ENCOUNTER

THE ANNUAL MAGAZINE FOR FLINDERS UNIVERSITY ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

AUGUST 2017

THE IDEAS FACTORY

Flinders University partnership with US Fox School of Business

Flinders UNIVERSITY

OUR 2016 CONVOCATION MEDALLIST

Dr Wenju Cai *PhD(EarthSc) '93*

Environmental scientist Dr Wenju Cai, Research Director of CSIRO's Earth System Assessment Program, was awarded Flinders University's 2016 Convocation Medal for leadership and advancement of knowledge in the field of ocean and atmospheric science.

INTERVIEW BY: NICK CARNE

You completed your PhD at Flinders in 1990. What are your memories of that time?

I have fond memories; my time at Flinders was my first culture shock. I was one of only two Chinese students in the then School of Earth Sciences. Staff and fellow students were extremely friendly and helpful. My supervisor, Professor Geoff Lennon, taught me about the importance of telling a story in writing scientific papers. I am still benefiting from my experience at Flinders.

You were born and educated in China. What brought you to Australia?

In a coincidence, I became an interpreter for a 1984 Australian delegation of the Hawke Government to China when I was doing my Masters Degree of Physical Oceanography at Xiamen University. The Hawke Government wanted to assist China's ocean research and Flinders was commissioned to conduct a feasibility study. Through this connection, I ended up at Flinders in 1986, supported by a PhD scholarship. I was extremely fortunate.

You recently were awarded a green card professorship by the Ocean University of China – the highest honour for an overseas Chinese scholar. What was the significance of that award?

The award is fantastic. I can go to China and collaborate with scientists there, anytime. It also enables relationship building, and the outcome of this relationship is that the Chinese Government, through Qingdao National Laboratory for Marine Science and Technology, has established a Centre for Southern Hemispheric Ocean Research in Hobart, a $20m joint venture with CSIRO, which was launched in May.

'I am still benefiting from my experience at Flinders.'

What first inspired your interest in the oceans and atmospheric science?

I came from a peasant family in a poor village, where we faced the impact of climate variability from one year to the next, but had no idea as to why the climate varied so vastly. With only three years of education I was lucky to get high scores in a university entrance examination in 1979.

These entrance examination results were enough to get me into Beijing University to study physics or mathematics, which was my first preference. But at the last minute, my father asked me to change my preference because he could not afford a train ticket to Beijing. He could only afford a bus ticket to the nearest university, Xiamen University. In a rush, I chose physical oceanography without understanding what it is about. I am to this day extremely grateful to my father.

In 2011, you were awarded a five-year Fellowship to put together a research team specifically to study climate influences in Australia. What is the focus of your current work at the CSIRO?

My current research is a continuation of the work supported by the Fellowship, but perhaps with a broader perspective and an elevated exposition. We are examining what climate extremes may look like under the 2015 Paris climate agreement and how climate change may impact on big issues. Our latest research published in *Nature Climate Change* (April issue cover story) shows that emission of greenhouse gases around the globe lead to an increased frequency of Beijing winter severe haze. The ocean plays a significant part by affecting winter wind speed, which is key for pollution transport outside Beijing.

Photo credit: Alex Drewniak

Given the great debate around climate change, do climate scientists feel under pressure to come up with a solution?

A solution requires contribution from more than just our scientists. Scientists conduct policy-relevant scientific research. Through our political system, which involves input from every one of our citizens, the science, to an extent, is taken by our policy makers. In this sense, when we make a dire projection of future climate, the desired outcome is for the projection to be wrong because, upon hearing the projected consequence, our political process has led to actions that avert the dire outcome.

CONVOCATION MEDAL

The Convocation Medal was established in 1991 to mark the 25th anniversary of Flinders University. Flinders has presented 29 Convocation Medals, recipients include: author **Mem Fox AM**, actor **Dr Noni Hazelhurst AM**, former Australian Ambassador to the US **Dr Don Russell**.

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GLOBAL HORIZONS

FOR FLINDERS UNIVERSITY

University graduations mark an opportunity to forge future paths and make a difference in a chosen field. It has been my honour to officiate at graduation ceremonies such as those at Nankai University in Tianjin, where nearly 5,000 students have graduated since the Flinders-Nankai partnership was established 17 years ago, joining our global community of more than 94,000 Flinders alumni.

Flinders is going from strength to strength in China, forging partnerships with 28 different institutions, building knowledge and enhancing the social and economic connections between our countries. Most recently we signed an agreement with the Shandong Academy of Sciences for a joint laboratory of Medical Devices and Digital Health, and a China-Australia Joint Laboratory for Native Bioresource Industry Innovation.

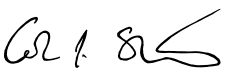
Alumni successes featured at our exciting international relaunch of Flinders Business in Shanghai in May. It provided a forum to outline our outstanding new innovation and enterprise courses that have been bolstered through a strategic partnership with the Fox School of Business at Temple University in Philadelphia, a top ten US business school for entrepreneurial studies. We'll soon launch Flinders Business in Vietnam and India too.

In Europe, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with four of France's leading Graduate Schools of Engineering – ENSTA ParisTech, École Centrale de Nantes, CentraleSupélec and École Polytechnique – will develop academic and research cooperation around Australia's Future Submarine Program and foster Australian-French innovation and entrepreneurship. Likewise, an MoU with the University of Genoa in Italy builds on our connection with the Italian shipbuilder, Fincantieri, opening the door to a range of projects with one of Italy's largest universities.

Of course, our success in the international realm mirrors the exceptional quality of our educational offerings and achievements of our staff and students in Australia. Flinders University's Associate Professor Karen Burke da Silva was named Australia's University Teacher of the Year in 2016, and our Introductory Academic Program – led by Associate Professor Salah Kutieleh, with Dr Sandra Egege, Dr Michael Savvas and Ms Elaine Kane – won the global citizenship and internationalisation category at the Australian Awards for University Teaching.

Equally pleasing was the news that Flinders Law and Arts graduand Jordan Gifford-Moore is South Australia's 2017 Rhodes Scholar. A number of Flinders alumni have earned this honour including Josh Makepeace in 2010, Philip Clark in 2001, Nick Gallus in 2000 and Vicki Ann Spencer in 1986.

The University is proud of our alumni and the impact our graduates have in society more broadly, and we regularly recognise the most outstanding individuals through the Flinders University alumni awards. I encourage you to continue sharing your stories of success with us, now and into the future.



Professor Colin J Stirling
Vice-Chancellor, Flinders University

Photo credit: Brenton Edwards

LIVING THE ELECTRIC DREAM

IN THE 21ST CENTURY

As Flinders University gears up to enter the Bridgestone World Solar Challenge for the first time, we remember the University's long tradition in electric vehicles.

STORY BY: TANIA BAWDEN

Vivian Rush and Dr Stuart Wildy with FAST volunteers in Flinders' Tonsley workshop. Photo credit: Brenton Edwards

One of the pioneers of electric car design at Flinders is keenly watching the University's first entry in the Bridgestone World Solar Challenge in October this year.

Almost 50 years ago Vivian Rush, now 74, joined the Flinders engineering workshop at Bedford Park and decided to kick start a campaign to design and build the University's first *Investigator* electric passenger vehicle.

The 1972 plan grew into one of the new University's first research projects. Now *Investigator Mark III* is fast taking shape at the Flinders workshops and labs at Tonsley and Bedford Park.

The new solar electric car will incorporate several cutting-edge Flinders research projects, including artificial intelligence and autonomous driving features, novel solar cell technology and possibly the University's Serval mesh-based telecom system.

The Flinders Automotive Solar Team (FAST) is aiming for a top cruising speed of 100km/h in the 3,000km Cruiser class event of the 2017 Bridgestone World Solar Challenge from Darwin to Adelaide.

Investigator Mark III stems from a tradition of building electric vehicles for almost the entire life of the University.

'I've been an enthusiast of all things on four wheels since I was a boy aged five or six,' says Mr Rush, who started his career as an apprentice technician at *The Advertiser* in Adelaide.

'My dad Kevyn (who later worked at Flinders too) said I flourished on carbon monoxide which seemed to suit me better than oxygen,' he laughs.

'Instead of sitting there having morning and afternoon tea breaks, I thought we should build an electric car at Flinders.'

As the world fuel crisis loomed, Mr Rush shared the idea with his manager, and after a packed-out lunchtime staff meeting, he knew he'd 'hit the nail on the head' with the idea to design a new and improved electric car model.

Mr Rush recalls the excitement of making headlines in *The Advertiser* when the State Government made a then very large $22,000 innovation grant to build a prototype vehicle.

The Investigator Mark I vehicle proved to be a progressive and efficient car, featuring a lightweight seven-horsepower printed circuit motor using lead-acid batteries, vacuum-formed ABS front moulding and a compact body with Mini Minor parts supplied by Leyland Motors.

The *Flinders News* reported that the car was designed to give motorists 'at least 60 miles of pollution-free travel on 18c worth of electricity, with maximum speed of 40mph, and a range for city use of 50-80 miles'.

The prototype and subsequent Flinders electric car and van designs were promoted with local manufacturers for further development and production.

Technology is still driving the University's new solar car.

Flinders students from across the disciplines – from engineering, computer science, nanotechnology and maths to business, tourism and health sciences – are working on the latest car being built at Flinders' Tonsley Innovation Precinct, the former Mitsubishi and Chrysler plant.

The 500kg vehicle is 4.5m long, 1.8m wide and 1.3m high and will travel about 600km on one battery charge. The 28kWh lithium ion battery and a 4.18m^2 solar array will power two rear-wheel hub motors.

Solar team director, mechanical engineering lecturer Dr Stuart Wildy, says the team of Flinders staff and students is supported by 'fantastic research and top-class components being supplied by generous corporate sponsors'.

'We have designed and are now sourcing components for our solar car to not only finish well in the challenge but to be part of a cleaner, more sustainable transport system in the future,' Dr Wildy says.

'The new solar vehicle is a showcase of the rich history of multidisciplinary research at Flinders, with *Investigator Mark III* using new and exciting engineering, communications, mechanical, electronics and electrical systems.'

SUPPORT THE SOLAR CAR PROJECT

The developments by Flinders Automotive Solar Team (FAST) will have a great impact on future solar car technologies. Support the team to build a world-class solar car that will take them successfully over the finish line at the Bridgestone World Solar Challenge by donating online: **flinders.edu.au/solar**

Picture above: The original solar car developed by Vivian Rush in the 1970s.

RAPID CHANGE REQUIRES

CREATIVE THINKING

Flinders partnership with Fox School of Business marks a new era of university education.

Associate Professor Margaret Ledwith brainstorming with IT student Richard Timmins.
Photo credit: Brenton Edwards

STORY BY: LYNDA ALLEN

In a partnership with US Fox School of Business, experiential classes to develop creativity, innovation, enterprise and entrepreneurial skills are now offered at Flinders University, marking a new era of university education to prepare students for jobs of the future.

As the new economy shifts gears through increased automation and artificial intelligence, Program Director of Innovation and Enterprise at Flinders, Associate Professor Margaret Ledwith says, 'Throughout the world the job market and careers are changing; we don't know today what the jobs of the future will be. Whether you want to find a job or in fact create your own job, it's fundamental to be able to think creatively, be able to manage rapid change and to find new opportunities.'

The innovation and enterprise topics, offered at Flinders since the beginning of this year, have been created by leaders in innovation management and entrepreneurial education at the Flinders New Venture Institute and Fox School of Business based at Temple University in Philadelphia, USA.

'The partnership with Fox School of Business means our students can now access a top ten US business school that has fifteen years of expertise in leading innovation and entrepreneurial based education,' says Matt Salier, Director of Flinders New Venture Institute.

'...the job market and careers are changing; we don't know today what the jobs of the future will be.'

The cutting-edge course content has been adapted for Flinders students in collaboration with South Australian businesses. Students can study a Bachelor of Business (Innovation and Enterprise) or add an additional year of study to their existing degree with a Bachelor of Letters (Innovation and Enterprise). The Bachelor of Design and Technology Innovation can be taken with any existing undergraduate STEM degree. Students can also choose to include innovation and enterprise topics as electives within their current degree.

Richard Timmins is in his third year of a Bachelor of Information Technology (Honours) and also studying a Bachelor of Letters (Innovation and Enterprise).

He believes industry experience combined with technological and entrepreneurial skills are vital in the current job market.

'I want to learn more about entrepreneurship, new ventures and start-ups because the world of work and the scope of jobs is changing rapidly. It's an important time to be at the forefront of change,' says Richard.

STUDY POSTGRAD INNOVATION AND ENTERPRISE

**The New Work Order*, Foundation for Young Australians, 2015.

Flinders is focused on preparing students for the careers of tomorrow with the personal enterprise skills needed for the five career changes and 17 different jobs* they are likely to have over their lifetime. Postgraduate innovation and enterprise study options will be available in 2018.

flinders.edu.au/ie

Students have access to guest speakers, mini crowd funding projects, placements and idea hackathons, along with the opportunity to tap into New Venture Institute resources, experts and programs.

Drawing on creative thinking and problem solving, the topics aim to develop an innovative mindset to help students uncover what interests them, what their passions are, and how they can impact the world.

Richard expects that technology will continue to facilitate and support all innovation, which he is excited about. 'To me, innovation means finding your passion and using that passion to make a positive impact and create change in the world.'

In a world-first, Flinders has developed Roadmap, a software product to map innovation and enterprise competencies. Throughout the student journey performance grades are converted into competency scores to highlight the achievement of specific skills relevant to organisational performance and success.

Competencies such as 'influencing and leading change' and 'collaboration and community building' were created in collaboration with industry, in a process of interviews and consultation with business leaders in South Australia.

By 2021 Flinders aims to have innovation and enterprise topics embedded in all of its degrees.

'No matter what career or profession you are going into, being more creative and appreciating how and why modern organisations function the way that they do will help you to be more valuable, more employable, more innovative, and more entrepreneurial,' says Associate Professor Ledwith.

Fox School of Business
TEMPLE UNIVERSITY©

NEW VENTURE INSTITUTE

ROBOT

RESEARCHER ON THE CREST OF A WAVE

Flinders PhD candidate Rowan Pivetta. Photo credit: Brenton Edwards

A groundbreaking PhD project aims to put Flinders technology at the very heart of Australia's naval defences.

STORY BY: GRANT SMYTH

Flinders University PhD student Rowan Pivetta is two years into a three and a half year project to evolve hexapod (spider) robot technology to the stage where it can do the critical job of inspecting inside ships' ballast tanks as effectively as a human.

Because large warships' ballast tanks often comprise multiple chambers with only one way in and out, they are notoriously dangerous for humans to work in. To protect humans from those risks, Rowan is developing new automated scanning algorithms that will allow robots to successfully cover every area of the ballast tanks of vessels such as the Collins submarines and perhaps, eventually, the new state-of-the-art future frigates to be built in Adelaide.

Flinders Associate Professor Karl Sammut, Rowan's research supervisor, says the work has the potential to significantly improve safety on large ships worldwide.

'Making robots that can navigate all of the surfaces inside a ship's ballast tank and inspect them thoroughly is a remarkably complex task that could eventually help to reduce inspection time. The work Rowan is doing will eventually help to bring cost benefits to the maintenance programs by reducing time spent undergoing full-cycle docking,' says Associate Professor Sammut.

Associate Professor Sammut says the work is an excellent example of Flinders University's maritime engineering capability and clearly demonstrates how Flinders researchers are making globally significant contributions to the industry.

'Flinders is engaged in groundbreaking research in maritime engineering that will make a real difference for years to come. Rowan's work is part of this,' he says.

'Through its reputation for research excellence, Flinders has been able to position itself as a key player in Australia's major naval defence projects.'

Rowan is studying at the Centre for Maritime Engineering, Control and Imaging at Flinders and is working on a project with the ARC Research Training Centre for Naval Design and Manufacturing. His project is a partnership between Flinders, Australian Submarine Corporation (ASC) and the University of Wollongong.

As part of his work, Rowan is undertaking a one-year placement with the project sponsors, ASC, which he says is particularly rewarding and enjoyable. The challenging nature of the project and its importance to industry has inspired him to go beyond his limits.

'I'm working to integrate current state-of-the-art 3D coverage path planning techniques to find a solution to address the gaps that currently make it difficult to produce coverage plans for inspection robots operating in enclosed and confined environments.

'To meet the requirements of my PhD and produce something that could be delivered for industry, I developed an algorithm that suited industry needs and worked out how it could be added to and enhanced.'

FORGING POWERFUL PARTNERSHIPS

Flinders University defence research is forging powerful partnerships and growing defence knowledge. Enterprising collaborations with government and industry partners mean Flinders graduates are work-ready and able to make an immediate impact in the sector.

flinders.edu.au/defence

the HIDDEN *history of* HUMANKIND

Maritime archaeologists from around the world have united at Flinders.

STORY BY: GRANT SMYTH

Dive into maritime archaeology at Flinders University and you'll uncover a veritable United Nations of lecturers, PhD candidates and international achievements.

Led by Californian and Dutch lecturers, Dr Jonathan Benjamin and Dr Wendy van Duivenvoorde, Flinders archaeologists currently chair the UNESCO UNITWIN Network on Underwater Archaeology, and recently made waves in Europe with an EU prize for cultural heritage. From their state-of-the-art digital labs in Adelaide to the depths of oceans in North America, Europe, the Adriatic, the Middle East and Australia, they're discovering paradigm shattering stories of humankind hidden beneath the waves.

Flinders' contribution to the field of archaeology globally has surged recently thanks to PhD candidates from Canada, Ireland, Croatia, Egypt, New Zealand and Australia who bring projects such as Egyptian archaeologist Omaima Eldeeb's study of shipwrecks along the Alexandrian Coastline; Croatian Katarina Jerbić's work on Neolithic settlements in the Adriatic; Canadian Peter Ross' work on submerged coastal sites and middens; New Zealander Kurt Bennett's English East Indiaman ships; Irishman John McCarthy's 3D site recording and interpretation; and Spaniard Enrique Aragon's analysis of the Rochelongue shipwreck off the French coast.

Our home-grown researchers are engaged in equally fascinating pursuits: Mick De Ruyter is researching early modern watercraft and maritime violence in the Persian Gulf; Celeste Jordan is examining the pearling industry in Western Australia; and Trevor Winton is making waves with sub-bottom profiling and site monitoring in situ.

Dr Benjamin and Mr McCarthy's past work for leading UK heritage practice Wessex Archaeology laid the foundations for the internationally acclaimed Project SAMPHIRE's European Union Prize for Cultural Heritage/Europa Nostra Awards. Project SAMPHIRE was a collaboration between Wessex Archaeology and Flinders that found 14 wrecked vessels and mapped more than 100 maritime archaeological sites along the west coast of Scotland. It mapped more than 150 years of lost vessels including cargo ships, an iron naval yacht – and even a paddle steamer lost in 1867.

It's such rich international linkages that contributed to Flinders winning the Chair for the UNESCO UNITWIN Network for Underwater Archaeology for three years, opening up extraordinary field research prospects for Australian students.

'This position as Chair of the UNITWIN network presents remarkable exchange opportunities, bringing the world's leading researchers to our shorelines, and creating global mobility for our researchers,' Dr van Duivenvoorde says.

'If we look in the right places, I would expect to find palaeo-indigenous sites and artefacts more than 5,000 years old, and in some cases well preserved.'

'Research will include marine and freshwater sites, from ancient harbours to naval battlefields and from early watercraft to submerged landscapes. It is a great time to study maritime archaeology at Flinders.'

Associate Professor Mark Staniforth, who represented Flinders in the establishment of UNITWIN, says it puts Flinders at the centre of a dynamic network of 21 institutions. 'Maritime archaeology is by its nature an international discipline. In Australia we have historic shipwrecks originally built and sailed for foreign nations,' Associate Professor Staniforth says.

Indeed, Australia's maritime archaeology is as captivating and significant as any in the world – and it's to here that Dr Benjamin is now turning his attention – backed by a $600,000 Australian Research Council grant. His project, *The Deep History of Sea Country*, will be a pioneering, multi-institutional, multidisciplinary, Flinders-led study of submerged landscape archaeology in Australia designed to investigate the now-submerged Pilbara coast.

It will help address critical debates in Australian archaeology relating to past sea-levels, population resilience, mobility and diet, as the project integrates cultural and environmental studies and contributes a unique southern hemisphere insight into world prehistory.

'Some preliminary work has been done and there is every reason to suggest that sea-level change would have had a profound effect on coastal settlements,' says Dr Benjamin. 'If we look in the right places, I would expect to find palaeo-indigenous sites and artefacts more than 5,000 years old, and in some cases well preserved.'

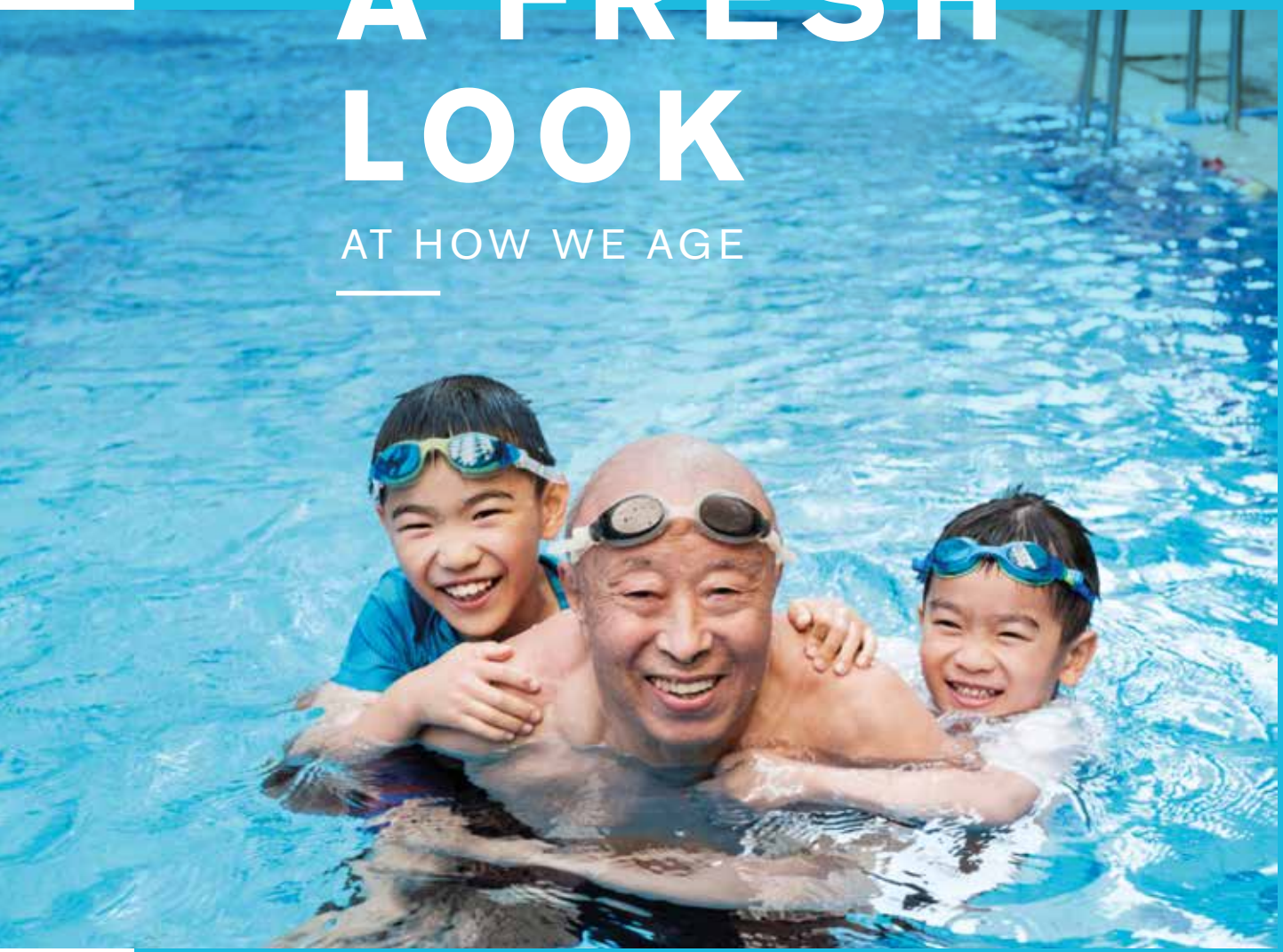
FIELDWORK AND VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

The Department of Archaeology at Flinders University is one of Australia's leading centres for the study of archaeology. Our staff are active researchers working on innovative projects across Australia, Asia, Europe, South America, South Africa and the Near East. Many of these projects are open to the public to get involved through fieldwork programs and volunteer opportunities

flinders.edu.au/arch-volunteer

TAKING A FRESH LOOK

AT HOW WE AGE



We want to create a sustainable model that can be widely applied, supported by apps and other aids, to keep people motivated and fully informed, while also getting a better idea of the ageing process through research.

STORY BY: NICK CARNE
AND GRANT SMYTH

You're in your early forties, you notice your knees starting to ache after you've been on your feet for a while; or maybe you get short of breath when you run for the bus or climb stairs.

If this sounds like you, it's time to make a change for the better.

The inaugural Chair of Restorative Care in Ageing at Flinders, Professor Sue Gordon says many people are unaware of the functional decline that happens without anything specifically going wrong, and that this is a shame, because it stops them from doing something about it.

'Often these changes happen around transitional times such as when our children grow up and leave home,' said Professor Gordon. 'Maybe we stop getting the incidental family activity and start to lose muscle strength, which we don't notice until that day we go to try to clean out the shed and end up with a really sore back.

'For too many people, the response on those days is to dismiss it as a natural part of ageing, but that's not always the case, because this kind of function can often be restored. People just need to know how.'

An innovative *Inspiring Health* program has been run in partnership with three Adelaide councils (Marion, Holdfast Bay and Salisbury). NAB, one of Australia's largest banks, has also been involved, providing venues and arranging for its employees to be screened, giving it a clearer idea of future workplace needs.

It has provided detailed, personalised health reports to 578 people aged 40 to 75, giving them a snapshot of the shape they're in. It has also provided them with information about how they can improve their health and wellbeing. By helping each person to understand their functional decline they have the opportunity to build their own paradigm around ageing – to be fitter, healthier and stronger.

She says the approach is expected to be effective because it is targeted, and will help individuals, local healthcare providers and councils work together towards a future of healthier ageing for everyone.

'We want to create a sustainable model that can be widely applied, supported by apps and other aids, to keep people motivated and fully informed, while also getting a better idea of the ageing process through research,' said Professor Gordon. 'The work we're doing is helping everyone from local councils, for whom community well-being is an increasing responsibility and priority, to GPs, to the people who care most – individual Australians – to enjoy their full potential for as long as possible.'

Professor Sue Gordon. Photo credit: Melissa Neumann

HEALTHY AGEING

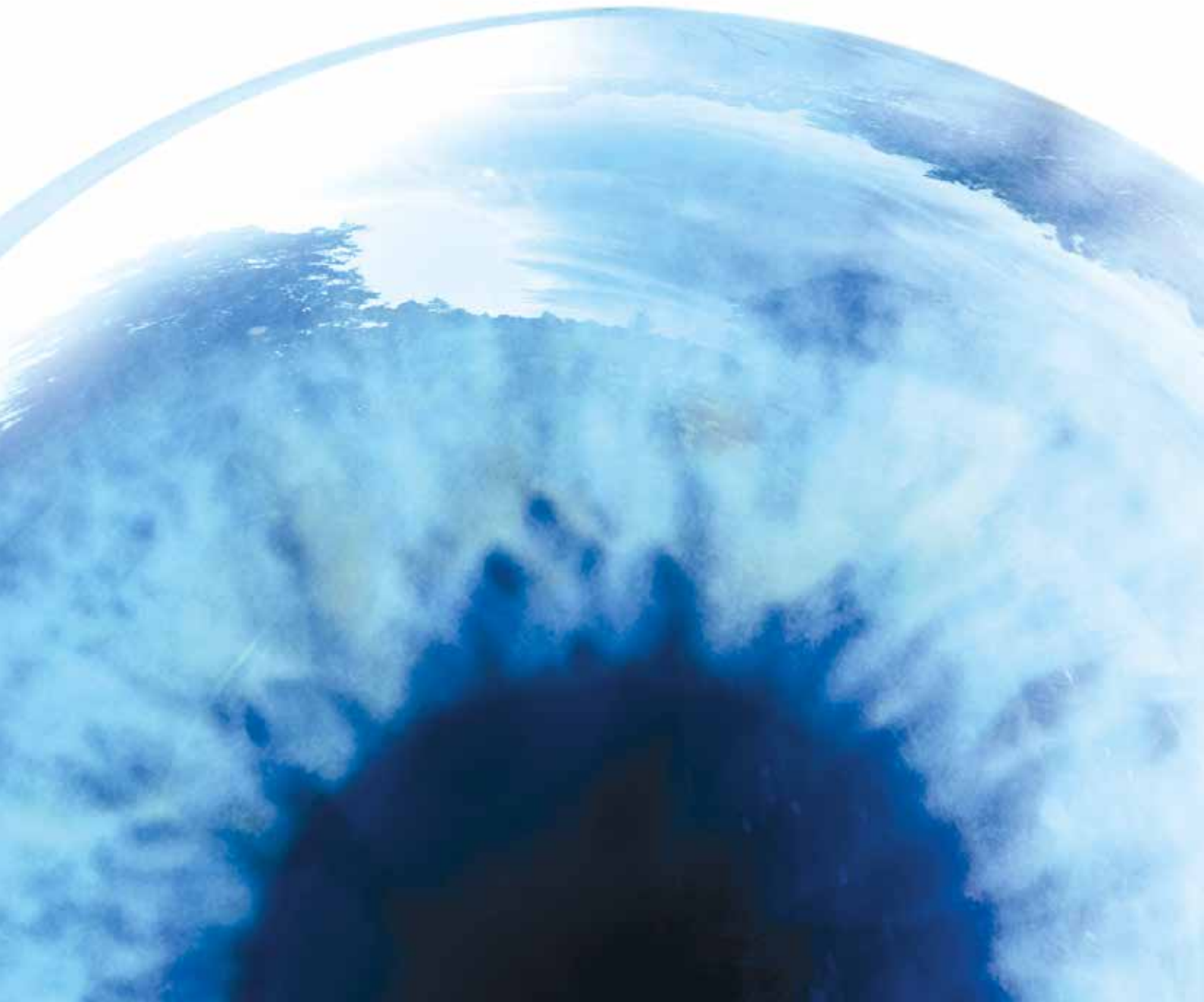
The 2015 Intergenerational Report projects that over the next 40 years the proportion of the Australian population over 65 years will almost double to around 25 percent. Flinders University's Restorative Care in Ageing is investigating healthy ageing and functional decline to identify, measure, limit and reverse early changes as we age.

flinders.edu.au/ctec

KEEPING A KEEN EYE

ON THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

STORY BY: NICK CARNE



One of just 30 Australian women scientists named a 'Superstar of STEM' for her work encouraging and supporting young women to follow a career in science, technology, engineering or mathematics, ophthalmology researcher, Professor Justine Smith (PhD(Med) '99) never set out to be a gender equality champion – until she stepped up onto the world stage.

An expert on inflammation inside the eye called uveitis, Professor Smith leads research and clinical trials seeking to reduce vision loss from the condition, and it's taken her to some truly fascinating places.

She has made national headlines for new insights into toxoplasmosis - a parasite transmitted by cat faeces and eating undercooked red meat. Along with hitting international headlines with collaborative research that has revealed the eye's ability to harbour the deadly Ebola viral infection long after a patient is declared cured.

As her star rose, the opportunity to assume an international leadership role beckoned, and it was through this lens that the under-representation of women became starkly apparent.

'I wasn't particularly driven about women in these fields until I took on the presidency of the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology, or ARVO, which is the biggest global society in this field,' she said. 'A number of women told me how hard it was for women to get recognised, win awards, give talks or chair presentations, so I asked to look at the data and saw just how true that was.'

A letter to members was quickly followed by a 'standing room only' forum which led to the creation of a successful leadership program for ARVO women – and motivated her to keep pushing for change.

Now back at Flinders, where she completed her PhD, as Research Strategic Professor of Eye & Vision Health, Professor Smith also co-chairs the University's Steering Committee for the SAGE Athena Swan program, which champions diversity and equality.

Professor Justine Smith

She was only the fourth female president in the ARVO's 80-year history and, after completing her one-year term, was elected by the membership to serve as executive vice president, meaning she works with the executive director to oversee 40 staff in Maryland from her office in Adelaide.

Such is her standing internationally that there was no shortage of opportunities for Professor Smith to stay on in the US, after completing post-doctoral research there, but she was lured back by what she calls 'a perfect position for me'.

'I'm a little bit unusual in that, unlike most clinician scientists, I do most of my research in the lab rather than in the clinic and the work I do when seeing patients is very specialised,' she said. 'I have a very unique job and not every institution would be accepting of that. Flinders was.'

It's also an important, challenging and constantly evolving job. The Ebola breakthrough has seen a change of focus in her lab, with the team now spending more time investigating uveitis related to viruses such as Zika and Dengue. The results are encouraging.

ACTION ON EQUALITY

Flinders is participating in the Australian pilot of the Athena SWAN program run by the Science in Australia Gender Equity (SAGE) group of the Australian Academy of Science, and the Australian Academy of Technology and Engineering. The driving principle is a commitment to advancing the careers of women employed in higher education and research. Learn more: **flinders.edu.au/about/sage**

The 'Superstar of STEM' initiative is co-ordinated by Science & Technology Australia: **scienceandtechnologyaustralia.org.au**

MIKE BULL'S LIZARD LEGACY LIVES ON

Professor Mike Bull's (DipEd '78) research has yielded unparalleled insight into the secret lives of lizards and facilitated significant ecological management advances in Australia.

STORY BY: TANIA BAWDEN AND DR BRODIE BEALES

Photo credit: Grant Smyth

MIKE BULL ACHIEVEMENTS

35 YEAR STUDY into sleepy lizards

supervised **67** honours theses and **48** postgraduate research theses

PUBLISHED OVER **300** JOURNAL PAPERS

ESTABLISHED A NEW FIELD OF RESEARCH ON LIZARD SOCIALITY

They might be slow, scaly, have parasitic ticks and hiss aggressively, but sleepy lizards are also very romantic, live in tight social circles and love eating flowers.

These evocative and significant findings came from more than 35 years of dedicated and often arduous research led by the late Flinders University Professor Mike Bull.

Working in often hot, dry conditions near Mt Mary in the mid north of South Australia, the field work involved the capture and recapture (over 56,000 times) of more than 12,500 sleepy lizards *(Tiliqua rugosa)*.

Professor Bull, with his trusty technical officer Dale Burzacott (BSc '83) and gang of loyal Flinders postgraduates and student volunteers, studied the ecology of South Australia's lizards – making some remarkable observations about these Australian reptiles.

We now know through Professor Bull's research that sleepy lizards live for 50 years in the wild, that they have long-term friends and foes in a complex social network, and display an incredible system of perennial monogamy – coming together in an elaborate annual, slow-motion dance. They also appear to grieve when their partner dies.

After the sudden death of Professor Bull in late 2016, followed by Mr Burzacott in early 2017, their approach to research in the field and resulting scientific discovery endure as shining examples for future ecological science and conservation efforts.

'Both of these people passed away within a few months of each other with a body of work that is substantial,' says Associate Professor in Biodiversity Mike Gardner, a molecular ecologist both at Flinders University and the South Australian Museum.

'Mike's research had, and continues to have, a profound effect on both the scientific understanding of lizard biology, behaviour and the associated ecology and environmental issues in addition to a sustained real-world effect of increasing conservation and understanding of the importance of biodiversity in the wider community,' said Associate Professor Gardner.

Professor Bull's work lives on, with Associate Professor Mike Gardner and the next generation of postgraduate students taking up the reins to continue this important research.

SUPPORT THE LIZARD SURVEY

The continuity of the sleepy lizard survey relies on the generous support of the community and those committed to conservation. You can help secure Professor Bull's research legacy, visit **flinders.edu.au/lizard**

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

President of the Australian Society of Herpetologists

Assistant Secretary General of the World Congress of Herpetology

Chair of the Scientific Program Committees for three major international scientific meetings

1997-2016 Managing Editor, *Austral Ecology*. Instigated the journal becoming an international publication.

2001 Gold medal of the Ecological Society of Australia

2009 Verco medal of the Royal Society of South Australia

2011 & 2017 Finalist in the SA Scientist of the Year

Interviewed by Sir David Attenborough on the ABC's *The World Today* program, 2006

Research featured in Sir David Attenborough's *Life in Cold Blood* series, 2008

Professor Debra Jackson

Geordie Brookman

Peter Martin

Anthony Maras

David Hobbs

Photo credits:
1. Sia Duff
3. Mim Saxl Photography
4. David Beach
5. Brenton Edwards

RECOGNISING OUR

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

Our 2016 Distinguished Alumni Award winners were interviewed by writer Nick Carne to find out more about their memories of Flinders, why they moved into their chosen fields, and how they are now making a difference on a global stage. The 2016 award winners will be formally acknowledged, along with our 2017 recipients, at a ceremony in November this year.

1 GEORDIE BROOKMAN *BA(Hons) '02*

Artistic Director, State Theatre Company South Australia

You studied in one of Australia's best drama schools. What are your memories of your time at Flinders?

My memories are overwhelmingly positive. We were trained to think for ourselves and to pursue methodologies that provoked or inspired us while still being given a grounding in a very exact and analytical approach to theatre making.

You're into your fifth year as Artistic Director of State Theatre Company South Australia. What have been the rewards and the challenges?

The rewards and challenges tend to come hand in hand. I'm incredibly proud of the way that we've reconnected the company to the national industry and that we've taken significant steps towards becoming an international company too. The main challenge is having to say 'no' much more often than I get to say 'yes'.

What is the role of Artistic Director in a modern theatre company?

There are a number of strands to the role. You're responsible for curating the program, driving the company's aesthetic and theatrical approach, directing a significant chunk of the company's work, acting as an advocate for the industry, and plotting the artistic development of our artists. Add to that terribly exciting things like budget planning, fundraising and government lobbying and you end up with pretty full days. And nights. And weekends.

Is there an Australian approach to theatre and theatre development that others notice and respond to, or is theatre truly global?

I think these days it is a very global medium. A new approach to the form is fairly quickly picked up on and applied elsewhere. But there is something in our performance tradition that is unique. We have the oldest storytelling tradition in the world in Australia and I think that love and respect for narrative has seeped into our contemporary theatre making.

2 ANTHONY MARAS *LLB/LP '03, Filmmaker*

Last year Anthony made his first feature-length movie, *Hotel Mumbai* starring international cast members Dev Patel and Armie Hammer.

Shot in South Australia and India, *Hotel Mumbai* is based on the 2008 terrorist attacks on the Taj Mahal Palace Hotel. It has been internationally financed through an association with Hollywood's famed Weinstein Company. Anthony is currently in post-production for the film due for release later this year.

Read more about Anthony Maras and find more alumni profiles in the online edition of *Encounter* magazine: **flinders.edu.au/encounter**

3 PROFESSOR DEBRA JACKSON

PhD(Ng/Midwif) '00, Director, Oxford Institute of Nursing, Midwifery and Allied Health Research

You are the only Professor of Nursing in Oxford and the first for 25 years. What was the path that took you to Oxford?

Oxford has an amazingly generative academic environment, world-leading clinical facilities, and the research infrastructure is truly phenomenal. All those factors, plus the unique opportunity to realise a vision for the development of a world-leading centre for nursing, midwifery and allied health research, are what brought me here.

You have had a distinguished career as a research leader. Have there been any highlights or milestones?

There have been so many wonderful moments in my career, one was being the only nurse named as a Principal Fellow of the NIHR-funded Oxford Biomedical Research Centre (2016-2019). This award reflects significant and sustained contribution to internationally excellent translational clinical research that has created a positive impact on patients.

Your research output has been enormous but you seem to get as much satisfaction from mentoring others.

Being able to work with gifted and talented nurses, to help them to get the skills to uncover the knowledge that will result in improvements to patient care is a great privilege and one of the best things about my job. There is nothing more worthwhile than walking alongside bright young people as they develop and mature in their thinking, and in their ability to clearly articulate their thoughts and ideas.

Nursing has changed greatly in recent years. Do you see that continuing?

Nursing is a dynamic profession that is flexible and adaptable to the needs of patients, families and communities. So I think there will be continued development and role expansion. I think nurses will be working alongside a greater range of providers at the point of care.

You completed your PhD at Flinders in 2000. What memories do you have of your time at the University?

I have great memories of my time on campus. We used to have doctoral schools that were really wonderful, not only for our learning, but for helping to form a sense of connectedness with the University community and getting to know the other students. I want to acknowledge my supervisor, Professor Philip Darbyshire who was very inspiring and motivating. He taught me a lot about supervision that I have been able to carry forward into my own career.

4 PETER MARTIN *BEc(Hons) '80*

Economics Editor, The Age

When you walked into Flinders in 1975 did you envisage that it would lead to a career in journalism? What took you down that path?

I was determined to work in radio, and I chose Flinders because it offered drama (which could help me produce radio plays), politics (which could get me a job in radio news) and economics, which I picked because it was in the news at the time and no-one knew the answers.

Unemployment had jumped, inflation was climbing to unmanageable levels and right in the thick of the debates, slugging it out in the media and advising politicians, were my lecturers, especially Barry Hughes, Dick Blandy, Keith Hancock and Bob Wallace. Suddenly I was at the centre of something that mattered, and it was probably then that my ambition to work in radio morphed into a specific ambition to tell people about economics on radio. I abandoned drama and politics.

Are there any particular highlights or lowlights in your career?

An early lowlight was working in the Treasury in Canberra while preparing news bulletins for community radio. I loved the second but was finding it hard to concentrate on the first. I was a deadline adrenalin junkie, but the Treasury was giving me projects that took two weeks to complete!

I sought advice and was told to ditch the 'important' job and to dive into one where I would do what I loved.

On my first day at the ABC in Canberra I was told to check whether any events at the Canberra Show had been cancelled because of the rain. I checked, wrote a story, and then listened as the newsreader read exactly what I had written. I was hooked.

Your economics reporting is praised both by economists and fellow reporters. How easy is it to get it right, while still having something to say?

In radio, and in newspapers where I now work, what matters is to get inside someone's head; then it's fairly easy to explain what they are thinking. Some people think I am opinionated (and in one of the pieces I write each week, I am required to express an opinion) but I'm actually almost always able to see everyone's point of view. This makes it hard to decide at election time, but easy to report.

Do you have a 'pub test' for economics reporting? How do you determine which bits of the complex daily economics cycle we need to understand?

My pub test is my Mum, who died 25 years ago. I write so that she would understand. She wasn't an economist.

You have worked in print media, radio and television. Do you have a preference? Which allows you to get the message across to the people you want to reach?

TV is by far the most powerful. Nothing has more impact, but it's frustrating to create. Other people have more patience than me. My comparative advantage (to use a term from economics at Flinders) is in things that are done quickly. Radio and newspapers are quick and good at conveying arguments, although nowhere near as good at conveying emotion.

The late '70s was an interesting time to be studying economics and Flinders had some very prominent economic thinkers then. What are your memories?

Anything was possible. Flinders was brand new, economics was evolving, and there was a sense that anyone could come up with an idea that would take things forward. We weren't so much given things to learn as given tools to find things out. I've been using them ever since.

5 DAVID HOBBS *BSc(Physics) '95, BSc(LifeSciences)/BEng(Biomed)(Hons) '01*

Lecturer, College of Science and Engineering, Rehabilitation Engineer, Medical Device Research Institute, Biomedical Engineering PhD candidate at Flinders University

Rehabilitation engineering and assistive technologies is an exciting field. What attracted you to it?

I was attracted to rehabilitation engineering and assistive technologies because I saw it as a brilliant blend of engineering, science, technology, health sciences and medicine, but most importantly applied to helping people with a disability. During my studies I spent five months working in one of Canada's (and the world's) leading paediatric rehabilitation engineering facilities as an intern. This opened my eyes and I knew it was the field I wanted to work in from that moment.

It also seems to be a rapidly evolving field. Where is it heading and what is its potential?

The field is evolving because technology is evolving; 3D printing is a great example. Advances in technology mean we can do things now that we couldn't do before, such as use a webcam to detect facial gestures and use those subtle gestures to control a computer. Where will it head? I think the convergence of humans and technology, where thoughts can control devices and equipment, is where we'll end up. It's actually not that far away.

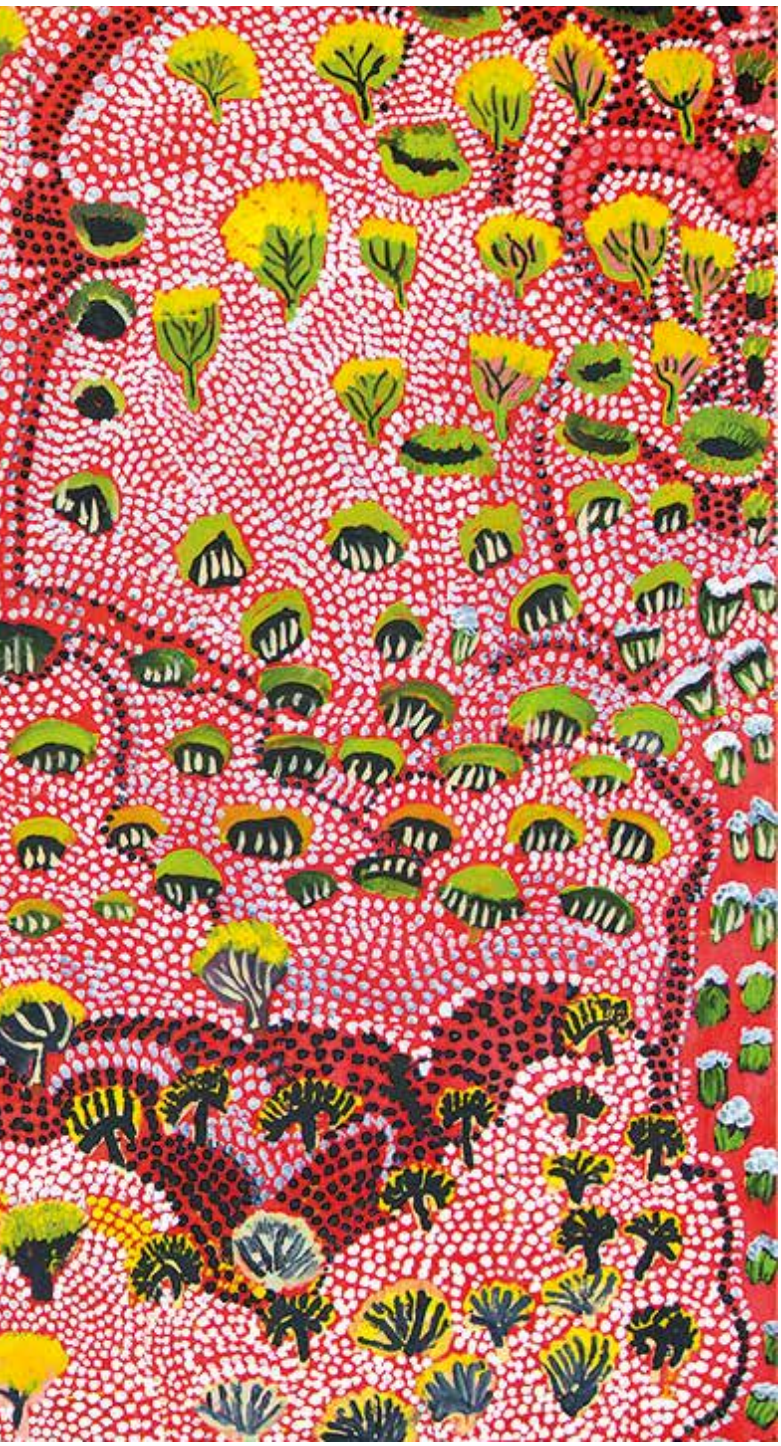
You spent nine years with Novita Children's Services. What were the highlights of your time there?

I think the highlight was my Churchill Fellowship, where I was able to visit premier rehabilitation engineering facilities around the world then bring that knowledge back to Australia and Novita. One of the best examples was the Virtual Music Instrument – a software program that turned movements into music, encouraging and enabling children with a disability who can't hold an instrument to play music.

LEARNING THROUGH THE LENS OF ART

A new collaboration between Flinders University Art Museum and our academic community delivers 'object-based learning' at Flinders University.

STORY BY: LYNDA ALLEN



Flinders University's art collection, first established as an academic resource for the visual arts in 1966, is being harnessed for teaching and learning in new and innovative ways. Known as object-based learning (OBL), the approach is an active and practical style of education that invites students to explore ideas, meanings and knowledge in response to artworks; at Flinders this practice has taken off in the College of Medicine and Public Health.

According to Flinders Professor of Psychiatry Michael Baigent, it's what we can learn about ourselves that is making this style of learning so powerful. For the past four years Professor Baigent has been bringing small groups of students in their penultimate year of medical school, during their clinical psychiatry terms, to the Art Museum to respond to a set of questions in relation to the artworks.

'Students learn where to find a pulse, how to examine a patient and even how to communicate. But to develop their professionalism as doctors we need to examine the spaces "in between" such as empathy, cultural awareness and self-reflection,' says Professor Baigent. 'We can do this by using observations of art.'

'...to develop their professionalism as doctors we need to examine the spaces "in between" such as empathy, cultural awareness and self-reflection.'

OBL engages the senses and accommodates different learning styles while complementing digital, lecture and text-based teaching approaches. 'Drawing on strategies of active looking and open-ended thinking, OBL encourages deep involvement in the topic and exposes students to complexity, ambiguity and differing points of view,' said Flinders University Art Museum Director Fiona Salmon. 'The process enhances observation and communication skills as well as lateral and creative thinking.'

continues on next page

Kunmanara Tjilpi Kankapankatja
Walalkara ngura (Walalkara country) (detail) 2008
synthetic polymer paint on canvas Flinders University Art Museum Collection 4583

Professor Baigent was first introduced to using art objects to teach medical students on a visit to Harvard University in 2012.

On return to Australia, Professor Baigent introduced the process to his psychiatry students who responded to works in the Flinders University Art Museum.

'As a psychiatrist, it was easy to apply the approach and facilitate discussions on the tricky topics. Others' views are heard and considered in an environment where the students feel safe to disclose their thoughts. The students also enjoy the change in environment, moving away from the hospital to the museum setting and the creativity involved in the exercise.'

In 2016 Professor Baigent was part of a research project led by the Art Museum exploring OBL as a strategy for improving student outcomes. The project was in collaboration with museum director Fiona Salmon and Flinders colleagues Dr Catherine Kevin (History) and Vicki Reynolds (Humanities and Creative Arts), along with Dr Heather Gaunt from Melbourne University.

While acknowledging it is difficult to measure the impact of OBL, Professor Baigent is enthusiastic about its value in the context of a medical degree, the way it has been embraced by his students, and the benefits it might have on their practice. 'What impact does being a more self-reflective, empathy-aware and happy doctor have? It can only be a positive one.'

Flinders University Art Museum Director Fiona Salmon with Professor Michael Baigent. Photo credit: Brenton Edwards

Flinders University Art Museum and City Gallery have a year-round program of exhibitions and public programs.

artmuseum.flinders.edu.au

Engage in an OBL Activity

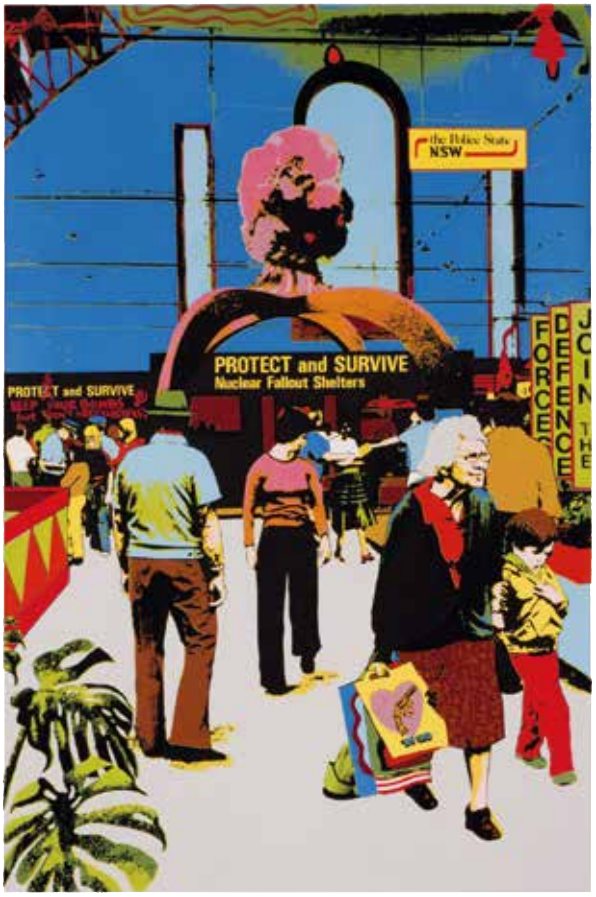
If you would like to take part in a simple object-based learning activity, take a look at the questions below and find one that you can relate to. Refer to the artworks across pages 24-27 when considering your response to a question.

If you can do the activity with someone else, consider your response to the same question then discuss your responses to understand how your views, feelings and thoughts, can differ. Reflect on what this means for you.

1. If there is a work of art from a culture or religious tradition other than your own, identify something you find beautiful about the work.
2. Focus on a memorable interaction with a friend, family member or colleague over the past year and find a work of art that person would find meaningful or powerful and consider why.
3. If you were bringing a depressed friend to an art gallery, which work would you share with them and why?
4. Find an artwork that you find difficult to empathise with or reflect on. Think about the barriers to empathy.

Ludwik Dutkiewicz
Untitled (figure drawing) 1954
charcoal on paper
Flinders University Art Museum Collection 4185
Gift of Barry Dangerfield

Pamela Harris
Anorexia nervosa 1982
screenprint, colour inks on grey paper
Flinders University Art Museum Collection 3000
© Tim Harris 2016



Toni Robertson
The royal nuclear show – 4 1981
screenprint, colour inks on paper
Donated through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program by Amanda Martin
Flinders University Art Museum Collection 5024.0006
© the artist 2016

Nici Cumpston
Flooded gum, Katarapko Creek, Murray River National Park (detail) 2007
giclée archival print on canvas hand-coloured with watercolour and pencil
Flinders University Art Museum Collection 4484
© the artist 2016

A LASTING LEGACY FOR INDIGENOUS RESEARCH

Shirley Matthews Bequest

STORY BY: LYNDA ALLEN

We don't know a lot about the late Shirley Matthews, but we do know that she was generous.

Shirley Matthews (DipSocAdmin '74, BA(Hons) '99) died in 2013 aged 80. With no known living relatives, she left her entire estate to Flinders University to establish a fund to support Indigenous research at Flinders. The funds have been invested in the Karmel Endowment Fund in perpetuity to support *The Shirley Matthews Visiting Indigenous Research Scholars Fund.*

Ms Matthews studied a Diploma of Social Administration at Flinders University in the 1970s and was a social worker for much of her life. She later returned to Flinders to study a Bachelor of Arts with Honours graduating in 1999. With a major in archaeological science and a passion for local history, Ms Matthews produced a thesis titled *The North Arm Ships' Graveyard, Port Adelaide, South Australia: some historical perspectives of the ships and associated maritime activity and an examination of the artefact assemblage.*

Ms Matthews' generous bequest provides an opportunity for the University to demonstrate its commitment to establishing enduring Indigenous research programs that resonate with Indigenous nations, and with researchers and scholars on a local, national and international level.

'The Shirley Matthews Visiting Indigenous Research Scholars Fund will allow Indigenous Studies research scholars to take up a residency at Flinders University – a key funding gap that was identified,' said Professor Daryle Rigney, Dean of Indigenous Strategy and Engagement at Flinders University.

It is anticipated that the fund will strengthen the Indigenous Studies research profile and capacity at Flinders.

'Bequests have played an important role in the University's development, helping us to become the important institution we are today,' said Professor Rigney.

'Regardless of the size of the contribution – large or small – bequests have advanced teaching, learning and research at Flinders.'

Professor Daryle Rigney, Dean of Indigenous Strategy and Engagement at Flinders University. Photo credit: Julius Zieleniecki

From solving environmental problems, to helping to close the gap in Indigenous health or making steps towards finding a cure for cancer, dementia and other diseases, our community of supporters are making a lasting contribution and believe in the power of education to transform lives.

The University is delighted to be able to deliver Shirley Matthews' last wishes in her Will. Her generous bequest will leave a lasting legacy for Indigenous research.

DID YOU KNOW SHIRLEY MATTHEWS?

We would love to hear from you to find out more about her life and welcome any photographs you might have of this generous benefactor.

Please contact the alumni office: +61 8 8201 7571 or alumni@flinders.edu.au

2016 DONOR HONOUR ROLL

We would like to say thank you to our donors and supporters who believed in making a difference in 2016. Through your generosity, Flinders University is able to support the next generation of students, sustain critical research and move ideas to innovations.

We would also like to acknowledge the many anonymous donors who contributed to our success.

We are profoundly grateful for your confidence in us and your belief in our work.

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SEEK FIRST TO UNDERSTAND

Growing up on the family farm, Rosalie Martin (BAppSc(SpPath) '84) had no clear vision of what life had in store, other than a yearning to help people. It was her mother who suggested she consider speech pathology.

STORY BY: ARNDRAE LUKS

Rosalie Martin graduated from Flinders University in 1984 with a Bachelor of Applied Science (Speech Pathology) then accepted a post in Whyalla as a speech pathologist before moving to Tasmania for work 18 months later.

'Flinders changed me in every way. It gave me my beginnings of understanding the richness of networks and social capital beyond family. It is where I learned that I am a learner,' Rosalie recalls.

Now working as a criminologist, courage facilitator and speech pathologist, Rosalie's life work has become the embodiment of the sentiment 'seek first to understand, then to be understood'.

'I have spent my whole professional life working with people whose communication is impaired in some way, but unless we communicate with kindness, we are all impaired – we impair each other and we impair our world,' says Rosalie. 'If people can't speak out, they'll act out – and for some that acting out tips over into crime. Solutions therefore lie in helping people to speak out.'

Rosalie's acute consciousness of those who are disadvantaged, not only by their socio-economic circumstances but also by their incapacity to speak up, drove her on to a professional path focused on social justice and social change.

Her experiences some years later working pro bono in the prison system reaffirmed her deeply held conviction that earned trust, stemming from an empathy for others, is critical to clinical success.

That success has now been recognised with the accolade of 2017 Tasmanian Australian of the Year, awarded primarily for her work in helping prisoners crack the code of reading during three years working as a volunteer at Tasmania's Risdon Prison.

Her award reads: 'With specialist knowledge in the acquisition of language, and in the processing and production of speech sounds, Rosalie is able to uncover hidden literacy problems and tackle them head on. As a result, many of the people in her program have learned to read in a matter of months, and Rosalie is showing how many lives, currently on hold in prison, could be transformed.'

2017 TASMANIAN AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR

Rosalie Martin was awarded the 2017 Tasmanian Australian of the Year for her volunteer work to help prisoners at Tasmania's Risdon Prison to crack the code of reading through her understanding of the processing and production of speech sounds.

GOING THE EXTRA MILE

STORY BY: LYNDA ALLEN

When she was young, Pham Thi Cuc Ha (MEdMgmt '05) from Vietnam dreamt of becoming a famous writer. But the impact of her inspiring mother, a school teacher, has led her life in a different direction.

'My mother encouraged me to think differently from a very young age. She was a very devoted teacher. I remember once she walked for seven kilometres in the night to reach out to a student who wanted to quit school,' said Ha. 'Observing her, I learnt that you can go the extra mile for others and require nothing in return, and that is how you find the meaning of your life.'

After studying an undergraduate degree in Russia, Ha decided to study a Master of Educational Management at Flinders University to gain more knowledge in leadership and education. 'Flinders changed my way of thinking about education. It also changed my point of view about work and life, making me want to contribute more to society, my country and the cause of education,' said Ha.

Graduating from Flinders in 2005, Ha returned to Vietnam and began developing her business, Just Kids JSC, which provides early childhood education with a focus on both Vietnamese and English literacy. Growing from one centre in 2007, Ha now manages five childcare centres (known as kindergartens in Vietnam), catering for up to 700 children aged one to six.

'I have managed to create a unique education experience combining international elements of learning into Vietnamese culture so that I can get the best out of both systems for the benefit of our children,' says Ha.

PHAM THI CUC HA

Ha has just launched another education venture, SACE College Vietnam, where students can study the South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE) in Vietnam. She plans to set up a school that allows students to graduate with both a Vietnamese high school certificate and their SACE.

FROM FLINDERS TO *THE WOLVERINE*

KEN YAMAMURA

STORY BY: ARNDRAE LUKS

From a small-scale independent film in Adelaide to a multi-million dollar Hollywood blockbuster, Ken Yamamura's (BCreatArts(Hons) '11) acting career has reached great heights.

Ken originally travelled to Australia from Japan in 2005 to learn English and look for an acting school; once in Adelaide he settled on drama at Flinders University.

Returning to Osaka after completing his degree, Ken was one Japanese actor among thousands in Japan, making it a tough prospect to find work. In the hope of snaring a role in *The Wolverine*, which he had heard would be shot in Japan, Ken sent out dozens of letters to directors, producers and casting directors.

'I knew they would require Japanese actors, but I didn't hear back until a month before shooting was due to start,' he said. Ken believes his success in winning the role was partly attributable to a lucky physical resemblance to the actor who played the older Yashida.

Ken credits his time at Flinders with the inspiration that drives his pursuit of professional acting. 'I realised if I can apply properly what I've learnt at Flinders every time at work, I cannot go wrong. I'm quite proud of the fact that I went to Flinders Drama Centre,' he said. 'The experience I had while there is unforgettable. Everything I know about acting, I learnt there. It gave me a lot of opportunities that I would never have experienced otherwise.'

Ken has since acted in Hollywood film *Godzilla* and UK TV series *Black Mirror* along with a range of Japanese films, and is currently working on a Japanese TV drama.

'I have been very fortunate to have the chance to work with Hugh Jackman, Bryan Cranston and so many great people. I got to go to Sydney, Vancouver, Los Angeles, London, Tokyo and many other cities in Japan. But I would love to work even more extensively without any borders.'

THE CONGRESSMAN WHO CAME TO CALL

Twinkly-eyed, globetrotting, fearless, Gandalf-quoting champion of the poor and weak. If you had one sentence to describe retired US Congressman Jim McDermott, this might do. But then, you'd need hundreds to do him justice.

STORY AND PHOTO: GRANT SMYTH

Sitting in his temporary office on the second floor of Social Sciences South at Flinders University, Jim McDermott has a presence that leaves one feeling as if the room is struggling to contain him. Below his desk, to the left of a foot ensconced in a comfortable shoe, and leg clad in blue denim, a bin overflows with empty coffee cups. Possibly decaf, but probably not.

He laughs a lot, occasionally leaning forward to stare intently and feign seriousness about some point or other, before laughing again. All the while, his eyes twinkle.

Mr McDermott is a life-experienced, well-travelled and passionate *Seanchai* – or storyteller in the Irish Gaelic tradition. As full of questions as he is of tales, he mines those around him for information to be shared in other stories yet to be told, in other places yet to be visited.

One such question leads to him learning about the 'fair go'. It comes during a discussion around his belief that you can tell a lot about a country from its national sport. He suggests the way AFL umpires throw the ball backwards over their heads when they restart a game says something about Australia's approach to equality.

He's delighted to learn he's right, and we even have a name for it. It's a golden nugget he will file away for use later; an important nugget, and he knows it.

As a champion of universal health care in the US and high profile member of the Democratic Party for decades, Mr McDermott could have come to any university in Australia. So why Flinders? The answer is a Flinders PhD candidate and participant in Flinders' Washington Internship Program, who Mr McDermott puts among his top three interns from more than 400.

'Jesse Barker Gale,' he says. 'Any university that produces someone like Jesse has to have something pretty special going on, so I wanted to find out what it was.'

That led to six weeks at Flinders this year, where Mr McDermott has shared his knowledge every week during classes at Flinders' Centre for United States and Asia Policy Studies.

He describes discovering Ngarrindjeri culture with Flinders' Dean of Indigenous Strategy and Engagement

and citizen of the Ngarrindjeri Nation, Professor Daryle Rigney (another *Seanchai*, he says), as a special highlight of his visit.

Now in his 80s, Mr McDermott knows he may never return to Flinders to see how the stories he shared here helped us to continue making a difference.

A quote he shares suggests he's probably okay with that, though. It's a Greek proverb that is even more powerful when uttered by retired US Congressman, psychiatrist and champion of free health care and higher education, James Adelbert (Jim) McDermott.

'A society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in,' he says quietly …eyes still twinkling.

WASHINGTON INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Since 2000, Flinders has sent 100 students on a unique Washington Internship Program – a seven week placement in the US Congress. Students work full-time in the office of a member of the United States Senate or the US House of Representatives. This opportunity to experience political life in Washington DC is unparalleled in Australasia.

flinders.edu.au/washington

ALUMNI EMPLOYMENT & CAREER SERVICES

CAREERHUB

Have you graduated in the past two years? You can register with CareerHub to receive job alerts, invitations to employer events, and career related resources.

Employers interested in hosting a Flinders student in a work placement/project or employing a Flinders graduate can also register online to be connected with enterprising students and graduates.

flinders.edu.au/careers

IGNITE MENTORING

Flinders facilitates mentorships between industry professionals and Flinders students.

Flinders Ignite Mentoring is an online platform offering you the opportunity to mentor a Flinders student, when and how it suits you.

flinders.edu.au/ignite

FLINDERS UNIVERSITY

spring FEST

PROUDLY FEATURING

Nature Play SA

TURN PLAY INSIDE, OUT.

Saturday 14 Oct 2017
10am to 3pm

Get your hands dirty this spring and dig around our campus. Partnering with our friends Nature Play SA, we've cultivated a vast garden of exciting outdoor activities for the whole family.

Whether it's building your own cubby house overlooking our picturesque lake, brewing natural potions in our palatial plaza, becoming a palaeontologist for the day, or building your own musical instrument from recycled materials, there's something for everyone.

Activities are free, so is the parking!
Flinders University - Bedford Park

flinders.edu.au/springfest

WHAT'S ON

Each year Flinders University holds hundreds of events including lectures, exhibitions, concerts and networking events, which are open to our alumni.

We invite you to take a look at what's on and join us!

FLINDERS INVESTIGATORS PUBLIC RESEARCH LECTURE SERIES 2017

A free public lecture series presenting our world-leading research to the wider community.

20 September
Professor Eva Kemps

18 October
Dr Jonathan Benjamin

15 November
Professor Sarah Wendt

Level 1, Room 1.01
Flinders University
182 Victoria Square, Adelaide

Janine Mackintosh, *Southern Loss* 2016
yacca gum on sheep vertebrae, dimensions variable, courtesy the artist

CITY GALLERY EXHIBITIONS

1 July to 3 September:
Island to Inland
Contemporary art from Kangaroo Island

16 September to 19 November:
Photography Meets Feminism
Australian women photographers 1970s-80s

25 November to 11 February:
A Thousand Journeys
The Helen Read Collection

City Gallery:
State Library of South Australia, North Terrace, Adelaide
P: 08 8207 7055

artmuseum.flinders.edu.au

FLINDERS INVESTIGATOR LECTURE

Free public lecture as part of Open State Festival

Thursday 28 September 5:30pm

Dr Tia Kansara presents, *Replenish: A philosophy, a cause and action*

Ecosystem engineer Dr Tia Kansara proposes we measure success not just by what we generate, but what we RE-generate.

Hilton Adelaide, 233 Victoria Square, Adelaide

Register via the events website

Fran Callen
Soursob season Winter Tabletop 3 2016
graphite, colour pencil, tea, soursob juice on arches 300gsm paper, courtesy the artist

T

THE COLLECTIONS PROJECT 2017: FRAN CALLEN

31 August to 3 November:

Fran Callen presents mixed-media 'tabletop' drawings inspired by the Flinders University Art Museum's collections of botanical, zoological and landscape prints.

A collaboration between Guildhouse and Flinders University Art Museum

The Studio (behind Grind & Press cafe), Ground Floor, The Hub, Flinders University, Bedford Park Campus

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LUNCHTIME CONCERTS

The 2017 Flinders Concert Series features outstanding musicians of international standing. The concerts are held on Wednesdays at 1:05pm in the Hub or the Library's Noel Stockdale Room.

Entry is by gold coin donation and is open to the public.

2017 DEAN JAENSCH LECTURE

Presented by Paul Kelly, Editor-at-Large on *The Australian*

November*

The Dean Jaensch Lecture pays tribute to Flinders University's notable Professor of Politics, Dean Jaensch, a respected political analyst with particular interests in electoral politics, voting systems and political behaviour, and political parties.

Level 1, Room 1.01
Flinders University
182 Victoria Square, Adelaide

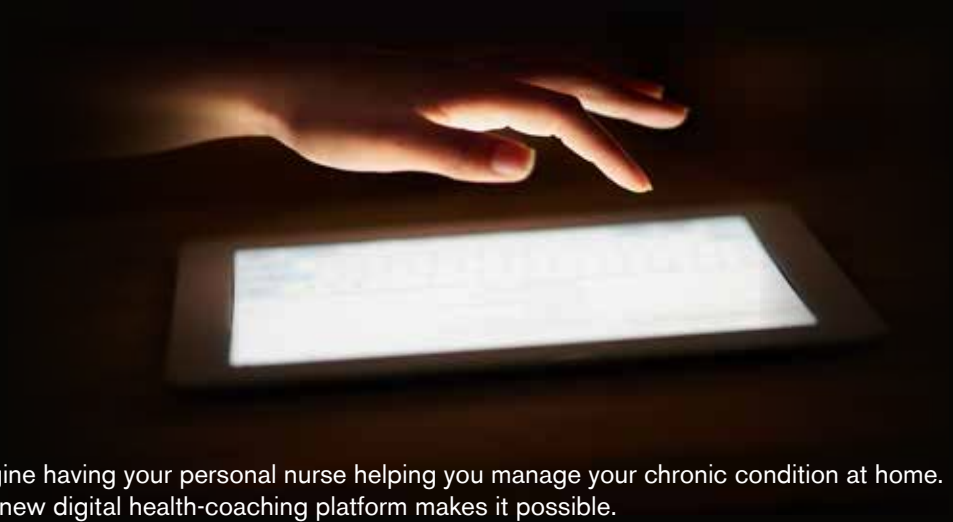
* Check the events website for confirmed date and time.

ON AT FLINDERS

For more on events at Flinders visit the events website and sign up to our e-newsletter:
flinders.edu.au/whats-on

TO FIND YOUR NURSE, PICK UP A TABLET.

Personal nursing on an iPad: **making a difference.**



Imagine having your personal nurse helping you manage your chronic condition at home. Our new digital health-coaching platform makes it possible.

Possible because Adelaide digital health technology company Clevertar has developed a 'clever avatar' based on years of university research.

The Flinders University spin-off has given its powerful virtual 'health coach' new abilities, designed for situations where patient engagement and behaviour change is needed.

Clevertar digital coaches are downloaded onto a patient's own device. The app is patient-centred, but can be used by clinicians involved with the patient's care to give them insights into patient progress.

Last year Clevertar won a global award for Technology Innovation, judged by Apple co-founder, Steve Wozniak. Clevertar has previously won state-based iAwards for its technology.

Flinders UNIVERSITY

flinders.edu.au/makingadifference