



Researching the effects of 'ice' on the brain

The use of methamphetamine or 'ice' in South Australia has doubled in the past four years. To try and find some answers on the long term impact on the brains of users, the Fay Fuller Foundation is investing more than \$230,000 in research by UniSA's Dr Gabrielle Todd. [more...](#)

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Developing special needs children's unique talent

How Frederick Chu is helping Singapore students with special needs identify their unique talent and harness these skills for their future careers. [more...](#)

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WATCH: Safe water transforms lives

Almost 900 children under-five a day die from diarrhoeal diseases caused by dirty water and poor sanitation. Rosie Wheen, Chief Executive of WaterAid, reflects on the role of leadership and collaboration in transforming lives of the poor. [watch...](#)

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\$50K to kick start your business idea!

A Venture Catalyst grant can help turn your business idea into a reality. Find out how Rachel Kidwell grew her startup TCPIPpoint with the help of this grant, available to recent graduates of UniSA. [more...](#)

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Suspended in space

Former builder Steven Cybulka has enjoyed a dream run into a new career as a sculptor. Less than 12 months after gaining first class Honours in Visual Art he is on his third commission in Bandung, West Java. [more...](#)

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Robotics and aged care

With the aid of a prestigious Toyota Foundation Research Grant, UniSA researchers are collaborating with Japanese institutions to conduct an in-depth comparative analysis of the robotics revolution in aged care in both Australia and Japan. [more...](#)

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Alumni events

- 4 MAY Power of Perception - Whyalla**
Free public lecture at UniSA's Whyalla Campus presented by Professor Roger Eston, Head of School of Health Sciences. Learn about research findings that help us to evaluate the effectiveness of our exercise routines.
- 4 MAY Institute for Choice Seminar- Sydney**
The future of passenger travel and implications for global CO2 emissions, with Prof. Andreas W. Schäfer of University College London's Energy Institute: 12.00 - 1.30pm, Level 13, 140 Arthur Street, North Sydney. RSVP by 1 May to Karla.Gatenby@unisa.edu.au
- 8 MAY Europe Now- is there an alternative? - Adelaide**
A public lecture by the Slovenian Ambassador to Australia, H.E. Ms Helena Dmrošek Zorko presented by the Hawke EU Centre for Mobilities, Migrations and Cultural Transformations.
- 9 MAY UniSA Alumni Cocktail Reception - London**
Join the University of South Australia's Vice Chancellor Professor David Lloyd and catch up with your classmates at an alumni cocktail reception.
- 15 MAY Alumni MBA Club: Bridge over troubled water - Hong Kong**
Professor Zheng Dingning, Head of Project Management, Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge, Hong Kong SAR, examines the impact of the world's longest cross-sea bridge connecting Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao.
- 24 MAY Alumni Cocktail Reception - Adelaide**
Join the University of South Australia's Vice Chancellor Professor David Lloyd and catch up with your classmates at an alumni cocktail reception in Adelaide.
- 29 MAY Trust and Talent - Twin peaks of 'future work'**
Jane Booth, Executive Director: People, Talent and Culture at UniSA, discusses how the world of work is changing and the new skills, systems and mindsets we will need to navigate the known and unknown with confidence.
- 30 MAY MBA Information Seminar - Adelaide**
Calling entrepreneurs, innovators and business leaders. Learn more about UniSA's 5-star MBA.



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Addressing the burden of 'ice use' in South Australia

Senior Lecturer **School of Pharmacy and Medical Sciences**

The use of methamphetamine or 'ice' in South Australia has doubled in the past four years, with the latest **National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program Report** showing there were more than 500 standard doses of methamphetamine each week per 1,000 people in December 2016.

The long-term effects of this steady increase in the use of methamphetamine are not yet known but research has revealed a concerning similarity between the brains of young methamphetamine users and older people who have been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease.

To try and find some answers the **Fay Fuller Foundation** is investing more than \$230,000 in University of South Australia Senior Lecturer in the **School of Pharmacy and Medical Sciences**, **Dr Gabrielle Todd**, and her colleagues' investigations into the long-lasting effects of methamphetamine on the brain regions that control movement.



"Brain scans show that the appearance of a movement-related brain region, called the substantia nigra, is abnormally bright and enlarged in methamphetamine users and in patients with Parkinson's disease," Dr Todd says.

"The abnormality is a well-established risk factor for Parkinson's disease and is used to help diagnose the disease in other parts of the world so it's very concerning to see this abnormality in young people that use methamphetamine.

"Of even greater concern, is that young methamphetamine users already show changes in the way that they move, and some of these changes resemble those that occur with Parkinson's disease."

Young methamphetamine users may have no idea about the long-lasting health consequences of their drug use.

"The risk is not just related to heavy methamphetamine use, we are seeing movement and brain changes in young people who may have only taken the drug as few as five times," Dr Todd says.

"Knowledge is a powerful tool and raising awareness about the link between methamphetamine use and the way that we move may help discourage young people from using this drug."

The funding from the Fay Fuller Foundation will allow Dr Todd's team to study the link between methamphetamine use and impaired movement and determine if this health consequence can form the basis of an effective preventative message.

CEO of the Fay Fuller Foundation, Stacey Thomas, says the organisation funds initiatives that improve the health related outcomes of South Australians over the long-term and considers the doubling of methamphetamine use in SA since 2012 to be very concerning.

"The impact these drugs have on the futures of young people, let alone on their families and the socioeconomic wellbeing of our community has led us to invest in this important area of health for South Australians," Thomas says.

"The Fay Fuller Foundation has recently committed more than \$2 million in research and project funding to improve health outcomes for South Australians.

"We are thrilled at the opportunity to partner with UniSA and Dr Todd and her team on this important project that could be a key to reducing the impact of drugs in our community."

For more information about the Fay Fuller Foundation please visit www.fayfullerfoundation.com.au

Project details:

The project outcome will be a new evidence-based, ready-to-use health message that increases community knowledge of the long-lasting consequences of methamphetamine use, changes attitudes towards methamphetamine, and discourages use of the drug in young people. This will be achieved with a four step approach:

Step 1: Measure existing knowledge of and attitudes to the long-lasting consequences of methamphetamine use on health.

Step 2: Measure the types of movement changes that occur as a result of use of methamphetamine and how common these changes are among methamphetamine users.

Step 3: Create the new health message to inform young adults about the long-lasting consequences of methamphetamine use on movement, in collaboration with drug and alcohol treatment service providers, researchers that specialise in methamphetamine-related harm and prevention, Parkinson's South Australia, and a marketing and communications company.

Step 4: Test the effectiveness of the new health message in improving knowledge about the long-lasting consequences of methamphetamine use.



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Developing the unique talent of children with special needs

Frederick Chu

Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood Education)

Founder of My Special Corner

"Teaching young people with special needs is my calling in life."

University of South Australia alumnus Frederick Chu is the founder of My Special Corner, a Singapore education centre specialising in both academic and non-academic programs for students who have learning and behavioural difficulties. The centre focuses on finding each student's unique talent and working with them to develop their skills for future careers. Recently celebrating their 10th anniversary, Frederick is proud of his students' achievements and their various successes.



After working as a teacher in Singapore, Frederick became intrigued with how children with special needs thrived in appropriate support programs. Frederick decided to investigate this further and completed a Bachelor of Early Childhood Education at UniSA and then a thesis on this topic. He discovered new information and methods that could aid students and their parents and founded My Special Corner in 2006.

Frederick's notable work at My Special Corner has been featured on Channel U, watch here: <https://www.facebook.com/16257218746124/videos/1006302732773061/>

Why did you choose to establish My Special Corner and support students who have learning and behavioural difficulties?

I founded My Special Corner not only to help many children who struggle academically but also to assist them with realising their own talent. Finding their unique set of skills gives them the foundation and the hope to work towards a career in their future. The other area of my work is to empower parents with special needs so that the child gets an ongoing learning consistently at home, as well as in the centre.

I supposed one can say it is a "calling" to teach people with special needs. I was often drawn by how they respond to learning, their ways of looking at things differently and how professionals like myself can enter their world and extend their perspective so that it allows them to pay attention at more things around them.

Tell us about the career achievements of which you are most proud?

Looking back to my first 10th anniversary on my own, I'm confident and proud to say that I've seen numerous successful stories of my students. Most of them are still in touch with me even though they had graduated from My Special Corner. This is definitely evidence to show the impact that the work had on them. Some of them even volunteer their time to come back to help out when I run camps and holiday programs. Such behaviour is beyond monetary reward because they will bring this positive attitude to their future job and/or people they meet and impact others as well.

Please share some of your student's success stories.

I first got in touch with student "J" when he was in pre-school. He was diagnosed with ADHD/anger issues, and when I first worked with him he was very rebellious and uninterested in his studies. I remember vividly how he tried to throw a pen-knife at me when he was only nine - when all I wanted him to do was to shift his toys to the study table. At the centre he did academic studies as well as baking programs, which he embraced. Today, as a teenager, he has harnessed the latter and is working as a baker and pursuing this as a career. He also volunteers his time at the centre to teach students and buys the ingredients for baking classes.

Another student, "H" came to the centre when they were five years old, after being diagnosed with autism and struggling with language and communication skills. He scored a B grade in the Primary School Leaving Exam (English), and went on to study in the express stream. He is now confident of his own self-image. He may be quieter in crowd, but no longer too shy to carry a conversation. He is also able to give his opinion and express his needs better now, which helps others to understand him better and avoid any miscommunication. He is popular among his friends and, according to his parents, he has even forged more friendships than his twin brother who is not autistic!

What are the methodologies you employ at My Special Corner?

My Special Corner adopts results proven methodologies, namely ABA, TEACCH and Mediated Learning Experience that help students integrate their learning.

The ABA method is a structured program that develops students' social and behavioural skills. The TEACCH method focuses on the individual by creating and implementing unique learning programs which complement the learning style of each child. Mediated Learning Experience (MLE) is developed by Dr Reuven Feuerstein, an Israeli psychologist, who believed that intelligence is modifiable and not fixed. With his Instrumental Enrichment (IE) designed to enhance the cognitive skills necessary for independent thinking. IE aims to sharpen critical thinking with the concepts, skills, strategies, operations, and attitudes necessary for independent learning; to diagnose and correct deficiencies in thinking skills; and to help individuals "learn how to learn".

Though the methodology sets the framework, the emphasis on learning processes is also very essential. These theories place emphasis on the constructive activity of the student, the cognitive- developmental and socio-cultural appropriateness of the learning material, and the involvement of the teacher in the design and implementation of classroom activities above and beyond a mere provision of information. Hence, the students are usually given time to think, analyse and make decisions about the problems before putting them into action. Students then need to re-look the process before carefully deciding their next direction. This process helps them to be actively engaged in the problem that they are facing, thus allowing for learning to take place with positive energy. Students learn and pick up concepts, knowledge, attain confident and positive disposition.

How did studying a Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood Education) help you with My Special Corner?

The course gave me a good foundation and knowledge of theories, both typical and atypical human development, teaching methods and working with community and cultures that one can be in to tap on the resources. These are all helpful when I am working with the families as I can use the principal to get them help when needed.

With globalization, cultures and practices tend to cross path. In this, it is also imperative to be aware and have abilities to understanding different contexts families face. In this sense, my horizon was widen to understand working with larger group of students with different background.



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\$50K to kick start your business idea!

Venture Catalyst is a seed fund for budding entrepreneurs who are looking to grow their business or simply develop a new idea.

An initiative of both University of South Australia and the South Australian Government, and delivered through the Innovation & Collaboration Centre, Venture Catalyst is open to all UniSA students, recent graduates (less than three years) and their teams.

Venture Catalyst helped entrepreneur and recent UniSA Project Management graduate, Rachel Kidwell, grow her startup TCPinpoint back in June 2016, when she won Venture Catalyst and secured \$50,000.

Rachel, who also has a Bachelor of Interior Architecture from UniSA, was prompted to start her own business, Kidwell Coordination, when the global financial crisis hit in 2009. The company provides tenancy coordination and fitout management services to landlords and developers in the retail and commercial sectors. Rachel noticed that consistent problems were being experienced by landlords in shopping centres and her new venture idea was born.

TCPinpoint is an automated cloud-based workflow system to assist landlords deliver shops in shopping centres in a more efficient manner – saving both time and money.

Since winning Venture Catalyst, TCPinpoint used the \$50,000 to appoint a software developer, finalise the MVP (Minimal Viable Product) and engage their very first customer.

Hear below from Rachel how Venture Catalyst helped TCPinpoint grow.



To date, Venture Catalyst has awarded seed funding of over \$430,000 to nine different companies.

Some of the previous winners have included Vinnovate, which developed an innovate new bottle closure designed to enhance the consumer wine experience, and myEvidence, which has created a mobile application that allows investigators to gather digital evidence using a secure, all-in-one platform.

Two other 2016 winners, include MAATSUYKER, which has designed a new luxury wool men's apparel brand, and Snake Oil Tonics, which is creating a premium and bespoke Tonic Syrup that can live up to the award-winning standard of the world's premium gins.

If you have an idea for a startup and need a cash injection, a team, brilliant advice or a dedicated workspace, Venture Catalyst might be the right avenue for you. This round will also be introducing a new Social Enterprise Stream, for students and entrepreneurs who are dedicated to tackling social problems and improving communities. Come along to the Venture Catalyst Information Session on Tuesday 9 May 2017 to find out more. To register, visit <https://venture-catalyst-information-session-may.eventbrite.com.au>



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Suspended in space

Steven Cybulka

Artist

Bachelor of Visual Arts (Honours)



Changing Spaces, Particle Board, Acrylic paint, Spray Paint, Dimensions variable, Adelaide Festival Centre, 2014

Former builder Steven Cybulka has enjoyed a dream run into a new career as a sculptor. Less than 12 months after gaining first class Honours in Visual Art he is on his third commission in Bandung, West Java.

In his third public art commission Steven is developing a collaborative sculpture project with West Java artist Arin Dwihartanto Sunaryo to symbolise the importance of the close artistic and cultural ties established between West Java and South Australia.

This artwork to be prominently located in front of Government House, will embody the concept of "sound passage", an interactive metal sculpture with sound as the main element. The renewal of the Sister State Memorandum of Understanding in September 2015 at the OzAsia Festival in Adelaide has led to a reinvigorating of cultural and trade ties between the two regions.

The site for the work was unveiled on 3 April 2017 by the West Java Governor, Ahmad Heryawan, and the South Australian Investment and Trade Minister Martin Hamilton-Smith. The site is in a long corridor of parkland that stretches from the front of the old Dutch colonial building, a significant gathering space for the Bandung people over time, having been a site for protests and more recently a food market.

"It was really important that the artwork wasn't going to interfere with the way people were using the space, nor interrupt the view along the corridor," says Steven.

Steven's West Java collaborator, Arin Dwihartanto Sunaryo, is a Bandung-born painter who studied at the Bandung Institute of Technology and the Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design. He has worked with different media, including industrial materials, and pigmented resin has become his signature medium.

Steven first went to Bandung to meet Arin in December 2016 and after choosing a location for the work, they returned home to work separately on ideas.

"It was interesting to see our similar creative processes and the similarities in the artists and art that we both appreciate," says Steven.

During several visits to Bandung this year working in Arin's large studio, the two have been able to collaborate to produce an interactive sculpture in materials outside their usual medium.

"Arin wanted the sculpture to have an educational element so the work is interactive. It uses metals true to the traditional Sundanese instruments of West Java and which replicate notes from traditional musical scale when struck."

Steven's links with Indonesia date back 15 years, having visited there on surfing holidays since the age of 20, and through regular visits to help his friend who runs a surf camp on the island of Sumatra. Steven's familiarity with Indonesian culture, coupled with his experience with public art and his work at the Adelaide Festival Centre, made him a front-running candidate for the West Java project, which is being managed by the Festival Centre's OzAsia Festival.

He originally trained as a carpenter and spent many years in the building industry before being given the option to take over the home improvement business where he was working. Back problems and a waning interest in building work led to doubts about his long term future in the industry, and at the age of 27 Steven went overseas to rethink his future.

Steven had an interest in art and has been drawing since a young age, so he decided to go to art school and enrolled in TAFE SA's Adelaide College of the Arts in Light Square.

With his building experience and knowledge of how to use the tools, sculpture was a natural fit, so Steven chose that as his major and "ended up falling in love with it"

He says that all the things he had learned in the building trade, including his inherent knowledge of form, lines, and space, translated into the creative process and he harboured a growing interest in the way people use space. He went on to study a Bachelor of Visual Arts at the University of South Australia, completing in 2013.

He then applied for – and won – a residency as the inaugural South Australian Living Arts Festival (SALA) Adelaide Festival Centre Artist in Residence 2014. The five month residency was to make and present work inside Festival Centre.

"The building is heritage-listed, so finding a location for the work was a bit of a challenge," Steven says, adding that the Dunstan Playhouse was finally settled upon as a location. (pictured above).

The installation, made up of wooden geometric shapes, responds to the energy, atmosphere, and physical structure of the building – one of Adelaide's architectural landmarks – has remained as a permanent artwork.

In 2014 he was also accepted into Honours in Visual Arts at UniSA, which he completed over two years. During that time, as well as the SALA residency, he held a small exhibition at The Mill in Adelaide, had a solo show in Feltspace, staged a performance piece at Splendour in the Grass festival with friend Tom Borgas, and won his first commission.

"In 2015 whilst still studying I was awarded a commission from Adelaide City Council to develop a public work in at Ergo Apartments in Sturt Street. That was the first major public work I had put in an expression of interest for, so I was pretty happy to be just shortlisted," says Steven, who won the \$55,000 commission to develop art work (pictured).

Steven achieved first class Honours in Visual Art at UniSA, graduating in July 2016, and was invited to be involved in *Primavera 2016: Young Australian Artists exhibition* at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Sydney, 2016.

Steven will make two more trips to Bandung to work with Arin to complete the Passage of Sound sculpture before it is unveiled in November 2017.

In the meantime Steven has a commission for SA Power Networks – together with two emerging artists, Clancy Warner and Bianca Kennedy – for a work made with recycled materials to be installed in front of its head office on Anzac Highway.

Both he and Arin are preparing for separate exhibitions in Sydney in 2018.



Transition, 109, GRC Coating, Steel, 3000mm x 1500mm x 1500mm, 2015. Image courtesy of Adelaide City Council. Photographer Steven Rendoulis

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UniSA wins Toyota Foundation grant to examine advances in robotics and aged care

Professor Anthony Elliott, Dean: External Engagement External Relations and Strategic Projects

Could socially assistive robots developed by Japanese engineers become the future carers of Australia's growing elderly population?

In a pioneering new research project, University of South Australia researchers are collaborating with Japanese institutions to deliver a comparative and especially policy-ready appraisal of the transformation of lifestyle change and aged care in Australia and Japan.

Professor Anthony Elliott, UniSA's Dean of External Engagement and Executive Director of the Hawke EU Centre, has been awarded a prestigious two-year **Toyota Foundation Research Grant** to conduct an in-depth comparative analysis of the robotics revolution in aged care in both Australia and Japan.



With the rapid rise in ageing populations and associated care costs throughout the developed world, robots may offer significant solutions to the challenges of aged care.

Robots in rapidly ageing Japan are already being employed to help the elderly with rehabilitation and managing everyday tasks.

In cooperation with two leading Japanese universities, **Keio University** and **Rissho University**, Professor Elliott's project, "Assessment of Socially Assistive Robotics in Elderly Care: Toward technologically-integrated aged care and well-being in Japan and Australia", is dedicated to developing an interdisciplinary approach to robotics and artificial intelligence in aged care innovation.

Prof Elliott and UniSA colleagues Dr Eric Hsu, Dr Ross Boyd, Louis Everuss, Mikako Suzuki, with **Prof Atsushi Sawai** from Keio University and **Prof Masataka Katagiri** from Rissho University, will work on the new project in Australia and Japan over the next two years.

The project will see researchers collaborate across disciplines with social scientists, engineers, design specialists, IT consultants and many others experts.

Professor Elliott says the significant project will explore one of the big challenges facing ageing societies globally and deliver, not only insights, but a policy-focused assessment of the application of robot care for the ageing.

"Both UniSA and the Toyota Foundation take innovation very seriously, and my research team will be seeking to map the revolutionary advances in robotics and AI, with particular focus on the social consequences for lifestyle change and aged care," Prof Elliott says.

"I'm also delighted to be part of a project that will deepen UniSA's research links with Japan and support UniSA's goal to develop as one of the world's leading and globally-connected research institutions focused on industry innovation."

A distinguished research professor with an outstanding track record, Prof Elliott has international research experience ranging from the Graduate School of Human Relations at Keio University in Japan (where he is Global Professor (Visiting) of Sociology), the Open University in the UK, **University College Dublin** in Ireland, and Cambridge University, where he completed his PhD.

A Fellow of the **Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia**, he has published more than 40 books in the field of social theory (translated into over 12 languages) and won more than AU\$3 million in public and private research funding.

This new research project will develop the first systematic approach to the social impacts of robotics in aged care in Japan and Australia, examining how cutting-edge robotic technology will deliver greater efficiencies in care and help plug the gap in chronic labour shortages.



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