New VC comes home
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Circulation:
34,220 in print and 26,518 online subscriptions
The University of Adelaide, SA 5005 Australia,
CRICOS Provider Number 00123M
Copyright © 2017
The University of Adelaide ISSN 1320 0747
Registered by Australia Post
No 56500/00097

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Front cover image:
Professor Peter Rathjen
Photo by Jo-anna Robinson

WARNING: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are warned that this publication may contain images of deceased persons.
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Welcome to our Spring edition of Lumen

In this edition, incoming Vice-Chancellor and President Professor Peter Rathjen, discusses where he sees the University in the next five years; his experiences as Vice-Chancellor of the University of Tasmania; and how his time at the University of Adelaide, as both a student and academic member of staff, have influenced his career path.

As we look forward to welcoming Professor Rathjen in 2018, the past months have seen the return of many distinguished alumni to campus, among them, Hon. Julie Bishop, Foreign Minister, who delivered this year’s Sir John Downer Oration, and Dr Andy Thomas, AO, who attended Adelaide for the International Astronautical Congress.

In recent months, it’s been wonderful to see many of our staff and researchers, particularly in the area of science, recognised for their achievements, including Professor Heike Ebendorff-Heidepriem (Institute for Photonics and Advanced Sensing and the Adelaide node of Optofab), Dr Caitlin Byrt (School of Agriculture, Food and Wine) and alumna Dr Michelle Perugini, who received 2017 Women in Innovation awards, and Professor James Paton, who was named South Australian Scientist of the Year for 2017.

On the innovation front, in this edition of Lumen, read about how our University community is working with local government to transform Adelaide into a smart city. Meet inspiring alumna Indigenous Doctor Kali Hayward, and find out about the Kankarnti Indigenous Program, developed by the University, which will support young Indigenous leaders of tomorrow.

We acknowledge the great work of our Law staff, students and alumni involved in the South Australian Law Reform Institute (SALRI).

You can also read about the world-class facilities our staff, students and community will benefit from as the Adelaide Dental School moves into its new home at the Adelaide Health and Medical Sciences (AHMS) building.

Professor Mike Brooks
Interim Vice-Chancellor and President

Photo by Andy Steven

Earlier this year Dr Tim Cooper, AM, finished his term as the inaugural Chair of the Alumni Council. Tim was instrumental in getting the Alumni Council started from its establishment in 2014, and he has left big shoes for me to fill. I would like to thank Tim for all his hard work.

We have welcomed the following new members to the Alumni Council this year: Ms Megan Webster Bradman, Ms Leah Marrone, Ms Penelope Howarth and Mr Jarrad Taylor. They join continuing members Professor Randall Faull, Dr Penny Moyle and Associate Professor Paul Grbin and those re-elected or re-appointed – Dr David Wong, Mr Dale Manson and Dr Chelsea Liu. This is a worldly and diverse group who are keen to work with the External Relations branch to help to foster networks between alumni and the University of Adelaide for the benefit of both all over the world.

At our July meeting, from the University Council we welcomed Chancellor Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce, AC, CSC, RAN-Rtd and Council Member Dr Ian Watson, AM, RFD to discuss how the Alumni Council and the University Council can work even more closely together. A number of initiatives were discussed, including having Dr Ian Watson as a permanent liaison on the Alumni Council, and the Alumni Council Chair regularly attending and reporting to the University Council meetings.

As always, we welcome feedback and suggestions as to how we can better support alumni and the University, including current students. You can contact us via the University website: www.adelaide.edu.au/alumni/council/

Louisa Rose
Chair, Alumni Council
In January 2018, Professor Peter Rathjen will become the 22nd Vice-Chancellor and President of the University of Adelaide.

You are one of just a few Adelaide undergraduates to rise to the position of Vice-Chancellor of this University. How does that change your perspective on the role?

For me, it’s about giving back. This University has done an immense amount for my family. The University educated my parents, me, my four siblings, and all of our spouses; the University of Adelaide has been the most formative experience on our family outside of the family itself. My parents were both the first in their families to go to university, as was my wife. I have an intense personal connection to this place.

Dad (Professor Tony Rathjen) worked on the Waite Campus of the University from 1965, and I spent vast amounts of my childhood acting as free labour for him. I’ve always known the people and places of the University of Adelaide – they’ve been part of the dinner table conversation when I was a kid, so there’s a sense of continuity.

There is another important line of connectivity for me: the Biochemistry Department. I majored in Biochemistry, undertook Honours with Professor Bob Symons, and the department welcomed me back as a young lecturer and supported the development of my career. My first university leadership role was with the Biochemistry Department, I am still immensely proud of what was achieved during my tenure.

I am excited that I will take custodianship of the University that played such a pivotal role in shaping me and my family and be able to lead it through the next years. This University has been largely responsible for the path I have taken in my career. I was taught by wonderful academics, and I was conscious of it at the time. I’m talking about the staff in genetics and biochemistry, but I had an outstanding geology lecturer as well.

That I will be able to influence the journey of the University, guiding it to do as well as it possibly can, and to contribute as meaningfully as it can to South Australia, the state that has been my family’s home for 170 years, is really quite inspiring.

You have made a career in Universities. Why are you so passionate about the University sector and the role Universities play in society?

Universities are probably the single most important institutions that modern communities harbor, and they will play a pivotal role in positioning society for the next 50 years.

The wonder of universities is that they’ve persisted for nearly a thousand years, and that they have done so with so little change to their core values. As institutions they have been reinterpreted in terms of contemporary settings, so their precise shape changes a bit, but their values have really not changed. I developed a very deep set of academic values from the people that taught me at the University of Adelaide.

I value the collegial approach to decision-making. That people should always feel free to put forward their point of view and be treated with respect, that ideas are robustly tested through the rigours of intellectual debate, and that everyone participates in the process; this means that members of our institution share a decision once a decision’s been made. I think it’s a marvelous form of decision-making. It may not work in the corporate world, but it’s part of why universities have survived for a thousand years.

Your time as Vice-Chancellor of the University of Tasmania has been hailed as a success from many different quarters. What do you see as your main achievements during that time?

Tasmania is bedeviled by a low aspiration for education and a low understanding of what education can deliver.

What I’m proudest of is that right across the state, even in the most underprivileged areas and sectors of society, education is now front and centre of what people are talking about. We have made the university visible to all of Tasmanian society. It is being discussed around dinner tables, where families might not have ever considered education as a valid pathway before. There has been a change in the culture of an island, a change that was desperately needed, and I think it is now an irreversible change. Education has a role in the future of Tasmania.

What have we been doing to position Tasmanian society for the next 50 years? The first thing we have championed is a need for innovation – new ideas, new ways of thinking about things – and have forged a stronger connection to the greater world of ideas.

We have focused on the development of human capital. There are no longer meaningful jobs for people who are not educated – more people have to be engaged with education, and engaged throughout their lives, to ensure they have meaningful and productive lives. As a University we have been working to increase the participation of Tasmanians in all levels of education, and specifically in higher education. We have approached this by developing educational programs and built environments that provide attractive pathways to more Tasmanians.

Tasmania is a work in progress. These two objectives – developing innovation and the human capital – will need to be even more closely drawn together to create a new future. That is the wonderful mission
of the University of Tasmania, and it is a mission that only universities can deliver on, and which I think sits at the core of socio-economic prosperity for the next 50 years worldwide.

Increased global connectivity is the third objective. And again, in Tasmania it is the university that is delivering a global connectivity for society.

Society has no more important asset than its people, and it will not matter that careers and jobs will come and go – educated people with a set of skills that informs their approach to life will thrive regardless of what the future holds.

Being in the only university on the island gave me acute insight into that simple relationship between the state, that supports the university, and the university in turn delivers benefit back to the community.

Where do you see the University of Adelaide in five years’ time?

We will teach more people; I think part of the great university mission at the moment is to see that more of society is educated, and we will find ways of doing that.

We will become more innovative with our education; the great bachelor programs will stay, but we will find more tailored, flexible programs that are better matched to the short-term needs of some students and some industries.

We will be a stronger research university; one of the great things that the University of Adelaide can do for the state of South Australia is to be a very highly regarded university on the basis of its research, but increasingly, we will learn how benefit for the state can be extracted from our research agendas.

The University will have a very strong partnership with the state at its core, and the state will realise that by investing in this University, it will actually produce the best possible future for South Australia.

What I like to do, to be honest, isn’t to set big targets for five years’ time, but to have the whole organisation just think about how it can always be better. I think we should have very high aspirations for the University of Adelaide in every way that we can. But we also need to explain to the Government of South Australia and the people of South Australia what our aspirations are, to create shared aspirations for this University, as it should be a shared aspiration to have this University as successful as it can possibly be. It is this common goal that will give our kids their best future.
“An amazing, mind-expanding growth experience” is how Dr Niki Vincent describes her time at university.
Growing up in modest circumstances, Dr Niki Vincent says she never had big aspirations. That certainly changed.

Since walking into the University of Adelaide at the age of 26, having spent her post-school years building a family business and caring for her four children, South Australia’s current Commissioner for Equal Opportunity has forged a stellar career in research and executive leadership, and has been awarded not one but two University Medals – as well as a PhD.

Along the way she established the Leaders Institute of South Australia, among her other achievements, and has inspired many young people to strive to achieve their own goals.

Choosing the University of Adelaide based on the reputation of the psychology program, Niki first enrolled in a Bachelor of Arts (majoring in psychology and media and cultural studies) after being fascinated by the psychological testing her daughter (and three other children) underwent as part of a longitudinal study of gifted children in Australia. She took an Honours year and excelled, winning her first University Medal for her research.

“The first University Medal (for my Honours research) was the thing that really set me on a different life path,” she says.

“When the letter came in the post telling me that I was to be awarded the medal, it was the first time that I really thought about the potential that I had – and felt a sense of responsibility to realise this potential.” This really set me thinking seriously about my career, and what I wanted to contribute.”

Niki’s early career was spent as a researcher for the National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction, the Australian Centre for Effective Healthcare, and then with the Institute for International Health (now the George Institute) coordinating an international program with the World Health Organization. This was simultaneously setting up a not-for-profit organisation focussed on facilitating the volunteering of professional skills to non-profit organisations. One memorable job she advertised was for a volunteer nuclear physicist for Greenpeace.

Niki has loved all but one of the jobs she has held since completing her undergraduate degree, believing that she has been able to make important contributions through them all.

Even the position she describes as “the worst job I’ve never looked back from” was an important professional development opportunity focussing her direction. “I learned so much in this role – about boards and people and how not to lead an organisation,” she says.

In 2004, Niki established the Leaders Institute of South Australia to focus on developing wiser, more ethical and adaptive leadership for the common good. She continued to build the organisation for 12 years – an achievement of which she is particularly proud.

There was much more to be achieved, however, and keen to contribute further to the field of leadership excellence, Niki returned to the University to start a PhD. Despite being motivated and having a proven work ethic, she admits to not being overly disciplined at the start which, she says in retrospect, is crucial to maintaining the momentum of study.

Things were made a lot tougher when one of her daughters was diagnosed with a brain tumour, and it took two years and four rounds of surgery to get her through. All the while Niki continued to “plod away” at her research.

A key motivator was the promise she had made to the 14 leadership programs and 374 participants – the subjects of her PhD research – that her work would make an important contribution to the field of leadership excellence. “This meant that in my darkest moments of the study, I just had to keep going because of the commitment I’d made to them,” she says.

She not only completed the PhD, she won her second University Medal for Excellence in Doctoral Research.

“I think the second University Medal was a wonderful reward for so many years of studying all weekend and many nights, while working as a CEO and dealing with my daughter’s brain tumour and various other personal and professional challenges,” she says.

“I published three academic papers along the way – one on each of the studies in my research project and one in the most eminent journal in the field – so this also felt pretty good.”

Niki says being appointed South Australian Commissioner for Equal Opportunity is a huge privilege.

“I’m so passionate about fostering the development of informed and unprejudiced attitudes, the promotion of equality of opportunity and the prevention of discrimination, as well as helping to facilitate the participation of everyone in the economic and social life of our community,” she says.

With such an impressive record of professional and personal contributions throughout her career, you could easily think that Niki is keen to slow the pace down. True to form though, there’s more she wants to accomplish.

“I want to blow up some of those stereotypes about age and change of career and winding slowly down to retirement,” she says enthusiastically.

“I don’t think of myself as even in that realm. I feel like I am in the absolute prime of my life.”

“I’m so passionate about fostering the development of informed and unprejudiced attitudes, the promotion of equality of opportunity and the prevention of discrimination, as well as helping to facilitate the participation of everyone in the economic and social life of our community.”

Dr Niki Vincent
Photo by Marina Birch
A new crop of winemakers

University of Adelaide alumni have featured strongly in this year’s Young Guns of Wine, an initiative to celebrate Australia’s best up-and-coming winemakers.

Among our talented young winemakers in the Top 50 are Damon Koerner, Melanie Chester, Michael Downer and Tessa Brown. All four are making a name for themselves, producing excellent wine and bringing enthusiasm, new ideas and passion to the nation’s wine sector.
Celebrating delicious fresh ideas

Melanie Chester entered the Young Guns of Wine competition because a couple of mates had done it before and found it a great way to communicate with a different audience.

She says the whole focus of the awards is young people in the industry or people who are young at heart doing interesting things.

“Kids my age don’t want to talk about nuances of peppercorn and leather in wine; we want to enjoy wine, celebrate it and make something that is delicious,” she says.

“That’s the thing that younger people bring to the industry, fresh ideas and a way to communicate with our generation.”

At just 28, Melanie is the winemaker at Sutton Grange, a little farm of 38 acres located in Bendigo, Victoria. The vineyard grows seven grape varieties including sangiovese, fiano and classics like shiraz.

She credits her career success to date to hard work and an opportunity she received while studying viticulture and oenology at the University of Adelaide.

In her third year of study Melanie won The Treasury Estates Wine Prize, an award for the student showing greatest aptitude, enthusiasm and application to winemaking as judged by staff teaching the course. The prize entailed doing a vintage as a winemaker at Wolf Blass in the Barossa Valley.

She clearly made an impression because they told her to look out for a winemaking job coming up at Sutton Grange and she won the position.

“Sutton Grange has been an amazing opportunity for me to run not just the winemaking side, developing an individual wine style, but also working alongside my vineyard manager to grow good grapes and develop good wine from those grapes,” she says.

As for being recognised in the Top 50 Young Guns of Wine 2017, Melanie says it’s great to be associated with the “cool kids” communicating wine to a new generation of consumers.

Michael makes his mark on family business

Michael Downer took out the top award at this year’s Young Guns of Wine, joining a list of young winemakers he holds in great admiration.

“I think young people bring a lot of personality and flair to the wines they make, and don’t feel restricted to the larger, corporate winemaking rules,” he says.

“From using different winemaking techniques and processes to different grape varieties, they give consumers the opportunity to try new styles.”

Michael joined the family winery, Murdoch Hill in the Adelaide Hills, after studying oenology at the University of Adelaide and completing vintages locally, interstate and overseas.

Winemaking under the Murdoch Hill label had previously been contracted out to winemakers making good quality classic styles, so Michael’s parents needed some convincing to let their son try something new to make his mark.

“I think bringing the winemaking in-house has allowed me to develop a more personal style with more detail,” he says.

“It’s enabled me to work with lots of small batches to understand different parts of the vineyard, and play with different ideas to produce quite a different style of wine.

“I started in a little corner of the shed with a few batches and it just evolved from there – that little corner has slowly expanded to take up most of the shed.”

In addition to sauvignon blanc, which Murdoch Hill and the Adelaide Hills region is well known for, the winery now produces excellent chardonnay, shiraz and pinot noir.

It’s very much a family affair at Murdoch Hill where everyone gets involved, including Michael’s brother, a graphic designer who creates the wine labels and who is a good soundboard for new ideas.

Looking ahead, Michael’s focus is on consolidating the range of wines he has introduced and putting more time into the vineyard, focusing on vine health and more organic practices.

“This will involve improving the stature of the vines to be less reliant on chemical sprays – a slow evolution to more organic viticulture,” he says.

There are also plans for a cellar door, which Michael hopes to have up and running sometime in the new year.
Tessa finds sweet success in winemaking

Tessa Brown grew up in sunny north Queensland where her parents were sugar cane farmers.

But while she enjoyed science and agriculture at school, she wasn’t keen to follow in her parent’s footsteps after witnessing Australia’s sugar cane industry struggle as cheaper imports flooded the market.

It wasn’t until she visited her sister in Victoria and experienced cellar doors in the Rutherglen, renowned for its muscats and ports, that she found a new direction.

“The first cellar door I went into, I took a deep breath, had a look around and said to myself ‘This is something I could be interested in, I’m going to learn about growing grapes’,” says Tessa.

Tessa studied an undergraduate degree in viticulture at Charles Sturt University followed by a Graduate Diploma in Oenology at the University of Adelaide eight years later.

“The University of Adelaide course had a good reputation and I made lifetime friends from all over the world who I still stay in touch with,” she says.

It hasn’t been an easy road for Tessa, who started winemaking at the end of the last boom cycle, trying to get experience as the industry was going through some glut years.

“You could get work, but it was three months of pruning or a couple of months of vintage or vineyard work. Between 2003 and 2007 full-time work was pretty hard to find.”

But she managed to gain good experience at different places which led to a full-time cellar job at Kooyong Wines on Victoria’s Mornington Peninsula, where she honed her winemaking skills.

In 2013, Tessa and husband Jeremy bought land and planted vines in Beechworth Victoria and started their own label, Vignerons Schmolzer & Brown.

Tessa and Jeremy currently have two hectares under vine, a mix of chardonnay, riesling, shiraz and nebbiolo.

While still a young wine label, Tessa and Jeremy’s wines are attracting the praise of their peers, including the Young Guns of Wine Top 50 finish in 2017 and a Top 12 finish in 2016.
Love of winemaking born among the vines

Damon Koerner had an upbringing which beckoned a career in the wine industry. His parents are grape growers and Damon and his brother grew up on the vineyards owned and managed by the family for 35 years.

The farm provided a wonderful training ground to learn about growing grapes – but it also sparked an interest in winemaking.

“For years we watched other winemakers come and buy the fruit my parents had grown and make it into wine,” says Damon. “So, the intrigue in the making part of winemaking was there from a young age.”

This led to Damon studying a Bachelor of Viticulture and Oenology at the University of Adelaide before winning a winemaking role at Peter Lehmann Wines in the Barossa Valley, where he produced his first vintage.

He then worked at wineries in the Adelaide Hills, including The Lane and Petaluma, and spent some time at Tyrrells in the Hunter Valley.

To broaden his knowledge, Damon also travelled overseas for vintages in Alsace and Chablis, premier wine-producing regions in France.

At age 27 and armed with a bag full of experiences and ideas, Damon returned to Australia and started the Koerner label in the Clare Valley with brother Jono in 2014.

The brothers work closely with two vineyards – Gullyview which is owned by their parents – and Vivian which is owned by Rob Tiver, to produce both red and white wines.

Their aim is to make bright, fruit-forward, expressive wines that show off both the place and varietal.

Damon says while making the Top 50 in the Young Guns of Wine has been rewarding, there is still plenty of room for improvement.

“The unique thing about winemaking is you only get one shot a year, and every year is different, which always keeps things interesting.

“We hope to just keep getting better at making wine, unique wines that are true to the Watervale region and Australia.”

Alumni in the Top 50

Alex Schulkin
The Other Right, Adelaide Hills

Anthony Pearce and Craig Turnbull
Gestalt Wines, Adelaide Hills/Barossa

Brett Grocke
Epirosa, Barossa Valley/Eden Valley

Con-Greg Grigoriou
Delinquent Wine Co, Riverland

Damon Koerner
Koerner Wine, Clare Valley

James Champniss
Ten Miles East, Adelaide Hills

Ricky Evans
Two Tonne, Tasmania

John Hughes
Riesling Freak, Clare Valley

Josh Pfeiffer
Whister, Barossa Valley

Justin Purser
Best’s Wines, Great Western

Luke Growden
Year Wines, McLaren Vale

Melanie Chester
Sutton Grange, Bendigo

Michael Downer
Murdoch Hill, Adelaide Hills

Philip LeMessurier
Corduroy Wines, Adelaide Hills

Steven Crawford
Frederick Stevenson/Giovanni Armani Giorgio, Barossa Valley

Stuart Proud
Proud Primary Produce, Yarra Valley

Tessa Brown
Vignerons Schmolzer & Brown, Beechworth
A good 12 months for law reform in South Australia

While the nation is still grappling with the public debate around same-sex marriage, our state has taken a huge leap forward in recognising relationships of all kinds with the establishment of a formal Relationships Register.
This historic development means that all couples – regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity – can have their relationships formally and legally recognised, without the need for national changes to marriage laws.

Many South Australians may not be aware that the University of Adelaide’s Law School staff, students and alumni have played a key role in this development, through the hard work and recommendations of the South Australian Law Reform Institute (SALRI).

Based in the Law School, SALRI is an independent and non-partisan institute that was established seven years ago in conjunction with the Attorney-General’s Department and the Law Society of South Australia.

“Society is always changing, and so the laws that govern our society must change also. This is the basic premise behind the need for a Law Reform Institute,” says SALRI Director Professor John Williams. “It’s especially important because of new technologies and evolving community attitudes over time, and because in some cases the laws we’re dealing with were written back in the 19th century.”

The Institute contributes to and draws on the Law School’s teaching and research, involving students, academics, graduates and members of the legal profession in its projects. It consults widely and has released reports into areas as diverse as reforms to privacy laws and replacing religious oaths for testifying in court with a simple promise to tell the truth.

Many of its recommendations have become law, including the recent modernisation of evidence laws to deal with new technologies.

While SALRI is typically asked by the Attorney-General to investigate an area of reform, its independence means it is also able to suggest its own reforms in areas of perceived need.
One of the biggest and most widely accepted bodies of work SALRI has conducted to date has been its series of reports into discrimination against individuals and families on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

At the end of 2016, State Parliament passed three Acts to enhance the rights of gay, lesbian, bisexual, trans, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ) South Australians. These laws implemented most of SALRI’s key recommendations. Then, in August this year, the Relationships Register came into being; this was another major SALRI recommendation.

“The new laws and the establishment of a Relationships Register are a major and historic step forward, helping to remove discrimination against LGBTIQ South Australians and visitors to our state,” Professor Williams says.

“It’s especially pleasing to know that SALRI has played a role in this, with bipartisan political support, and at a time when the community has been discussing such issues more broadly.

“Once the Institute makes its recommendations, we have no further advocacy role to play as to whether or not those laws are reformed and enacted. On this occasion, the Parliament has seen fit through conscience votes to make these changes for the benefit of members of the community.”

Sarah Moulds, SALRI research associate and Law School PhD student, was lead author of the reports into LGBTIQ discrimination.

“One aspect of the project our team is proud of is the manner in which this body of law reform was researched and consulted on with the LGBTIQ community and interested parties, including focus groups and online submissions,” she says. “We learnt very quickly that the LGBTIQ community was enthusiastic about equality.

“Members of the community were able to tell us their personal stories of discrimination; people described their family and the things they were missing on out on because of the gender of the person they loved. These stories became a compelling theme in our report.”

Ms Moulds echoes former High Court Justice Michael Kirby in saying that “Wide and inclusive consultation with the whole community is vital. Modern law reform is not just for lawyers or experts.”

A number of students also made significant contributions to the Relationships Register report through the Law School’s Law Reform course.

“Their work has helped various of our reports and led to major developments in our law’s history,” says SALRI Deputy Director Dr David Plater, who will chair a national conference on legislative law reform in Canberra this November. “It has also given our students a unique insight into the need for simple, elegant solutions to law reform. This is invaluable experience for our students will take with them into their future careers.”

Among other reports produced this year, SALRI has recommended significant changes to the law of intestacy, which governs how an estate is distributed when someone dies without leaving a will, and managing the financial affairs of a missing person.

It also will soon hand over its final report into the partial defence of “provocation” in murder cases – a controversial defence often known as the “gay panic defence”, because of its use as a partial defence in the killing of homosexuals. This report will also look at various linked areas, such as sentencing for homicide offenders and family violence implications.

Another major focus this year has been reform of family inheritance laws.

“Under current law, a so-called ‘final’ will and testament is not actually final, and is open to challenge by family members, often expressly against the dead person’s wishes,” says Dr Sylvia Villios, succession lecturer at the Law School who has assisted the Institute on this project.

“This project is, in simple terms, about finding the balance between ‘need’ and ‘greed’. Many people are affected by this; it’s a big issue. It often leads to great stress in families.

“The family inheritance project, continuing from the Institute’s LGBTIQ project, further shows the benefit of community consultation. Allowing people to tell their stories of what happened when someone they loved died is in itself very powerful and compelling. We have widely heard, especially from the community, that the current law is problematic, often upholding undeserving and opportunistic claims.”

Professor Williams says: “Former High Court Justice Michael Kirby once made an excellent point about law reform: he said it’s beyond simply changing legislation, it’s about contributing to civic engagement, to community debate and input.

“One of the goals of law reform is to say to citizens ‘It’s in your hands to change the law.’ And we hope we’re helping enable this to happen.”
Age no barrier in university bequest

Today’s bequestors come from all walks of life, each with their own unique story and reasons for making a bequest.

One thing bequestors all have in common is the desire to make a difference beyond their lifetime.

Jay Reid is unusual because at the age of 30 he is the University’s youngest known bequestor – a decision motivated by his wife’s diagnosis and battle with cancer a few years ago.

“It was at the University of Adelaide that I made lifelong friends, started my career in the public service and met my wife,” says Jay. “When I thought about the kind of legacy I would want to leave if something ever happened to me, I felt I owed something to the University.”

Growing up, Jay spent a lot of time visiting Adelaide and always loved the city’s atmosphere. When it came time to apply to universities, he knew that Adelaide was where he wanted to study.

Initially enrolling in a mechanical engineering and science double degree, once he was on campus and immersed in campus life, Jay quickly found his passions lay elsewhere and switched to a Bachelor of Media (Hons).

It was an important lesson and Jay’s advice to other students is to never feel locked into a degree.

“Don’t feel like your degree defines you,” he says, adding that it is the research, questioning and critical thinking skills he developed through his study that have been his biggest asset in building a career.

After completing his undergraduate qualification, Jay went on to complete a Masters of Philosophy in 2014. He was in the final stages of his thesis when he was accepted into the graduate program at the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO).

Since then he has gone on to enjoy various roles across Commonwealth agencies.

Reflecting on his time at University, Jay says: “I was fortunate in that my family could support me through my studies, but not everyone has that opportunity. By giving back I hope to help others have the same great university experience I had.”

As a result of his bequest, Jay has now joined the Hughes Bequest Society which allows him to maintain a close connection with the University, while having his generosity acknowledged during his lifetime.

“I was fortunate in that my family could support me through my studies, but not everyone has that opportunity. By giving back I hope to help others have the same great university experience I had.”

If you would like to find out about leaving a legacy, contact Trevor Capps, Planned Giving Officer on +61 8 8313 3234 or email trevor.capps@adelaide.edu.au

Above Jay Reid
Photo by Hilary Cam
Where does Australia’s number 1 dental school go to from here?
The Adelaide Dental School is already the best in Australasia and ranks 39th internationally, but things are only going to get better.

In July, the School moved into the University’s new $264 million Adelaide Health and Medical Sciences (AHMS) building, where it is co-located with the Adelaide Dental Hospital and the University’s Medical and Nursing schools.

The Executive Dean of the Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, Professor Alastair Burt, believes it is “perhaps the single most important development in the school’s history since it was established in 1920.”

“Co-location with the Dental Hospital means our academic staff have close access to the clinics, and it provides a wealth of training opportunities for our students,” Professor Burt says.

“For the first time in the University’s history, we can now have true inter-professional learning, with common skills being developed among our next generations of healthcare professionals.

“This move will help our Dental School to grow its national and international leadership in education, research and clinical care.”

The 14-storey AHMS building, based in the West End biomedical precinct now known as Adelaide Biomed City, is home to state-of-the-art teaching, learning and research facilities for 1600 students and more than 600 researchers.

The top three-and-a-half floors are dedicated to dentistry and oral health, with the SA Health-run Adelaide Dental Hospital occupying the top two-and-a-half floors.

The Interim Head of the Adelaide Dental School, Professor Richard Logan, says students, staff and the community stand to benefit greatly from the new facilities.

“We have a very good relationship with the South Australian Dental Service, including a 30-year partnership with SA Health to deliver clinical services 48 weeks in the year,” he says.

“Having a brand new clinical facility right here in the AHMS building is an outstanding outcome for the future of the Dental School and also for the South Australian Dental Service. Students are able to train with state-of-the-art facilities that reflect exactly what’s available in practice today.”

As well as being rostered at the Adelaide Dental Hospital, students work across South Australia, helping to deliver 36,000 clinical sessions to patients each year.

Second-year Bachelor of Dental Surgery student Avinash Sivakumar has wanted to study dentistry since he was a boy. “Some kids find going to the dentist a scary experience, but I always enjoyed it and was fascinated by it,” he says.

“The AHMS building itself is ideal for study, and the new Dental Hospital looks fantastic.

“It makes perfect sense to me not only to have the Dental School co-located with the Dental Hospital, but also to have dentistry located in the same building as medicine and nursing – from a learning point of view, but also professionally. It’s good to make contact with other students who will be working in healthcare.”

Madeline Glen, a first-year Bachelor of Oral Health student, is looking forward to starting her first practice clinics in the new Dental School.

“I’m loving my studies already,” she says. “The new AHMS building is amazing, and I’m really looking forward to being one of the first groups of students to benefit from working and studying in these facilities.”

The move to the AHMS building has also provided for the co-location of an important, but until now physically separate, part of the Adelaide Dental School – the highly regarded Australian Research Centre for Population Oral Health (ARCPOH).

Thanks to the ARCPOH’s work, the University has consistently secured a maximum score of 5 for dentistry in the Excellence for Research Australia process, meaning its research is considered “well above world-class”.

Professor Logan says the Adelaide Dental School continues to have a strong relationship with the dental profession and its many alumni.

“We’ve received a lot of support for this building, such as the generosity of Dr Joe Verco, whose great-uncle was Sir Joseph Verco, co-founder of the University’s Medical School back in 1885 and of the Dental School in 1920,” he says.

“It’s important for us to acknowledge the support of the profession in working towards achieving a great outcome for the Dental School and the Dental Hospital, for our staff, students, and for the community.

“These are very exciting times for dentistry at the University of Adelaide.”

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**First-class facilities**

> 55 dental chairs dedicated to training and clinical practice (40 undergraduate and 15 postgraduate)

> Four tutorial rooms equipped with the latest dental practice technology

> Full use of all 90 chairs in the Adelaide Dental Hospital for after-hours training

> State-of-the-art postgraduate laboratories, including specialist facilities for orthodontics

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Left: Madeline Glen, Avinash Sivakumar with Professor Richard Logan

Photo by Jo-anna Robinson
Making our cities smarter

The United Nations predicts that by 2030 one in every three people will be living in cities with at least half-a-million inhabitants. To ensure our cities remain great places to live, work and visit, it’s essential that we get smarter about the way resources and services are managed.

The University of Adelaide has taken a lead in this important new field by launching the Australian Smart Cities Consortium.

According to Associate Professor Nick Falkner, there are people on University of Adelaide campuses who have the expertise to solve just about any city problem – the key is bringing the people and the problems together.

As the University’s Director of the Australian Smart Cities Consortium, Nick is responsible for connecting people from across the University to work with local and state governments, entrepreneurs and industry on smart initiatives to transform Adelaide into a ‘smart city’.

He aims to link with people from all University faculties, from technologists, scientists, economists and social scientists to demographers, legal experts, designers and students.

Their brief will be to deliver smart city solutions, including new products, designs, services and policy to make our cities smarter, safer, healthier and more enjoyable.

Nick says while the focus on smart cities is relatively new, analysing and attempting to optimise the urban environment has been happening for generations.

“People have been analysing what is going on, in terms of living space since the start of civilisation,” he says. “The problem was years ago we didn’t have ways to measure everything we were interested in, or the sensing systems were too intrusive.

“Now we can put lightweight sensors in place and measure activity quickly and more accurately.”

The ‘smart cities’ approach is a worldwide phenomenon, with projects to manage assets such as transportation, water supply networks, power plants, schools, hospitals and community spaces.

The intention is to harness data, technology and public infrastructure to improve the quality of people’s lives. Collecting, analysing and intelligently using data is core to the concept.

Sensors are being installed in city infrastructure, from traffic lights to rubbish bins to see how people use infrastructure and public spaces, to keep track of resource use, and find out what people want in their city.

Some ‘smarts’ are really obvious, such as lights that come on when they are needed and dim or switch off when they are not to reduce power consumption. Others are less obvious. In Singapore, for example, senior citizens get a card they can tap at traffic light crossings to give them more time to cross the road, making moving around the city safer.

Nick says while the University has always delivered solutions to real-world problems, the consortium will bring together people from across the five faculties to work in multi-discipline teams to solve problems.

“If I can connect someone in music who is looking at ambient noise to the architecture school, who are working with active electronics, who in turn are working with the computer vision group – just imagine the amazing projects that could come out of that,” he says.

Although the consortium was only launched in July, many projects have already been identified.

‘Smart parks’ is one key area of focus, under a new agreement with the City of Prospect as part of the Connected Places project.

The work, carried out by members of the consortium, will involve using non-camera based sensors – ensuring there is no personal identification or invasion of privacy – to monitor and analyse how people are using the parks at different times.

“For example, sensors could inform us how the play equipment is being used. If one swing stands out as unused, then the council would know that it may need some repair or maintenance,” says Nick.

The consortium is also working with Port Adelaide Enfield Council on using ‘smart wayfinding’ as part of its city redevelopment. Smart wayfinding uses virtual signage and other digital technology to help people unfamiliar with an area to find their way around.

“We are also building a relationship with Tonsley Innovation Precinct, which is undergoing major redevelopment, and this is a fantastic space for innovation, where Adelaide’s research capabilities can contribute to the community,” says Nick.

The start-up period for the consortium has already yielded some great collaborations and Nick is hoping to see an explosion in projects as word travels about the University’s vast expertise in this space.

“The more real-world problems we get in, the more problems we can collectively solve,” he says.

Professor Nick Falkner
Photo by Jo-anna Robinson
Associate Professor
Nick Falkner

Alumnus Nick Falkner has been at the University of Adelaide as a staff member since 2007 in the positions of Associate Dean (IT) and Associate Professor in the School of Computer Sciences.

Since encountering an early computer in fourth grade at school in 1977, Nick has been fascinated by computers and programming. He has worked as a computer programmer, a winemaker and is an award-winning teacher. His research expertise is in computer science, educational research, network design and development, network security, privacy preservation and the Internet of Things.

To find out more about the University’s involvement in Smart Cities or to discuss a potential project email smartcities@adelaide.edu.au
The digital disruption of transportation

Digital technology is transforming the way we move around our cities and two University of Adelaide alumni are at the heart of the revolution locally.
David Rohrsheim (Bachelor of Engineering, Bachelor of Finance) is General Manager of Uber Australia and New Zealand and Lachlan Cooper (PhD in Medical Biotechnology) is the State Manager of Uber South Australia.

We asked them about their work with the global ride-sharing platform and how they see the continuing impact of digital disruption on transport networks.

How did you go from studying at the University of Adelaide to working for Uber?

David: I have always sought to bridge technology and business. That’s why I studied a double degree at the University of Adelaide in finance and engineering. After graduation, I joined management consulting firm Bain in Sydney to learn how big businesses make decisions and handle change. Then I spent five years in Silicon Valley, first with an early-stage venture capital fund (DFJ, an early investor in Hotmail, Skype, Tesla and Baidu) and then studying an MBA at Stanford.

I had a front row seat to the world’s most dynamic start-up ecosystem. I learned that taking risk, embracing change and moving fast was essential to build the companies and jobs of the future. Uber was a product that I wanted to use myself. Uber gave me a chance to be part of making my city better. How often have you seen something that was broken and said, “Somebody should do something about this”?

Lachlan: About half way through my PhD I figured out that research wasn’t going to be for me long term. I love science but, being a generalist at heart, I found it difficult focussing on such a narrow area of research. I was lucky enough to get a consulting role at a management consulting firm, Partners in Performance, and spent a couple of years working across many different businesses, helping them solve problems related to efficiency, profitability and growth.

I learnt a lot about how businesses work and the challenges they face, and worked with some really brilliant people. I heard about an opportunity with Uber from someone I worked with while I was consulting and it was too good an opportunity to pass up.

What is your personal interest in transportation and technology?

David: Dr Matthew Sorrell was an inspiration – he taught me a class on mobile phones back in 2003 and later supervised my honours project writing a mobile phone app three years before the Apple App Store would be invented. I passionately believe that technology improves lives. I’m not the inventor of any new technology, but I am constantly looking to bring the latest ideas into the world. And yes, my house is full of the latest gizmos to keep me on the edge.

Lachlan: In the short term, I want to make it easier for people to get around Adelaide and make the city more accessible. Down the track I would love to play a role in helping to shape a city that needs less parking spaces and has more green spaces.

How has digital disruption changed business and the way companies engage with their customers?

David: The only people who describe new ways of serving customers as disruptive are those who think they can take their customers for granted. Businesses should work on the assumption that a new company, and potential competitor, is born every day. As Australian Corruption and Consumer Commission (ACCC) Chairman Rod Sims said “Digital disruption is the most pro-competition thing to have in the country at the moment. It’s just fantastic”.

How has digital disruption improved people’s lives and encouraged innovation?

David: My proudest achievement with Uber is creating flexible work for over 60,000 Australians. Uber, and other on-demand platforms, give people the ability to press a button on their phone and make money whenever they want. This is a fundamentally new way of working. It’s clearly popular and I’d expect more people will look to this as an alternative to the 9-5 lifestyle in the future.

Lachlan: Uber is focused on giving people their time back. If I ride Uber to work I can use the driving time to do something else. If I use UberEATS, I can have dinner ready by the time I get home. In terms of innovation, one of the biggest benefits of a business being digital is that it is easier to scale than a traditional business; entrepreneurs have the ability to expand their businesses much faster.

What is still to come in digital technology in transportation?

David: Voice is emerging as a new interface to computers. You can call an Uber just by asking Siri or Amazon’s Alexa. Artificial Intelligence (AI) is coming of age through great leaps in machine learning. The same machine learning ideas that will power our autonomous vehicles is being used by computers to detect sharks on Australian beaches.

Lachlan: One of the things that I’m looking forward to is autonomous vehicles that will change the value proposition of car ownership. This will have a significant impact on the liveability of our cities by increasing the utilisation of vehicles on the road, reducing the need for car parking and thus increasing the usable space in a city. The sky really is the limit.

Can you tell us about Uber’s involvement in Smart Cities in Adelaide?

Lachlan: In terms of collaboration with government and industry partners, Uber is making data that shows travel time between two points in a city publically available. This kind of information will help with infrastructure planning as governments can see areas that are becoming more congested and where investment is needed.

Once areas for improvement have been identified industry, government and research institutions, like the University of Adelaide, can work together on developing effective solutions.
Vet students impress in Africa
Dehorning rhinos, rescuing injured lions and capturing wild buffalo for disease checks are just a few of the unique activities that can be experienced by University of Adelaide veterinary students in a fascinating final-year elective.

The two-week intensive course in South Africa is proving a major hit among students who are providing important wildlife management support while practising their skills on some of the world’s most elegant and dangerous animals.

From their base near Kruger National Park, the trainee vets are also winning friends among the local farming community by volunteering their expertise to treat domestic cattle and pets.

It’s a contribution that continues back in Adelaide with student fundraising to buy much-needed veterinary equipment and infrastructure for the poor communities.

The three-unit elective, titled Biosecurity and Conservation Medicine at the Wildlife-Livestock Interface, is now in its fifth year, with three groups of 13 students heading to South Africa in 2017.

Senior Lecturer Dr Wayne Boardman introduced the elective in 2013 after being approached by some students keen to study and work overseas.

“When I was going through vet college in London I had an opportunity to spend some time in Kenya and it was one of the most formative experiences of my life,” says Wayne.

“I thought it would be really nice if I could replicate that sort of experience for our students and get in touch with Cobus Raath, a veterinary friend in South Africa.”

Cobus operates Wildelfeves.com at Mpumalanga where he has his own game reserve just outside Kruger National Park.

He worked with Wayne on developing an intensive two-week course.

Timing of the new elective was perfect as it tied in with the University’s Global Learning program which aims to encourage more overseas opportunities for students.

“We offered the very first overseas elective and from there it’s become a much more popular thing for lecturers to take students overseas,” says Wayne.

“Former Pro Vice-Chancellor of International Affairs, Professor Kent Anderson, described it as a ‘signature course’ for the University because it promotes the Beacon of Enlightenment Strategic Plan and provides small group teaching and international training opportunities.”

The action begins as soon as the Adelaide vet students arrive in South Africa.

“It’s not unusual for them to start in the early hours as they are immersed in the challenges of wildlife conservation, animal rescue and disease management.

Days can be spent capturing buffalo for disease testing, anaesthetising and translocating wildebeest, blesbok, impala and zebra, and doing health checks on crocodiles and snakes.

“The knowledge they gain is transferable across all sorts of species,” says Wayne.

“While they might be working mostly with wildlife, the principals of anaesthesia and treatments are also relevant for everyday animals.”

When they’re not working with wildlife, the students support community veterinarians with biosecurity measures to protect livestock on the boundary of Kruger National Park, where diseases such as tuberculosis and foot and mouth are rife.

If any of the diseases break out of the park it could be devastating for the local cattle industry.

The support extends to running cattle through ‘dip tanks’ to kill disease-spreading ticks, and delivering disease control measures for pets, including a rabies vaccination program for dogs.

Wayne says another great component of the elective has been fundraising back in Adelaide for the Siyatutuka Farmers Community Project. So far more than $25,000 has been raised through various initiatives such as barbecues and quiz nights to help farmers with equipment and treatment programs.

Adelaide is the only university to provide this support and the local community expressed its thanks by presenting the students with a certificate of appreciation.

The two-week elective is a life-time opportunity for the students with many wanting to return. Dr Alisha Richardson, 27, is among the lucky ones.

She graduated with a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine in 2014 and went back to South Africa to study a Masters in Anaesthesia before landing a job as a wildlife vet in Thabazimbi, a remote country town in Limpopo Province.

“The thing that inspired me to work with South African wildlife was the elective course in my final year – I just loved the work and wanted to do something conservation based,” she says.

Alisha visits reserves and game farms where they keep and breed wildlife for hunting, a vital part of the South African economy and indirectly important for conservation.

“The animals are still very wild and dangerous, and the only way to handle them is to anaesthetise them with a dart to allow safe handling,” she says.

“I really enjoy managing the anaesthesia protocols to get an effective and safe dose that allows the animal to walk happily off into the bush at the end of the day.

“Mostly I work with antelope and buffalo but we also do a lot of giraffe relocations which requires a whole team of about 15 people to chase and rope them down. Occasionally I’m also involved in rhino work, usually darting and dehorning the animals to prevent poaching.”

But the work can also be distressing.

Alisha has treated fatally injured rhinos shot by poachers and has also seen orphaned baby rhinos which have been shot and bashed.

“You can see their spirit is broken and they need 24-hour companionship from a carer to thrive. They take weeks to trust people,” she says.

Alisha also works in a small animal practice to keep her other skills up-to-date and eventually wants to do more conservation work in national parks.

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Research to protect Loskop’s leopards
Declan Morris has been fascinated by big cats and their conservation since his first zoo visit as a child.

Now the University of Adelaide animal sciences graduate is living his dream in South Africa where he’s doing valuable research on the future of leopards.

He is undertaking the first ever field study of the powerful carnivores in Loskop Dam Nature Reserve to help local management authorities better understand the size of the population and potential threats.

The 25-year-old researcher is spending two years on the 22,000-hectare reserve, north-east of Pretoria, before heading back to the University next year to write up his PhD thesis.

Leopards are classified as vulnerable by the International Union for Conservation of Nature so work aimed at protecting the species is critical.

But Declan’s first challenge has been finding the animals. Leopards in the Loskop reserve aren’t used to humans and quickly disappear.

“So far I’ve only seen a couple when we’ve been driving around the reserve but camera trapping has been working well for leopard identification,” he says.

“The good news is that we seem to have about 20 individuals, including cubs, which is a good population and more than originally expected.”

Part of Declan’s research also involves capturing the animals. This is important for collecting biological samples for genetics and diseases screening, and also for fitting them with GPS collars to track their movements.

“There are a few options for catching them but we’re using cages because it’s the safest method for both humans and the animals,” he says.

Declan is being assisted by the Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency which is the provincial government authority in charge of nature reserves in the province.

His work will help them better understand the genetic diversity of the leopards, threats from diseases such as rabies, their diet and the capacity of the reserve to support them.

Tracking of the leopards is important because some wander onto farms and local properties where they face increased risks from human intervention.

Another threat is the heavily polluted Loskop Dam and Olifants River which are contaminated by heavy metals and pesticides.

“Most of the crocodiles on the reserve have already been killed – there are only six left – and we want to see if the pollution is affecting the health of the land animals on the reserve as well,” says Declan.

“I’ve been collaborating with researchers involved in the aquatic life and sending them blood samples from the leopards to their lab for testing.”

Even though Declan still has two years to go before his PhD is finished, he’s already thinking about possible postdoctoral research.

“One of the biggest threats to the leopard population is conflict with farmers and communities who poison, shoot and trap them, so I’d love to investigate conflict mitigation and ways to avoid the problems,” he says.

Declan’s work will help them better understand the genetic diversity of the leopards, threats from diseases such as rabies, their diet and the capacity of the reserve to support them.”
Kali Hayward has never forgotten the insult delivered by her doctor when she sought medical advice as a pregnant 16-year-old.
She was told she’d brought shame on herself and her family.
The contemptuous put-down left the young Kali feeling humiliated – but it also provided a huge incentive.
“I took on those words quite literally and unfortunately I then linked every pregnancy I had with shame,” she says.
“But the GP’s comments also motivated me and made me determined not to give into someone else’s stereotypes. It motivated me to go back and finish year 12 and not become that stereotypical dropout.”
As she studied, Kali harboured a secret. Growing at the back of her mind was the idea of becoming a doctor. “I wanted to spite my GP and provide a more empathetic service and antenatal care for other young mums in my situation.”
But she never voiced her thoughts at the time because the concept seemed inconceivable. She’d never seen an Aboriginal doctor and didn’t believe she had any chance of becoming one.

She moved from Mildura to Adelaide with her husband Donald and growing family, and did a clerical traineeship before working at a kindergarten and in the education department.
Then came her life-changing break. She enrolled in a science foundation course through the University of Adelaide’s Aboriginal unit, Wirltu Yarlu, where she met four Aboriginal medical students.

“It was a fabulous course and gave me an opportunity to experience university life and what it meant,” she says.
Most important, it also gave Kali the courage to enrol in medicine.
She was 25 at the time with two young children, Joshua and Caleb, and she gave birth to two more, Isaac and Cassie, during her studies. Both elder boys are now pursuing studies at the University of Adelaide. Joshua is studying teaching while Caleb has enrolled in politics.
“My children were another motivating factor for me to become a doctor,” says Kali. “I wanted to be a role model for them, to give them the power to say ‘this is my dream, this is my goal’ and show them there are opportunities they can create for themselves.”
Her determination to succeed was also driven by injustices suffered by her father, Jack Braeside, who was one of the Stolen Generation. Jack was descended from the Warnman people of Western Australia and was taken away from his family as a child.
Kali took the challenge of studying medicine while raising a family in her stride.
“I basically treated the course as a job. I knuckled down and studied during the day, did the mum thing when I got home, and after the children had gone to bed I’d go back to studying again.”
After graduating in 2005, Kali did her general practitioner training through Adelaide to Outback and became a GP at Nunkuwarrin Yunti, an Aboriginal medical service based in Adelaide.
Her efforts were soon rewarded.

“One of the elders in our community came in and recognised that I was Aboriginal and broke down in tears,” says Kali.
“She told me that she never thought she would live to see the day that her doctor would be Aboriginal and working in the community. That was such a huge motivation for me.”
In addition to her clinical work, Kali is a member of the University’s Faculty of Health Sciences Advisory Board. She is also a Medical Educator and GP Registrar Supervisor with GPEX, a role which earned her the GPEX award for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander training in 2011. Two years ago, she was awarded the Premier’s NAIDOC award.

Since 2015 Kali has been President of the Australian Indigenous Doctors’ Association which is striving to encourage more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders to pursue a career in medicine.
There are currently about 265 – a significant increase since the first Aboriginal doctor graduated in 1983 – but still well short of the organisation’s target.
“To reach population parity, which is about 3 per cent, we need another 2600 doctors right now,” she says. “However, we currently have about 400 Aboriginal medical students across Australia which is just fantastic.”
When she gets time, Kali also wants to focus on culturally appropriate end-of-life-care for Aboriginal people.

“That’s one of my goals but I need to take one of my hats off and leave it off if I’m going to go down that path,” she says.

Kali achieves the inconceivable

Studying medicine while raising four young children takes an impressive amount of commitment and effort. Aboriginal mother Dr Kali Hayward overcame the odds to become an award-winning GP and medical trainer, and an inspiration for others.
The Karnkanthi Indigenous Education Program will assist high-achieving students in Years 11 and 12/13, providing tailored support that complements the existing school curriculum. This includes private tutoring, personal and career development and financial support for travel and accommodation.

There will also be a strong focus on building resilience through providing cultural knowledge and perspectives. The University’s Dean of Indigenous Research and Education Strategy, Professor Shane Hearn, says there are many high-achieving Indigenous young people who can succeed at university “with the right support in place to buffer them against environmental risk”.

“For many high-achieving Indigenous students, performance drops off in their senior years as everyday life becomes more challenging, they try to fit in with peers, they lose motivation, or because of society pressures and negative stereotyping,” he says.

The University’s Wiru Yarlu Education Centre will facilitate the program. Staff will work closely with parents and communities to help them support the students and keep them on track to achieve their academic goals.

“Students and their families are empowered to self-identify potential risks and barriers to success, and together we come up with remedies to mitigate them,” says Professor Hearn.

Students will also have access to experiential learning and development to help them stay motivated and engaged. Professor Hearn says this could include participating in a program run by a group held in high esteem in the Indigenous community, such as the leadership program run by the Port Power Football Club, or having students meet with Indigenous people working in the professions they aspire to enter.

Year 12 student Hannah Brooks participated in a pilot of the program earlier this year and was given the opportunity to visit Canberra to meet Government Ministers in Parliament House. Hannah, who is 17, plans to study a combined law and arts degree so she can pursue a career in law and psychology with an Indigenous focus.

Since starting the program and University Senior College, my grades have lifted and I feel more prepared to take on university next year,” says Hannah.

“With my tutoring taking place on the University campus, it’s also helped me feel more confident about coming here because I’m familiar with the surroundings.”

The University of Adelaide’s commitment to Indigenous education has been further enhanced by a new initiative designed to help Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander high school students reach their full potential.
Brilliance shines through adversity

Eleven people this year received the University of Adelaide’s highest honour – an honorary doctorate given in recognition of their outstanding achievements. Among the recipients was Professor Paul Zimmet AO, one of the leading diabetes experts in the world. Paul has a deep family connection with the University born out of the horrors of World War II.
Professor Paul Zimmet credits the University of Adelaide with shaping his family history. His own outstanding clinical record in diabetes – he’s twice been listed as one of the world’s most influential scientific minds by Thomson Reuters – began at the University in the 1960s.

But what is most impressive is the story of how his family overcame adversity when they fled Poland in 1938, how they were given a new start by the University and their subsequent contribution to Australian society and the medical community.

“There is no greater honour for me than to be recognised with an Honorary Doctorate from the University where I graduated in 1965,” he said in his acceptance speech at graduations this year.

“But the story, with a humanitarian theme that I tell you about, connects this occasion with the occasion in the graduation in medicine of my father, the late Dr Jacob Zimmet, here at the University of Adelaide exactly 75 years ago.

“The University influenced the direction of our lives and I hope my words will resonate with many of you whose families may have had a similar experience.”

Only a few months after his parents with his sister, Rena fled Poland, World War II broke out. The relatives they were forced to leave behind were taken to a Nazi concentration camp where many died in the gas chambers.

After arriving by sea in Australia, Paul’s father found that his medical degree from the prestigious Vienna Medical School was not recognised as Austria was under German occupation. So, after living virtually penniless in Sydney for six months, his father moved the family to Adelaide.

This is where their luck changed. Jacob – or Jack as he was known – was offered an opportunity by the University of Adelaide to re-qualify in medicine over three years.

But Paul’s parents had to find supporting income and, as his mother had brought a sewing machine from Poland, they established a leather business.

“Mum sewed and Dad skipped lectures at the Adelaide Medical School and rode his bike around suburban Adelaide selling the goods,” said Paul.

Jack graduated with a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery from Adelaide in 1942 and took up a position as a doctor with BHP in Whyalla.

There he was idolised by his patients and many still sought his advice when he moved to Adelaide in 1950, where he set up practice working as a general practitioner and cardiologist.

He became a role model for his children and was immensely proud that three of them, Rena, Leon and Paul, all studied medicine at the University of Adelaide. He was equally proud of Miriam, his youngest daughter, who became a teacher.

“Like my late father’s experience, there are many from Europe who fled the Nazi terror and others from elsewhere who have made a great contribution to the South Australian community and indeed to Australia,” said Paul.

“This story of our family is just one of many highlighting the enormous contribution made by numerous people who arrived on Australia’s shores, made it home, and then contributed to its greatness and development in so many ways.”

And what an enormous contribution from Paul. He has made major breakthroughs in our current understanding of how lifestyle can have an impact on diabetes and strategies for prevention. He also co-discovered, with colleagues at Monash University, a potential new therapy for Type 2 Diabetes as well as a test for the prediction of Type 1 Diabetes that is now used worldwide.

Paul was the Foundation Director of the International Diabetes Institute (IDI) in 1985 and later Director Emeritus of the Baker IDI Heart and Diabetes Institute until 2015. He is currently Professor of Diabetes at Monash University, and also has professorships at Victoria University and the Graduate School of Public Health, University of Pittsburgh. He served on the Australian Government’s Strategic Taskforce on Diabetes from 1997-2002, the National Preventative Health Task Force 2008-2009, and recently co-chaired the Australian Government’s National Diabetes Strategy Advisory Group to develop the National Diabetes Strategy 2016-2020.

Paul and wife Vivien are extremely proud that their sons, Hendrik (a heart failure cardiologist) and Marcel (a behavioural paediatrician) have continued the family medical tradition as recognised experts in their own fields.

In 1993, Paul became a Member of the Order of Australia and in 2001 was made an Officer of the Order of Australia. He has received Honorary Doctorates from institutions across the world, including Tel Aviv University in Israel and Complutense University in Madrid.
Scholarship
a real family affair

Sandra Young is an Adelaide graduate with wonderful memories of the University. It’s this and the value her husband placed on academia that inspired Sandra to establish a scholarship in his memory.

Forrest Young was a farmer by profession with a strong academic bent – someone who appreciated the importance of pursuing strong ties between agriculture and university research.

It’s a legacy that his wife Sandra is honouring through a generous donation to fund a University of Adelaide scholarship in his memory.

Sandra is an Adelaide graduate with some wonderful memories of the University and has donated $105,000 for the Forrest George and Sandra Lynne Young Supplementary Scholarship. The scholarship is worth $5000 a year and will act as a top-up for major PhD scholarships in engineering, maths, sciences, chemistry or health sciences.

Forrest studied at Dookie Agricultural College in Victoria where he discovered a passion for academia and completed an honours degree in agricultural economics at University of New England at Armidale, New South Wales.

He won a Churchill Fellowship for a world study trip into the potato industry and later worked with several universities, including Adelaide.

“He was a real ideas man who was very keen on maintaining a link between agriculture and universities,” says Sandra.

“That’s why I wanted to devote this scholarship to him.

“Forrest’s big focus was the importance of diversifying and risk management in agriculture.”

Sandra became a big fan of the University of Adelaide when she studied pharmacy in the early 1970s.

“It’s such a beautiful setting for study and research and has a lovely feel to it,” she says. “I really loved the library and walking through the grounds and along the Torrens.”

She graduated in 1972 and was working as a pharmacist in Darwin when Cyclone Tracy struck.

After spending a difficult year there during the rebuild she moved to Glasgow where she completed an honours degree in pharmacy followed by a masters in forensic science at Strathclyde University.

It was a period when Sandra discovered the highs and lows of university study.

“After my first year, the fees tripled and I was tempted to give it all up because supporting myself was proving quite difficult. But I got some part-time pharmacy jobs and managed to live on sausages and fish.”

Sandra returned to Adelaide in 1979 and worked as a forensic scientist for five years before marrying Forrest.

The couple had four children – Elizabeth, George, John and Rosemary – and two of them are University of Adelaide graduates.

Rosemary graduated from Adelaide with an honours degree in chemistry in 2015 and this year began a PhD at the University.

George won an Andy Thomas Scholarship and graduated with a double degree in mathematical sciences and mechatronic engineering in 2008. He then won a fellowship at Princeton University in the US for his PhD research.

“When George was studying at Princeton I took the opportunity of visiting him on several occasions and noticed how past students put money back into the university through donations and lots of scholarships,” says Sandra.

“It’s a real culture thing and has allowed them to attract some of the best academics from around the world and build some fantastic infrastructure.

“This was another trigger for me deciding to fund the scholarship at Adelaide.”

Meanwhile, Sandra’s other son, John, has taken over Forrest’s partnership on a family farm at Parrakie in South Australia’s south-east, while daughter Elizabeth is now a Sister of Mercy who is studying a Masters in Theological Studies in Melbourne.

“Left: Sandra Young
Photo by Jo-anna Robinson

story by Ian Williams
Take a piece of the University of Adelaide with you wherever you go.
University of Adelaide Alumni Networks

The University supports a number of alumni networks providing opportunities for career development, networking, and maintaining and making friendships. Please stay in touch with news from your University. Here is a list and contact details for our current networks.

University of Adelaide China Alumni Network
The network, which started in June 2017, was established to help our China-based alumni stay connected with each other and the University. There are two chapters, Beijing and Shanghai, and all alumni, students and staff members based in China are invited to participate in activities and contribute ideas for social and learning initiatives. One of the activities for 2018 is a 'Back to Adelaide campus trip'.

- UniAdelaide_China
- UAAA (University of Adelaide Alumni Association Hong Kong Chapter)
- University of Adelaide Alumni Association Hong Kong Chapter
- Alumni@adelaide.edu.au
- www.theblacks.com.au

Adelaide University Sports
Adelaide University Sports, affectionately known as 'The Blacks' is open to students, alumni and staff. Catering for everyone from elite athletes through to social players and gym enthusiasts, the network facilitates and promotes participation in sport and recreation activities.

- Alumni@adelaide.edu.au
- www.theblacks.com.au

University of Adelaide Alumni Association Hong Kong Chapter
The chapter has 250 members ranging from new graduates commencing their careers through to entrepreneurs and chief executive officers. The chapter connects with other Australian university groups in Hong Kong and Adelaide chapters in China, and is for graduates living in or travelling to Hong Kong.

- Alumni@adelaide.edu.au
- UAAA (University of Adelaide Alumni Association Hong Kong Chapter)
- University of Adelaide Alumni Association Hong Kong Chapter
- Alumni@adelaide.edu.au
- www.theadelaide.edu.au/library/friends/

Art History and Curatorship Alumni Network (AHCAN)
AHCAN is for graduates of the Art History and Curatorial and Museum Studies programs offered jointly by the University and the Art Gallery of South Australia. The network connects graduates with each other, to arts industry professionals, job opportunities and potential collaborators.

- Alumni@adelaide.edu.au

Friends of the Library
The network promotes and fosters interest and support for the University's libraries. The network hosts a number of author events throughout the year for alumni, featuring notable writers from a range of genres.

- Alumni@adelaide.edu.au
- www.adelaide.edu.au/library/friends/

John Bray Law Alumni Network
The network is named in honour of the late Dr John Bray, former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of South Australia. The network builds strong bonds between the profession, Adelaide Law School and the community, and hosts and supports events including the John Bray Oration and the Chief Justice’s Shield Quiz Night.

- Alumni@adelaide.edu.au
- www.facebook.com/JBLAdelaide

South Australian Universities Alumni Europe (SAUAE)
SAUAE hosts a range of events throughout the year for alumni living in Europe. Events include: quiz nights, Christmas parties, coffee and wine tastings, Vice-Chancellor and President visits and guest lectures.

- Alumni@adelaide.edu.au
- Facebook.com/jbladelaide

The Roseworthy Old Collegians Association (ROCA)
ROCA is the University's longest standing alumni network. By joining ROCA alumni can tap into a large network of past students and staff, receive reunion invitations and the bi-annual newsletter. Membership is open to anyone who has lived or studied at the Roseworthy campus, or been a staff member for at least one year.

- Alumni@adelaide.edu.au
- www.adelaide.edu.au/roca/
- www.facebook.com/roca grads/

University of Adelaide Malaysia Chapter
The chapter, which celebrates its 22nd anniversary in 2018, hosts networking events, career development programs and fun activities throughout the year for graduates living in Malaysia.

- Alumni@adelaide.edu.au
- University Of Adelaide Alumni Malaysia

University of Adelaide North East USA Alumni Network
The network promotes and supports social and professional connections and hosts activities to support the professional development of graduates living in the United States.

- Alumni@adelaide.edu.au
- University of Adelaide North East USA Alumni Network

Wine Alumni
The network brings together graduates past and present, and staff of wine-related disciplines of the former Roseworthy Agricultural College and the University of Adelaide. The network provides opportunities for graduates and staff to stay in contact with each other and keep up-to-date with wine-related activities at the Waite and North Terrace campuses.

- Alumni@adelaide.edu.au

Alumni@adelaide.edu.au
Carols on Campus

A celebration of Christmas

Free Community Event

Wednesday 6 December 2017 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.

adelaide.edu.au/carols