Building Inspiration
Chatting with the Vice-Chancellor

*Lumen* caught up with Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor Warren Bebbington, for a quick chat about his university days, music and steering the University of Adelaide.

**What do you remember from your own days as a student, particularly extracurricular activities?**

I became a university student in 1970 at the height of the Vietnam War and the protest movement in universities. I was interested in student politics and was elected to the Student Representative Council quite early on, so this was my main extracurricular activity.

But they were very different times; my sister was arrested for breaking into the council chamber. There was warfare between what was perceived as them and us – the administration and students. The administration was seen, rightly or wrongly, as defenders of causes like Vietnam and the students didn’t approve.

**What do you see as the main challenges facing the University of Adelaide?**

The main challenge is to preserve a high-quality traditional university experience at a time when university funding is under attack. Government funding is at an all-time low and figures show that Australia is at rock-bottom amongst OECD nations in its public contribution to education.

The funding of universities in this country is in dire straits. There is an easy way out of this – you can have vast classes and save money on staff. But we are committed to a vision of small-group teaching. We’re committed to preserving a university, which requires funds. There needs to be a change of sentiment in the public at large.

**What are your greatest achievements so far as Vice-Chancellor?**

The Adelaide Health and Medical Sciences building. When I started, the government had decided to move the hospital away from the University. We didn’t have a site there and there was really no solution proposed.

Acquiring a site next to the hospital, securing the $60 million grant from the Commonwealth – which is the largest ever to a University in the State – and getting that building completed on budget and on time is a joy for me.

**Tell me more about your background in music.**

My mother played the piano at home and she and my grandfather sang so there was always classical music in the house. From the age of six I was in the church choir and it so happened the choir was conducted by a young chemist called Robin Batterham, who later went on to become Chief Scientist of Australia. He was an extraordinarily good role model for me in terms of combining academic and scientific pursuits with music.
Contents

Summer 2017

2 The art of diplomacy in a conflict zone
High Commissioner to Nigeria, Paul Lehmann, shares his life as a diplomat.

3 Alumni Council update
From Chair of the Alumni Council, Dr Tim Cooper, AM, Managing Director and Chief Brewer, Coopers Brewery.

4 University fires into space with CubeSat
Engineering students and staff will be watching their work blast off into space.

6 Celebrating high achievers
Andrea Boyd, Helena Wu and Phiala Shanahan.

9 Making strides in bushfire recovery
How the Equine Health and Performance Centre at Roseworthy Campus dealt with crisis during the Pinery fires.

10 Microscopy labs focus on the miniscule
Claire Holman’s research is targeting female epilepsy.

12 Pushing the boundaries of creativity
Fiona Kerr shares what exactly a Neural and Systems Complexity Specialist does.

14 The butterfly effect
A change of degree had a life altering impact on opera star, Joanna McWaters.

16 Masterplan to transform the University
The 20-year plan will begin with a new entrance building on North Terrace.

20 Rachel returns for dream arts role
Rachel Healy returns to Adelaide as the Artistic Director of the Adelaide Festival 2017.

22 Taplin travel fund supports Indigenous education
Supporting indigenous students and staff to pursue international education experiences.

24 A legacy fighting the war on superbugs
How a generous bequest from Berth Sudholz is helping one researcher fight superbugs.

26 Romance on campus
In the year of their Golden Jubilee, five couples from the class of 1966 share their story of meeting at the University.

29 Distinguished Alumni Awards
Recognising our great achievers.

30 21-year milestone for Adelaide Nursing School
Looking back at the last 21 years of nursing at the University.

31 Meet our oldest volunteer
Nettie is keeping the tradition of volunteering alive.

32 Dean of Law’s Fund Reaches a Milestone
Supporting financially disadvantaged law students.
Paul Lehmann had little notion where he might end up when he embarked on a double degree in architectural studies and law at the University of Adelaide. Paul, 46, is Australia’s High Commissioner in Nigeria where Australia’s economic and diplomatic interests are always top of mind as he travels around the region.

“My studies at the University of Adelaide stirred my curiosity for world affairs and gave me the skill set and confidence to follow paths to destinations beyond my field of experience,” he says.

“For me it was a case of pursuing my emerging professional interests with vigour, while at the same time not feeling compelled to completely design my whole career on the first day.”

“I always leave a little room for luck, trusted advice and embracing the unknown.”

After graduating in 1993, the Waikerie-born diplomat filled a number of positions in Australian Government departments before spending 10 years with the former overseas aid agency AusAID. He then worked in Kabul for two-and-a-half years, leading Australia’s development assistance program in Afghanistan before returning to manage consular operations at the headquarters of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Canberra.

The challenges of working in a conflict-affected country gave Paul a sound grounding for the job of High Commissioner.

“Unfortunately violent insurgency, conflict and insecurity are all too frequent realities for many communities across Africa,” he says.

“One of the things that motivates me every day in this environment is the opportunity to travel to places to
Alumni Council update

Each year, the University of Adelaide recognises and celebrates the noteworthy achievements of its alumni through the Distinguished Alumni Awards, James McWha Award of Excellence, and Alumni Fellow awards.

I warmly congratulate each of the 2016 winners. The contribution of these distinguished alumni as leaders within their professions and the community is inspiring.

If you know graduates of the University making a difference, I strongly encourage you to nominate them for the 2017 Distinguished Alumni Awards. Please contact our Alumni Relations team at alumni@adelaide.edu.au for more information.

The formation of the Alumni Council in 2014 has served to reinforce the important role alumni play in strengthening their alma mater. With almost 125,000 alumni spread across 80 countries, alumni form the University’s largest stakeholder group. The achievements of our alumni and their ongoing pursuit of excellence are celebrated by the University and fellow alumni, and help shape what the University is today.

I would like to sincerely thank the outgoing members of the inaugural Alumni Council for their invaluable contribution. The retiring members are Stephen Yarwood (Deputy Chair), Karen Abraham, Grace Bowman, Dr Michael Higgs, Sandy Pitcher, James Stevens, Vincent Chen (Singapore), Dennis Muirhead (United Kingdom) and Riki Sutherland (Melbourne). The professional and personal insights of the inaugural Council members have created a solid foundation upon which future Council members can build.

I also extend a warm welcome to our new Alumni Council members who have been elected from faculties and include Professor Randall Faull, Associate Professor Paul Grbin, and Dr Penny Moyle (United Kingdom).

Thank you to all our alumni for your continued support and for your desire to stay in touch with the University of Adelaide. I welcome your participation and contribution, and encourage you to provide any insights or feedback to the Alumni Council at alumni@adelaide.edu.au or +61 8 8313 5800.

Dr Tim Cooper, AM, Chair of the Alumni Council, Managing Director and Chief Brewer, Coopers Brewery

To read more about our Distinguished Alumni Awards winners see page 29.

International appointments

A number of University of Adelaide alumni represent Australia as Ambassadors and in other positions overseas, and at home including:

> Jeremy Bruer High Commissioner to Vanuatu
> Susan Coles High Commissioner to Mauritius
> Justin Lee Deputy Head of Mission to Indonesia
> Suzanne McCourt Ambassador to Zimbabwe
> Natasha Stott Despoja Ambassador for Women and Girls

build relationships with people from widely diverse cultural, ethnic, linguistic and religious backgrounds – and to do so in such a way that Australia’s interests are enhanced.

“I am there to make a good impression, while at the same time being ready to hold a firm position if necessary – I need a friendly smile as well as a steely eye.”

While Paul’s main focus is Nigeria he also oversees Australia’s relationships with the neighbouring countries of Benin, Cameroon, Gabon, Niger and The Gambia.

Nigeria is a dominant economic and political player in Africa and has been on a steep growth curve in recent years – but it is also home to the ruthless terrorist group Boko Haram and some of the world’s most deadly and protracted conflicts.

“Nigerians are truly some of the friendliest and most welcoming people one could ever hope to meet,” says Paul.

“But there is never any room for complacency when it comes to safety and security. The security environment is complex and in constant flux – locals and travellers alike are advised to avoid areas that are known to pose high risks.”

Like many individuals whose work takes them overseas for long periods, leaving family and friends back in Australia is a reality of life.

However, Paul says, the fulfilsments of a professional life in places unknown to him have always offered an irresistible pull.

“I’ve come so far west that if I keep going I will be back in Australia any day now,” he says.
University fires into space with CubeSat

Having their work blasted into space will be the ultimate achievement for a group of University of Adelaide engineering students and staff.
They’ve designed and built a new CubeSat, a type of miniaturised satellite, and one of only four nanosatellites developed in Australia. It will be sent via rocket to the International Space Station (ISS) and then deployed into orbit around the Earth. The satellite is part of a European-funded project called QB50, an international network of 50 CubeSats that will study a poorly understood part of the Earth’s atmosphere, the thermosphere.

“The thermosphere is a layer of atmosphere starting at about 95km and reaching up to 600km above the Earth’s surface,” says project leader Dr Matthew Tetlow, Research Fellow in the School of Mechanical Engineering. “It’s a scientific challenge and we don’t know that much about it.

“On the first day of the deployment of the CubeSats into orbit, we’ll double our understanding of the thermosphere, like its relationship to other layers of the atmosphere, and how that affects our climate.”

The Adelaide-built CubeSat has now left the country and is currently awaiting its December launch to the ISS aboard an Antares rocket.

The CubeSat will remain in Earth’s orbit from six months to two years, gathering much-needed data about the thermosphere.

For the satellite to make that journey has involved the hard work and ingenuity of a team of 40 students and staff.

“The CubeSat represents a major design and construction challenge, but it also shows what our incredibly talented students can do,” Matthew says.

“Everything you would expect to see in a full-scale satellite can be found in our CubeSat.

“We have a thermal regulation system, communications and autonomous control systems and it has its own computer to handle the scientific experiments. Our CubeSat also has solar panels to provide energy.”

Matthew says nanosatellites are the way of the future for space research.

“It doesn’t make sense to launch huge, highly expensive satellites to do the kind of research we’re doing.

“And our work with the students to build our satellite has shown what is possible without a multi-billion-dollar budget.

“I’m very proud of the students’ work, and I look forward to early next year when our CubeSat is in space and talking to us.”

The satellite launch will be shown live on NASA TV. www.nasa.gov/multimedia/nasatv/public

Left: Dr Matthew Tetlow
Below: Jade Chantrell
Photos by Russell Millard

Jade part of the next great challenge

Among the University of Adelaide students working on the CubeSat project is Jade Chantrell, who’s studying for a Bachelor of Aerospace and Bachelor of Science double degree. Lumen spoke with Jade about pursuing her interests in science and technology, and her work on CubeSat.

Q: Why did you decide to get into this field?
A: For many years I’ve been fascinated with planes and aeronautics, especially planes’ lifting capacity, because they’re such bulky objects, I always loved space; I was a bit of a sci-fi nut.

Space science represents a great technological challenge. There are many new and exciting discoveries to be made in space exploration, including what we might discover on other planets or moons. Advances in technology due to space research could be used for a range of applications here on Earth.

Not only is aerospace a fascinating subject but I think it’s a very useful field to go into and has taught me a broad range of skills so far.

Q: What is your role on the CubeSat project?
A: I started working on CubeSat at the beginning of the year.

My project is software-based; looking at the attitude control system and finding ways to make it more efficient and to optimise its performance.

Attitude control concerns the orientation of the satellite or the pointing direction in orbit. You want it to remain pointing in the same direction relative to its orbit.

The satellite needs to be stable or still, so you can maintain your communications and have consistency in scientific experiments.

Q: What have you learned from this project?
A: For me it’s the practical application of theory that we’ve learnt throughout our degree, applying that to a real-world situation. But every problem is unique and there are a number of conceptual barriers you have to break through in order to solve them.

Q: Is it exciting having the results of your work in space?
A: It is exciting, yes! I’ll watch the launch live on YouTube if I can. I’m hoping the International Space Station will also video our CubeSat being deployed into space, which would be cool.

Before starting this project, I had no idea how a satellite was put together. As well as working on my part of the project, I’ve also been able to observe others, and understand how the software is organised, how the various components are put together, and so on.
Celebrating high achievers

Graduates from the University are succeeding at the highest level in the fields of science and engineering. *Lumen* caught up with three of them – Helena Wu, Andrea Boyd and Phiala Shanahan – who are pursuing exciting careers in space, mining and nuclear physics.

**Carving a career in oil and gas**

Helena Wu has picked up a string of top awards since joining the oil and gas sector – a career that was furthest from her mind back in high school.

In just a few years Helena has made an impression as a senior reservoir engineer at Santos, and she is now part of a corporate planning and strategy team working on the company’s future.

She’s a passionate advocate for the sector and a role model for other women interested in a career in resources.

“I’ve always been a practical person and was drawn to the practical nature of engineering but I must admit I’d never considered working in oil and gas,” says Helena.

“My dad is a traditional Chinese man and he didn’t feel that women belonged in the resources field.

“But I was really fortunate to be supported through university by a number of scholarships, including some from resource companies, so I built a relationship with the sector quite early on.”

Helena graduated with a Bachelor of Engineering (Mechanical) first class honours and Master of Engineering Management with a thesis project at Santos that led to a full-time position.

For two years she was a fly-in fly-out field production engineer for the company and then became a reservoir engineer, working with geologists and geophysicists to appraise and develop oil and gas reserves.

During that time she also managed to squeeze in study at the University of Adelaide and graduated in 2011 with Master of Petroleum Engineering.

Today she is a group planning and portfolio analyst based at Santos’ headquarters in Adelaide.

Among her numerous accolades is the 2015 International Young Member Outstanding Service Award from the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE). Last year she was named the Exceptional Young Woman in Australian resources at the Women in Resources National Awards.

Helena is an active member of SPE and has sat on its international gender diversity task force to promote career opportunities for women in the industry.

“I’ve also been appointed to the SPE International Board of Directors so hopefully I can be further involved in gender diversity,” she says.
Andrea Boyd is a driven individual. She’s already worked and studied in 75 countries – picking up multiple languages along the way – and now she can be heard in space.

Andrea is the European Space Agency’s (ESA) flight controller for the International Space Agency with the job of liaising with astronauts as they circle the earth.

“It’s not quite like in the movies,” says Andrea. “In reality the International Space Station has five mission control centres around the world and I’m the voice for Europe – with a very Adelaide accent.”

It’s the dream job for the mechatronic engineering graduate who spent 10 years volunteering in space-related roles around the world before joining ESA in 2012.

Ironically Andrea’s previous paid work was just about as far from space as you can get – deep underground at the giant BHP Billiton Olympic Dam copper-uranium mine in South Australia.

But she says her job as a fly-in fly-out mining engineer in the mine control room was similar.

“They’re both extreme industries with complex control rooms, but actually the control room for the International Space Station is easier,” Andrea says.

“When anything broke above ground or underground at the mine they called me as it was my job to go and fix it. On the space station we call astronauts who do this.

“I miss the desert and getting my hands dirty at the mines but on the other hand, living in Europe, I can drive to five countries in under an hour, so that’s also fun.”

Based in Cologne, Germany, the flight operations engineer has used her mining experience to help write a book on the feasibility of mining in space titled Space mineral resources: a global assessment of the challenges and opportunities.

While she admits that’s still a long way off, next to her office a 34-metre diameter dome is being built to simulate a future moon base.

Although Andrea is based on the other side of our planet, she is using her contacts and influence to help put Australia in the space race.

She was part of a team which successfully bid for Adelaide to host the International Astronautical Congress in September 2017, knocking out stiff competition from the US and Germany.

This is the biggest conference ever secured by South Australia, attracting more than 3000 leaders in space from across the globe.

The University of Adelaide is hosting a major student pre-event – the Space Generation Congress – in the week leading up to the main conference.

“There will be a myriad of concurrent events as well as talks, excursions, interactive programs and opportunities for students, including a free exhibition day,” says Andrea.

She is also lobbying hard for Australia to follow Canada and become a non-European cooperating member of the European Space Agency.

“At just $20 million a year, which we pay to ourselves, ESA membership would create space engineering jobs, an instant customer base, and send Australian-built hardware and software to space,” she says.

“It’s a 10-year renewable agreement making it immune to political cycles, thus creating a sustainable space industry in Australia.

“Many of us have been to Canberra to talk to politicians who are starting to understand the benefits, the South Australian Government is very supportive and we have some very serious policy meetings again soon.

“Watch this space!”

Andrea takes on the final frontier

Andrea Boyd in the International Space Station control room
Award-winning researcher Phiala Shanahan is working in an area that’s both infinitesimally tiny and infinitely large. She’s trying to unravel the mysteries of protons and neutrons and even tinier subatomic particles such as gluons and quarks, which form the building blocks of our known universe.

Phiala graduated from the University with a first class honours degree in High Performance Computational Physics in 2011 and has been impressing at the highest level since. She won the Alumni University Medal for both her honours degree and her PhD, and in July this year she was awarded the Bragg Gold Medal for the best Australian PhD in Physics in 2015.

During her PhD Phiala studied the mysterious properties of quarks and gluons – the subatomic particles which make up the proton – and her insights are expected to lead to further work by other labs around the world.

“Comparing theory predictions like mine, with experiment, is the way in which we test our understanding of the universe.”

Phiala is now hoping to use an electron-ion collider to measure various gluonic properties experimentally to compare with her theoretical predictions.

She also intends to broaden her research further next year when she takes a faculty position at the College of William and Mary – a cutting-edge research university in Virginia. This will also give her access to the nearby Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility, known as JLab.

In September Phiala was back in South Australia when Adelaide hosted the 26th International Nuclear Physics Conference. “It’s a major international conference that attracts the whole nuclear physics community – experimentalists as well as theorists and computational people like me – so it was very exciting to have it in Adelaide,” says Phiala.
Making strides in bushfire recovery

The University of Adelaide’s state-of-the-art Equine Health and Performance Centre at Roseworthy campus faced the ultimate test after the devastating Pinery fires ripped through South Australia’s mid-north in November last year.

Among the victims were badly injured pets and livestock, including eight horses admitted to the Equine Health Performance Centre, as the fires burnt more than 82,000 hectares of land.

On the critical list was Cheyanne, an 18-year-old mare, that arrived at the centre suffering from severe burns to her face, legs and tail. She also had signs of smoke inhalation and a wound to her front leg.

Robin van den Boom, Associate Professor in Equine Health at Roseworthy campus’ School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences, was one of the vets treating horses as they arrived at the clinic.

“It initially looked very somber for Cheyanne. The injury to her front leg had potential complications and she showed separation at the coronary band at the top of the hooves. It was touch and go for a week,” he says.

Cheyanne’s owners had already lost one horse to injuries from the fire and emotions were running high at the prospect of losing another. Robin and his team got to work immediately.

“We spent a lot of time and effort on Cheyanne’s recovery. The burns and smoke inhalation were the most pressing injuries to attend to and required constant monitoring to see how she was responding to treatment,” he says.

“The burns on the horses were hard to assess as the full extent of their severity did not become clear for weeks in some cases.”

To treat the burns, horses were initially cooled, fluids replaced, pain relief administered and burns cleaned and treated with ointment. The daily cleaning of the wounds was a time intensive process, taking one to two hours per horse.

To treat the smoke inhalation, Cheyanne was given oxygen through a nasal tube and vets performed an endoscopy of her airways to remove damaged tissue.

After three weeks of treatment, Cheyanne was given a clean bill of health and allowed to return home.

“Following our own experience we were able to get in touch with vets in the Western Australia fires to share information and donated leftover bandaging material and medications,” Robin says.

The RSPCA received donations of over $84,000 which covered medical costs for treating pets and livestock injured in the fire and their recovery at Roseworthy.

RSPCA South Australia Chief Executive Officer, Tim Vasudeva, says that at times of crisis like the Pinery bushfires, collaboration between organisations helps the greatest number of animals in need.

“RSPCA South Australia works closely with Roseworthy’s Veterinary Health Centres year round, and when the bushfires hit, we were able to use our fundraising website to reach out to the community and help raise funds for fire-affected animals,” he says.

Robin and his team were also assisted by other vets and volunteers who helped with cleaning, stabilising and general care of horses and many donations were received from the community in the form of medical supplies, feed and bedding material.

Cheyanne, now fully recovered from the fires, and young rider Neveah.
Microscopy labs focus on the miniscule

The Core Microscopy Laboratories at the University of Adelaide North Terrace and Waite campuses provide researchers with access to the most technologically advanced instrumentation for both microscopy and microanalysis.

The North Terrace facility was upgraded last year and named after alumnus Emeritus Professor George Rogers who helped pioneer the use of transmission electron microscopes in Australia.

Now aged 88, George is still an active user of the microscopy facilities and mentors many current students.

Adelaide Microscopy has six new laboratories in North Terrace including a specially designed magnetically shielded laboratory to house the University’s $3.6 million atomic resolution transmission electron microscope.

The 3.5 metre tall electron microscope is a critical piece of research infrastructure and is available to researchers and industry for materials used in areas such as renewable energy, advanced manufacturing, mining and exploration.

In addition to the latest electron beam technologies, Adelaide Microscopy also offers optical, laser confocal, multiphoton, in vivo, live cell and x-ray CT imaging techniques.
Cell research targets female epilepsy

Tracking the migration of the brain’s neurons sounds like the stuff of science fiction.

But that’s precisely what University of Adelaide alumna and PhD student Claire Homan has been doing as she helps unravel the mysteries of one of the most debilitating forms of epilepsy.

Her research is investigating the cause of the female-specific Protocadherin 19 (PCDH19) related epilepsy which affects the lives of thousands of young girls worldwide.

Access to highly sensitive equipment at the University’s Adelaide Microscopy centre is helping Claire better understand the functions of the PCDH19 X-chromosome gene during development of a child’s brain.

In an important discovery she’s found that PCDH19 plays a crucial role in neuronal migration. It’s thought mutations in the gene could disrupt normal development and send the neurons to the wrong part of the brain.

Claire says she’s been fascinated by the workings of the human brain since studying her Bachelor of Science (Genetics and Biochemistry) degree at Adelaide and then a first class honours Bachelor of Sciences (Genetics) degree in 2009.

“I’ve always been interested in learning how the brain works, it’s the most important organ in the body and controls everything,” she says.

“If you can understand how the brain works and what can go wrong during its development we can identify ways to help patients with different neurological disorders.”

Claire is undertaking her PhD research in the University’s Neurogenetics Laboratory which is collaborating with research teams in Australia and overseas on finding a cure for PCDH19-related epilepsy.

The condition affects everyone differently and in most cases is debilitating. Both sexes can be born with the gene mutation but only girls are affected by the disorder.

They appear perfectly normal in the first few months before suffering severe and frequent seizures when they reach about eight months.

“While the seizures tend to disappear by adulthood, patients can also suffer from intellectual disability and autism which remains for life,” says Claire.

It’s estimated that about 1000 females suffer from the condition in Australia.

Claire’s research involves two different projects.

She’s been using the latest immunofluorescence microscopy techniques to examine stem cell behaviour in mice.

“I looked at the ability of the stem cells to self renew and produce more stem cells and I also looked at their ability to turn into other cell types in the brain such as neurons,” says Claire.

“We found that in cells that didn’t have a functional copy of PCDH19 the neurons migrated further.”

The second part of the study has taken Claire into a new and exciting area of research involving induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs).

Pioneered in Japan, iPSC cells can be generated directly from adults and propagated into every other cell type in the body. The technology allows researchers to avoid the controversy of using embryonic stem cells.

“One of the main reasons I chose this project was because I was really excited to use this new technology. It’s crucial for discovering what’s occurring in human cells that are directly relevant to the disorder.”

Mice tell us a lot but iPSC technology allows us to make human neurons from patients so that we can identify what’s different about them.”

Claire used skin cells from two affected females and one male in the experiment but could only make iPS cells from the male, whose daughter also has the disorder.

“It means we have an iPS cell line to model development of the patient’s brain,” she says. “We can turn the iPS cells into neural stem cells and then into cortical neurons to see how they behave and what’s different about them.”

Such knowledge is an important step towards finding possible treatments.

“It’s an exciting development in the field of iPSC because you can use actual patient cells in dish cultures and try different drugs to see how they respond,” says Claire.

“Our research is still in the early stages but iPSC technology has the potential to open the way for treatments in the future.”

Left: Claire Homan
Photo by Russell Millard
Pushing the boundaries

University of Adelaide alumna and industry professor Dr Fiona Kerr refers to her own career path as strange – and who could argue?

The part-time academic and leadership consultant is a creative whirlwind who defies the usual professional pigeon-hole.

At the University she fits between faculties and has the title of ‘neural and systems complexity specialist’ – a title her executive dean made up because no-one else really does what she does.

She's fascinated by the science of how humans interact with each other and technology, what makes creative leaders, and the transformative power of the human brain.

Her unique insights on ways to drive innovation and ideation are embraced by governments and major corporations globally, including one of the world’s most creative organisations, Cirque du Soleil.

But to better understand Fiona’s career and diverse interests, it’s best to start at the beginning.

Born in Scotland, she attended 14 schools as an “air force brat” before settling in Adelaide where her father became manager of the University's mechanical engineering department.

“At 16 I started studying genetics, but was side-tracked into anthropology through a subject in witchcraft which was fascinating,” says Fiona.

“After some field work, my father was urging me to gain management experience so I did a trainee management course at ETSA (Electricity Trust of South Australia) where I spent three years in overalls because they didn’t really know what to do with me, as I was neither male nor an engineer.

“It was great experience. I worked as a trades assistant, drove a truck, changed transformers and got into industrial relations and strategy.”

While still in her 20s, Fiona played a key mediation role in shutting down a power station and finished a psychology degree at Adelaide “because I thought I might as well get paid for doing this”.

In the late 80s Fiona was head hunted by Holden and appointed industrial relations manager, moving into strategy. Eventually she launched her own business, Kerr Consulting, which is still in operation today, with interesting roles in sectors such as pharmaceuticals and defence.

“I got used to managing challenging circumstances in male-dominated, highly unionised organisations,” she says.

Throughout this time Fiona was gaining new skills and soaking up her experiences. Her work brought her into contact with excellent CEOs and she became fascinated by the power of good leadership and the dynamics of flourishing organisations.

“It struck me that leaders who could build adaptive organisations had high levels of trust and respect and definite traits that they imbued into their people,” she says.

“The more I looked at it the more I thought I was experiencing something significant, and that’s what brought me into the social neuroscience of leadership.

“...I wanted to explore the difference in the brain of a charismatic leader – how complex systems, decision-making and strategising works – and test the concept that leaders can change the brains of those they lead.”

It was an interest that led Fiona back to the University of Adelaide after a 30-year break to pursue a PhD in creating and leading adaptive organisations, including the concept of emergent logic leadership.

Crossing into academia was initially a challenge for both Fiona and the University.

“They told me that my ‘industry expert’ status was equivalent to other entrance requirements including academic publications,” she says. “But once in the system that didn’t work, and with my wide-ranging topic I didn’t really fit anywhere. That meant the first year was challenging.”

The multidisciplinary nature of Fiona’s study eventually led her to Dr Sam Wells in the Adelaide Business School who was also researching complex systems.
creativity

“I wanted to explore the difference in the brain of a charismatic leader – how complex systems, decision-making and strategising really works – and test the concept that leaders can change the brains of those they lead.”

“Within five minutes he said ‘you have to do this and work with me’. Sam was brilliant.”

Today Fiona works across the faculties of Professions, Engineering and Health Sciences.

She’s just finishing a research study on the neurophysiological effect of touch and eye gaze on healing, after joining a think tank on ageing with Dean of Nursing Professor Alison Kitson about the importance of doctors, nurses and carers having that human touch.

In September she gave the plenary lecture at an engineering conference where she spoke on artificial intelligence, focusing on the technical, neurophysiological and social issues and the need to proactively shape our technological future.

Outside the University Fiona has co-founded a small company called human-e with biomedical engineer roboticist, Dr Jordan Nguyen. Together they are researching and advising on the neurophysiological effects of human interaction with different technologies, and Fiona says they complement each other well, coming from different angles but driven by the same purpose.

“I’m very fond of technology and its advancement is amazing, but it has to be human centric. We need to be clever about when and how we use technology as a substitute for human interaction, especially in sectors like health and ageing.”

Fiona’s innovative ideas and engaging delivery have put her in strong demand at conferences in Australia and overseas, and has led to consulting work with some leading companies. She is a regular guest on ABC radio as well as appearing on ABC television’s Catalyst science show, Insight on SBS, and Ockhams Razor with Robyn Williams.
The butterfly effect

A life-altering decision to transfer from computer science to study music at the Elder Conservatorium of Music saw the rise of one of today’s stars of the opera stage.

story by Connie Dutton
They are the parents of three children who have mixed feelings about the career choices of their parents.

“As our children get older, they are increasingly aware that what we do is different to other people,” she says.

“They are blasé about the media attention and my photo in the paper or a magazine is not that exciting anymore.”

The couple also credit their children for keeping them grounded.

“Sometimes, just before we walk on stage all glammed up, we muse over the fact that only two hours before we were frantically picking the kids up from sport and trying to feed them all dinner in time.”

Joanna and Andy’s children are discovering music and the arts in their own way through music and dance and often attend their parents’ performances.

Joanna is a passionate supporter of the industry that inspired her career, describing it as “an essential part of life”.

“It surprises me that we are often asked why the arts are so important. It is a natural outlet for expression that has been part of humankind since the beginning.

“There is a great quote doing the rounds, ‘The Earth without art is just eh’. That pretty much sums up how I feel.”

The preparation for a role is varied and complex. I approach my learning in an organised way from the beginning of the opera, studying small sections at a time. This helps me discover the role as it develops and slowly form the character and my interpretation of the music.”

They are the parents of three children who have mixed feelings about the career choices of their parents.

“As our children get older, they are increasingly aware that what we do is different to other people,” she says.

“They are blasé about the media attention and my photo in the paper or a magazine is not that exciting anymore.”

The couple also credit their children for keeping them grounded.

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Masterplan to transform the University

The University of Adelaide has revealed a 20-year masterplan for its three campuses, beginning with a new entrance building and tower on North Terrace.
The masterplan for the University was revealed in September. The vision includes development of a spectacular new building on North Terrace campus, not just for students and staff, but for all South Australians.

“It would provide a new contemporary gateway to the University at the intersection of North Terrace and Pulteney Street, at what we hope will be the new tram stop,” says Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor Warren Bebbington.

“The new building would be adjacent to Bonython Hall, and feature ceremonial and conference facilities as well as a new precinct showcasing music and creative arts.

“Across North Terrace, the Nexus 10 precinct would be enhanced by an additional 24-storey tower accommodating business, law, architecture and economics.”

Later stages of the masterplan include new facilities for other schools and greatly enhanced campus amenities for students. The plan focuses on pedestrians and cyclists, providing better, safer pathways through the campus, and eliminating vehicle traffic where possible.

The Schulz building would be repurposed as an on-campus residential college with accommodation and recreational facilities, including a gym.

Improvements are also planned for the other campuses, with a new layout and services at Waite, and changes to unify and beautify the grounds at Roseworthy.

The plan has been developed after an extensive period of consultation and three-dimensional digital surveying of the sloping North Terrace campus. It takes into account the lifespan and condition of existing buildings and expert specialist advice for heritage issues and pedestrian movement.

“The University of Adelaide Masterplan 2016–2035 is a vision to transform the University’s physical presence over the coming decades,” Professor Bebbington says.

The plan is an aspirational vision to guide development of the campuses and will be phased in as funds become available.

Full details and a video of the masterplan can be found at ua.edu.au/masterplan.
The University of Adelaide Masterplan 2016–2035 is a vision to transform the University’s physical presence over the coming decades.
Rachel returns for dream arts role

A stint as theatre editor of Adelaide University Union’s On Dit magazine proved a career-building experience for Rachel Healy.

S he believes it was fundamental to her role as one of Australia’s leading arts managers and cultural planners, culminating in her current position as co-artistic director of the Adelaide Festival of Arts.

“Being theatre editor at On Dit was an incredible break because it was the stepping stone into the rest of my career,” says Rachel.

She was bewitched by the arts from a young age and quickly joined the Adelaide University Footlights Club after enrolling at the University in 1987 to study arts and law.

But it was only because she had On Dit on her limited CV that she was plucked from a long list of applicants to be assistant editor on Lowdown youth arts magazine.

“The editor, Deborah Heithersay, was looking for someone who didn’t have an orthodox journalism background so picked my CV out of the pile,” says Rachel.

By this stage Rachel realised she was unlikely to fulfi l her earlier ambition of becoming a performer but was still passionate about a career in the arts.

After 11 months as assistant editor of Lowdown she found herself editing the magazine and from there moved into arts management as administrator of the youth-focused Magpie Theatre.

“This was another incredible stroke of luck because Magpie was part of the State Theatre Company and the CEO at the time, Robert Love, became a great mentor,” says Rachel.
“Adelaide Festival was such a significant part of my growing up in Adelaide that it’s hard to overestimate its importance. Having these extraordinary artists and companies from around the world arriving in Adelaide and taking over the city in March had a big impact on me.”

“Robert was generous with his time and knowledge and so patient. I was educated in arts management and administration through an old-school mentorship.”

As Rachel’s knowledge and experience grew so did the job offers. She landed the role of general manager at Handspan Theatre in Melbourne and was briefly manager of The Australian Ballet before being head hunted to manage Belvoir Street Theatre in Sydney.

This signalled the start of a long-term friendship and professional collaboration with Neil Armfield, AO, one of Australia’s leading theatre, opera and film directors.

Neil was artistic director of Belvoir at the time and has rejoined Rachel as co-artistic director of the Adelaide Festival of Arts.

Rachel was at Belvoir for 10 years before taking the position as director of performing arts at Sydney Opera House and then the highly influential role of executive manager of culture for the City of Sydney.

Her brief was to build a cultural vision for Sydney, including a live music action plan for the next decade.

“It was an incredibly exciting opportunity after working in the field for so long because it meant I could step back and take a helicopter view of the arts sector and the cultural community more broadly,” says Rachel.

The city approved her plan and Rachel was preparing for its implementation when she was approached to take charge of the Adelaide Festival of Arts for the next three years.

“The prospect of doing it alone didn’t thrill me but then an idea was hatched to work with Neil. We have such a strong history of working together that it really made sense,” says Rachel.

“There’s a shorthand between us and we trust each other a great deal. Even when we have a disagreement it’s never personal or awkward – we usually take little breaks to reflect and marshal counter arguments!”

Rachel’s first day in the job was in July last year – a day she agrees was both exciting and daunting.

Cutting through in a market that now overflows with arts festivals is a challenge but she says the answer lies in the history of the Adelaide Festival.

“Unlike larger cities, Adelaide is perfect for a festival of this kind because we can take over all the urban spaces and deliver something extraordinary,” she says.

“It’s about creating work on an epic scale that wouldn’t occur otherwise – creating something in a completely unexpected environment and tapping into what some people call the ‘experience economy’, “ she says.

The Australian premiere of Handel’s opera Saul under the direction of Barrie Kosky certainly falls into this category.

This is one of a few shows Rachel and Neil announced in the lead-up to the main program launch and it promises to be spectacular.

“Adelaide Festival was such a significant part of growing up in Adelaide that it’s hard to overestimate its importance. Having these extraordinary artists and companies from around the world arriving in Adelaide and taking over the city in March had a big impact on me.

“When you grow up here you think that’s normal and everybody has that experience – it’s only when I moved away that I realised that very few people have access to this kind of cultural immersion.”
Taplin travel fund supports Indigenous education

Alumnus and Emeritus Professor John Taplin saw first hand the benefits of an international education experience and he was determined that such opportunities would not be denied to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff and students.

John was Pro Vice-Chancellor (International) from February 2004 to January 2012 and, following his retirement from the University, he established the Taplin Indigenous Bursary to help Close The Gap.

“I became aware of a number of Indigenous study programs offered by universities overseas which could be of interest to our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students,” says John.

“Without financial assistance, it is likely that the overwhelming majority of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and staff would be unable to undertake these programs.”

John wanted to remove the financial barrier that prevents many from travel but says there is still more to be done in the fight for equality.

“The bursary seeks to remove this financial impediment and thereby allow those selected to be chosen solely on academic merit,” he says.

“Ultimately, I hope that, with the aid of this bursary and through other means, a new generation of Indigenous leaders will emerge who can demonstrate to the rest of the world that Australia is, in every sense, a multicultural country of equal opportunity.”

Yvonne Clark was awarded a Taplin grant in 2014 to assist with travel costs to attend the International Congress of Applied Psychology (ICAP) in Paris. She is a lecturer in the School of Psychology and a current PhD candidate.

Yvonne presented three papers at the conference on mental health issues concerning Indigenous Australians.

“I was able to provide and share information about Australian Indigenous issues and positive initiatives in an overseas context,” says Yvonne.

“Many international delegates don’t know anything about Australian Aboriginal people, or have negative representations.”

A full-time student at the time, Yvonne would not have been able to attend the conference without the grant.

“I was grateful for the opportunity and through my attendance I was able to learn about psychological initiatives from other cultures, appreciate our own initiatives and gain professional development as a psychologist.”

Yvonne says she hopes her experience will inspire other Indigenous people with travel aspirations.

“I hope my achievements will enable me to serve as a role model. It was a dream to travel overseas as a child and no-one in my family had ever travelled so widely. I hope this shows that it is within many people’s reach to travel overseas if they want to pursue it.”

The Taplin name has long been associated with helping Indigenous South Australians. Professor Taplin’s great grandfather, Rev George Taplin lived and worked with the Ngarrindjeri people at Raukkan on the shores of Lake Alexandrina from 1860 until his death in 1879.

John sees the bursary as a way to recognise the pioneering work of his family.

“Through his close association with this Indigenous community during a critical period, he provided some of the earliest ethnographic and linguistic insights into Aboriginal life in Australia,” says John.

“George Taplin was also a courageous advocate for and on behalf of the Ngarrindjeri people during the early colonial years. He established a church and a school at Raukkan, and taught Indigenous people skills which helped them adapt to the new economic environment that was being introduced by the South Australian Government.”

Since the introduction of the Bursary in 2013, over 25 Indigenous staff and students have received grants of up to $5000 to travel overseas to further their education and training.

Your support of scholarships will continue to help close the gap and support those that need it most. To find out more visit adelaide.edu.au/give/why

Left: Yvonne Clark and Emeritus Professor John Taplin
Photo by Russell Millard
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A legacy fighting the war on superbugs

When Helga ‘Bertha’ Sudholz passed away in 1960, she made it clear where she wanted to make a difference. She bequeathed £2000 to the University of Adelaide to fund a scholarship for students presenting a thesis that covers diseases of the ear, nose and throat.

Katharina Richter
Photo by Russell Millard
Fifty-five years later, her bequest is still making a difference through support for Katharina Richter, the 2015 scholarship recipient who is fighting the war on superbugs.

German-born Katharina is a PhD student from the Discipline of Surgery, and the Ear, Nose and Throat Surgery Department at The Queen Elizabeth Hospital. She is researching promising new treatments targeting severe and recurring sinus infections. These infections are caused by bacteria that are frequently resistant to antibiotics.

With her pharmaceutical background and expertise in drug delivery and drug targeting, Katharina has the ideal skillset to develop treatments to fight superbugs.

“One major threat to human health is the rise of superbugs, when microorganisms like Golden Staph become resistant to antibiotics,” she says.

“Through my work as a pharmacist I saw first hand the increasing problems with antibiotic resistant bacteria, people’s devastating conditions and the lack of effective therapies.”

Katharina is researching two alternative treatments to antibiotics. The first approach aims to destroy the bacteria through their nutrient pathways. “This is a two-pronged strategy where we introduce a compound that will deplete nutrients and starve bacteria so they become vulnerable. The second compound mimics their food source and, once taken up by hungry bacteria, the compound exhibits toxic effects,” she says.

The compounds will be placed into wound healing gel that is clinically used after surgery. The gel’s wound healing properties are then complemented with antibacterial activity. As the gel is applied directly to the site of infection it will fight the bacteria more efficiently and prevent severe side effects throughout the body.

Katharina anticipates clinical trials for this treatment will begin in 2017. Clinical trials are currently underway for the second treatment which is based on silver nanoparticles. Invisible to the naked eye, they are 1/1000 the width of human hair and are given to the patient in a nasal flush. “Severe and chronic infections present as a cluster of bacteria covered in a slimy matrix called biofilms,” says Katharina.

“Biofilms act like an armour and protect the bacteria from the immune system and medications – the thicker the biofilm, the less likely antibiotics will work and the easier it is for bacteria to establish resistance.

Due to their tiny size, the nanoparticles are able to penetrate the biofilm, then react with the bacteria and kill them.”

Katharina hopes the two treatments will improve the quality of life for people suffering from chronic nasal infections and extend their symptom-free period.

The Bertha Sudholz scholarship allowed Katharina to attend a conference about biofilms in Chicago where she established international collaborations.

“It was a very productive conference. I met and discussed my work with international experts in the field, generating new ideas and getting inspiration for the future direction of my research to strengthen our fight against superbugs,” she says.

The scholarship has grown to an endowment fund now standing at almost $120,000 and has helped 27 people since it was introduced.

Scholarships, like this one, have not only had impacts on the students’ lives, but are impacting the world through research outcomes. For further information on bequests or to arrange a confidential discussion visit www.adelaide.edu.au/give/how/bequests or contact Sue Fox on +61 8 8313 3234 or email development@adelaide.edu.au

Katharina recently presented her research in the 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) competition. She made it through to the final and won the ‘People’s Choice Award’. 3MT requires researchers to explain their thesis project in just three minutes, using only one PowerPoint slide. The ability to effectively communicate research impact is a skill that all our researchers aim to develop.

Katharina’s presentation Bug Wars - Battlefront Biofilms can be viewed on the University of Adelaide YouTube channel

3 Minute Thesis People’s Choice Award
Flirtatious looks across the books in the Barr Smith Library, lingering conversations in the science lab, sparks flying during anatomy classes ... While the class of 1966 was busy studying for their degrees and PhDs, they were also falling in love.

We spoke to five couples who found their perfect match on the grounds of the University of Adelaide. As they celebrate the year of their Golden Jubilee, we asked them to reminisce about their university days and romances on campus.
Mixed-up double date

Tony Williams and Anne Sved Williams, AM

Tony and Anne went on a double date with some friends in their first year of medicine – but they weren’t partnering each other.

It wasn’t until the beginning of second year their paths crossed again outside the WEA book room – and this time something clicked.

Anne remembers Tony had spent the summer lumping wheat at his uncle’s property and looked tanned and muscular. Anne had just returned from a trip to Melbourne and was glowing from her first love affair with someone else!

Their friendship blossomed over games of bridge in the common room at medical school but it wasn’t until fourth year when things became serious.

By the end of the fifth year Tony and Anne were married on her parents’ front lawn and have had rewarding and stimulating lives together since.

Refectory affair

Kenneth and Gwenyth Moxham (nee Pope)

Gwen first caught Ken’s eye while she was boarding at Adelaide Miethke House, a grand old home built by the Holden family. Ken attended nearby Prince Alfred College, a school devoid of any girls so there was a keen interest in the girls boarding nearby.

Gwen studied a Bachelor of Arts across three campuses but managed to rearrange her timetable to have some time on North Terrace where Ken was doing a Bachelor of Engineering. They joked it was often the refectory where you could find them, “we both did refectory I, refectory II and refectory III”.

Following his undergraduate degree, Ken was offered both a Commonwealth Overseas Scholarship and the single Australian Shell Scholarship. The couple married soon after graduation before moving to England where Ken went up to Clare College Cambridge and read for a PhD. He worked as an engineer in London while Gwen taught in schools, before they moved to Melbourne and eventually back Adelaide where they have lived for the past 43 years.

Ken joined the University of Adelaide in the then Civil Engineering Department, where he was also the Dean of Engineering. Gwen taught for 14 years at Seymour College and 20 years at St Peter’s College in Adelaide. Fifty years on and they are still happily married with two children and six grandchildren.

Their family has continued a connection with the University of Adelaide with both their children graduating – Catriona (MBBS 1994) and James (MBBS 1994) – while their grandson is currently studying engineering.

Back in Adelaide Anne began her formal training in psychiatry. She is now a clinical senior lecturer in psychiatry at the University of Adelaide and has been medical unit head of Helen Mayo House for 29 years.

From this base of working with psychiatrically unwell postnatal women and their infants, she has helped develop services in perinatal and infant mental health at the Women’s and Children’s Hospital, and through much of South Australia.

Tony has held senior positions at the Royal Adelaide Hospital for many years. He was head of hepatobiliary surgery, and the clinical director of both gastrointestinal services and operating services. He is currently the clinical director of the hospital’s surgical specialties.

Tony and Anne love to travel to Canberra and Stockholm where their children and five grandchildren live.

Above: Gwen and Ken Moxham
Photo by Russell Millard
Teeing off together
Glen and Deborah Wright (nee Harris)

The Wrights were studying at the University of Adelaide at the same time in different disciplines – Glen in pharmacy and Deborah in law. Their paths didn’t officially cross until shortly after graduation when they were finally introduced by their brothers.

With a shared interest in sport, in particular golf, they were both members of Glenelg Golf Club and also played inter varsity golf at university, with Deborah achieving a half blue.

“A mutual love of the game, to which we were both introduced at about the age of eight or nine by our respective parents, is one of the factors in our having spent the last 48 years of married life together,” says Deborah.

The couple married in March 1968. Glen opened a pharmacy in Fairview Park the day after he graduated followed by a second pharmacy at St Agnes Shopping Centre, where he pioneered Australia’s first self-serve supermarket-style pharmacy.

Deborah worked at the Supreme Court in Adelaide as an associate to Justice Hogarth and then to Chief Justice, Dr Bray.

They moved to the central coast of New South Wales in 1972 where they have lived ever since. Glen continued working in pharmacy and Deborah took time off work to look after their three children.

In 1987, they departed from their academic fields and opened a financial planning office. This change of direction required mature age study, which they say was a shock to the system after 21 years, but resulted in a harmonious and fulfilling business partnership of 17 years.

“It goes without saying that we have continued our golfing recreation uninterrupted and our interest and ability has been passed down to our children and some of our seven grandchildren,” says Deborah. “Life has been very good to us but our educational grounding at both school and university in Adelaide has been invaluable in our attaining this.”

Romantic road trip
Helmut and Jo Weigold (nee Thomas)

Both science students, Jo and Helmut became acquainted during their honours year in the Physical and Inorganic Chemistry Department. They were part of a group of 10 students – Jo the only woman.

Romance was slow to develop and Jo remembers that “even at the end of honours’ year neither of us would have imagined what was in our future”.

A trip to Brisbane for a conference in May 1961 was the catalyst for a change. Helmut and two other postgraduate colleagues drove up, while Jo flew there but was invited to join the men for the journey back to Adelaide.

She remembers the discomfort of Helmut and the other guys who thought her presence was likely to be restrictive. But as they slowly progressed down the east coast, the social dynamics between Helmut and Jo altered significantly.

By the time they arrived in Canberra there were definite sparks of interest which blossomed into a relationship that continues 55 years later.

The couple married in January 1963, in the chapel at Lincoln College and left Adelaide in 1965 to take up post doctoral positions. Helmut held a CSIRO post doctoral scholarship and Jo had a George Murray fellowship at the University of Manchester in England. Late in 1966 Helmut moved to a fellowship in the USA at Case Western Reserve University, Ohio.

They returned to Australia in late 1967 and Helmut joined the CSIRO Division of Applied Organic Chemistry in Melbourne as a research scientist, working on a range of projects until his retirement in 2004.

Jo was employed in the Chemistry Department at Monash University, initially as a demonstrator, then in the nuclear magnetic resonance laboratory until 2003.

The couple has three children (who all received university degrees before travelling and working overseas) and six grandchildren.

Library liaisons
Peter and Felicia Mitchell (nee Smith)

Peter and Felicia first met while playing together in Burnside Orchestra, but it was amongst the books in the Barr Smith Library that they really got to know each other.

Peter was completing his PhD in the Department of Physics and Felicia was studying part time while working in the library. They connected over music with both playing in the student orchestras in their spare time.

After university Felicia continued to work at the Barr Smith Library and Peter became a physics lecturer at the University. Their careers took them to Reading and Manchester in UK before they returned to Australia and settled in Sydney.

Married in 1966, Peter and Felicia celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary this year. They have two daughters and five grandchildren.
Distinguished Alumni Awards

From a pioneer in multisensory communication to the Head of State Opera in South Australia, this year’s Distinguished Alumni Awards showcase achievements of our alumni in diverse fields and from around the globe.

The awards are in recognition of alumni who have enhanced the reputation of the University of Adelaide through outstanding service to the community or who have made an outstanding contribution in their chosen fields.

Advancing the arts

Timothy Sexton
(BMus (Hons) 1985, Grad Dip Ed 1988)

Timothy is head of the State Opera of South Australia and one of Australia’s foremost musicians and innovative artistic directors.

His varied career has encompassed public speaking, conducting and performing, radio broadcasting for the ABC and music composition, most notably for children’s theatre and vocal works.

His contribution to music in this State was recognised in 2008 with the Premier’s Ruby Award for Sustained Contribution to the Arts by an Individual. The following year he was named the SA Great South Australian of the Year in the arts category.

Fighting for equal rights

Jane Sloane
(BA (Hons) 1985)

An exceptional humanitarian, Jane is a multiple award winner who has dedicated much of her life to advancing women’s human rights and the rights of marginalised people and populations.

She is currently vice-president of programs with the Global Fund for Women in San Francisco.

She has been a dedicated leader for various humanitarian organisations including World Vision Australia, Women’s World Banking, Social Entrepreneurs Network and the International Women’s Development Agency.

Probing the structure of matter

Dr Wolodymyr ‘Wally’ Melnitchouk
(BSc (Hons) 1984, PhD (Sc) 1984)

Wally is an internationally renowned scientist in nuclear and particle physics.

Currently senior theoretical nuclear physicist at Jefferson Lab in Virginia, USA, he is recognised worldwide for his work dedicated to understanding the structure of matter at its most fundamental level.

In 1994, Wally’s research was recognised with the Bragg Gold Medal by the Australian Institute of Physics and in 2006 he was elected a Fellow of the American Physical Society.

Tireless community worker

Dr Kenneth Collins, AM
(MBBS 1960)

For most of his life Kenneth has been dedicated to helping others as a medical practitioner and through extensive community service in a range of civic organisations.

For 31 years he has been involved continuously with Rotary’s Polio Eradication Campaign which has seen the incidence of polio reduced from 500,000 cases in 150 countries in 1985 to 23 cases in three countries to the end of August 2016. Through Rotary and community service involvement, he has made an impact to the lives of millions of people directly or in directly.

His service has extended to numerous overseas humanitarian projects and innumerable committees and organisations.

Innovation in mixed reality

Professor Adrian Cheok
(BE (Elec) 1994, PhD 1999)

A pioneer in mixed reality and multisensory communication, Adrian has been recognised internationally through multiple awards for his innovation and leadership.

The founder of the Imagineering Institute in Malaysia and the Mixed Reality Lab in Singapore, some of his ground breaking works include innovative and interactive games such as 3dlive, Human Pacman and Huggy Pajama.

Adrian also invented the world’s first electric and thermal taste machine, which produces virtual tastes with electric current and thermal energy.

To see more about our distinguished alumni visit adelaide.edu.au/alumni/recognised

The University of Adelaide | Alumni Magazine 29
“But for a number of years now we’ve been ranked the number one or two nursing school in terms of employability and satisfaction with the program. Employers frequently comment on the quality of our graduates.”

The University first began its involvement in nursing after winning a tender to teach postgraduate courses – after a low-key launch delivering courses to postgraduates in 1995, it has been transformed into one of Australia’s most highly rated teaching and research schools of nursing.

“We began small and it took three to four years before most people in the University even knew we existed,” says Lecturer Dr David Foley.

The Joanna Briggs Institute of Evidence Based Nursing and Midwifery was established to close the gap between research and practice and offers a research and education services for nursing students. Today the Institute is a thriving hub of activity with a staff that has grown from six to 40.

The clinically focused Bachelor of Nursing program was first offered with 35 students.

Current Head, Alison Kitson, was appointed Professor Head of the Discipline and then Head of School in 2011. Over one thousand students have now graduated from the nursing program with many working in lead positions in clinical practice.

The discipline was renamed the School of Nursing.

Iain Everett was officially endorsed as the first Master of Nurse Practitioner graduate.
The teaching spaces have been designed to encourage small-group interactive teaching which is very much student centred.

A key feature of the new building is a state-of-the-art skills laboratory and simulation centre to recreate a variety of healthcare environments from emergency and outpatient departments to wards and GP clinics.

This will be one of the most technologically advanced laboratories of its kind in Australia and will allow medical and nursing students to operate in teams to gain experience in tackling a range of simulated health events.

Lecturer Alison Walsh knows as well as anyone the importance of such infrastructure. Alison is a past and current student at the school, studying an oncology graduate diploma in 2006. She’s now doing a masters in clinical nursing specialising in oncology and has plans for a PhD.

“Even though a lot of the course is online, the practical study is interactive and I have the opportunity to really extend myself,” says Alison.

“Oncology is an area that’s progressing rapidly with all the research, so as a student and lecturer I need to be on top of all the changes and how they translate into clinical practice.”

Adelaide Nursing School also has a strong research culture and boasts two professors listed among the world’s most highly cited researchers – Head of School Alison Kitson and Professorial Research Fellow Gill Harvey.

In its three surveys since 2010, Excellence in Research for Australia has given the school a top five-point rating every time – a score achieved by only two other Australian nursing schools.

This is well above world standard and places it among the top international nursing schools in terms of impact and reputation.

Meet our oldest volunteer

When Jeanette ‘Nettie’ Davidson’s husband passed away three years ago, she decided she wanted to keep his tradition of volunteering at the Waite Campus alive and stepped into his shoes.

Nettie is the University’s oldest volunteer, a very spritely 90 year old. She visits the Waite gardens once a week to prune the roses and weed the gardens, just as her husband Torben had done for 18 years before her.

Torben was an active volunteer when he passed away at 91 and Nettie remembers how much joy he got from volunteering

“He used to come home and say, ‘they are so lovely, such a lovely group’,” says Nettie.

“Some months after he died I thought, ‘I need to take his place now’ and I have been coming here ever since.”

Torben had a long connection to the Waite as his father, Professor James Davidson, was the first Professor of Entomology at the campus.

With fond memories of picnics with her husband and grandchildren in the gardens, Nettie says she is happy to spend time volunteering in the beautiful surroundings.

“We are so fortunate to have the arboretum, why wouldn’t you want to volunteer in such a serene and beautiful place?” she says. “It’s amazing how many people don’t know it’s here.”

Now a great grandmother, when she’s not volunteering Nettie keeps herself busy with her family and weaving, calling herself a “crazy weaver”.

Her thoughts on the title of ‘oldest’ volunteer? “I don’t really feel like I’m 90 but I suppose it must be true!”

Photo by: Russell Millard
Dean of Law’s Fund Reaches a Milestone

When Professor John Williams, the former Dean of the Adelaide Law School, first came up with the idea of creating a fund to assist financially disadvantaged undergraduate law students, he was unsure it would ever become reality.

But after three years of promotion and lobbying, he has successfully reached the target of $100,000. This means the fund can now be endowed in perpetuity to provide ongoing financial support to students in need.

“It has been a very important initiative to benefit generations of law students,” said John.

Elise Thomson was one of the first students to receive assistance from the fund in 2014 after her employer passed away, putting enormous financial strain on her ability to meet the ongoing costs of her law degree. A single mother of four teenagers, Elise had the added costs of raising a family.

“Not having to worry about whether I could afford textbooks removed some of the financial burdens relating to university life,” says Elise.

“These types of grants for assistance are particularly important for single parents who are studying as they are often not eligible for other scholarships or funds.”

Elise is now employed as a lawyer and wants to help others who find themselves in a similar situation.

“I have graduated with my law degree and my financial situation has greatly improved in recent months and, as such, I have made a contribution to the Dean of Law’s Fund in appreciation,” she says.

John says he could not have achieved such a wonderful outcome without the support of alumni, colleagues and members of the profession.

“Those who supported the fund inevitably pointed to the importance of education and their commitment to the next generation of students,” he says.

He paid particular tribute to the Dean of Law’s Fund committee. Chaired by the Justice Margaret Nyland, AM, the committee consists of Barrister Robert Cameron, Emeritus Professor Ivan Shearer, AM, and David Meyer.

“Margaret has been an outstanding advocate for the fund, not only in encouraging financial support but also by helping to create greater awareness of the fund among the legal profession,” says John. “It is largely due to her efforts that we have achieved our goal in only three years.”

To date, more than 200 donors have made over 300 gifts toward the fund and 23 students have received support.

Now endowed in perpetuity, the fund will create an enduring legacy capable of supporting future generations of law students experiencing significant financial stress.
Annual Meeting of the University Community 2017

On 13 February 2017, the University Council will convene the Annual Meeting of the University Community comprising the staff, students and alumni.

The meeting is convened by the University Council pursuant to section 18 of the University of Adelaide Act 1971.

The annual meeting is your opportunity to ask questions about your University and to hear from the Vice-Chancellor and the Chancellor.

The meeting will be streamed live at www.adelaide.edu.au/live.

Following the meeting, a light lunch will be provided in the foyer. All welcome to attend.

Time: 12.00pm – 1.00pm
Date: Monday 13 February 2017
Location: The Braggs lecture theatre, ground floor, The Braggs building

Alumni on the Move

Frances Adamson
(BEc 1985)
Secretary of the Department of
Foreign Affairs and Trade

Geoff Harcourt, AO
FASSA FACSS FRSN (M Ec 1959)
Has been elected a Fellow of the Royal
Society of New South Wales (FRSN).

Professor Deep Saini
(PhD (Ag & Nat Res Sc) 1983)
Has been appointed Vice-Chancellor of
University of Canberra, Australia.

Professor Roger Byard
(MD 1994, M Med Sc 1997)
Received the ISPID Distinguished
Researcher Award for outstanding
contributions to SIDS research.

Colin Murray-Wallace
(BA (Hons) 1984, PhD 1998, DSc 2010)
Awarded the Mawson Medal from the
Australia Academy of Science.

Eight alumni were elected at
the recent Federal election

Elected to the Senate:
> Don Farrell
  (LLB 1977)

Re-elected to the Australian Parliament:
> Simon Birmingham
  (MBA 2008)
> Mark Butler
  (BA (Jur) 1991, LLB (Hons) 1993)
> Sarah Hanson-Young
  (B Soc Sc 2002)
> Christopher Pyne
  (LLB 1989)
> Amanda Rishworth
  (M Clin Psych 2005)
> Penny Wong
  (BA (Jur) 1993, LLB (Hons) 1993)
> Nick Xenophon
  (LLB 1981)

Simon Birmingham was re-appointed
Minister for Education and Training
Christopher Pyne was appointed
Minister for Defence Industry
Justice Martin Hinton
(LLB Hons) 1989, BA (Jur)
1989 LLM (Gen St) 1990
Was appointed to the South Australian
Supreme Court.

Justice Margaret White
(LLB 1967, LLD 2014)
Was appointed to the Australian
Government’s Royal Commission into the
Northern Territory’s youth detention system.

University News

Professor Alan Cooper named
SA Scientist of the Year

The University of Adelaide’s Professor Alan
Cooper is 2016 South Australian Scientist
of the Year.
Professor Cooper is founder and Director of
the Australian Centre for Ancient DNA at the
University of Adelaide, a leading research
centre studying issues ranging from
Aboriginal genetic heritage to the impacts
of environmental change and the evolution
of human diseases.

New University professorial
appointment at Lyell McEwin

Professor Mark Boyd has been appointed
Chair of Medicine based at the Lyell McEwin
Hospital in a joint appointment with the
Northern Adelaide Local Health Network.
Professor Boyd will provide leadership in
teaching and research, promote a culture of
research and teaching excellence, as well
as undertake clinical duties and supervise
junior medical staff.

University of Adelaide climbs 30
places in international rankings

University of Adelaide jumped 30 places,
from 169 to 139 in the Academic Ranking
of World Universities (Shanghai Jiao
Tong University).
The University has also risen in the
prestigious Times Higher Education
rankings, jumping seven spots to be
142nd in the world.

Librarian of the future at the
University of Adelaide

Teresa Chitty has been appointed
as University Librarian to help drive
the transformation of the University’s
library services.
Teresa will lead the development and
implementation of the University’s Library
of the Future plan, a roadmap for a bold
and agile libraries service to support
the University’s research, teaching and
student success.
Carols on Campus
A celebration of Christmas

Free Community Event
Thursday 15 December 2016 at 7pm
Bonython Hall, North Terrace campus

We invite you to bring a book or a toy for the gifting tree, in support of The Smith Family.

www.adelaide.edu.au/carols