, as well as knowledge that Meals on Wheels in Port Augusta was ready to try something different.

“I had been aware of the research showing benefits from social dining on food intake in clinical settings, from my days as a post-doc in geriatric medicine,” Dr Haren says.

“The impetus to take action was the personal stories, then the Innovation in Ageing challenge presented the opportunity, and Meals on Wheels were really keen to innovate and think outside the square – and it became impossible to keep our idea in the desk drawer.”

Winning the Ageing Challenge award provides Dr Haren and his *Test Kitchen* colleagues with business mentoring from TACSI for six months. *Test Kitchen* has received funding from the Office for the Ageing within SA Health.

## RELATED STORIES



HEALTH

**New lab set to fast-track vaccine development** [more](#)



BUSINESS

**Student drives life-changing fundraising campaign** [more](#)





## UniSA unveils \$1 million gift of art by acclaimed artist Sydney Ball

[Back to story index](#)

by Rosanna Galvin



Sydney Ball, *Pale Stream*, 1976, acrylic and enamel on canvas, 244.0 x 426.5cm. UniSA Art Collection: The Sydney Ball Gift. Image courtesy Sullivan+Strumpf, Sydney and Samstag Museum of Art, Adelaide.

A collection of works by renowned Australian artist Sydney Ball (pictured below), worth more than one million dollars, was unveiled at UniSA's Mawson Lakes campus last month.

The collection, which comprises more than 30 works, was gifted to the University by Ball – who is also a UniSA alumnus – in 2013. The large-scale collection is now on permanent display at the Sir Eric Neal Library.

Director of UniSA's Anne & Gordon Samstag Museum of Art, Erica Green, said the collection made an important contribution the University's cultural capital.

"The installation of the Sydney Ball Gift at UniSA celebrates the artist's long and impressive career and considerable impact on Australian art, and recognises Ball's significant act of generosity to the University," she said.

"Ball is regarded as one of the true trailblazers of abstract painting in Australia. In a career that has spanned more than 50 years, he has created a vast body of work largely concerned with colour, form, and compositional structure."

Speaking at the unveiling, UniSA Vice Chancellor Professor David Lloyd thanked Ball for his gift and for his contribution to art in Australia.



Artist Sydney Ball at Mawson Lakes campus. Photo: Courtesy of the Samstag Museum of Art, photograph by Alex Kwong.



"Sydney is one of Australia's most successful and established artists, a living treasure," Prof Lloyd said. "He is also one of ours and we are immensely proud of his achievements.

"Sydney has played a great part in helping educate Australians to know great art and he will continue to do that through his paintings, as students, staff and the public at large study, research and simply enjoy this wonderful gift."

The gift, which was made through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program with support from the Samstag Museum of Art Board, contains key bodies of work from throughout Ball's career including works from the 'modular series' of the late 1960s, the important 'stain series' of the 1970s, right through to the 'structures' series of recent times.

Ball both studied and lectured at the South Australian School of Art, which is now part of UniSA.

Some of Ball's works will form part of the upcoming Samstag Museum exhibition *Birth of the Cool*, which also features selected works from painters David Aspden, Michael Johnson and Dick Watkins.

For more information on the Sydney Ball Gift or upcoming exhibitions at the Samstag Museum, go to the Museum's [website](#).

## RELATED STORIES

---



COMMUNITY

**Hon Doc for world music champion Peter Gabriel** [more](#)



INSIDE UNISA

**The latest achievements and announcements** [more](#)

[top^](#)



# news

March 2015

> from the University of South Australia

## From the Vice Chancellor

[Back to story index](#)



INSIDE UNISA

A couple of weeks ago I attended O-Week celebrations on all four metropolitan campuses and was struck again by how energetic and keen our new students are.

At O-Week we welcomed thousands of new faces to Mawson Lakes, Magill, City East and City West and the two regional campuses in Whyalla and Mount Gambier, and those new faces are a singular reminder of what we're all here for:

Generating new knowledge through our research and transferring that knowledge to our students through our teaching.

No matter what your role in this university, as we go about our main business of research and teaching, and building partnerships that add to and strengthen our programs, remember that our main reason for being here is our students. The 8,150 we graduated at the end of 2014; the 9,485 we've just welcomed; and all the others in varying stages of completing their qualifications.

Who knows? Among the new faces on campus who are still trying to find the building they're meant to be in, could be the people who will make changes to the way the world works. They're about to be exposed to some innovative thinking and discovery. Our researchers are working on developing future industries, building sustainable societies and the prevention and management of cancer. For our students there are no beginnings and endings, just enormous possibilities.

As we welcome these new faces on campus, spare a thought for the more than 1000 who have joined us from China, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Vietnam, India and all points north, east and west of here. We welcome you to Adelaide and trust that your time here will be everything you hoped it to be and that Adelaide offers a new home and new possibilities for the next few years.

We've all been new here, in Adelaide and at the University of South Australia at some time and we know how daunting it can seem for the first few months, before you settle into your studies and become focused on new

friends and new adventures in your new environment.

And to all those new faces, I hope you thoroughly enjoyed O-Week and have already made many new friends. Don't be afraid to ask for help whenever you feel you need it. We are all here to make your transition to university as easy as it can be made; the rest is up to you.

You're creating your own futures and the fact that you have chosen us to help you do so is one that gives us enormous pride. It should cause us all to renew and redouble our efforts.

RELATED STORIES



COMMUNITY

**Hon Doc for world music champion Peter Gabriel** [more](#)



INSIDE UNISA

**Welcoming the class of 2015** [more](#)

[top^](#)



# news

March 2015

> from the University of South Australia

## Achievements and Announcements

[Back to story index](#)

[Sports injury and environmental law the focus for Fulbright scholars](#)

[UniSA's Professors building industry innovation](#)

[Aviation partnership to create soaring new skills for students](#)

[UniSA's international Jazz academy opens in Mount Gambier](#)

[Winning team boosts women's participation in local government](#)

[Aviation academic receives highest honour from Royal Aeronautical Society](#)

### Sports injury and environmental law the focus for Fulbright scholars

A UniSA environmental law expert and a PhD student investigating the connection between running strides and sports injury will travel to the United States to further their research as part of the prestigious Fulbright scholarships program.

UniSA PhD student Joel Fuller will use his Fulbright South Australia Postgraduate Scholarship to visit the University of Massachusetts while UniSA Adjunct Professor Rob Fowler will travel to George Washington University on the Fulbright Professional Scholarship in Climate Change and Clean Energy.

Trained physiotherapist Joel says he will use his time in the US to investigate whether there is a connection between running stride and injury risk.



"Running is an inherent component of most sports, so it's important for understanding injuries," he says.

"We're looking at whether the structure and pattern of your running stride gives an indication of the health of your neuromuscular system – similar to how the structure and pattern of your heartbeat gives an indication of the health of your cardiovascular system."

Joel will set off in August with the goal to further investigate a stride assessment technique developed as a spin-off from his PhD project on footwear and running injuries.

"We developed some novel biomechanical assessment techniques that we thought had potential clinical application," Joel says.

"We use a sensor inside the shoe to detect foot strikes and measure running stride rhythm.

"When running, no stride is the same as the last one. Previous work in motor control shows this variation is not just white noise, but instead contains a purposeful structure that results from fine-tuning of the running stride by the central nervous system.

"If certain stride structures and patterns can be proven to predict certain types of injury, our technique to assess running stride will give a good idea of a runner's risk of injury.

"Currently biomechanical assessment can be equipment-heavy and time consuming. This technique is much simpler, and will be easy to use in practice. The complexity is in processing the stride information, not in collecting it and this processing can be automated."

The University of Massachusetts will offer Joel the opportunity to work with a large group of high-performance athletes from the institution's sporting programs. Joel says he is looking forward to tapping into the university's expertise.

"This is a great chance to stay at the forefront of my field and investigate questions that have come up in practice," he says.

“Down the track, I hope to translate my findings to clinical work, to benefit patients and end users.”

Adjunct Prof Fowler will spend his time at George Washington University exploring how different levels of government collaborate to manage environmental challenges from a US perspective.

The Washington DC location will enable him to work with some of the US's leading environmental law scholars, as well as senior administrators from federal, state, regional and local government.

Prof Fowler, who has extensively researched and published in environmental law areas such as environmental impact assessment, soils and land degradation, biodiversity conservation and climate change, says the scholarship will give him an opportunity to examine what the most appropriate role for the federal government in environmental matters is, and how this role can be effectively pursued.



“My US research will particularly focus on the federal role in climate change and clean energy, which I hope will provide useful insights for Australia as it seeks to develop new approaches to climate mitigation, and also engages in a wider reflection upon the appropriate role of the federal government in relation to the environment,” he says.

The Fulbright Program has been providing opportunities for educational exchanges between the United States and Australia since 1949.

For more information on Prof Fowler, Joel and the Fulbright Scholarship program, visit the Australian American Fulbright Commission [website](#).

### **UniSA's Professors building industry innovation**

Two of UniSA's key players in developing long-term research relationships with industry have been promoted to a new role at UniSA as Industry Professors.

Professor John Fielke (pictured right) and Professor Peter Murphy (pictured below) are the first to earn the positions because of their unique and close collaborations to develop products and innovations being applied today in agriculture and the manufacturing sector.



UniSA Vice Chancellor Professor David Lloyd says the new title of Industry Professor reflects the importance of new styles of research leadership.

“As the research environment becomes increasingly competitive there is a strong role for research that crosses the divide between industry and academia,” Prof Lloyd says.

“John and Peter are exceptional examples of research leadership that is constantly engaged with industry and able to bring clarity around the practical needs of industry into the research space. And they are delivering real results.

“Peter and his team are behind the world's first plastic car mirror developed in partnership with local manufacturer SMR Automotive, which is now being manufactured in Adelaide and exported to the United States.

“To date more than one million mirrors have been manufactured and fitted to vehicles. The project has seen a local manufacturer invest in a multi-million dollar state of the art advanced manufacturing facility, creating new, upskilled jobs in the process. Developed under Peter's leadership, the mirror uses a series of ultra-thin coating layers to impart abrasion resistance, corrosion resistance and UV stability to a polycarbonate mirror base.



“The science behind this product is now being broadened for application to new commercial opportunities in the concentrated solar power sector.

“John has been a champion of innovation in agriculture working with agricultural producers and machinery manufacturers to improve tillage and seeding equipment and develop products suitable for different farming conditions.

“His latest work is focussed on developing mechanised harvesting solutions for the almond industry.”

Prof Lloyd says the new Industry Professor roles strengthen UniSA’s commitment to industry-informed research.

“As we build on our reputation as a university that is ‘open for business’ we will continue to acknowledge the researchers making that a reality; those who are actively seeking out opportunities to collaborate and make a difference,” he says.

### Aviation partnership to create soaring new skills for students

A new partnership between UniSA and Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (ERAU) is set to boost undergraduate and graduate aviation degree opportunities at the University, as the aviation industry anticipates rapid growth over the next two decades in the Australasia region.

The collaboration will create new opportunities for UniSA students to develop key skills in emerging growth areas of aviation, including maintenance engineering and unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) technology, significantly expanding on UniSA’s current aviation program.

UniSA Head of Aviation, Neil Hyland says the Memorandum of Understanding between the universities will enable the development of further aviation teaching and research opportunities between both institutions, while supporting the academic and professional development of UniSA’s faculty and staff.



Dr John R. Watret, Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of ERAU, and UniSA Vice Chancellor, Professor David Lloyd.

“There is a springboard now in place for our students to learn more in the field of aviation,” Hyland says.

“It opens the door for our students to learn about other areas of the industry, including air traffic control, cyber security, UAV technology and maintenance engineering.”

Dr John R. Watret, Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of ERAU, believes the partnership signals an exciting future.

“ERAU, Asia partnering with UniSA represents the future of aviation and aerospace globally,” Dr Watret says.

“The tremendous growth opportunities and passion for aviation here in Australia and Asia coupled with the direction and commitment of UniSA makes this an exciting venture.”

### Winning team boosts women’s participation in local government

UniSA lecturer Dr Margaret Faulkner was part of an award-winning project group who helped increase the representation of women in elected roles in last year’s South Australian local government elections.

Dr Faulkner, a Senior Research Associate at the UniSA Ehrenberg-Bass Institute for Marketing Science, as a member of the Missing in Action team, was awarded the 2014 Dennis Mutton Group Medal. This was a Community Action Group for the Leaders Institute of South Australia that examined why women were missing from local government in SA.

In delivering the accolade, which recognises outstanding community involvement and contribution, the Leaders Institute acknowledged that the project group played a role in a modest but important increase of two per cent in women’s representation in the 2014 local government elections.

Dr Faulkner said she was thrilled to be involved in a research project that had a tangible impact in the wider community.

“When we started the project in 2013, women represented only 27 per cent of elected council members. We were keen to discover how we could encourage more women to consider running for local council. We identified the issue is not in getting women elected, but in attracting women to nominate in the first place,” Dr Faulkner said.

“Our group undertook research and ran several forums for women in the community, which were supported by a Local Government Association (LGA) grant.

“The results of these forums informed a report which outlined our recommendations to the LGA about how to



(L-R) Dennis Mutton, Madeleine Davis, Dr Margaret Faulkner, Alex Gaut, Kath Button and Colin Dunsford AM (Chair of the Leaders Institute Board).



increase female nominations. This report was added as a resource to the LGA website and our findings were also included in the 2014 Council Community Awareness Strategy and Checklist provided to councils to develop their own strategies for the local government elections.

"In the end, a record percentage of women stood for and were elected to local government in the 2014 elections and I am really proud to have delivered insights on how to attract more women to local leadership positions."

Dr Faulkner worked alongside Madeleine Davis, Director of Marketing and Communications at Defence SA; Alex Gaut, Biodiversity Program Manager at the Conservation Council of South Australia; and Kath Button, Manager of Corporate Resources at the State Library of South Australia on the Missing In Action Community Action Project. All four team members completed the Governor's Leadership Foundation Program at the Leaders Institute in 2013.

### **UniSA's international Jazz academy opens in Mount Gambier**

The James Morrison Academy of Music @UniSA in Mount Gambier was officially opened this month by South Australian Premier Jay Weatherill.

Led by prominent Australian Jazz musician James Morrison, AM, the Academy has attracted top teachers and students from Australia and overseas for its first year.

Its teaching team will feature an 'artist in residence', Grammy-nominated American saxophonist Jeff Clayton, known for his playing with Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald, Michael Jackson and Stevie Wonder.

Australian arranger and educator Graeme Lyall, AM, will lead the faculty, supported by Perth-born trumpeter Mat Jodrell – who is returning to Australia from the United States to take up the post - as well as guest musicians from the US, UK and Europe.

Morrison, who will teach all students at the Academy, said he had high ambitions for the school.

"Our focus is on the experience of the musician while they are making music, rather than more traditional theory-based learning," Morrison says.

"I've seen the stunning results of this approach over the last 30 years. I'm confident that we can create the Southern Hemisphere's best jazz school, and make a lot of great music along the way."

The Academy is a partnership with UniSA, where all of its students will be enrolled, and it received critical seed funding of \$500,000 from the South Australian Government.

UniSA Vice Chancellor Professor David Lloyd said he was proud to be part of such an exciting development in music education.

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

### **Aviation academic receives highest honour from Royal Aeronautical Society**

UniSA aviation expert Dr Steven Thatcher (pictured right) has been made a Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society (RAeS), the highest award conferred by the world's only professional body dedicated to the aerospace community.

RAeS awards fellowships to individuals who have made an outstanding contribution in the profession of aeronautics, attained a position of high responsibility in the profession of aeronautics or have had long experience of high quality in the profession of aeronautics.

Dr Thatcher, who was a member of the team who established the UniSA Aviation Academy, says he was honoured to receive the fellowship.

"When I was elected by the RAeS's membership grading committee at the head office in London I was absolutely thrilled. The Fellowship is the highest honour conferred by RAeS," he says.

The Fellowship award was in recognition of the contribution Dr Thatcher has made to aviation education and training in the Australasian region.

UniSA's Head of School of Engineering, Professor Peter Majewski congratulated Dr Thatcher on the significant achievement.



The opening of the James Morrison Academy of Music @UniSA in Mount Gambier.



“Dr Thatcher has been an integral part of the UniSA Aviation Academy since its formation, playing an important role in the development of Australasia’s first tertiary award program. We are pleased that his outstanding career in the aviation industry has been recognised at an international level,” Prof Majewski says.

[top^](#)



## The scar of domestic violence

[Back to story index](#)

by Ron Hoenig



### HUMANITIES

Female victims of domestic violence are likely to be poorer, and more vulnerable to unemployment, poor mental health, reduced housing circumstances and have a reduced sense of belonging as citizens in their own society, according to a new UniSA study.

For the first time in Australia the study exposes the experiences of domestic violence for middle and upper-class women, and provides a better understanding of the long-term consequences of abuse for a diverse range of women.

The survey, which is the first broad-scale review of women in Australia who suffered what the researchers call 'intimate partner violence', concluded that domestic violence doesn't just happen. It occurs because of the ways in which male partners control women to achieve and maintain their dominance.

Run by UniSA's Professor Suzanne Franzway, Associate Professor Sarah Wendt, Drs Nicole Moulding and Carole Zufferey, and Curtin University's Professor Donna Chung, the survey is part of an Australia Research Council-funded Discovery Project with Curtin University in Western Australia.

Assoc Prof Wendt says domestic violence impacts on a woman's achievements and independence.

"Nearly half of those surveyed (42.2 per cent) had to move interstate or overseas," she says.

"When they were experiencing domestic violence, about 80 per cent of women were living in a jointly owned house with their partner or renting. After they left home, more than half were forced to rent (26.7 per cent) or live with family and friends (33 per cent)."

Assoc Prof Wendt says while some managed to buy their own homes – often with housing settlements – they experienced the increased costs of rent and mortgages.

Added to generally lower wages and frequent moves due to safety concerns, all of these factors were found to



affect women's and their children's sense of belonging to place and community.

About two thirds of the women said domestic violence made it hard to hold down a job; it either made it hard to work the way they wanted to or had reduced their confidence and skills for work.

Of the people interviewed, 30 per cent could not continue at the same workplace for fear of their safety.

Assoc Prof Wendt says the study was comprehensive and unique.

"We examined mental health and wellbeing, housing, and employment as dimensions of everyday life that shape a person's capacity to participate in society; that is, we understand these as indicators of status and practising citizenship," she says.

Promoted through news.com.au, the sample of 638 women for the study was unique because the majority had not accessed long-term support from a shelter.

Until now researchers had only seen the perspective of the poorest of women because surveys were often held in shelters.

The resounding message from the research is that there is no class barrier to domestic violence against women.

Researchers found that male desire to exert control through violence affected women regardless of their financial or other resources.

Violent men, for example, maintain status by brutalising a woman who might seek education to become more competent and capable in the workforce.

"The more capable and educated I became the greater the domestic violence," said one survey respondent.

"Without domestic violence I would have a stable career."

Assoc Prof Wendt says the results show that domestic violence has long-term consequences such as impacting on employment opportunities, on mental health and on the type of hours women can work.

While many women were resilient, the researchers argue it is not appropriate to depend solely on the resilience of victims as a way of solving domestic violence; preventing the harm in the first place is vital, as is holding perpetrators accountable for their abuse and the long-term damage it does.

"When women leave they do bounce back but it's not to the level prior to domestic violence," Assoc Prof Wendt says.

"If you're looking at time and citizenship, domestic violence erodes citizenship, that sense of natural belonging in society."

As one woman in the study said, "I stopped being able to bounce back anywhere near as far as I had fallen".

The survey findings resonate with that quote, indicating that women bounce back, but not totally, Assoc Prof Wendt says.

"It is like a scar. While women talk about having hope for the future, many report that they are 'not the same person' they were before the violence and abuse," she says.

## RELATED STORIES

---



**Students to get taste of the United Nations** [more](#)



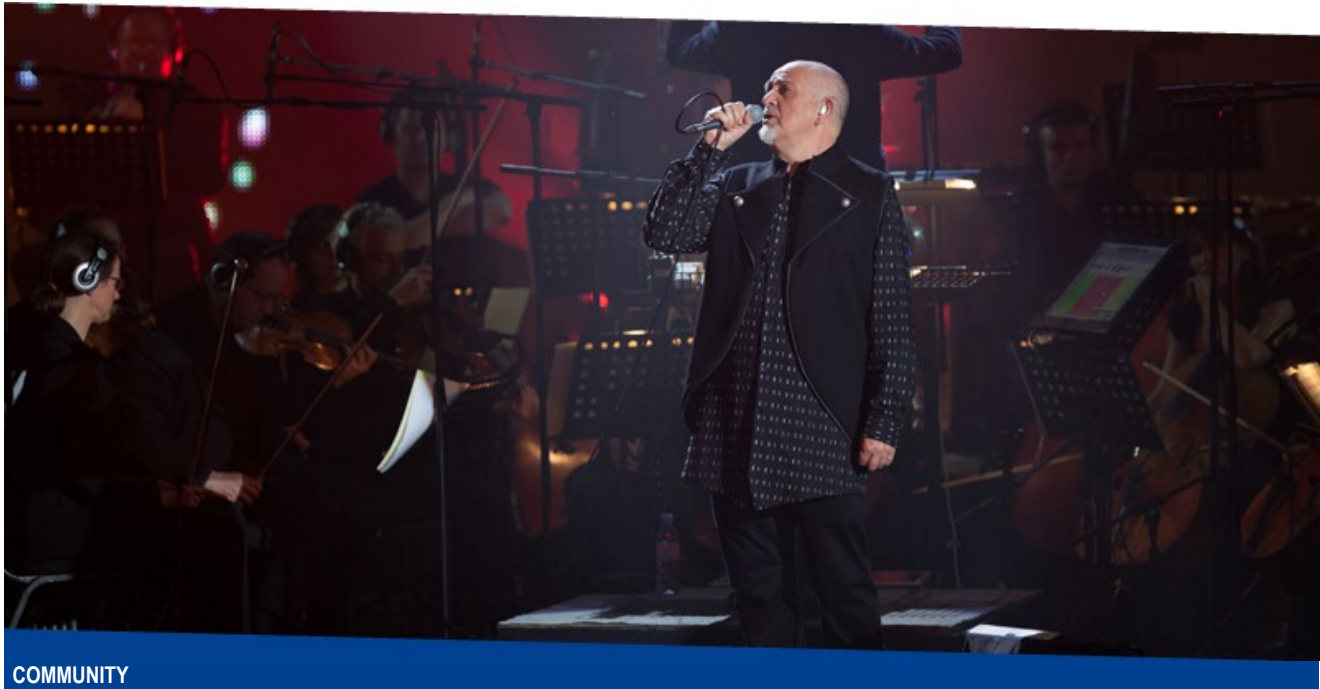
**The latest books from UniSA researchers** [more](#)



## Hon Doc for world music champion Peter Gabriel

[Back to story index](#)

by Michèle Nardelli



COMMUNITY

The legendary Peter Gabriel in concert. Photo: York Tillyer.

Just on 33 years ago, in Britain's bucolic Somerset region, when the young, energetic and progressive rock musician Peter Gabriel performed at the world's first World of Music, Arts and Dance (WOMAD) festival, he couldn't have known that he and the co-founders of the festival would change the music scene forever.

The world music phenomenon has done more than expand the musical tastes of the mass middle class, it has also been a spearhead for cultural engagement and understanding; using music as an envoy of peace and as a vehicle to share cultural threads and sounds that have opened minds and hearts.

Throughout the 1990s WOMAD festivals and their globally inclusive vibe took off in other places – New Zealand, Spain, Chile, the United Arab Emirates, and in Adelaide. As popular as ever, WOMADelaide is now in its 23rd year.

And Gabriel, famous not only for some all-time classic pop hits such as 'Sledgehammer' and ground-breaking innovation in music videos in the 1980s, is now 65 and still innovating, learning and following his passions.

In a quiet, personal ceremony in his Wiltshire recording studios last year the University of South Australia awarded Gabriel an Honorary Doctorate, honouring his contribution not just to the music industry but also to the pursuit of global understanding and human rights.

The award was presented by UniSA Vice Chancellor Professor David Lloyd and announced this month to coincide with WOMADelaide, of which UniSA is the Education Partner.





UniSA Vice Chancellor Professor David Lloyd presenting Peter Gabriel with an Honorary Doctorate at his recording studios in Wiltshire last year.

Prof Lloyd said he was thrilled to present the award to a man who has made such an important mark globally in so many fields, from music, business and the arts, to the promotion of peace, human rights and conflict resolution.

“Peter is an example of what it is to be successful on many levels,” Prof Lloyd said.

“A great collaborator, but also a musician and composer with his own distinctive style, his stellar career has been marked by ground-breaking innovations in music video production and in recording and distribution.

“Peter was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2009 as a member of Genesis, the original group he co-founded in 1967 while still at school.

“But beyond his chart-topping hits, the many MTV and Grammy Awards for his group and solo music career, Peter has made an enormous commitment to the global community and applied his considerable skills to making a difference.”

Beyond WOMAD, in 1989 Gabriel took his enthusiasm for world music and established his own production company Real World Records, which continues to provide production and publishing opportunities to artists from Africa, Latin America and Central Asia who would otherwise have remained unknown to mainstream audiences.

In 1992 Gabriel was a co-founder of WITNESS, a human rights organisation designed to encourage and support people to use video recordings to fight for human rights and celebrate human triumphs. The organisation continues to grow and make a powerful impact by bringing to light issues of global concern.

Prof Lloyd said Gabriel’s efforts to create opportunities for justice and human rights to prevail have been unstinting.

“Peter worked with Richard Branson and the much beloved Nelson Mandela, former President of South Africa and also a Doctor of UniSA, to establish The Elders in 2007 – a network of highly experienced international leaders able to offer peacemaking and negotiating strategies and wisdom wherever there are global conflicts,” Prof Lloyd said.

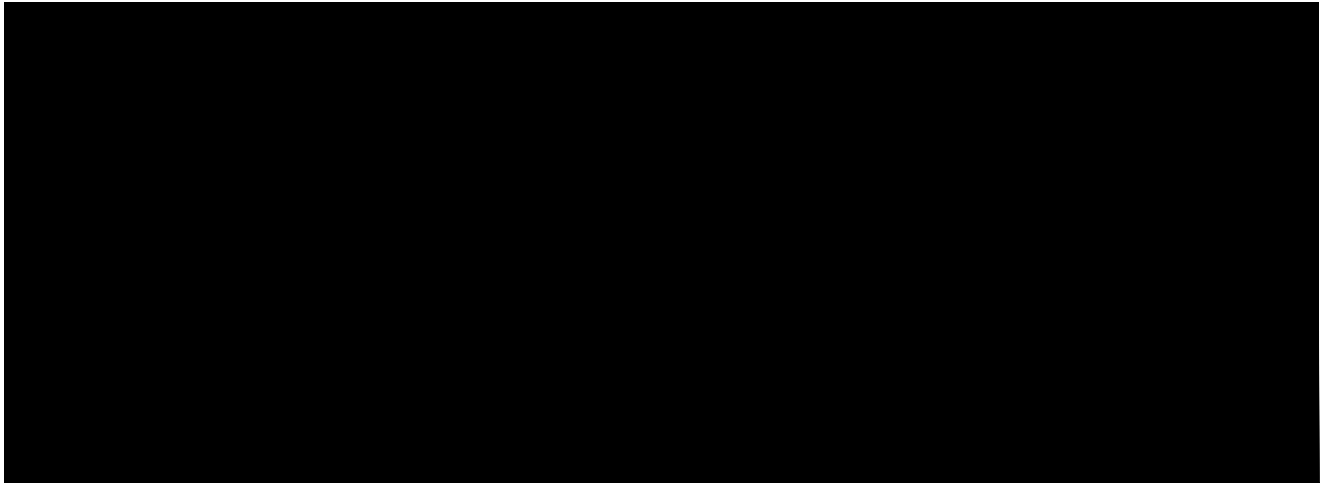
“His commitment to building peace, supporting people who are disempowered, and encouraging social justice and understanding have been recognised around the world. In 2006 the Nobel Peace Prize Laureates presented him with the Man of Peace Award and in 2008 *Time Magazine* named him one of the 100 most influential people in the world.

“The University is so proud to welcome him as an Honorary Doctor and we believe the example of his work and life will be an inspiration for many of our students and graduates.”

Gabriel received the award with characteristic humility. He urged all of the graduating class of 2015 to follow their passions, find what they loved and work hard at it.

“May your trails blaze,” Gabriel said.

Peter Gabriel in conversation with University of South Australia Vice Chancellor, Prof David L



RELATED STORIES



**Million dollar gift of art by  
acclaimed artist Sydney Ball  
unveiled at UniSA** [more](#)



**The latest achievements and  
announcements** [more](#)

[top^](#)



## Student drives life-changing fundraising campaign

[Back to story index](#)

by Rosanna Galvin



BUSINESS

UniSA student Sarah Kalisimeras' seven-year-old daughter Georgia with seizure alert dog Gracie.

A UniSA student has led a \$35k fundraising campaign to change the life of one special little girl.

That little girl is marketing student Sarah Kalisimeras' seven-year-old daughter Georgia, who has epilepsy and Muenke Syndrome, and the funds raised have purchased a seizure alert dog for the Kalisimeras family.

The seizure alert dog – named Gracie – is able to detect an oncoming epileptic fit and alert key people around Georgia before the seizure begins. Gracie is also trained to get help once the seizure starts and will then lie with Georgia while she has the seizure.

Using the skills gained in her Bachelor of Management (Marketing) degree, Sarah embarked on an eight-month-long fundraising campaign to purchase a fully-trained seizure alert dog after realising it could be an answer to her family's health issues.

"In the last two years Georgia has tried seven different drugs to try to control her seizures and during that time she experienced a lot of horrible side effects," Sarah says.

"The tonic clonic seizures Georgia experiences require a rescue drug to make them stop, but frighteningly this drug also makes her stop breathing. Having to worry about this happening wasn't a way of life I wanted for Georgia, my two other daughters, or myself.

"Being a university student, I started to research and eventually I came across The Centre for Service and Therapy Dogs Australia, the only company in Australia able to train dogs to be alert to seizures.

"Our whole family, and especially Georgia, suffer a lot of anxiety as we are constantly waiting for the next seizure. Having a seizure alert dog takes away a lot of that crippling anxiety and we can all take a deep breath and allow Georgia the independence a seven-year-old little girl deserves."

Sarah credits her studies in marketing for giving her the right foundation to pursue such a large-scale fundraising campaign, which involved digital marketing, website development and networking with corporate donors, as well as hosting events and chocolate sales.

“The degree has given me the confidence in myself to be able to achieve what I have,” Sarah says.

“My degree has been the one thing I have relied on immensely throughout the fundraising campaign – it gave me the tools to know who to approach, how to approach them and how to word documents.

“After graduation, I really want to stay at UniSA and do honours. Starting a foundation that supports other people to get seizure alert dogs is also on the horizon.

“I see seizure alert dogs for returned service men and women as a way to ease the burden of some terrible conditions that people live with. There are significant costs involved in raising and training seizure alert dogs and I really don’t think families like mine should have to incur all the costs.

“It took a lot of hard work raising what I did and many others don’t have the time or the skillset to do so. So if I can help make other families’ lives a little bit easier by helping them to get a dog then that’s a good thing.”

Georgia met her seizure alert dog Gracie for the first time just before Christmas last year. Gracie will complete her training and move in with the Kalisimeras family next month and will continue to change Georgia’s life for the next 12-14 years.

RELATED STORIES



Students to get taste of the United Nations [more](#)



More progress needed on equal pay and gender diversity [more](#)

[top^](#)



## New lab set to fast-track vaccine development

[Back to story index](#)

by Brit Hayward and Kelly Stone



HEALTH

Associate Professor John Hayball, Paul Howley and Dr Tamara Cooper.

Developing vaccines for mosquito-borne Chikungunya virus, peanut allergy, prostate cancer and melanoma is the focus of a new UniSA laboratory.

The Experimental Therapeutics Laboratory was officially launched recently and has been funded in a UniSA partnership with Melbourne-based biotechnology company, Sementis and a number of high-profile investors, including Adelaide property developer Michael Hickinbotham.

The UniSA-Sementis laboratory, located at City East campus and featuring more than \$1 million worth of state-of-the-art equipment, will work on developing the vaccines of the future.

Laboratory Head Associate Professor John Hayball says the new laboratory features a \$650,000 BD FACSaria Fusion cell sorting machine, the first of its kind to be installed in South Australia.

"The cell sorting machine is a game-changing piece of equipment which is able to analyse and sort five to 10 million cells, reducing a three-day manual process into a one-second task," Assoc Prof Hayball says.

"The technology provided by the FACSaria will give us a distinct advantage in finding solutions to address threats from emerging diseases."

Laboratory Research Fellow Dr Tamara Cooper says the laboratory's advanced equipment allows researchers to explore and understand how the rational design of the vaccine platform can enhance desirable vaccine properties such as safety and efficacy.

"This year we are preparing to test novel strategies for vaccine manufacture and are currently fitting out two



Sementis' Non-Executive Director, Tom Quirk with UniSA's Dr Tamara Cooper and Dr Bruce Chadwick at the launch event.

additional tissue culture facilities to meet these needs,” she says.

Assoc Prof Hayball says the launch provided an opportunity to show how the University is working collaboratively with industry.

“The real benefit from a partnership like this is that we use each other’s strengths to build a model of efficiency,” Assoc Prof Hayball says.

Sementis Executive and Board Members, UniSA senior staff and a number of investors attended the launch, touring the laboratory after short presentations from Assoc Prof Hayball and Sementis’ Non-Executive Chairman Maurice O’Shannassy and Chief Executive Officer (elect) Dr Jane Ryan.

Dr Ryan expressed her satisfaction with the five full-time research staff funded through the partnership.

“I can feel the enthusiasm and pride in the team,” she says.

“Together with UniSA, we are addressing unmet medical needs, building a strong international reputation, offering training and jobs in South Australia and providing a real example of translating ideas into products.”

Melissa Tan, a PhD student funded by the partnership, is excited to be paving the way in vaccine platform development.

“It’s a project I wouldn’t get to work on anywhere else in Adelaide, or even Australia,” she says.

## RELATED STORIES



**Why changing the surface of wound dressings could save your life** [more](#)



**Pop up meals to boost nutrition of elderly** [more](#)

[top^](#)

[Disclaimer](#) | [Copyright](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Web accessibility](#) | [CRICOS Provider no 00121B](#) | [Contact UniSA](#)

[Site help](#) | [Open Day](#) | [UniSA Events Calendar](#) | [Read this page](#)

Latest content revision: Thursday, 23 March 2017



**University of  
South Australia**

## Seed funding starts to grow security app

[Back to story index](#)

by Will Venn



Tung Tran, the UniSA student behind the myEvidence app.

A UniSA student start-up business, which is creating a mobile device app designed to help in the secure storage of evidence related to investigations, has reached product testing stage.

The myEvidence app is being developed by Tung Tran, a Senior Constable with South Australia Police, who is undertaking a Graduate Diploma in Aviation at UniSA.

Backed by \$50,000 seed funding from the Venture Catalyst initiative, the myEvidence app will facilitate the collection of digital evidence for investigations, which will be held either through a secure cloud platform or on police-held servers.

Tung says he designed the app with the aim of increasing the efficiency of investigations, from the crime scene to the court room.

"The myEvidence app will have huge benefits for all types of investigations," he says.

"Our aim with the app is to create an in-depth brief that prosecutors can pick up to quickly understand the case file, and to ensure judges and jurors are fully immersed in the case and appreciate all the relevant facts to the investigation.

"It is essentially streamlining our current justice system process."

The enterprising student says the funding from the Venture Catalyst initiative – a partnership between State Government and UniSA – has helped take his innovation a step closer to the market place.

"The funding has enabled us to engage a lawyer and start drafting up stakeholder and shareholder agreements, associated with the product," Tung says.



Graphics from the myEvidence app.

“It’s at the stage where we are developing the back end of the system; the server and security end, and we have purchased a couple of android phones to test out the product.

“We’ve got some animators on board as well who are helping us to develop a presentation about the app, to help people understand what it is and how it works and that is what we want to take to stakeholders.”

Tung says that the support from Venture Catalyst has achieved more than helping to conquer some financial hurdles; it’s also created a sense of greater validity and belief in the product.

“It’s good to know that others back the idea and are willing to invest in myEvidence. It was worth applying for the grant, not least because of the expertise that comes along with that and the people you get to meet who are willing to help with the project,” he says.

“There’s still a lot to do and a lot to think about, particularly how to market the product, but it’s been a big learning curve and a positive one.”

The myEvidence app is one of two UniSA student-led projects that received funding in the first round of the Venture Catalyst program last year.

The other start-up is Jemsoft, which has created an intelligent security solution leveraging hardware and software components mixed with an array of emerging technologies to mitigate the risk of armed holdup in retail environments.

Applications for the next round of Venture Catalyst seed funding are now open with up to \$50,000 on offer to current UniSA students and recent graduates to develop a product, service or process and take it to market.

For more information visit the Venture Catalyst [website](#).

## RELATED STORIES



INSIDE UNISA

**The latest achievements and announcements** [more](#)



BUSINESS

**Student drives life-changing fundraising campaign** [more](#)

[top^](#)





## Students to get taste of the United Nations

[Back to story index](#)

by Rosanna Galvin



### COMMUNITY

Students Loyola Wills, Felicia Wright and Olivia Brownsey will travel to South Korea for the Harvard World Model United Nations conference.

A group of UniSA students are about to take off on the trip of a lifetime when they head to the upcoming Harvard World Model United Nations (WorldMUN) conference in South Korea.

The group will attend the conference in Seoul this month, where they will be immersed in a week-long simulation experience that replicates how the United Nations and other peak legislative organisations such as the World Health Organisation operate.

Law and Psychological Science double degree student Felicia Wright says she is thrilled to be attending WorldMUN, the most internationally diverse university-level Model United Nations conference in the world, with delegates from more than 75 countries.

"It's a great opportunity for us as individuals and as students," Felicia says.

"It's an experience that will really help our degrees after we come home. Law is all about debating and such a large part of debating is understanding that we all have different ideas, we all come from different backgrounds and we all have different education levels.

"Being in a conference with such a wide variety of people will help me better understand those cultural and social differences and to learn what it's like to debate with and collaborate with people who are completely different to me.

"While we have diversity here in South Australia, it's not going to compare to this conference where delegates come from all over the globe.

"It will also be my first time travelling overseas so it's intimidating but at the same time really exciting. It's nice that the first time I'm leaving the country is for something like this."

Loyola Wills, who will finish her Bachelor of International Relations degree this year, agrees that the type of exposure an international conference like WorldMUN offers will put her in good stead after graduation.

“Just being exposed to different ideas and opinions will be fantastic because we don’t get exposed to a lot here in Australia – people here have similar ideas and tend to think the same things,” she says.

“I’ve started applying for jobs and I think this opportunity will help me secure a job in the field I want to work in – the international relations sector. I volunteered overseas last year and really enjoyed it – and this will be another great experience to get more exposure to this area.”

Over the course of the conference, the UniSA students will have to work alongside other delegates to introduce working papers on various issues and then draft resolutions. A committee will then vote on the introduced draft resolutions.

Olivia Brownsey, a law student who hopes to work in Indigenous legal aid after graduating, says they have had to undertake significant preparation for the conference.

“We are all given a country – for example, Loyola and I have been given Lebanon – and we have to research this country’s position on a number of different issues such as self-determination and Arctic Law and present these findings at the conference,” she says.

“These are really complex topic areas on their own but it’s been a really interesting experience to have to understand these issues from a different country’s point of view.

“While it’s been a lot of work, I am really looking forward to the opportunity to meet so many new people and learn as much as I can.”

Dean and Head of School of Law, Professor Wendy Lacey says the chance to attend a global conference and gain an inside understanding of how leading international legislation bodies work will be an invaluable experience for the students.

“Our students will have the opportunity to evaluate and communicate their views on global issues on a world stage, and establish an important international network at the same time,” Prof Lacey says.

“At WorldMUN, these students will develop their negotiation, communication and debating skills and broaden their perspectives on complex international issues. I am certain this experience will give them the tools and confidence to go on to become leaders in their chosen fields.”

WorldMUN was founded in 1991 by a number of Harvard University students who wanted to create a different Model United Nations experience. For more information, go to [www.worldmun.org](http://www.worldmun.org).

## RELATED STORIES



COMMUNITY

**Hon Doc for world music champion Peter Gabriel** [more](#)



BUSINESS

**Student drives life-changing fundraising campaign** [more](#)

[top^](#)



## More progress needed on equal pay and gender diversity

[Back to story index](#)

by Dr Yoshio Yanadori



### RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

*Women who break the glass ceiling and obtain executive positions earn \$200,000 a year less than executive men, according to research out of UniSA's Centre for Human Resource Management (CHRM). In the inaugural UniSA News: Research Spotlight column, CHRM's Dr Yoshio Yanadori argues that government reporting can play an important role in addressing Australia's gender pay gap issue.*

Diversity is an important value in our society. Historically, certain groups of workers including women, racial minorities and people with disabilities have suffered from unfavourable employment outcomes, and policy makers have endeavoured to correct discriminatory employment practices.

In Australia, the Workplace Gender Equality Agency (WGEA) is a government agency that focusses on gender diversity.

While WGEA engages in a number of activities to promote gender equality in the Australian workplace, one of its noteworthy responsibilities is administering the collection of employers' reports. Large Australian employers are required to report the current status of gender equality in their organisations, such as gender composition in the organisation and average remuneration for men and women, in accordance with the Workplace Gender Equality Act 2012. WGEA reports are used to review the progress of gender equality in the workplace.

There has been criticism of WGEA and the reporting requirements in recent media commentary (on The Australian website), claiming that Australian employers can address gender pay gaps without the help of "naïve and gullible bureaucrats". However, employers by themselves have already had ample time to address gender pay gaps – with no visible improvement. Organisations such as WGEA are necessary in order to keep the focus on this issue.



Gender pay gaps are highly complex as they are embedded in a web of numerous influences. Of course, biased employment decisions can cause gender pay gaps. The stereotype that women's work is not important prevents women from getting equal pay for equal work. Male managers unconsciously disadvantage female subordinates in annual salary reviews. But there are factors individual employers cannot easily address, including women taking career breaks to manage family responsibilities, women taking on part-time and casual roles more than men, and female-dominated occupations tending to be lower paid than male-dominated occupations.

Clearly a careful, thorough analysis is necessary to understand what's happening within an organisation. Do employers undertake these in-depth examinations? I doubt it. My experience is that employers only initiate a payroll analysis when an external stakeholder – typically a labour union – demands it.

WGEA's reporting requirements create a golden opportunity for employers to take a close look at their internal gender pay gaps. I acknowledge the WGEA reports take a considerable amount of administrative work, but I believe it's a necessary cost for our society. An employers' cost may be balanced by benefits if the employer acts on the report information to achieve gender diversity (in composition) and gender equality (in organisational rewards).

Organisational researchers like me are ready to assist the WGEA and employers when they conduct an analysis. Analyses of WGEA employers' reports will produce findings that have practical implications for employers and human resource departments.

Our recent research project highlights the value of a careful payroll analysis. My colleagues and I investigated the gender pay gap at top executive levels in Australian firms by analysing the 2011 executive remuneration information. We found that, on average, female executives earn \$200,000 a year less than male executives.

A closer analysis suggests that part of the pay gap is caused by the difference in executive positions held. In our sample, women held 8.5 per cent of executive positions, but women's representation in highly compensated executive positions was low, with only two per cent at Chief Executive Officer level and six per cent at Managing Director level.

Even after controlling for organisational position and other factors such as industrial sector, there was a 15.6 per cent pay gap between male and female executives. We allege that the 15.6 per cent gap is attributable to biases against women. As an extension of this research, we are currently trying to identify organisational characteristics that are associated with smaller gender pay gaps at executive level.

WGEA can conduct a similar analysis on the reports submitted by employers. The analysis will inform us of what is happening to gender pay gaps in Australian workplaces – across all organisational levels. Employers report on other management practices besides remuneration, such as flexible work arrangements, so the analysis can identify how successful these practices are in eliminating gender pay gaps.

Gender pay gaps are reported in virtually all countries. According to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the average gender pay gap in OECD countries narrowed over a 10-year time frame, from 19.9 per cent in 2001 to 14.8 per cent in 2011. The gender pay gap in Australia has hovered around 15-18 per cent over the same time frame.

Our failure to narrow the gender pay gap suggests that new actions are necessary, and careful examinations of the WGEA reports will offer useful insights into the actions to address this long-standing problem.

Dr Yoshio Yanadori is a researcher at the UniSA Centre for Human Resource Management. For more information, go to the Centre's [website](#).

### Put the spotlight on your research

If you are a UniSA researcher and would like to write a contribution for the **UniSA News: Research Spotlight column**, please get in touch at [unisa.news@unisa.edu.au](mailto:unisa.news@unisa.edu.au). As we only have space for one column per edition, in the first instance please send us a short summary about your proposed column topic and we will get back to you ASAP.

---

### RELATED STORIES





HUMANITIES

**The scar of domestic violence** [more](#)



NEW BOOKS

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

[top^](#)



## New Books

[Back to story index](#)

### Creativity in Engineering

Creativity in engineering is the subject of a new book by internationally recognised expert in creativity and innovation, Associate Professor David Cropley.

Titled *Creativity in Engineering: Novel Solutions to Complex Problems*, the book explains why creativity forms a vital part of the engineering problem solving – that is, the design – process.

Assoc Prof Cropley says the book begins by considering the impact of the Soviet Union's launch of Sputnik I in October 1957.

"This event was pivotal in sparking interest in the relationship between creativity and engineering," he says.

"The launch of Sputnik I heralded not only the start of the Space Race, but also triggered a series of actions and outcomes that first linked creativity to engineering in a systematic and scientific manner.

"The Sputnik Shock, as it has been called, led to a rigorous examination of the relationship between the creation of new products, processes, systems and services – technological creativity – and economic prosperity of the kind that underpins modern societies.

"The reaction of the western world to the launch of Sputnik I was not only quantitative – that is, we need more engineers to compete with the Soviets – but also a qualitative one – we need better, more creative engineers in order to compete."

Assoc Prof Cropley says this qualitative explanation led to a focus on the psychology of creativity in the domain of engineering.

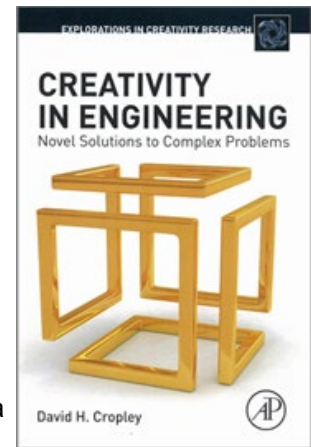
However, after a burst of enthusiasm in the 1960s, the interest in engineering creativity waned.

*Creativity in Engineering: Novel Solutions to Complex Problems* reconnects creativity, psychology and engineering, examining the personal properties that favour the generation of creative outputs, as well as the cognitive processes, the product characteristics, and the organisational factors that support engineering creativity.

The book ends by looking at the important issue of embedding creativity in the process of educating engineers.

Assoc Prof Cropley is also featuring in the second series of *Redesign My Brain* on ABC in 2015.

*Creativity in Engineering: Novel Solutions to Complex Problems* is published by Academic Press and is available to purchase through [Amazon](#).

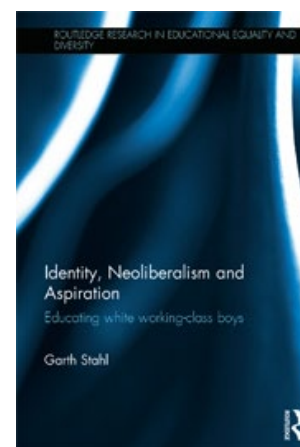


### Identity, Neoliberalism and Education: Educating white working-class boys

New research from UniSA is indicating that boys from poor, white backgrounds are making a clear choice to turn off from school education.

The results of a significant study into poor schoolboys in the UK between 2009 and 2010 are the focus of a new book from UniSA education researcher Dr Garth Stahl titled *Identity, Neoliberalism and Education: Educating white working-class boys*.

Dr Stahl says the plummeting educational achievement of working class, white boys – the lowest achievement level of all groups of students - has become an issue of global



concern.

His research shows that boys from low socio-economic backgrounds are disengaging from school education, partly in response to wider prejudices about them that exist in the community and the often poorly-resourced schools they attend.

The qualitative research stands as one of the few investigative research projects to examine the issues so deeply.

Using a visual methodology, Dr Stahl captured responses from 23 white working class boys in South London in their final years of compulsory schooling concerning their ideas about gender and social class.

His book explores issues around social class, notions of male identity and stereotypes, and challenges a system and society where working class boys are characterised as difficult and psychologically abnormal.

“These boys are stereotyped as unlikely to succeed and they are fully aware not only of their own disadvantage, but also the full range of prejudices that mark them as lower class,” Dr Stahl says.

“Their response is to choose to disengage. They feel they are playing a no-win game, caught between stigma and risk.

“And while they fear academic failure, they also fear academic success because it may catapult them into a future where they would never feel truly comfortable or accepted.

“As poor, low-social status boys, they believe they will never belong in an environment of success and privilege and that they don’t really want to be part of a group that enshrines that kind of inequality.

“For these boys the safest option seems to be to try to get a job and create an identity aligned to defiant egalitarianism.

“Furthermore, they dis-identified with being ‘the best of the best’, instead they expressed how they valued loyalty to peers and family. Egalitarianism is how they make themselves feel valuable in schools which de-values them.”

Dr Stahl says the research also shows that calls for relatively superficial adjustments to the education system, such as longer teaching days or parachuting star teachers into disadvantaged schools, will be unlikely to make inroads into what he sees as a much broader and deeper social problem.

“What I have learned is that boys will create and constitute an identity and a values system for themselves, even within environments that devalue them,” Dr Stahl says.

“But that perception of being less valuable has an enduring influence on the kind of identity these boys create for themselves and their educational aspirations and outcomes.”

Published by Routledge, the new hardcover book is can be ordered by contacting [Emma Hinde](#) or through [Amazon](#).

## RELATED STORIES



**More progress needed on**



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



**equal pay and gender  
diversity** [more](#)

[top^](#)

[Disclaimer](#) | [Copyright](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Web accessibility](#) | [CRICOS Provider no 00121B](#) | [Contact UniSA](#)  
[Site help](#) | [Open Day](#) | [UniSA Events Calendar](#) | [Read this page](#)

Latest content revision:Thursday, 23 March 2017



**University of  
South Australia**

## In Pictures

[Back to story index](#)



(L) The Colour of Time Parade. (R) Internationally renowned environmental thinker & campaigner Dr Vandana Shiva and UniSA's own Environmental Sciences Professor, Paul Sutton pictured before the Valuing Our Planet Planet Talks session.



(L) UniSA researcher Emily Johnston paints her baby bump. (R) Getting green inspiration backstage before the Eco-homes Planet Talks session: UniSA's Dr Robert Crocker, Martin Freney and Rob Kelvin.



This month UniSA presented WOMADelaide's 2015 Planet Talks, a series of panel sessions and hands-on workshops that focused on sustainability and the environment.

UniSA researchers Professor Chris Daniels, Professor Paul Sutton, Dr Evangeline Mantzioris, Dr Robert Crocker and lecturer Martin Freney all took part in the Planet Talks, joining an impressive line-up of speakers that included former Greens party leader Bob Brown, renowned oceanographer Sylvia Earle and TV personality Andrew Denton.



Tracey Inglis' photography at the 2014 Adelaide Fringe Festival.

UniSA staff member Tracey Inglis, who works in the Human Resources Unit, has taken out the #BankSAEyeWitness competition. Inglis, who won the competition because of her creative and original photography, was given tickets to attend the Adelaide Fringe Festival regularly to take photos for BankSA's social media platforms. To see more of Inglis' photos, search for #BankSAEyeWitness on Instagram and Facebook.

[top^](#)

## Welcoming the class of 2015

[Back to story index](#)



INSIDE UNISA

More than 8000 people began their UniSA experience this year with O-Week kicking off the journey for many of the commencing students.

From February 23 to 27, each UniSA campus hosted their own Campus Day while every student also got the chance to attend a Program Day, designed to introduce the academic requirements of specific programs and allow students to meet the peers and staff who they will work with over the coming years.

UniSA's own Dr Collette Snowden shed light on some of the iconic events and cultural references that have shaped many of the commencing students. According to the communications researcher, the Class of 2015 – who, if they started university straight out of high school, were born in 1997 – share their birth year with the release of the first book in the Harry Potter series.

"The magic of Harry Potter and the magic of mobile communication are hallmarks of the lived experience of many of the students starting university this year," she says.

"Lecturers and tutors will do well to recognise that the cultural icons this class grew up with are a world away from their own.

"We are all marked and influenced by our times. We can never assume shared understandings and meanings. By being aware of that we have better starting points for learning and a better idea of what will have meaning for each year of students that we teach.

"The years from 1997 have seen communications technologies develop at high velocity. Playfully that kicked off with the craze for Tamagotchi in 1997 – a preparation for a lifetime of button pushing and urgent responding to devices.

"But in the same year, internal antenna appeared in mobile handsets setting a precedent for lighter, more compact devices, including the first clamshell phone; Palm Pilot released the first affordable Personal Digital Assistant (PDA); and it was also the year that the first image from a camera in a mobile phone was transmitted –



an initial step into the world of the selfie.

“From the magic wands of Harry Potter to the ‘wand of narcissus’, their lives have been dominated by personalised technology.”

To read more about the Class of 2015, go to the related [media release](#).

To see all the photo highlights from O-Week, go to the UniSA [Facebook page](#).

# So who are you?

## A snapshot of new UniSA students in 2015

### Personal Particulars



**8,277**

Commencing  
students



**Jessica**

Most common  
female name



**Matthew**

Most common  
male name



**127**

Student birthdays  
in O-Week

### Average Ages



**16**

Age of  
youngest student



**77**

Age of  
oldest student



**22**

Average age of  
undergraduate  
students



**30**

Average age of  
postgraduate  
students



**32**

Average age of  
higher degree by  
research students

### Top 5 Home Countries



- 1 Australia
- 2 China
- 3 India
- 4 Hong Kong
- 5 Malaysia



[top^](#)