Building a healthier future
The Lumen masthead is derived from the University of Adelaide motto “Sub Cruce Lumen” meaning ‘light under the [Southern] Cross’.

Today, almost 140 years since our establishment, the University of Adelaide community is united in its quest for discovery and the light of new knowledge.

I mproving health care delivery through quality education and innovative research has been a key focus of the University of Adelaide since our early foundation days.

In this edition of Lumen we look at how our traditional medical teaching model is evolving and feature some of the groundbreaking research areas being pursued by University alumni across a wide range of health-related fields.

The new Clinical School building at the West End Health Precinct marks a new era in the linking of medical science and clinical practice and highlights how far we have come in our efforts to achieve a coordinated multidisciplinary program.

Our alumni are making a difference locally and globally by applying their different specialist health-related skills. For example, Lucky Giirre, is using her double degree in Health Sciences and Law for an interdisciplinary approach to improving health at a population and community level. Hers is a remarkable story because Lucky is a Somali refugee who could only dream of attending university. She’s an example of how many students we have from different cultural backgrounds in the University community.

Each year around 2500 international students begin their studies at the University of Adelaide and, like Lucky, they have a cultural transition to make. In 2014, we will be launching Experience Adelaide, a new program that will support a personal and meaningful connection between our Adelaide alumni families and our incoming international students. Having a host family can be a transforming experience for both the student and the alumni family. Alumni participation will be crucial to the success of this program and I look forward to your support.

Professor Warren Bebbington
Vice-Chancellor and President
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Front cover image:
Professor Justin Beilby, Executive Dean of Health Sciences, at the proposed site for the new Clinical School building.

Photo by James Field
Building a new era in health education
A combined teaching facility for the schools of Medicine and Nursing in the city’s West End is designed to place the University of Adelaide at the forefront of international health education.

The new Clinical School building for Medicine and Nursing is being created in the heart of the South Australian Health and Biomedical Precinct (SAHBP) and modelled on some of the world’s leading university hospital precincts.

The initiative is helping to transform the city’s West End in North Terrace into a world-class clinical hub, building on more than 130 years of collaboration of the Royal Adelaide Hospital (RAH).

Faculty of Health Sciences Executive Dean, Professor Justin Beilby, said the West End development will take collaborative learning to the next level, supporting over 1500 students and 1000 clinicians and researchers.

“While we have long moved away from the traditional health teaching model to a curriculum that now links science and clinical exposure up front, these new facilities mean we can also, where practical, link medicine and nursing to build a team-based care system we want for the health system of the future,” he said.

“It’s extremely important to us that students and other key stakeholders continue to inform the co-creation process to ensure we are building facilities that will truly facilitate learning models that resonate with our students while still maintaining our famed academic rigour and ensuring our students are work-ready prior to graduation.”

The Faculty of Health Sciences expects to reap benefits across all programs and schools. Initiatives include:

> The introduction of inter-professional learning to improve outcomes in areas such as communication, infection control, ethics and Indigenous health.
> New teaching techniques involving online media, simulations and small group learning.
> State-of-the-art wet and dry laboratory space with the ability to link new research to clinical practice.

Professor Beilby said the University is working hard on the West End development to ensure the recreation of the positive culture that exists with the RAH in the current Frome Road precinct.

“It is important for the success of the precinct that there are strong design linkages between the new RAH, the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI), the University of Adelaide and UniSA, and that there is a flow that draws us all together—not just as four separate buildings.

“The West End may not have the Botanic Gardens, but it will have the river and integration with North Terrace and the CBD which will enrich the life and activity within the precinct.”

He said the University is designing an environment where health and medical research intersects with students and the community, where researchers, clinicians and students bump into each other in shared spaces, cafes and facilities, and where the community is drawn in, not shut out by a closed door.

“We are all excited by the opportunity to train students across disciplines in a future-focused curriculum that will improve health and patient care in South Australia.”

Dean of Nursing, Professor Alison Kitson, said the co-location will provide opportunity for high quality inter-professional learning in key areas such as clinical skills and simulation, and some common teaching of generic clinical knowledge.

She stressed the importance of the West End development to work as an enabler for the more effective translation of new knowledge into clinical practice.

“Doctors and nurses work closely together in clinical environments. Starting that networking during study and, where appropriate, delivering learning and simulated environments they are likely to experience in the workforce while still at University makes a lot of sense,” she said.

“In the end it’s all about creating work-ready professionals who know how to use the best evidence in everyday practice.”

Professor Alistair Burt, Dean of Medicine, said the new clinical skills training facilities, simulation capabilities and digital learning platforms for students, and the wet and dry laboratory facilities for researchers, are all very exciting.

“Co-location in the building of different research groups and the close proximity of the building with the new Royal Adelaide Hospital and SAHMRI will inevitably encourage cross fertilisation of ideas and increase interdisciplinary research,” he said.

“We strongly believe that the integration of teaching and research is crucial for our discovery-led medical program. Our students will increasingly be exposed to world-beating clinical research, enhancing their enthusiasm and involvement in translational medicine.”

The West End development will be the largest of the seven Faculty of Health Sciences’ seven precincts; the West End precinct, Frome Road, North Terrace, the Women’s and Children’s Hospital, the Lyell McEwin Hospital, the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and Rural and Remote Areas.

The Federal Government is providing $60 million towards the cost of the project which will be ready for students in 2017.

“We are all excited by the opportunity to train students across disciplines in a future-focused curriculum that will improve health and patient care in South Australia.”

Left (from left): Professor Alastair Burt, Professor Alison Kitson, Professor Justin Beilby and Professor Alistair Burt.

Photo by James Field.
The Class of 1980
Shaping the future of medical teaching

Former classmates Justin Beilby, Randall Faull, Guy Maddern and Bill Griggs could never have imagined 33 years ago that they would end up working together on one of the state’s largest and most significant transformations in medical training.
Together, these University of Adelaide graduates are helping to shape the historic move of the Schools of Medicine and Nursing to the new South Australian Health and Biomedical Precinct (SAHBP) in the city’s West End.

After graduating, all four went on to further study and research in different areas, and between them they have earned countless awards and recognition for their work. Today, they hold multiple senior roles in clinical practice as well as at the University.

They also share the desire to create the best possible health care system for South Australia and are passionately pursuing this goal.

Professor Beilby specialised in general practice and health system reform and is still consulting today. He was one of ten commissioners in the National Hospital and Health Reform Commission in 2008–09.

He is also the Executive Dean for the Faculty of Health Sciences, overseeing teaching and research across medicine, medical sciences, nursing, dentistry, health sciences, psychology and public health.

Associate Professor Griggs, inspired through his work as a paramedic throughout his degree, specialised in anaesthesia, intensive care and aviation medicine which led him into trauma, retrieval and disaster recovery.

He is now the Director of Trauma Services and Senior Consultant at the RAH, Director, Retrieval Coordination for MedSTAR Emergency Medical Retrieval, the South Australian State Controller (Health and Medical) for disasters, and a Group Captain in the Royal Australian Air Force Specialist Reserve (Medical).

Professor Maddern also continued in academia after his first degree before being appointed Chair of Surgery at The Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

He is currently Director of the Basil Hetzel Research Institute and Director of Surgery at the QEH and the RAH, Head of Surgery and Coordinator of Rural Surgical Services at the University of Adelaide, and Surgical Director, Australian Safety and Efficacy Register of New Interventional Procedures—Surgical, at the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons.

Professor Faull specialised in nephrological practice with a particular interest in kidney transplantation. He is now Deputy Dean and Director of the Medical Program and is a Senior Consultant in Nephrology at the Royal Adelaide Hospital (RAH).

While all took different career paths after graduation, Professor Faull remembers that as students they were all “studious, actively involved in University life and slightly mischievous, but not naughty or notorious.”

When commenting on how the Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) program had changed since 1980, Associate Professor Griggs said: “It was easier then because they hadn’t invented as much medicine.”

Professor Maddern said in 1980 the environment was a lot less regulated with fewer rules, no police checks and less complex bureaucracies. “Students are now more focused on getting academic outcomes and a little less focused on soaking up the student experience.

“It was much more of a group experience; we were thrown in it together and often had long periods of time where we virtually lived in the hospitals during our training, which seems to have changed a lot.”

Professor Faull said there have been positive changes in the way students interact within the course, including how they relate to each other.

“We hardly had anything to do with people in years above or below...apart from playing football or similar, whereas now the students have a lot more interaction between years, not just socially but they actually teach each other and provide a lot of support,” he said.

“Back in our day, the thought that a student would sit on a committee and help decide how the course is run was completely foreign. Now they have much more involvement and can help make changes.”

Professor Faull said the University’s planned new building for the Schools of Medicine and Nursing in the new SAHBP has the potential to be an internationally recognised, true academic precinct and centre for excellence, and will transform healthcare, research and education in South Australia.

“People from all over the world want to go to some institutions...to work or to study because they know they’re great places to be and if we can pull that off, that would be a fantastic outcome,” Professor Faull said.

Professor Maddern said the development gives the University an opportunity to redesign the way it interacts with the Royal Adelaide Hospital and be the principal driver of improvements in healthcare.

“At the moment there is no large hospital in Australia that can claim to be a truly academic hospital, so we have the opportunity to set up the right approaches and the right people to make us unique.”

Professor Beilby said building a new integrated facility is a unique opportunity and he is excited by the vision.

“There will be over 1000 students coming in and out of the building having cups of coffee and conversations about their shared teaching across Medicine and Nursing and they’ll see the new building as their home,” he said.

“And they will bump into the key research leaders who are working there or in SAHMRI, as well as their parents, friends and the community.

“The University of Adelaide will be very much a part of this precinct with our stamp on its research and teaching prowess.”
Building pathways to good health

In this issue we take a look at the achievements of five Medicine and Health Sciences graduates who have found success in distinctly different fields.

Lucky Giirre has combined her studies in Health Sciences with a Law degree to pursue work in reducing social isolation faced by Muslim and refugee communities in South Australia.

Nola Pearce took her experience as a critical care nurse to the world of trauma simulation training where she provides realistic injury make-up for emergency and combat scenarios.

Elizabeth Harford-Wright turned a Health Sciences degree into PhD research with ground-breaking results—a discovery that will improve the quality of life for brain tumour patients.

Tom Smith, an Oxford-based aerospace medical specialist, has undertaken research in the world’s highest town to look at the impact of low oxygen levels on the heart and lungs.

And Kate Gunn has developed a cancer support website to help people in rural areas affected by the disease. She works closely with cancer patients and their families in her role as a psychologist.

This varied group of outstanding alumni demonstrates a commitment to new knowledge that is having a direct impact on the lives of many.

Students graduating with a qualification from the University of Adelaide’s health and medical disciplines embark on a vast array of pathways across the health sector.
Some 10 years later, Lucky, a Somali refugee, has a double degree in Health Sciences and Law and is working towards her goal of achieving an interdisciplinary approach to improving health at a population and community level.

“My health sciences degree was the reason that I became interested in pursuing a law degree,” Lucky says. “While I was learning about proximal and distal determinants of health, I realised that there needs to be a holistic approach to good health. It shaped how I saw the problems of social isolation and other issues in the diverse Muslim and refugee communities in South Australia.”

This passion for public health also led Lucky to establish the Muslim Girls Kollective—a grass-roots initiative in its fifth year of operation that provides opportunities and activities aimed at young Muslim and refugee women in South Australia.

“The work that I do with the girls’ group aims to build resilience and empower young women to change their own situation as well as reducing social isolation,” Lucky says.

In August 2013, Lucky travelled to New York to attend The United Nations Alliance of Civilizations and Education First (UNAOC-EF) Summer School where she represented Australia as a youth ambassador.

She describes it as a life-changing experience and an amazing privilege and opportunity.

“The UNAOC-EF Summer School will forever stay with me as one of my most profound and impactful life experiences,” Lucky says.

“Making friendships with 100 activists and global leaders has broadened my world view and my understanding of what it means to be human in our diverse and complex world. The experience has recharged me and my initiative to continue working to make our world a better place for all.”

As well as running the Muslim Girls Kollective, Lucky is also employed as a legal advocate with the National Union of Workers and credits her university degrees with giving her a good foundation for pursuing her career goals.

“I developed transferable skills such as excellent research skills, attention to detail and being able to write project proposals and funding applications, which gave me the practical skills to be able to effectively implement my initiatives,” Lucky says.

“I consider myself a lifelong learner and I hope to pursue postgraduate study in the legal field in the future.”

A campus tour of the University of Adelaide and meeting other students from refugee backgrounds was enough for Lucky Giirre to realise that her dream of attending university could become a reality.
Nola’s hands-on trauma training gets results

Graduating in 1997 among the first group of critical care nurses to be trained at the University of Adelaide, Nola Pearce has gone on to apply her skills in a very unique field.

Through the use of trauma make-up (moulage), special effects and props, Nola creates realistic training scenarios to prepare medical and military personnel for emergency situations.

Having enjoyed her first attempts at basic moulage using play-dough and fake blood as a young St John Ambulance cadet, Nola later used similar techniques when training first aiders and medics.

But a lack of realism in emergency medical training in Australia led Nola to travel to the United States to undertake trauma simulation training. She was taught by experienced Hollywood special effects artists, moulage technicians and army medics.

“The US takes trauma simulation very seriously,” says Nola. “Hospital funding is linked to their staff undertaking a required amount of scenario training activities each year, both internally and within the community.”

Returning to Australia, Nola founded TraumaSim, a company offering trauma simulation training.

“Over the past three years I have had the amazing experience of providing moulage and medical training equipment to the Australian Army,” she says.

These mission-rehearsal exercises typically lasted for around three weeks with soldiers training in a partially scripted scenario.

“The challenge for the military contractor was to get us into the scenario without the trainees realising what was about to happen. For example, something may be going to explode and injure people,” she says.

“For a middle-aged petite woman who had previously worked in the air-conditioned comfort of the public hospital system, this was a very major change.”

Working as an intensive care nurse for many years before and after her graduation, Nola says that her nursing career and university qualification continue to help in her career.

“This work requires a thorough understanding of the human body, illness and injury,” says Nola. “My medical background is a large point of difference between TraumaSim and other special effects make-up artists.”

Nola’s other role is in research and development—creating new training aids and different ways to simulate wounds, and learning new techniques from the special effects world.

“I love that my work is kind of weird and gross to many people but I do believe that it makes a huge difference in emergency training.

“I’ve met up with many soldiers who after their time in Afghanistan have said that we really did prepare them well.”

Above: Nola Pearce applying moulage to a ‘SimMan’ manikin for an Army training activity in Queensland

story by Genevieve Sanchez
PhD breakthrough for brain tumour treatment

PhD graduate Elizabeth Harford-Wright is planning to hone her research skills in Paris after a breakthrough that has the potential to improve the quality of life for brain tumour patients.

Her three-year PhD study into neuropeptides has received widespread attention and will be used by other PhD and Honours students at the University of Adelaide to explore possible brain tumour treatments.

Elizabeth arrived at the University nearly 10 years ago with an interest in psychology before enrolling in a Bachelor of Health Sciences.

“I had access to a broad range of subjects and academics—it made me think about career paths that I would never have thought of before,” she said.

Elizabeth’s PhD focused on the relationship between brain tumours and a neuropeptide called substance P which is associated with inflammation in the brain.

“In conditions such as traumatic brain injury and stroke, it contributes to swelling of the brain and increased permeability of the blood vessels,” says Elizabeth.

“We discovered that this peptide was increased in different tumour types so we thought that it might be playing a role in tumour growth.”

Elizabeth used an antagonist drug called Emend®—normally used to help patients with chemotherapy-induced nausea—to block substance P.

“When we blocked it, it reduced the viability of these tumour cells and stopped the tumours themselves from growing. It was pretty exciting stuff,” says Elizabeth.

“When you hear from people who are having a really tough time it feels pretty good that you’re doing something that might help so many.”

Professor Robert Vink, Head of School, Medical Sciences and NRF Chair of Neurosurgical Research, says Elizabeth’s research is the first study to show what role the neuropeptide might play in brain tumour growth.

“This is a remarkable finding that has the clear potential to significantly improve the quality of life in brain tumour patients,” he says.

“Our research in brain tumours is supported by funding from the Neurosurgical Research Foundation (NRF). Without this support, it would not have been possible for Elizabeth and the other young researchers in my laboratory to pursue these studies.”

Elizabeth is looking forward to the next phase of her career—a postdoctoral position at the Institut Cochin in Paris. Her research will involve looking at molecular and cellular interactions in a type of brain tumour, glioblastoma.

“I think it’s an integral part of a research career to see what skills and techniques they have in other places,” she says.

“I am very excited as it will allow me to build upon the skills I developed during my PhD in an area I am very passionate about, as well as looking forward to the opportunity to live and work in Paris!”

Below: Dr Elizabeth Harford-Wright
Photo by David Ellis
Rhodes Scholar still flying high
Aerospace medical specialist and Oxford-based researcher Dr Tom Smith has devoted his career to that very question.

The 2000 medical graduate, 2003 Rhodes Scholar and NASA-trained clinician-scientist has scaled some lofty heights over the past 12 years, researching the impact of low oxygen levels at high altitudes on the heart and lungs.

His field research has taken him to the Peruvian Andes for experiments with residents living in the world’s highest town, Cerro de Pasco situated at 4340 metres above sea level, and comparing their heart and lung physiology with sea-level dwellers from Lima.

Many of Cerro de Pasco’s residents live with chronic mountain sickness because of their failure to adjust to low oxygen levels. They develop problems such as excessive production of red blood cells (polycythaemia) and excessive lung blood pressure (pulmonary hypertension), resulting in a shorter life span.

The Peruvian study confirmed earlier laboratory tests which revealed the important role of iron in maintaining healthy lungs by moderating blood pressure increases when oxygen levels are low.

“If iron levels are low, this can increase the risk on individuals at high altitudes,” Tom said.

“Volunteers from the mountain community whose iron levels were reduced via blood donations experienced a significant increase in blood pressure in their lungs.

“The healthy volunteers from Lima, however, who received intravenous iron had the opposite effect. The iron reversed much of the increase in lung blood pressure that was caused by the low oxygen.”

Clinical trials are now under way to determine whether patients with certain lung diseases can benefit from treatment with iron.

In another study, Tom is currently investigating whether a similar link exists between Vitamin C levels and lung physiology. Study participants in London are being infused with ascorbate while enclosed in a large altitude chamber to test body responses to low oxygen.

When it comes to air travel, the good news is that the risks appear to be relatively low for healthy people.

“Oxygen is only mildly reduced during commercial airline flights,” Tom said. “However, for medically-susceptible passengers with certain lung diseases, airline travel can be potentially dangerous.”

Tom graduated with an MBBS from the University of Adelaide in 2000. In 2002, he won a Churchill Fellowship to study aerospace medicine at NASA’s Kennedy Space Centre in the United States. He completed his PhD at the University of Oxford where he is now based, working as an academic clinical lecturer and researcher.

Tom Smith’s field research has taken him to the Peruvian Andes for experiments with residents living in the world’s highest town.

Commercial flying has become a routine mode of travel for millions of people around the world – but have you ever wondered what happens to your physiological make-up when you board that flight?

NASA comes knocking on Tom’s door

The world’s leading space agency—NASA—has contracted Adelaide medical graduate Dr Tom Smith to undertake a research project measuring tissue oxygen levels in weightlessness.

The Oxford-based aerospace medical specialist will test a new monitor in a series of parabolic flight profiles to mimic a weightless environment, identical to that encountered in space.

“The program with NASA is intended to support the human space flight program to see if it is helpful for their astronauts,” Dr Smith said.

“There is already some evidence to suggest that oxygen levels are a bit lower in the body in a weightless environment and that may not be a good thing,” he said.

As part of the experiment, Dr Smith will conduct measurements during parabolic aircraft flights with NASA in 2014.

To hear Dr Tom Smith talk about this project, his education at the University of Adelaide and his current work at the University of Oxford, go to: www.alumni.adelaide.edu.au/tomvideo
Kate’s passion for assisting people diagnosed with the disease in rural communities prompted her to develop the Country Cancer Support website as part of her PhD.

“I grew up on a sheep, wheat and barley property in South Australia, 650 kilometres from Adelaide,” says Kate. “From that community I watched people struggle with the challenges a diagnosis of cancer brings, particularly when it is accompanied by isolation and the need to travel for medical treatment.

“With these experiences in mind, I chose to conduct my PhD research on how the social, emotional and practical needs of rural cancer patients could be better addressed.”

This led to the development of www.countrycancersupport.com.au which is now run by Cancer Council SA.

Kate’s had a busy few years. In-between attending and presenting at international conferences in Brisbane, Budapest and Berlin, spending time at the United Kingdom’s major cancer support service in London and completing clinical placements in Clare and Melbourne, she has managed to complete a Master of Psychology (Clinical) and a PhD.

She was awarded a Dean’s Commendation for her PhD research, she was the mace bearer at her graduation ceremony in September and also won the Rural Doctors Workforce Agency Rural Health Award.

Then, to add to her growing list of accomplishments, Kate received the prestigious 2013 Premier’s Young Achiever of the Year Award for South Australia.

“Being nominated was a great honour, and then to go on and win the award from such a strong field of nominees was, and continues to be, a real thrill,” she says.

Kate splits her time working at both the Royal Adelaide Hospital Cancer Centre and Cancer Council SA.

“My role as a psychologist in the RAH Cancer Centre is to help support people affected by cancer to cope with the many challenges that it often brings,” she says. “This includes things like adjusting to the news of their diagnosis, how to speak to family about their condition, how to cope with the emotional side of treatment and how to manage feelings of grief and loss.”

In her other role as a Research Project Coordinator at Cancer Council SA, Kate is working on a randomised control trial to test the effectiveness of telephone-based intervention to support the carers of cancer patients.

“I see it as a real privilege to be able to work with people through what is often a very challenging period of their lives and find doing so both rewarding and uplifting.”

Dr Kate Gunn
Photo by Chris Tonkin

Easing the burden for rural cancer patients

Cancer sufferers and their carers from remote areas of South Australia are receiving vital information and support online thanks to a clever initiative developed by PhD graduate, Dr Kate Gunn.
Building a family dynasty

For more than 100 years the Verco family—headed by Sir Joseph Cooke Verco—has been a towering influence on medicine, dentistry and the University of Adelaide.
I n 1840, a young stonemason named James Crabb Verco arrived in Adelaide to help build the new colony of South Australia.

Nearly 175 years later, his contribution to the State can be measured in far more than mere bricks and mortar. He began a family dynasty which over the generations has made a huge contribution to South Australia through its strong links with the University of Adelaide.

More than 15 direct descendants have earned qualifications from the University, with the majority of those coming from the fields of medicine and dentistry.

The broader family contains many other distinguished Adelaide names including Margaret, McMichael and Ludbrook, and not least of all J. Robin Warren, who graduated in medicine in 1961 before going on to win the Nobel Prize in Medicine in 2005.

James’ fourth son, Sir Joseph Cooke Verco, was closely involved with the University through his involvement in both medicine and dentistry.

But it was a contribution that nearly did not happen: he left school at the age of 16 and began work as a clerk in the railways at Kapunda.

He quickly realised it was not the type of career he had envisaged and returned to school and studied classics before matriculating.

After studying medicine in London for most of the 1870s, he returned to Adelaide in 1878 to pursue his career—a move that coincided with the rise of the newly formed University.

In 1885, along with Edward Stirling, he helped found the University of Adelaide Medical School, a move made possible with funding from Sir Thomas Elder and Mr J.H. Angas.

Sir Joseph’s nephew, William Alfred, was one of the first graduates from the new Medical School in 1890. But reprising his family’s masonry past, in 1912 he helped build the first pre-stressed concrete building in Adelaide, with the engineer being none other than General Sir John Monash.

Located at the corner of North Terrace and Stephens Place, the Verco Building was six stories high and remained Adelaide’s tallest building for some 20 years. Sir Joseph also played a major role in establishing the University’s Dental School after World War I, acting as Dean from 1920 to 1928. At the time he was also Dean of Medicine.

These twin streams of medicine and dentistry have continued to intertwine with the Verco family ever since.

Several of James Crabb Verco’s grandchildren went on to make significant contributions in both fields. Stanley and Peter Verco were pioneers in radiology, and Dr Peter Joseph Willis (Joe) Verco was the first graduate of the University in the specialty of Paediatric Dentistry, and just the second in Australia.

Joe is also the only dentist to have been awarded a Baillieu Medical Research Grant for postgraduate work.

His two brothers, Christopher and William, both have medical qualifications from the University—Medicine and Dentistry respectively—while his son Sam also obtained a dental and medical degree and is now specialising in oral and maxillo-facial surgery.

“We are obviously proud of our name and those that have come before us, and that there are expectations,” Joe Verco said.

“But I think it’s equally as gratifying that we can give back in other ways. Three generations of Vercos served across the Australian Defence Forces in the major wars of the 20th century.

“Some of our patients have also gone on to become doctors and dentists. It is gratifying to see that for those who follow, we can help to shape their professional career paths.”

Below left (from left): brothers Chris, Joe and William (right) Verco with Joe’s son, Sam (second from right)

Below: The Verco family at the dinner to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the University’s Medical School in 2010: MaryLou, Annette, Joe, Sam, William, Patty, and Rose and Roger Boucault
New body to boost Dental School

A new professional networking and fundraising arm for dentistry has been established through a partnership involving the Faculty of Health Sciences, the Dental School, University Engagement and South Australia’s dental profession.

The Dental Research and Education Fund (DREF) replaces the former SA Foundation for Dental Education and Research (SAFDER).

Over the past 21 years, SAFDER has raised more than $4 million for the Dental School through donations from dentists, dental supply industry groups and the South Australian Government.

Earlier this year, DREF members were given a glimpse of the future of dental education when Federal MP Kate Ellis opened the University’s new $6-million Dental Simulation Clinic.

The group reconvened in Hub Central to hear Professors Justin Beilby (Executive Dean, Health Sciences) and Johann de Vries (Dean of Dentistry) celebrate the past achievements of SAFDER and to welcome the new DREF.

For more information visit http://ow.ly/pPoq8

Below: Federal MP Kate Ellis talks to a student at the opening of the Dental Simulation Clinic

Vercos with University of Adelaide qualifications*

Sir Joseph Cooke Verco, co-founder of Adelaide Medical and Dental Schools
Dr William A Verco (MBBS 1893)
Dr Reginald John Verco (MBBS 1907)
Dr J Stanley Verco (MBBS 1913)
Dr Ron Verco (MBBS 1928)
Dr Geoffrey Verco (MBBS 1937)
Dr Luke Verco (MBBS 1940)
Dr Peter W. Verco (MBBS 1940, MD 1942)
Dr Patricia Verco Wyllie (MBBS 1965)
Dr Christopher J Verco (MBBS 1972)
Dr P Joseph W Verco (BDS 1973, BSc (Dent) Hons. 1975, MDS 1977)
Dr William J Verco (BDS 1976)
Dr Rose Verco (MPubHlth 1993)
Dr Samuel Joseph Verco (BDS 2001)
Penny Verco (B Ag Sc – Hons 2002)
Annabel Verco (B Com (Acc) 2003, LLB Hons. 2005)
Susanna Verco (B Ag Sc 2006, Grad Dip Ed 2007)

This list is a representation of Verco graduates and is not a complete listing.

Top: Joseph Stanley Verco (far right)—nephew of Sir Joseph Cooke, and grandfather of Joe, Chris, William and Rose—pictured with his graduating University of Adelaide medical class in 1913.

Above left: Dr Joe Verco presenting Isaac Liau with the 2010 Sir Joseph Verco Memorial Prize, which is awarded annually to a final year Bachelor of Dental Surgery student who has made an outstanding contribution to the School as an undergraduate.

*This article is mailed to all University of Adelaide Alumni members. For more information visit the University of Adelaide Alumni website.
Q&A

The new face of engagement
Kate Robertson’s appointment to the new position of Chief Engagement Officer is part of the University of Adelaide’s commitment to strengthen connections with our alumni and the community.

In her previous role, Kate led the University of Nottingham’s biggest ever fundraising campaign which has so far raised almost United Kingdom £100 million ($172 million) including a gift of UK £12 million ($18 million), the largest corporate gift for higher education in the UK outside Oxford and Cambridge.

In this Q&A, Kate talks about her desire to build thriving relationships between the University of Adelaide and its supporters and how ‘giving back’ can come in many forms.

Q: What attracted you to this position and the University of Adelaide?

A: The ambition set out in the Strategic Plan really caught my attention—this is a University and a Vice-Chancellor with a real sense of direction.

To call a team an Engagement Branch also appealed to me—it seems a very innovative route to take: a whole branch that focuses on engagement. Fundraising is part of it, but it’s a structure that recognises that many things are important, not just fundraising.

Q: The Chief Engagement Officer is a newly created position at the University; how would you describe the role?

A: At its heart it’s about building mutually beneficial relationships—those where the University can have influence and a positive impact on people’s lives. It’s also about seeking to engage with others who can add value and impact on the University and its future.

If we can find and develop relationships that can do both at the same time then we’ll be on a win-win basis.

Q: What will be your first point of business?

A: Listening—I really want to get out and meet people and hear their thoughts and aspirations both within but more importantly, outside the organisation.

The challenge will be to have a degree of objectivity and focus in the face of a job where the boundaries and priorities could easily become diffuse—there is no end to the possibilities of what we could do to better engage with our stakeholders but it’s right that we should be focused and savvy with the resources we have available.

Q: As Director of the Campaign and Alumni Relations Office at the University of Nottingham for the past four years, what have been some of your greatest successes?

A: Somebody said to me that my contribution had been around normalising philanthropy—I think I made it comfortable and acceptable to talk about and engage with philanthropy. It changed from being an area that few people were involved with, to something that the wider institution really embraced. That shift was very gratifying.

We also diversified the ways in which people could get involved with giving and tried to shift the balance from an over-emphasis on the University’s perspective, to thinking more about what is important to alumni and donors. We focused on what the impact of giving would be and unsurprisingly, the numbers and diversity of donors increased. For the first time, staff-giving really took off too.

I care really passionately about the fact that giving can come in lots of different forms—advice, advocacy, time, influence, in-kind—we need to give as much attention and care to all of those things as we do to the way in which we conduct ourselves in relation to philanthropic gifts.

Q: As an active member of the Life Cycle team at the University of Nottingham, you raised funds to support major causes such as Stroke Rehabilitation Research. How does this kind of initiative help you achieve your campaign goals?

A: The underlying idea for Life Cycle was to do something that was a stretch and demonstrated a commitment beyond the day job. In this case, giving up valuable time and agreeing to undergo a physically demanding challenge to raise money for one of our priority projects turned out to be one of the most important communication assets that we had. It said, almost literally, ‘We’re willing to go the extra mile for this cause. Will you?’ We also raised a lot of money; £750,000 across three bike rides (and 3500 miles)—a wonderful outcome for all that effort.

Q: What do you think is the importance of the University engaging with alumni and the wider community?

A: Our alumni can be found in all corners of the globe and are among our most valuable ambassadors. They have a vested interest in the University, its reputation and its future and play a vital role in upholding the institution’s values, traditions and contributing to its rich history. But they also play an important role in shaping our future. Engaging with our alumni and the wider community adds enormous insight, leverage and value to our activities. Advice, advocacy, influence, networks, time, financial support—these are all business-critical contributions that are entirely in tune with the University’s Beacon strategy.

Visit the University Engagement Website at www.alumni.adelaide.edu.au

Photo by James Field

Left: Kate Robertson

Visit the University Engagement Website at www.alumni.adelaide.edu.au
Distinguished Alumni Award

Making of a future Prime Minister

Newly appointed Visiting Honourable Professor in Politics, Julia Gillard, admits she was nervous and a tad overawed when she first stepped foot on campus at the University of Adelaide back in 1979.

Her first year was spent studying for her law and arts degree and quietly soaking up university life. “It was a big thing for me because I came from a family which didn’t have a family culture of going to university,” says the former Prime Minister.

But it was not long before the intellectual and political pursuits of university took hold. Her father was a keen Labor man and her arrival at university coincided with Malcolm Fraser’s ‘razor gang’ cuts which were targeting education.

Distinguished Alumni Award

Celebrating our distinguished alumni

Former Prime Minister Julia Gillard heads an impressive list of University of Adelaide alumni recognised in the 2013 Distinguished Alumni Awards.

The awards are held each year to acknowledge the successes of former and current students and staff who have made outstanding contributions in their particular fields.

Ms Gillard is joined in this year’s awards by another former politician, Natasha Stott Despoja, researchers Professor Roger Byard and Professor Oliver Mayo, and travel industry leader Phil Hoffmann.

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That, coupled with a new friendship with political activist Amanda Cornwall, daughter of future State Labor Minister John Cornwall, seeded a passion for politics which shaped her future. “I got involved with the campaign against the cutbacks and we had a little bit of success around the country with the cuts somewhat moderated as a result,” says Ms Gillard. “That was my first involvement and cutting of teeth in politics.” 

She became the first student president of the Adelaide University Union and her campaigning took her to Melbourne where she became President of the Australian Union of Students.

After an early career in law, Ms Gillard was elected to Parliament in 1998 and 12 years later was Australia’s first female Prime Minister.

She now plans to share her enormous wealth of experience on the international political stage in her new position as Visiting Professor in Politics at the University of Adelaide.

“I’m looking forward to doing some guest lecturing and hopefully I’ll be able to provide some insights into the active world of Australian politics from the perspective I had as Prime Minister,” says Ms Gillard.

“Over time I also definitely want to develop some sort of student internship, a program where someone can come and work with me in my capacity as a former Prime Minister at my co-located office at the University.

“And occasionally I’ll be involved in activities that take me overseas and I’ll be able to take the University’s case with me: ‘What a great University this is and what a great place to come and study.’”

Phil Hoffmann has become a national icon of the Australian travel industry over the past 30 years, building his own thriving business and fighting to improve best practice across the sector globally.

He graduated from the University with a Bachelor of Science Honours in 1968 and returned to undertake a Diploma of Education. It was an academic journey which impressed on him the importance of education and professionalism.

Early in his career he recognised the need for formal qualifications for the many thousands of people in the travel industry and became the driving force behind the establishment of the Australian Federation of Travel Agents Training System and College.

“It was the disciplined learning of science that helped me stay very focused with continuous training and education for the travel industry,” says Mr Hoffmann.

“Several lecturers and professors at university influenced my direction in life and that made me seek out my true passion.

“I fought hard for the industry to have good qualifications and I’ve always been passionate about staff development, which has helped in the success of Phil Hoffmann Travel.”

Mr Hoffmann’s vision for the industry has seen him elevated to leadership positions on various national travel and tourism bodies, including national president of AFTA for six years and four terms as chairman of the South Australian Tourism Commission.

In 1990, he established Phil Hoffmann Travel and has overseen its dynamic growth. Today the company employs 165 people at eight branches with an annual turnover of more than $120 million.

“I’m looking forward to doing some guest lecturing and hopefully I’ll be able to provide some insights into the active world of Australian politics from the perspective I had as Prime Minister,” says Ms Gillard.

“Over time I also definitely want to develop some sort of student internship, a program where someone can come and work with me in my capacity as a former Prime Minister at my co-located office at the University.

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Right: Phil and Alison Hoffmann
A research and mentoring passion

Professor Roger Byard is one of the world’s leading experts in forensic pathology, with one of the highest citation rates for any individual researcher in his field. A large body of his work has involved exploring issues related to sudden unexpected death at all stages of life, particularly in infancy and childhood.

Initially graduating at the University of Tasmania in 1978, he moved to Adelaide as a paediatric pathologist after postgraduate training in Canada and was awarded his Doctor of Medicine and Master of Medical Science at the University of Adelaide in the 1990s.

Professor Byard is currently the George Richard Marks Chair of Pathology at the University and also a Senior Specialist Forensic Pathologist at Forensic Science SA.

Widely published, his passion for research, mentoring and overall contribution to his profession has resulted in numerous awards and appointments. He is a Foundation Fellow of forensic pathology in colleges in the United Kingdom and Australia, and is a Registered Expert with the International Criminal Court in The Hague.

In 2004, Professor Byard was awarded the Public Service Medal (PSM) for outstanding public service to paediatric pathology and earlier this year he was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for distinguished service to medicine in the field of forensic pathology as an academic, researcher and practitioner, and through contributions to professional committees and organisations.

“I have always had a commitment to academic forensic pathology and feel that we have an obligation to take messages learnt in the mortuary back to the community, so that many of these tragic events can be prevented,” says Professor Byard.

“This is particularly so with babies and children. For this reason I have worked for many years in establishing ‘preventive pathology’ as a recognised field.”

Community work also takes up much of his time through involvement in numerous committees and his role as medical advisor to SIDS and KIDS SA.

He was on the disaster victim identification teams after the 2002 Bali bombings and in Thailand after the 2004 tsunami, services that earned him the Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal and the Australian Federal Police Operations Medal.

Left: Professor Roger Byard

Photo by Chris Tonkin

Pioneer of population

Professor Oliver Mayo is one of those rare intellectual talents capable of applying his formidable analytical skills across a multitude of scientific problems.

A trained statistician and geneticist, he has worked in human, plant and animal genetics, achieving significant breakthroughs in all disciplines.

Professor Mayo has maintained links with the University of Adelaide throughout his career since graduating in 1964 with a Bachelor of Science First Class Honours degree.

He returned to undertake a PhD in 1967 and pursued various other studies over the years, including a Bachelor of Arts in 2008. He has taken his research to several leading universities, including Oxford, and also the CSIRO.

In recent years, he headed a feasibility study which proved the viability of the new School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences at the University’s Roseworthy campus and he has since helped with the accreditation process.

“It was an activity which was great fun and intellectually demanding, and absolutely worthwhile in an educational and scientific sense,” says Professor Mayo.

“I was deeply enthusiastic about the vet school because it’s an opportunity to build a wonderful campus for the future with a high status central activity, building on existing research strengths in animal science and the fact that it’s an agricultural-related campus historically.”

By coincidence, one of the first graduates from the new school is a young cousin, Esther Mayo, who is following a long family tradition at the University. Medical practitioner George Mayo was associated with the University in its early years and the Mayo Refectory is named after benefactor Helen Mayo.
Removing barriers to education

Quality education for everyone—no matter what their background—has been a key motivator for Natasha Stott Despoja for as long as she can remember.

It’s a subject which fired her initial foray into politics at high school when she co-founded the first State Council of Students, and as a young Bachelor of Arts student at the University of Adelaide when higher education charges and HECS fees were being introduced.

Through her campaigning she became President of the University’s Students’ Association—and has been fighting for just causes ever since.

At 26 she became the youngest woman ever to enter the Australian Parliament and was the longest serving Democrat Senator in the party’s history before leaving in 2008 after almost 13 years.

“University was a very fertile political environment for me and in many respects a springboard into my political career,” says Ms Stott Despoja. “As a child, my mother imbued in me that there should be no financial disincentives to education and that’s always been one of my passions.”

As a politician, Ms Stott Despoja made a strong contribution in many policy areas and has continued her active public life as a board member of various non-profit organisations and through her media work. Most recently she was appointed national Chair of the Foundation to Prevent Violence Against Women and Their Children.

She has also renewed her connection with the University of Adelaide since 2008, as an Honorary Visiting Research Fellow and teaching politics at the Winter School with former Foreign Affairs Minister Alexander Downer.

And her commitment to education for everyone remains as strong as ever. For the past five years she has funded an undergraduate scholarship to support a financially disadvantaged female student of academic merit to study humanities full-time.

She was appointed Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in 2011.

To hear Natasha Stott Despoja talk about the scholarship she funds and how it is benefiting one of the recipients, go to: www.alumni.adelaide.edu.au/natashavideo

Below: Natasha Stott Despoja
Photo by David Marks

George and Jean Mayo, Professor Mayo’s uncle and aunt, were long-standing members of the Genetics Department.

Variously described as a ‘polymath’ and ‘Renaissance man’ by former colleagues, Professor Mayo’s main career achievements relate to evolutionary population genetics.

Other credits include helping to solve a long-standing controversy in statistics leading to global advances in the precision of field trials for plant breeding.

After retiring as Head of CSIRO Animal Production in 2000, he has remained active as an Honorary Research Fellow at the CSIRO and Adjunct Professor of Biometry at the University of Adelaide. He is currently Treasurer of the Australian Academy of Science.

Above: Professor Oliver Mayo
Photo by Chris Tonkin

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Stories by Ian Williams
Merging Chinese and western medicine
Numerous clinical studies in China indicate that these various herbal remedies work. But until now, no-one has gone to the trouble of finding out how.

That groundbreaking task has fallen to Professor David Adelson and his team at the University of Adelaide in a unique partnership with the Shanxi College of Traditional Chinese Medicine and the Zhendong Pharmaceutical Company.

For the first time Chinese and western scientists are combining their different areas of expertise to study how individual herbal compounds might be affecting the body at the molecular level and if there is any placebo effect.

The ultimate aim is a merging of western and traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) and new ways of fighting disease.

Professor Adelson is Director of the Zhendong Australia – China Centre for Molecular Traditional Chinese Medicine which has received millions of dollars in funding to pursue different lines of research.

“In China, they don’t have the same polarised viewpoints that we have in the west,” says Professor Adelson. “They may not know how traditional medicine works, but if they have evidence it does work they’ll use it.

“It’s partly a cultural thing and partly the fact that people have been using these remedies all their lives from their relatives or physicians.”

Significantly, western-trained doctors in China see no conflict in using both types of medicine and seem quite happy to work alongside their TCM counterparts.

“In the west we can’t just use something if we don’t know what it’s doing,” says Professor Adelson. “Our regulatory mechanisms state that we have to be able to state if and how it works and what are the side effects.

“This joint venture will provide us with a robust and scientific way of testing precisely that.”

Originally from the United States, Professor Adelson has lived in Australia with his family for about 20 years and has been Head of the School of Molecular and Biomedical Science at the University of Adelaide since 2007.

His initial research priorities at the new Zhendong centre involve studies of Chinese treatments for cancer and Type 2 diabetes. Until now no-one has investigated either treatments from a systems biology approach.

One area of research involves Compound Kushen Injection, a complex mixture of plant compounds produced by the Zhendong Pharmaceutical Company for treating bowel and liver cancer.

Extensive literature published in China indicates the compound has a palliative effect for patients.

“It certainly seems to be doing something, but the question is whether it’s causing the tumour to shrink and the pain to decrease, is it reducing inflammation and causing pain to decrease, or is it doing something completely different and causing the pain to decrease,” says Professor Adelson.

Preliminary data indicate elements in the mixture can influence key cancer pathways but because there are multiple compounds it’s difficult to know if they are doing different things or acting together.

The other area of research involves a plant commonly used in TCM for treating various ailments including Type 2 diabetes, a huge problem in both the west and China.

Evidence suggests that components extracted from the plant—which cannot be identified for commercial reasons—can affect pathways involved in impaired glucose coma.

“This is the first stage of Type 2 diabetes where you essentially cannot regulate glucose levels properly because the insulin response is affected,” says Professor Adelson.

“We’re very interested in trying to identify the particular pathways that this extract might be acting on and formulating a drug that can be used therapeutically.”

In addition to working together on both research areas, the partnership also extends to training.

Next year, Associate Professor Du Hong from the Beijing University of Chinese Medicine is expected to receive a visiting science scholarship for 12 months, and Dr Wang Wei, a scientist from the Zhendong Pharmaceutical Company, will also undertake work in Adelaide.

“The learning is two-way and as we progress it will become more bi-directional and we expect our researchers will work in China,” says Professor Adelson.

“At the same time we are in the process of organising four fully funded PhD students from China and Australia to begin research at the centre. That’s in addition to visitors and other students coming to us from normal routes.

“It’s an exciting venture and offers tremendous opportunities for creative research and new discoveries.”

For thousands of years, the Chinese have been using an extraordinary range of traditional medicines to treat everything from backache to cancer.
Honouring a generous community of supporters

Gifts have played a fundamental role in the University of Adelaide’s development from its early beginnings nearly 140 years ago.

With an endowment of £20,000 in 1872, Sir Walter Watson Hughes helped establish the University of Adelaide and his legacy is recognised today by the Hughes Bequest Society which was founded in 2008.

The Society acknowledges the generosity of friends and alumni who remember the University in their will by recognising their gift of education while they are still alive.

Managed by University Engagement, the Society shows its appreciation of bequestors in many ways, including invitations to exclusive events, presentations, group tours, gold passes to Elder Hall lunchtime concerts and an annual lunch with the Vice-Chancellor.

Sue Fox, Planned Giving Officer at the University of Adelaide, says the Hughes Bequest Society is an important way of acknowledging donors during their own lifetime.

“The Hughes Bequest Society not only says ‘thank you’ for bequestors’ support, but also highlights the vital impact that their generosity has on the University,” says Ms Fox.

“While donors may have planned their gift now, the University will not receive or sometimes even be aware of their generosity until some time in the future. Knowing about these gifts gives us the opportunity to say thank you now.”

Peter Routley, Chairman of the Hughes Bequest Society Committee, graduated from the University of Adelaide with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1959 and a Diploma in Primary Education in 1960.

Continuing the proud tradition of giving, Mr Routley is following generations of people who have left the University gifts and legacies in their will.

He sees lifetime recognition as essential in making the best use of people who have made a commitment to the University.

“The Society is important to the University not only in recognising bequestors, but it is also a body of ‘devotees’ ready to spread the word about bequests,” says Mr Routley.

“There is a collegiality developing in the Hughes Bequest Society—we are colleagues with a shared interest in giving to an institution which has been a formative part of our own lives.”

Through the visionary support of donors such as Mr Routley, the University can continue to fulfil its research and teaching aspirations into the future.

“Remembering the University of Adelaide with a bequest from your estate provides a permanent legacy which will enable the University to address immediate and changing needs,” says Ms Fox.

“If you include the University in your will, we encourage you to let us know so that we can express our thanks during your lifetime.

“Your generosity may contribute to groundbreaking research and will help prepare our students to become the educated leaders of tomorrow.”

For more information about the Hughes Bequest Society contact Sue Fox, Planned Giving Officer: Phone +61 8 8313 3234
Email susan.fox@adelaide.edu.au
www.alumni.adelaide.edu.au/hughes

Above: Peter Routley and Sue Fox
Photo by Chris Tonkin
New program gives an Adelaide experience

International students will soon be able to connect more closely with Adelaide’s way of life thanks to a new program involving our alumni.

Experience Adelaide is being launched in March 2014 with the aim of connecting all international students at the University of Adelaide with a local family and its activities.

Project manager Annette Wheatley says the interaction will come in many forms, with the ultimate aim of making their time in a new country that little bit easier.

“It could be something as simple as including the student in a family meal, or going on a sightseeing tour,” she says.

Annette says the program will provide students and alumni with a genuine cultural exchange with the aim to foster longer-term friendships.

Professor Warren Bebbington, Vice Chancellor and President said: “Many years ago now when I was a young Fulbright Scholar in New York City, I was paired with a local family who invited me into their home to experience America.

“Those occasional visits to their family home for a cup of tea and a Thanksgiving dinner connected me to the US and left lasting ties I maintain today.”

Over the years, many alumni have connected with international students and the experience has been mutually beneficial.

Kirsty Burns has been welcoming students since graduating with a Social Science degree in 2006.

“Interacting with international students is good for them and for us,” says Kirsty. “A familiar face and a friendly person is what they want most.

“It makes me appreciate what I have. I am proud of this country, city and University, and I’m quite passionate about it.”

June, a Master of Finance and Accounting student from China, is among the overseas students to receive a friendly welcome from Kirsty. She says having someone in Adelaide to help her adjust to a new culture was invaluable.

“This experience made me feel like I have another family in Australia, which is important for an international student.”

If you would like to be a part of this exciting new program then please complete the Registration Form located at www.alumni.adelaide.edu.au/experienceadelaide or contact the Program Manager Annette Wheatley at annette.wheatley@adelaide.edu.au or call +61 8 8313 2284.

Further information will be available at an Information Session to be held at the University of Adelaide in February 2014.

Below: Kirsty and June
Photo by Ben Osborne
Colombo scholar celebrates golden reunion with gratitude

Leading Asian businessman and University of Adelaide graduate Dr Cheong Choong Kong has celebrated the 50th anniversary of his 1963 graduation with more than 130 fellow classmates at the annual Golden Jubilee reunion.
One of the many success stories to emerge from the 1950s’ Colombo Plan, Dr Cheong has been Chairman of the Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation in Singapore since 2003 and is a former CEO of Singapore Airlines.

He was part of the largest group to ever attend the annual Golden Jubilee reunion—an event that includes a commemoration ceremony in Bonython Hall to give alumni the chance of reliving the thrill of graduation day.

Born in Malaysia, Dr Cheong came to the University of Adelaide as a Colombo Plan Scholar and graduated with First Class Honours in Mathematics (Bachelor of Science) in 1963. He then took his PhD in Mathematics at ANU in Canberra.

Dr Cheong taught mathematics at the University of Malaya and was an Associate Professor before leaving the academic world to join Singapore Airlines in 1974.

He stayed with the airline for 29 years, eventually becoming the company’s CEO. In 1998, Fortune named him Asian Businessman of the Year, noting that Singapore Airlines had an ‘unbroken 27-year record of profitability through turbulent economic times.’

His distinguished career includes a multitude of other corporate positions and he is the Patron of the Movement for the Mentally Disabled in Singapore.

He is also a part-time actor, having starred as a taxi driver in a Singaporean sitcom, The Yang Sisters.

As keynote speaker at the Golden Jubilee event, Dr Cheong shared some reminiscences of his time at the University, recalling fond memories of inspirational teachers and fun times at Lincoln College where he immersed himself in Australian culture.

“The wealth of the country and the wellbeing of its people were awesome to a young man from a poor family in a poor country newly emerged from colonial rule,” he said.

“Fifty years is a long time, but the few years before that last half-century were among my happiest and most memorable.”

Dr Cheong is proud that his daughter, Sha-Nin Cheong also chose to study at the University of Adelaide. Now in her second year of a Bachelor of Psychological Science, Sha-Nin was pleased to share the Golden Jubilee experience with her father.

“In my understanding, the Colombo Plan opened a world of opportunities for my father and I think for that, he is very grateful.”

Commenting on the fact that the University of Adelaide has produced two Presidents of the Republic of Singapore—the late Mr Ong Teng Cheong and current President Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam—Dr Cheong said that there are countless other graduates who have become major contributors to their country and internationally.

“Some of them are beneficiaries of the Colombo Plan and other scholarships and they, like me, owe an enormous debt of gratitude to the generosity of Australia.”

Dr Cheong remains connected with Australia through friends and relatives living here. He also stays in touch with the University through alumni events in Singapore and was thrilled to travel to Adelaide for this once-in-a-lifetime event.

“The Golden Jubilee was a wonderful way to bring together friends who have not seen one another for a long time. It was great to catch up with old friends and have drinks at the pub like in the old days.”

His advice to current students: “Keep an open mind—don’t let your field of study constrain you to any particular career path or lifestyle and stay mentally young and adventurous throughout life.”

To view photos from the 1963 Golden Jubilee reunion and register your interest in the 50th anniversary of your own graduation, visit www.alumni.adelaide.edu.au/goldenjubilee

* The Colombo Plan was a Commonwealth initiative, established in 1950, which provided bilateral aid to developing countries in South and Southeast Asia.
Your support counts

Supporters of the University of Adelaide, like our students, come from a wide range of backgrounds. The University appreciates each generous donation and acknowledges all who offer their support, often in a variety of ways.

Gratitude for the great opportunities a university degree has given them is a common reason why many donors choose the University as the beneficiary of their goodwill. Often they want to support disadvantaged students.

Clive Brooks, a 1967 law graduate who returned to study for a Graduate Certificate in Management in 1995, has supported the University of Adelaide Appeal and been a volunteer in the University Engagement Office for the past 11 years.

“I have greatly benefited from my university education in terms of career experience, and am aware that the University needs the support of its graduates,” Clive said.

His sentiments are echoed by Professor Richard Blandy, a Bachelor of Economics Honours graduate in 1962, who has given to University of Adelaide appeals over a number of years.

“I give to the University of Adelaide because it had a profound and positive impact on my life and I am very grateful,” Richard said.

It’s often a connection with a special place within the University that prompts some donors to give back.

This was the case for Yoshie Furusawa, who studied for a Diploma in Wine Marketing in 2000, when she chose to donate to the Barr Smith Library Appeal.

“I really liked the Barr Smith Reading Room. It was a very peaceful and beautiful place and the perfect spot for a power nap,” Yoshie said.

“I know that to maintain and update the library resources is very expensive, so I wanted to help future students as somebody did for us in the past.”

The University’s belief in providing educational opportunities to financially disadvantaged students is demonstrated through its well-established pathway programs and donated scholarships.

Professor Warren Bebbington, Vice-Chancellor and President, said: “Donors can provide invaluable support to students and play an important role in ensuring these students continue to gain access to a university education, regardless of their financial circumstances.”

To find out more about the 2013 University of Adelaide Appeal, or to make a donation, phone +61 8 8313 5800 or visit www.alumni.adelaide.edu.au/university_appeal

More than 850 people have given to the University of Adelaide’s annual appeals over the last 12 months. If you were among these generous donors, please take a moment to look for your name on our acknowledgement web page at www.alumni.adelaide.edu.au/donors

**I have greatly benefited from my university education in terms of career experience, and am aware that the University needs the support of its graduates.**

*Total philanthropic contribution for the full financial year will be reported in the next issue of Lumen.*
You can make a difference

By providing a range of undergraduate and postgraduate scholarships, Resthaven Incorporated is helping to prepare a new generation of nursing staff.

To recognise its 75th anniversary, the organisation funded 10 scholarships between 2011 and 2014 for full-time nursing students—the first for the University’s Discipline of Nursing program.

A not-for-profit aged care community service of the Uniting Church, Resthaven has 10 residential and 20 community care and other associated facilities throughout South Australia.

According to Wendy Morey, Executive Manager Workforce Development, Resthaven is committed to providing the best care and service possible to residents, clients and carers.

“To do this, we need a capable and caring workforce.” she says. “By providing scholarships for undergraduate nursing students, we are investing in the future of nursing. We recognise the important role nurses play in ensuring quality outcomes.”

The nursing scholarships are an important part of the ongoing relationship between the University of Adelaide and Resthaven, which also includes student placements and joint research initiatives.

Final-year undergraduate nursing student Barnaby Corfe is one of the scholarship recipients.

After working in the hospitality industry for nearly 10 years and teaching English in Japan for another two, he returned to Australia in 2011 to begin his nursing studies.

Earlier this year, he received the sole Resthaven scholarship available to third-year students.

“The scholarship means I can put everything into nursing and that I don’t have to work on weekends just to get by,” he said.

“I really enjoy working with older people—it’s different to a hospital where often you don’t have the time to talk to patients and you’re not seeing them at their best.

“Here at Resthaven, I get to spend more time talking to the residents and getting to know them. For me, it’s a more holistic way of helping people and I’m grateful that the scholarship gives me the opportunity to pursue this.”

Above: Barnaby Corfe with Resthaven Malvern resident, Jo Posa

Photo by Ben Osborne
Alumni on the move

If you have recently celebrated a promotion or career achievement, a change of jobs or won a major prize, we want to hear about it! Share your good news with your fellow alumni by emailing us your story, including your name, graduation year and degree.

Send it to alumni@adelaide.edu.au or call +61 8 8313 5800

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2010s

- Ashley Chadwick (BE (Mech & Aero) 2012) led a global team of accomplished international students to victory at the 2013 Caltech Space Challenge in Pasadena, California.
- Sarah Hibbard (B Jur, B HSc (Hons) 2011) has been awarded the prestigious Crown Princess Mary Scholarship for 2013 to assist with her exchange studies at the University of Copenhagen.

2000s

- Nicole Graham (MBA 2009) won the Telstra Young Business Women’s Award and the Community and Government Award at the 2013 Telstra Business Women’s Awards. As Chief Executive of the Spastic Centres of South Australia (scosa), Nicole oversees 200 highly trained staff delivering 10,000 hours of support and respite care to 350 people with a disability across SA.

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Smithsonian scientist discovers new mammal

Internationally renowned mammalogist Kristofer Helgen (PhD 2007) has discovered the newest rare mammal species, the Olinguito.

Kris is a research scientist and head of mammals at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, the largest collection of mammals in the world.

His discovery of the Olinguito—a small carnivorous mammal in the raccoon family—marks the first time in 35 years that a new mammal species has been discovered in the Americas.

Studying the evolution of mammals on the island of New Guinea for his PhD at the University of Adelaide and graduating in 2007, Kris has gone on to work as a zoologist in 50 countries and discovered 100 species of living mammals.

“My work focuses especially on biological expeditions to the tropics and historical research in museum collections to document mammalian biodiversity and to study environmental change,” says Kris.

“The Olinguito is a great indicator of how much more life on our planet remains to be documented, and how discoveries often arise from just looking a little more closely at what we think we know.”

Originally from Minnesota, Kris now lives in Virginia with his wife Lauren Helgen, also a zoologist and graduate of the University of Adelaide (BSc (Hons) 2002).

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story by Genevieve Sanchez
• Ben McGee (BSc (Hons) 2008) became the first cotutelle student of the University of Adelaide and the University of São Paulo to have his doctorate conferred. While studying geology abroad, McGee was inspired to develop his photography culminating in several photographic exhibitions in Adelaide between 2010 and 2012.
• Jakub Gaudasinski (B Mus (Comp) 2007) has achieved international success with the global release of his electronic music record Entanglement.
• Aimee Butler (B Music Studies, 2005) received seven medals at the Tasmanian National Dancing Association, Traditional Irish Dancing Competition on 4 August 2013.
• Christopher Wainwright (B Mus (Hons) 2001) General Manager of The Adelaide Youth Orchestras, was awarded a prestigious Churchill Fellowship by The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust.
• Romesh Nalliah (BDS 2000) received a Harold Amos Faculty Diversity Award at Harvard University for his service to minority and under-served communities through his public dental health outreach projects.

1990s
• Professor Dorothy Keefe PSM (M D 1999) was awarded a Public Service Medal (PSM) for outstanding public service in the areas of public health, medical research and oncology.
• Nicole Williams (BSc 1998, MBA 2009), co-founder and director of management advisory firm, BRS accepted the 2013 Telstra Small Business of the Year (SA) award for her business, BRS.
• Associate Professor Meera Agar (MBBS 1997) was awarded the European Association for Palliative Care Early Researcher Award 2013.
• David Beaumont OAM (B Arch St 1996, B A 1997, B Arch St (Hons) 1998, B Arch 2000) was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for service to the community, particularly through heritage organisations.
• Dr Fiona McAlisterr (B Ag Sc (Hons) 1993) was named 2012 Teacher of the Year by the Oklahoma Association for Career and Technical Education.
• Gregory Parker PSM (LL B (Hons) 1990) was awarded a Public Service Medal (PSM) for outstanding public service in the provision of legal and industrial advice.

1980s
• Moya Dodd (LLB (Hons) 1988) has become Australia’s first representative on football’s world governing body, FIFA.
• Justice Melissa Perry QC (LLB 1985) has been sworn in as the newest judge of the Federal Court of Australia.
• Jane Sloane (BA 1985) has published her first book entitled Transformative Citizenship in a Globalized World about her journey as a global advocate for women’s and girls’ human rights.
• Dr Suzi Hutchings (BA (Hons) 1984), PhD (Arts) 1995, Academic Coordinator, Wilto Yerlo, received an Endeavour Award for Indigenous Australians from the Australian Government.
• Dr Judith Lean (PhD 1982), Solar Physicist and Senior Scientist for Sun-Earth System Research in the Space Science Division, Naval Research Laboratory was elected as a member of the American Philosophical Society.
• Claudia Cream OAM (LL B 1981, B A 1982, Dip Ed 1982) was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for service to the Chinese community of South Australia.
• Dr Patrick O’Neill OAM (M B B S 1980) was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for service to medicine in far north Queensland.

1970s
• Prof Philip Thompson AM (M B B S 1977) has been appointed a member of the Order of Australia (AM) for significant service to neurology, particularly in the field of Parkinson’s disease and movement disorders.
• Albert Saychuan Cheok (B Ec (Hons) 1976) has been appointed as chairman, independent non-executive director of New Smart Energy Group (Hong Kong).
• Rosa Colanero OAM (B A 1974 Dip Ed, 1975) was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for service to the community as an advocate for women and multiculturalism.
• Dr Martin Dooland AM (B D S 1974) has been appointed a member of the Order of Australia (AM) for significant service to public dental health.
• Professor James Crawford SC AC (B A 1972, LL B (Hons) 1972) has been appointed a member of the Order of Australia (AC) for eminent service to the law through significant contributions to international and constitutional legal practice, reform and arbitration, and as a leading jurist, academic and author.
• Robert Crosier OAM (LL B 1971) was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for service to the arts through contributions to amateur theatre as a director and mentor.
• Dr David Caudrey PSM (B A (Hons) 1970) was awarded a Public Service Medal (PSM) for outstanding public service to the disability sector.

1960s
• Judge Geoffrey Muecke (LLB 1969), one of the state’s most senior and respected jurists, was named head of the District Court.
• Colin Dunsford AM (B Ec 1969) has been appointed a member of the Order of Australia (AM) for significant service to the community of South Australia, and to the accounting profession.
• The Honourable Justice Dean Mildren AM RDF QC (B A 1966, LL B 1966) has been appointed a member of the Order of Australia (AM) for significant service to the judiciary and to the law in the Northern Territory.
• The Hon Robert Lunn AM (LL B 1965) has been appointed a member of the Order of Australia (AM) for significant service to the judiciary of South Australia, particularly as the author of texts relating to civil procedure and criminal law, and to the community.
• Associate Professor Peter Brinkworth (BA (Hons) 1964) was awarded, by the South Australian Genealogy and Heraldry Society Inc., the T T Reed Award 2012 for a family history book published in 2012.
• Dr Alan Brissenden AM (Ph D 1963) was inducted into the Australian Dance Awards Hall of Fame for his distinguished career as a dance scholar and critic spanning some 60 years.
SingSings, Sutures and Sorcery: a 50 year experience in PNG

The story covers a 50-year experience in PNG from the author’s first visit as a medical student in the late 1950s. Going on to establish training programs in rural medicine, Professor Radford served as the only doctor for 50,000 people and returned on numerous occasions as a consultant over the next 40 years.

It’s Blue with Five Petals

An easy-to-use colour-coded field guide to the wildflowers of the Adelaide Region featuring up to date information about the wildflowers of the Adelaide region.

Into the Sea

Into the Sea is the first novel from Jay Laurie. Vividly and simply told, it is about growing up behind the dunes, travelling into the unknown and living in rhythm with the sea.

Andrea Corsali: Fiorentino: a watcher of the Austral skies: the letter from India

In 1516, Andrea Corsali, a young Florentine employed by the Medici family, sailed in a Portuguese caravel to their colonies in India. This letter contains an illustration and details of the Southern Cross, discovered, described and named by Corsali. Only five copies of the letter exist and two of these are in Australia; it has never before been translated into English.

High Frequency Over-the-Horizon Radar

This pioneering work describes the fundamental principles of OTH radar design and operation, and then delves into the mathematical modeling of HF signals received by actual OTH radar systems based on experimental data analysis. Numerous examples illustrate the practical application of modern adaptive signal processing techniques to real and simulated OTH radar data.

Love from Eddie

Love from Eddie tells the story of Edward Cairns who was brought up in Ardrossan, South Australia and died at Gallipoli, aged 21, in October 1915. His story is based on the war diary written on his journey to the Great War.

To view more works by alumni authors, go to www.alumni.adelaide.edu.au/inprint
### Citizen Jane: transformative citizenship in a globalized world

“If you really want to make a positive difference in the world, you should focus on conflict resolution and citizen led change.”

Nelson Mandela’s advice to Jane helped shape her path and led her on a journey to become a global advocate for advancing women’s and girls’ human rights. Jane writes about being a participant in the rise of a global women’s movement and a global citizenship movement, and the opportunities and challenges inherent in this momentum for social change.

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### Place of Pines

A historical fiction novel, *Place of Pines* begins in England in 1913, sweeps through two generations, two World Wars, the Depression in Australia and the Resistance in France during World War II.

By Judith Brown
(BA (Hons) 2004)

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### A Short Introduction to Climate Change

*A Short Introduction to Climate Change,* takes the claims and counterclaims of climate change scientists and sceptics alike and tests them against fundamental scientific principles. Professor Eggleton uses the integrity of the scientific data as the only true and constant yardstick by which to measure the accuracy of competing arguments.

By Emeritus Professor Tony Eggleton
(B Sc (Hons) 1960, D Sc 1999)

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### Carols on Campus

**Wednesday 18 December 2013 at 7pm**

Bonython Hall,
North Terrace Campus,
University of Adelaide

www.adelaide.edu.au/carols

We invite you to bring a book or toy for the *Gifting Tree*, in support of The Smith Family.

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By Jane Sloane
(BA 1985)
CAN WE SECURE A HEALTHY FUTURE FOR OUR CHILDREN?