



Performing at the top of their game

After starting his career volunteering for the Australian Football League, UniSA alumnus James Hanisch has gone from strength to strength and is currently the Director of Performance Science for the Philadelphia Eagles. [more...](#)

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Above and beyond the line of duty

An exemplary police force trainer and two advocates for vulnerable people in the community are among the twelve University of South Australia alumni recognised in the 2017 Australia Day Honours announced on 26 January. [more...](#)

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Pridham Hall: New corporate opportunities

If you want to have your name and three words to live by permanently etched into UniSA's Pridham Hall, sorry the pool is sold out - but there are spots available in the foyer and a new opportunity for businesses. [more...](#)

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The \$10,000 Pank Prize for Social Innovation and Enterprise – Apply now

Alumni entrepreneurs are encouraged to apply for this valuable prize to help establish a new and innovative social enterprise in South Australia. Last year's winner is Lisa Mitchell, who runs Lamtales, a digital stories program to help children learn to read. Apply by 17 March. [more...](#)

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Watch: Data Driven = Disruptive

Dr Roger Kermode, Practice Principal at Hewlett Packard Enterprise, discusses how HPE helps businesses leverage their data to improve performance in a fast-paced competitive world. [watch...](#)

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Child Sexual Assault: Preventing the preventable

Changing the culture of ignorance and denial surrounding child sexual assault is the subject of the Inaugural Memorial Lecture for Emeritus Professor Freda Briggs AO, to be delivered Hetty Johnston AM GAICD, Founder and Executive Chair of Bravehearts Foundation. [more...](#)

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Alumni events

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UniSA MBA alumni Spring Dinner – Hong Kong
UniSA MBA alumni are invited to join us for a spectacular evening at our annual Spring Dinner at the Star Galaxy Dance Club in Causeway Bay.
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ACAA Welcome Back Receptions - China
The Australia Alumni China Association invites you to networking events in March Guangzhou, Beijing and Shanghai.
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UK Europe Alumni AGM - London
Join us for our Annual General Meeting and get involved in your local chapter in London.
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UniSA Careers Expo - Adelaide
Just graduated? Or wanting to take the next step in your career and network with industry? Come along to the FREE UniSA Careers Expo, in partnership with The Big Meet.
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MBA Information Seminar - Adelaide
Learn more about UniSA's 5-star MBA from academics, students and alumni.



>>Stay Connected The best way to reap the benefits of being an Alumnus of the University of South Australia is to keep us up to date with your changes of address or workplace.



Ensuring elite athletes are performing at the top of their game

James Hanisch

Bachelor of Applied Science (Human Movement)

Director of Performance Science for the Philadelphia Eagles

After starting his career volunteering for the Australian Football League (AFL), UniSA alumnus James Hanisch has gone from strength to strength and is currently the Director of Performance Science for the Philadelphia Eagles.

The Philadelphia Eagles are a hugely popular National Football League (NFL) club in the United States, and have sold out every game since 1999. James is responsible for testing, analysing and interpreting the player's performance metrics, and then communicating recommendations to head coaches - and the athletes - to ensure the team can compete as best as possible.



We caught up with James after the recent Super Bowl to learn more about his fascinating career with the NFL, what it's like 'behind the scenes' of the AFL and the biggest difference between the two giant sport industries.

Congratulations on your position as the Director of Performance Science for the Philadelphia Eagles! Please describe your time working for the NFL in the US.

Not sure where to start. It has been an unforgettable experience. I had always watched American Football growing up and I am truly grateful for the opportunity to work at such an amazing franchise especially one where the owner is dedicated to giving us the resources from a performance science standpoint. We have a dedicated performance team here at the Eagles. Sport-specific technology has improved drastically over the past decade and we implement strategies using new sport science technology that makes the job exciting. This new technology consists of heart rate sensors to camera and force plate analysis. Although the job carries high expectations we have fun doing it.

Philadelphia is a great city with fans who are passionate. The Eagles organization is like a family and the owner goes above and beyond to make it truly feel like that. My wife and son are cared for extremely well, game day is exceptional, they have Christmas parties and events for the family, for kids and for the partners. It is a very inclusive place to work and it doesn't go unnoticed.

What does your work day look like?

Depending on whether it is in-season or pre-season most of the days consist of helping players pre-practice with warming up, measuring outputs in the weight room, involved in practice, coordinating recovery session post practice and any additional conditioning the players need and then finishing the day discussing information with coaches and staff. Repeat.

You started your career by volunteering at the Port Adelaide and Adelaide Football AFL Clubs in Australia. Did you feel that volunteering was imperative to gaining a position in this field?

Imperative, no. But, invaluable, yes. Elite sport is a small community especially in the coaching/sports performance circles. Not only does volunteering give you an opportunity to learn and develop a specific skill set but it also allows you to understand the difference between a research/scientific and a practical approach. Human Movement gives you an outstanding base knowledge of sports performance across multiple levels, but nothing prepares you for the rigors of elite sport. Elite sport is demanding, long days, weeks and constant weekend work. Volunteering gives the opportunity to understand the demands and helps in the decision on whether I wanted to do this as a career.

It also helps develop networks. It is my belief that gaining employment boils down to this: It takes who you know to get a job and what you know to keep it. Networking is an important part of the business and volunteering helps start that.

Have you noticed any significant differences between the AFL and the NFL?

There are some big differences as well as many similarities. The main similarity is that the players are just people like everyone else whether that be in Australia, here in the US or around the world. We all idolize athletes and their talents but when you are in this environment you develop relationships with them by understanding that they are just normal people. The other similarity is good communication. A successful work environment really comes down to excellent communication. Communication of results, of standard and expectations and of performance. This goes throughout the whole organization from the players to management. As a Sport Scientist if you are too complex with reporting or analysis and cannot portray that information effectively to players, coaches or staff then your message, no matter how important it is, is not being utilized by the decision makers and you are not adding value to the program. This goes for both AFL and the NFL.

In terms of differences. The game is obviously different and the tiny nuances of the game have taken longer to understand than I expected, which is something that came easy in AFL growing up playing the game. Game day is a significant difference both from a spectator standpoint (it is like a full entertainment package), to in the locker room. The locker room in AFL before the game is intense and serious, the NFL locker room there is music blaring, dancing and an easy and calm before the storm. Culturally both environments are very different.

From an organization standpoint having an owner and the structure of leadership is different but also refreshing. You know who the owner/owners are and their vision for the business. Coaching wise, there are a large number of coaches all playing very specific roles which again comes down to great communication.

What is it like 'behind the scenes' at the AFL? What is the biggest misconception about the AFL (in your opinion)?

A big misconception would be time. We work a lot of hours and basically 7 days a week throughout the year. One of the biggest questions I get asked is 'what do you do in the Off-Season?'. Although it seems like when the players are not here that would be the best time for us to have break. In actual fact for me that is the busiest time. When we are in-Season the days really just repeat themselves and you get into a rhythm. There is no time for personal development, solving problems or discussion on big picture outcomes. The Off-Season is a great time for that as well as our time to review the year, identify areas to improve and also plan the next pre-season and in-season programs. There is a lot that goes on behind the scenes other than the day to day preparation for game day week to week.

What is your favourite memory from your time working with the AFL?

I have two:

1. Rather than just one memory I think it is more about the day to day. The conversations in the locker room, helping improve the players and the thirst for competition each day.
2. My first day as an intern the High Performance Manager asked me how my kicking technique was. I said it was 'OK'. He needed my help with some extra conditioning with a player. That player ended up being Andrew McLeod who was my idol growing up. That was one of the best experiences I have had. First day on the job, involved in a goal kicking session with Andrew McLeod!

Please tell me about your time at UniSA studying a Bachelor of Applied Science (Human Movement). Why did you choose this course?

It really comes down to my passion for sport and competition. This degree has such a wide range of career possibilities and it is perfect for anyone who is passionate about competition and is unsure of their final direction in life. I have always thought the human body is fascinating. Its ability to adapt, push through pain and the constant 'limits' that are broken really fascinate me. This degree was perfect for developing knowledge of the human body and its capabilities but also how to practically apply solutions to the general population and athletes on solving problems whether it be through rehabilitation, biomechanics or physiologically.

I guess when it comes down to it. If you love sport like I do and enjoy being around like-minded people this is the degree for you.



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Alumni recognised in 2017 Australia Day honours

An exemplary police force trainer and two advocates for vulnerable people in the community are among the twelve University of South Australia alumni recognised in the 2017 Australia Day Honours announced on 26 January.

Senior Sergeant Trudy Andresen APM, was awarded the Australian Police Medal for her work as a driving force in the development and delivery of the police records system known as Program Shield, where she is currently the Training Manager.



Trudy joined the police force in 1981 and for almost two decades served in a range of areas, including country and metropolitan patrols, working with victims of crime and Community programs, before her move into training after completing a Bachelor of Social Science Justice Administration at UniSA in 2005. Since then she has been responsible for the delivery of training to all ranks, from new recruits through to Inspectors on a range of promotional courses. In 2014 she managed the initial delivery of Shield training to more than 4,000 police state-wide.

Honoured to have her hard work recognised in this way, Trudy says one of her finest career achievements “is being promoted to a position where I needed to lead a team of new trainers through a busy period of promotional courses. Luckily we all made it”

“I like seeing the confidence a student gets when they understand a concept or information and are able to apply it effectively.”

Simon Schrapel AM, CEO of Uniting Communities, says that studying social work at UniSA provided the essential foundation for his 30-year career working in front line social work and community development. He holds a number of senior federal and State Government policy advisory roles and is the former President of the Australian Council of Social Services.



An active advocate of child protection policy reform, Simon was Chair of the Building Capacity Building Bridges Steering Committee that was supported by UniSA’s Australian Centre for Child Protection. A member of the National Implementation Working Group for the Framework for Protecting Australia’s Children since its inception, Simon considers obtaining a commitment from the Australian Government and all State and Territory governments to establish a long term National Framework for Protecting Australia’s Children was a significant achievement.

“Now into its eighth year the Framework is unique in as much that it continues to be collaboratively led by not only Federal and State governments but also representatives of civil society organisations making it a truly tripartite commitment. The Framework has been successful in driving many high level policy changes, including Australia’s first Children’s Commissioner and national standards governing out of home care services. I am enormously proud to have played an instrumental role, with other colleagues, in both the establishment and implementation of the National Framework,” says Simon.

“As a campaigner for social justice causes, in particular children’s rights, being publicly acknowledged gives credence to this work and its value in our community. It’s also an honour I genuinely share with the many others who have contributed their time and effort to improving the lives of others,” says Simon.

Simon is Chair of the UniSA’s School of Psychology Social Work and Social Policy Advisory Board and a member of the University’s Strategic Management Committee for its Research Node for Low Carbon Living.



David Linn OAM joined the Board of the Australian Refugee Association Inc. (ARA) in 1989 and was President from 2002 until 2015. He was also pivotal in establishing STTARS, Survivors of Torture and Trauma Assistance and Rehabilitation Service Inc.

An engineer by profession, David completed a Master of Engineering by research at UniSA’s antecedent institution, the South Australian Institute of Technology, in 1981. He ran his own consulting business for almost half of his career and travelled throughout the world.

David says his finest achievements were volunteering with ARA “helping to guide a wonderful and highly-regarded South Australian settlement organisation and its related entities into a professional operation with a secure future.”

“This could only be achieved with dedicated members of the Board, members of staff and thousands of volunteers and supporters over that time,” he says.

With his wife, Liz, they have directly supported 24 children and young people in developing countries, especially in Lesotho. For the past 10 years they led an organisation that has shipped more than 100,000 books to Lesotho to establish libraries in over 60 schools and child-related organisations. This operation has now been formalised through Books for Lesotho Inc.

“My wife and I are rewarded when we see people using this assistance to help themselves, making the most of any opportunity they are given. We are amazed at the number of people who dedicate their lives to helping their own people in need; it is reward enough to be able to call some of them friends.”

Nine other UniSA alumni received an honour:

His Honour the Honourable John Hardy AO, Radiography Certificate, Administrator of the Northern Territory For distinguished service to the people of the Northern Territory, and as a patron and supporter of a range of aviation, health, emergency service and charitable organisations.

Mr Graeme Martin AM, Graduate Diploma in Business Administration
For significant service to the real estate industry through executive roles, to professional property institutes, and to education.

Mr John Kennedy OAM, Associate Diploma in Business (Management)
For service to local government, and to the community of Campbelltown.

Mr Alan Orrock OAM, Bachelor of Adult and Vocational Education
For service to the community through a range of organisations.

Mr Graeme Stratford OAM, Diploma of Technology in Accountancy
For service to higher education administration, and to the community.

Mr John Wittwer OAM, Graduate Diploma in Program Evaluation
For service to the community of Hahndorf.

Ms Rosina Antenucci PSM, Graduate Diploma in Teaching English as a Second Language and Bachelor of Education: Inservice Education & Training of Adults
Public Sector Medal for outstanding public service to education and to the teaching of English as an additional language.

Mr Corey Dunn AFSM, Bachelor of Applied Science (Honours) in Conservation Management and Bachelor of Computer and Information Science. Australian Fire Service Medal.

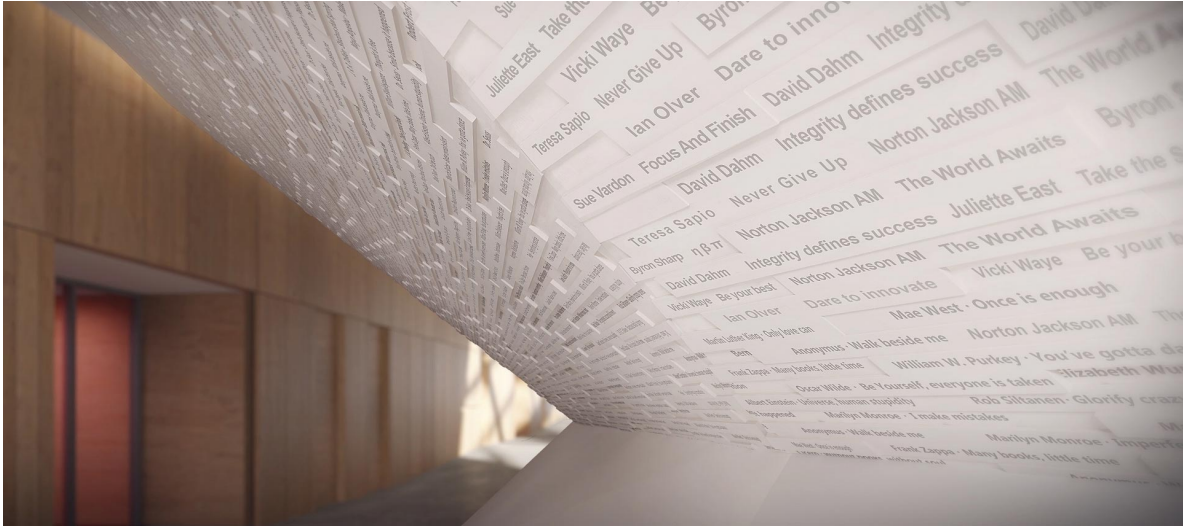
Mr Shane Daw ESM, Graduate Diploma in Management. Emergency Services Medal.

View the full list of UniSA alumni, honorary doctors and fellows who received honours [here](#).



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Pridham Hall Pool sold out! Get in quick - corporate opportunities



Hundreds of graduates, staff and supporters have donated to have their name and three words to live by permanently etched into one of three sculptural features of Pridham Hall, UniSA's iconic new sport and education building now under construction at the City West campus. This initiative has been so widely popular, that the Swimming Pool is now SOLD OUT.

Don't worry, you still have the opportunity to embed your name and three words onto the blades of the Chandelier or have them carved on the Inverted Pyramid, both of which will be part of the impressive foyer of Pridham Hall.

Your name and words will become a permanent fixture that will forever inform and inspire generations of students, staff, alumni and visitors.

UniSA has recently opened this unique opportunity to corporate businesses. For \$5,000, your business can be proudly displayed on one of the two permanent fixtures – inspiring the next generation of leaders. For further information please contact: giving@unisa.edu.au

Some of UniSA's generous supporters, who have chosen to embed themselves in Pridham Hall, explain why they donated and what inspired their three words to live by.

Llyndell Heuston

Celebrate your Ancestry

"I chose these three words as the lack of celebration caused a certain amount of tension and vacuum in my family: I wondered, but did not know, that my mother was of the 'stolen generation'. This situation was unspeakable in the 50's and 60's and this removal from family had a strong influence on my mother's behaviour and thus her attitude towards me. If she had lived in a society where aboriginal heritage was lauded as much as convict heritage, she would have felt more relaxed and her children would have felt more grounded. I now know my heritage is British, Spanish and Aboriginal and I can see those influences in me. If young people know their ancestry it gives a strong rock on which to stand, a strong connection on which to draw strength, a many-textured tapestry of identity in which to celebrate their own brand of individuality."

Professor Clayton MacKenzie

Shine, not burn

"'Shine, not burn' is the motto of the MacKenzie clan, an ancient Scottish Highlands clan. It's a motto that signifies the importance of service, planning and loyalty. A lamp that flares is soon spent and seen by a few; but one that glows long and purposefully throws light on the lives of many. If through the quality and pride of your works, your skill and loyalty shines through consistently and over time, you can make a difference in your own way.

Tom Steer

Head Heart Backbone

"Studying at UniSA gave me a head start in my career and I'm grateful for the doors that it opened up for me. Throughout my career I've stayed close the University and have seen it continually evolve and improve. Pridham Hall is going to be a great drawcard for UniSA students and the envy of other Universities. Hopefully I'll also get to hit the basketball court one day!

I've chosen the words 'Head Heart Backbone' to be the words carved on the Inverted Pyramid in the foyer. This is a tribute to Fraser Nicholson, a very charismatic and successful Canadian executive who I was lucky enough to have as my manager and good friend for the first 10 years of my career in Hewlett Packard. Fraser saw potential in me, took me under his wing, gave me incredible opportunities and continually pushed me out of my comfort zone to help build my confidence and skills.

Fraser was well known for his mantra 'Head Heart Backbone' which was a very simple but powerful way to describe the characteristics of a great leader:

- Head – intelligence and judgement
- Heart – passion and ambition
- Backbone – courage to make tough decisions and never give up

Fraser also loved Adelaide (and its surrounding wine regions). Sadly, we lost Fraser in 2014 and I wanted these words to live on. Having your name and three words on display in Pridham Hall is a rare opportunity to make your mark and pass on some inspiration to the next generation of students."

You don't have to wait until Pridham Hall officially opens before taking a tour inside the new building. The **Pridham Hall App** allows you to 'virtually' step inside the completed Pridham Hall building. To download the Pridham Hall App please search for 'UniSA Pridham Hall' in either Google Play (Andriod) or the App Store (iPhone).

For further information please visit: <http://w3.unisa.edu.au/giving/cause-pridham-hall.asp>



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Child Sexual Assault: Preventing the preventable

Inaugural Memorial Lecture for Emeritus Professor Freda Briggs AO, 30 March

Changing the culture of ignorance and denial surrounding child sexual assault is the subject of the Inaugural Memorial Lecture for Emeritus Professor Freda Briggs AO, to be delivered by Hetty Johnston AM GAICD, Founder and Executive Chair of Bravehearts Foundation, on Thursday 30 March at UniSA's Magill Campus.

We know that one in five children will be sexually assaulted in some way before the age of 18. We know how that carnage manifests itself, not only in the victims and their families, but also across every cultural and socio economic demographic. We also know that this is, for the large part, preventable.

Hetty Johnston AM GAICD, a leading Australian child protection advocate, is calling for a Royal Commission into our "broken Family Law System" that is failing our children. We asked her to define her priorities and suggest some ways to prevent abuse.



Photo of Emeritus Professor Freda Briggs AO courtesy of The Advertiser

What are your three most important and urgent priorities to repair the Family Law system?

There is so much wrong with this Family Law system that trying to identify just three most important priorities is almost impossible. Perhaps . . .

- Skillfully and professionally listen to and systemically respond to the Voice of the Child and 'walk the talk' on acting in the 'best interests of the child';
- Send the decision-making and risk assessments around child protection back to its statutory owners – the State and Territories, and out of the unskilled Federal Court;
- Utilise existing Terms of Reference to the current Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse to forensically examine 50 or 100 cases which demonstrate the failings which are occurring across the system, inclusive of judges, court staff, family court consultants/report writers/experts (employed or appointed by the court), internal and external legal representatives including children's lawyers, legal aid, private practitioners, Auscript, all related State Government institutions including police, child protection services, health & education and all non-government organisations, such as family relationship services, counselling services and supervision services.

How can we give children a voice in the legal system?

By enabling them to speak and by believing them when they do. By honouring their wishes, choices and their feelings. They should be able to speak directly to the court if they are willing and able or alternatively, via a skilled professional. The courts must take seriously the testimony of child protection professionals who are working with these children. Currently the courts are routinely ordering that protective parents withhold counselling from their children, urge their children to not raise allegations of sexual assault, not take their children to GPs or police and to ignore them if they disclose further harm. Despite how incredulous this sounds to the ordinary Australian, the truth is that this is an all too common Family Court Order.

How can parents help to protect their children?

In general, the best way to protect children is via: **Educate, Empower, Protect – Bravehearts' 3 Piers to Prevention model**. As it relates to parents this means:

- **Educate:** Parents need to ensure their children receive effective personal safety education;
- **Empower:** Parents need to ensure they themselves are knowledgeable about the crime of child sexual assault, recognising signs to look out for in both their children and in those who interact with them;
- **Protect:** Parents need to ensure that all organisations and institutions that likewise interact with their children have effective child protection policy and procedures in place and that they implement those into everyday practice which prioritises the best interests of the child without exception.

To support Bravehearts' call for the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse you can sign the petition via the [Bravehearts](#) Foundation website.

The University of South Australia's School of Education has established this memorial lecture to honour the life's work of the late Professor Freda Briggs AO, who, through her roles as educator, author, scholar and ambassador, ceaselessly and passionately worked towards her vision to provide a safer and more caring world for children.

The University of South Australia has established the Emeritus Professor Freda Briggs AO Memorial Fund to continue her legacy by supporting higher degree scholarships for child protection in law, education or social work. [Donate now](#)



[Register here](#)



Photo: Hetty Johnston, AM

Inaugural Memorial Lecture for Emeritus Professor Freda Briggs AO

**Presented by University of South Australia
School of Education**

Date: Thursday 30 March 2017
Time: 5:30pm to 7:30pm
Guest Lecturer: Hetty Johnston, AM
GAICD Founder & Chair of [Bravehearts](#) Foundation
Location: UniSA Magill Campus
H1-44 Amy Wheaton Building - [Map](#)
[More details and registration](#)

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