Richard Head
farewell

Time: 3:00 – 5:00pm
Date: Friday 5 February 2016
Place: Bradley Forum
Run Sheet
Professor Richard Head’s Farewell Event
Friday 5 February 2016, 3:00pm-5:00pm
Bradley Forum Level 5, Hawke Building, City West campus
Contact: Juliet Mazzone, 8302 9083 or juliet.mazzone@unisa.edu.au

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1:00pm</td>
<td>Nadia (Florist) arrives and sets up</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00pm</td>
<td>Natalie (Desserts) arrives for event set-up</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:45pm</td>
<td>Photographer arrives</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:00pm</td>
<td>Guests arrive</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:10pm</td>
<td>Paella is served (all other canapes are served throughout)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:30-3:45pm</td>
<td>Speeches</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3:30 – MC: Kaurna welcome, Read ‘telegrams’, Introduce VC</td>
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<td>3:30-3:35pm – Vice Chancellor speaks</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3:35-3:45pm – Richard Head speaks</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3:45 – MC: Presentation of gift, ask guests ‘not to go anywhere’</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:00pm</td>
<td>MC Introduces performers</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:10pm</td>
<td>Performance</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:20-5:00pm</td>
<td>Networking &amp; celebrating</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:00pm</td>
<td>Event concludes</td>
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• Good afternoon.

• It would be impossible to tell the entire story of Richard Head in the five minutes I have been given.

• Even at my speed –

• and I can get through twice what the normal VC could –

• you’ll only learn half the story of this remarkable man –

• probably the truest version of the Renaissance man UniSA has ever encountered.

• We could start with the basics:

• he’s a scientist who joined UniSA in September 2011 as an adjunct Professor at the Sansom Institute for Health Research within the Division of Health Sciences.
• He joined us after 10 years as Director of the CSIRO’s Preventative Health Flagship where he was responsible for driving a national research program focused on early detection and intervention in chronic diseases;

• Prior to that he was Chief of CSIRO’s Division of Health Sciences and Nutrition and before that, Chief of CSIRO’s Division of Human Nutrition.

• He served as Professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology at West Virginia University Medical Centre,

• and was a Research Fellow with the Department of Medicine at the University of Melbourne and

• a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Roche Institute of Molecular Biology.

• His career has been devoted to investigating and understanding the causes of chronic diseases.
• He established Australia’s most comprehensive collaboration to tackle Alzheimer’s disease and

• founded the nation’s largest research grouping in early detection of colorectal cancer.

• He’s a very serious man.

• He is also – according to those who work closely with him – completely free of ego,

• a man who, equipped with an electronic whiteboard and fuelled by cappuccino, could and did dismantle complex ideas or processes so that everyone understood them.

• Any meeting with Richard would involve him sketching out the topic’s details on his electronic whiteboard and handing you a sheaf of notes to take home with you.
• And if you’ve ever been in a meeting with Richard you’ll know that the conversation can leap and flow
  o from dead sheep to pharmaceutical formulations;
  o from a love of Spanish tapas, to the history of just about anything you could think of;
  o from stories about taxi rides with celebrities
  o to his latest run along the beach.

• If you have ever run the City to Bay in a better time than he has posted, you’ll know how competitive he is.

• So competitive, in fact, that he got a nasty injury last year attempting to beat his grandson in a long jump competition.

• I believe he has a physiotherapist on speed dial.

• Richard became head of the Sansom soon after he started at UniSA and led a review into the health research we were doing and deciding the future directions the Sansom would take.
• It wasn’t long before he was persuaded to take over as interim Deputy Vice Chancellor Research and Innovation where he undertook a review of all our research institutes and centres with a view to building scale and depth in areas of our strength.

• He helped make some key hiring decisions, some key acquisitions, and

• restructured the research finances in the Division of Information Technology, Engineering and the Environment.

• He also evolved a new model for research and commercialisation support.

• He was an excellent supervisor of HDR students and put a lot of thought into matching the right students with key researchers.
• He is very well known for introducing the concept of ‘challenge workshops’ at UniSA which we use to bring together business and industry and match them with UniSA research expertise from multiple areas so that they can discuss grand challenges.

• This is one of Richard’s passions – getting people to think of the big picture, particularly outside of their own disciplinary silos.

• He is very passionate about innovation and the crossover between disciplines, rightfully seeing it not only as a way to the future but as a means to attract funding from external sources.

• I’m told that it also gave him an excellent opportunity to camp out at the Science Exchange for a few hours to enjoy the restoration of the building and the coffee and sweets that he found there.
When the opportunity arose for us to create the Future Industries Institute, we tapped Richard on the shoulder one more time and prevailed upon to put off his retirement to become its interim head.

It was Richard who brought the Future Industries Institute alive by injecting his energy into what was only then a very good idea.

Now with his help his two most recent positions have been successfully filled:

Professor Tanya Monro was tempted to cross North Terrace and join a truly remarkable and innovative university.

and Professor Emily Hilder who joined us just last week, is going to steer the Future Industries Institute not just by inspiring researchers, but connecting with industry and the end-users of research,
• and we’re letting Richard do what he’s been trying to do for years now.

• Dance.

• Some years ago Richard’s children gave him vouchers for flamenco dancing lessons as a Christmas present.

• He became hooked. He became passionate about learning the steps and routines and has - because he is Richard Head after all - developed many innovative tools to help him.

• They include a modified helmet that helped him remember the routine steps.

• Before we get too far into this I have to tell you that my office received many notes about Richard and his history with the university,
• And a number of them mentioned his love of flamingo dancing.

• Even the caterers had a flamingo-themed event in mind,

• You might all have been standing here on one leg celebrating Richard’s achievements if we hadn’t caught that one in time.

• In fact, Richard would probably know that both flamingo and flamenco mean ‘the colour of flame’ but they share no other similarities.

• Flamingo dancing does exist but flamingos who take to the floor only do it in private and only to select a mate.

• So Richard, if it is indeed flamingo dancing that has stirred your soul, you might need to re-think the specially modified hat.
• But I’m confident that it is flamenco dancing that has taken hold of him.

• I know this because the research group worked with two consultants last year, one of whom was Spanish.

• Naturally they got to talking and when their final meeting ended, along with swapping business cards and promising to keep in touch,

• they turned on the iPhone, found the appropriate music

• and danced.

• A little later this afternoon you will get the chance to see Professor Richard Head,

• eminent scientist,
• a member of numerous advisory committees, including the Scientific Advisory Council for the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute and the Australian e-Health Research Centre Board,

• And key international and national boards including Research Australia, Food Standards Australia New Zealand and International Ageing Consortia,

• Keen runner and surf skier who needs to do a little more work to beat his grandson in a long jump,

• strut his stuff.

• Until then please join me in welcoming Professor Richard Head.