




### Pain & cancer experts to tackle survivor pain

You'd be hard-pressed to find someone whose life hasn't been impacted by cancer, and that's why we are focussing our latest crowdfunding effort on persisting pain survivors often experience. Leading pain scientist Professor Lorimer Moseley and cancer expert Professor Ian Oliver AM are teaming up to fix the issue, but they need your help. [more...](#)


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### A love of art leads to the Victoria & Albert Museum

Sarah Quantrill has been a part of some of the most famous museums and galleries in the world, she now shares her life and career in London where she is working as an Exhibition Manager at the Victoria and Albert Museum on her latest exhibition *Christian Dior: Designer of Dreams*. [more...](#)

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### Keeping strong ties with homegrown success

After his property management app HappyCo found international success, Jindou Lee moved the growing company overseas to Silicon Valley – but he is determined to keep up an Adelaide-based team to help grow the city's tech industry and employ the next generation of talented South Australians. [more...](#)

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### Exposing the dark underbelly of climate change in the idyllic Maldives

Sustainable Development Consultant Aisha Niyaz is working hard to fight climate change in her idyllic native country of the Maldives by raising awareness of environmental sustainability and standing up for the Earth by working alongside the United Nations to enact change. [more...](#)

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### Bringing communities together through socially engaged art

After spending three years in India launching his visual arts career, UniSA PhD candidate Daniel Connell was inspired to use his talent to bring diverse communities together within the arts space and improve the lives of migrants settling into Australia and people with disabilities. [more...](#)

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### Mentorship leads to full circle career success

COO at one of the world's biggest automotive manufacturing companies, Brett Dienhoff, shares his secrets to his successful career and why he has now employed his mentee at the billion dollar business in Dubai, fostering the next generation of business professionals. [more...](#)

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### Alumni Events

20  
AUG-  
13  
SEP

**Impressions of Shandong and South Australia – Adelaide**  
Celebrating the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the sister relationship between Shandong province and the state of South Australia. This exhibition features the work of five South Australian artists and seven artists from Shandong.

05  
SEP-  
03  
OCT  
13  
SEP

**Japan – Archipelago of the House Exhibition - Adelaide**  
An exhibition of contemporary Japanese architecture focused on the category of the house – once the most iconic and the most approachable of the multi-faceted contributions that Japan has made to the discipline of architecture.

14  
SEP

**Hawke Centre - Ranger to Ranger Screening – Adelaide**  
*Ranger to Ranger* is a heart-warming documentary film that follows the epic journey of nine Indigenous Australian Rangers, along with acclaimed Indigenous musician Dan Sultan, as they travel to Kenya, Africa, to share knowledge, culture and music with a tribe of Maasai Community Rangers.

21  
SEP

**Australia & the Geopolitical Earthquakes of the Era - Adelaide**  
Drawing on his extensive and varied career as Australia's longest serving Foreign Minister, High Commissioner to the United Kingdom and UN Special Envoy in Cyprus, **The Hon Alexander Downer AC**, delivers insights into both global and national issues, focusing on Australia's place in this turbulent era.

17  
OCT

**Successful Ageing Seminar – Adelaide**  
As part of our Successful Ageing Seminar series, we invite you to attend this FREE seminar to hear from two distinguished presenters, **Dr Kate Fennell** and **Professor Ian Oliver AM**, on the topic of improving outcomes for cancer patients and survivors in rural Australia.

17  
OCT

**Alumni Cocktail Reception – Perth**  
Join UniSA's Professor David Lloyd, Vice Chancellor & President for an update on the merger discussions with Adelaide University and fellow alumni for a networking event at COMO The Treasury in Perth.





## WIN!!!

### An Adelaide Crows Women's Team Football & Guernsey



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## Pain & cancer experts to tackle survivor pain



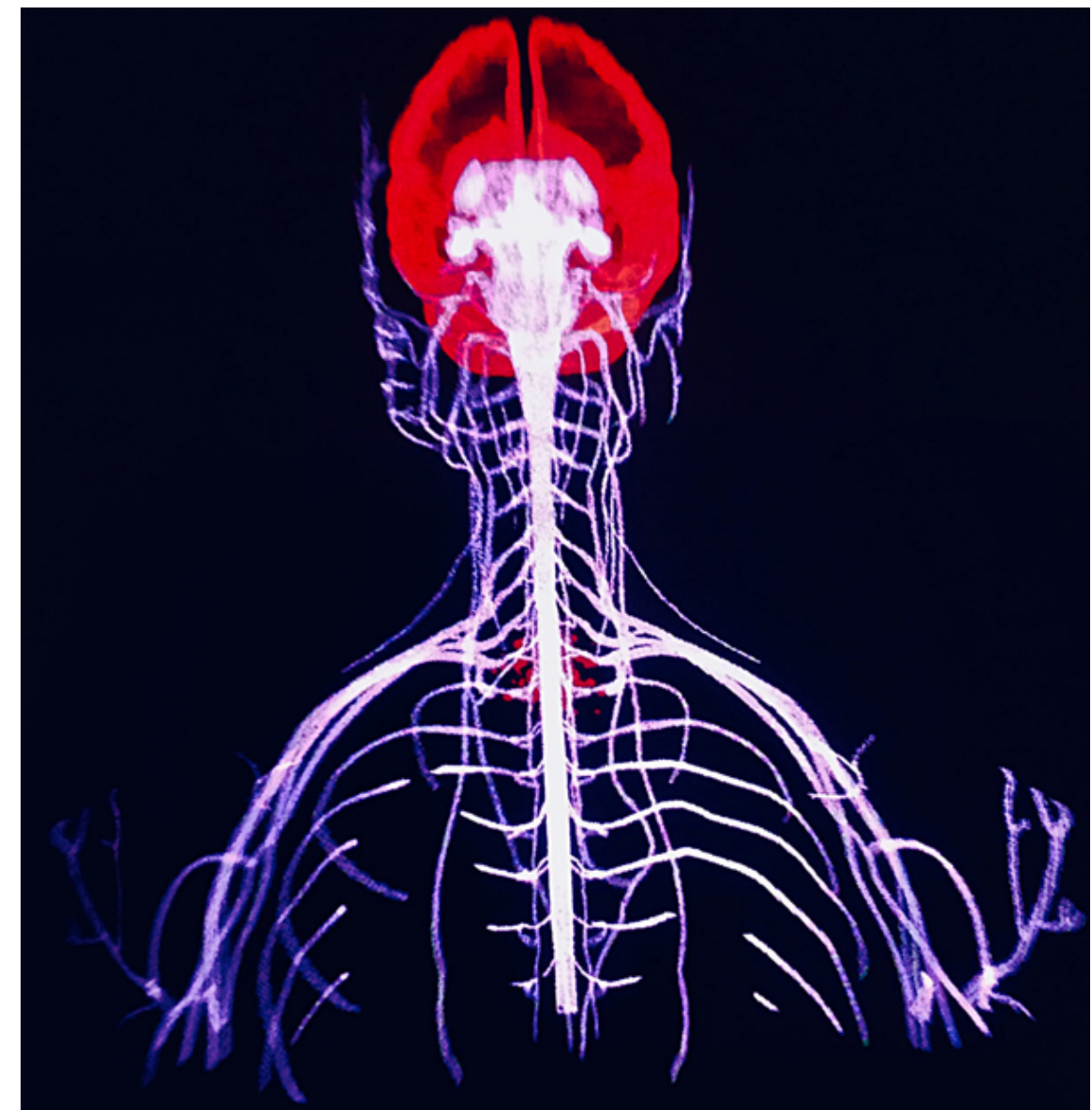
A renowned pain scientist at the University of South Australia, Professor Lorimer Moseley, is teaming up with cancer expert Professor Ian Olver AM to fast-track a long-awaited intervention for cancer survivors struggling with persistent pain.

Combining their respective expertise, Professors Moseley and Olver will lead an international research team to develop an online self-management tool for the estimated 40 per cent of cancer survivors who live with moderate to severe pain.

“Pain is one of the most debilitating long-term side-effects that cancer survivors face when they attempt to return to normal life after beating the disease,” says Professor Moseley, who leads the Body in Mind research group at UniSA.

“It reduces overall quality of life, impacts relationships and the ability to return to work, and increases the risk of depression and isolation,” he says.

“But this is something I believe we can change.”



Professor Moseley leads a large field of research in pain science that has contributed valuable knowledge in how to best help people manage persistent and chronic pain without medication. Now he is teaming up with Professor Olver, Director of UniSA’s Cancer Research Institute, to help cancer survivors whose pain has largely been shrugged off as an unfortunate side-effect.

“When you consider that in Australia alone, more than one million people have survived cancer, the impact of pain on this community is staggering,” says Professor Olver.

“Lorimer is internationally renowned for his work in pain science, so together I believe we can make a real difference for these people,” he says.

In order to fast-track the project so cancer survivors can benefit sooner, the researchers will try their hand at crowdfunding.



Image: Professor Ian Olver AM, Director, UniSA Cancer Research Institute

The crowdfunding campaign aims to raise at least \$30,000 to complete phase one of the project. This will include developing a prototype for an online multimedia tool that critically addresses the issues that are unique to cancer survivors. If the first phase crowdfunding goal is met, UniSA will raise the total by a further 20 per cent.

Further investment will then be sought to take the project into its second phase of testing and fine-tuning the online tool before making it freely available to all cancer survivors to use.

“Crowdfunding to launch this project will allow us to get to our end goal faster,” says Professor Moseley. “The faster we can get started, the sooner we can help one in three cancer survivors live a much happier, meaningful, and importantly, pain-free life.”

To donate and stay connected to the campaign visit:

<http://www.chuffed.org/project/reducing-pain-for-cancer-survivors>



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## A love of art leads to the Victoria & Albert Museum

Sarah Quantrill

Curator at V&A Museum, London

Bachelor of Visual Arts



Photo: Sarah Jameson

In amongst the precious treasure trove of over 2 million objects – a myriad of furniture, fashion, textiles, photography, sculpture, painting, jewellery, glass, ceramics – spanning over of 5,000 years of human creativity, Sarah Quantrill is busily working away preparing for her next display as an Exhibitions Manager at the Victoria and Albert Museum.

She is tending to a glistening gold satin evening dress, with silver thread embroidery and couched gold metal thread lined with silk organza, from Christian Dior's H-Line Autumn-Winter 1954 Haute Couture collection. As one of Christian Dior's most controversial silhouettes, the press engaged in the debate whether H-Line should stand for 'Heavenly' or 'Horrid' when it was first released.

The dress will soon take its place among hundreds of other stunning Christian Dior dresses, celebrating the designer's history and influence, which will line the 166 year-old arts and design museum, named after Queen Victoria and Prince Albert in the London borough of Kensington & Chelsea.

"My current project is the exhibition *Christian Dior: Designer of Dreams* which will open in the Sainsbury Gallery at the V&A on 2 February 2019 and is based on the exhibition *Christian Dior: Couturier du Rêve* that was held at the Musée des Arts Décoratifs in Paris last year," she says.

"I saw *Christian Dior: Couturier du Rêve* in Paris and loved the exhibition for the incredible content and the execution of the set works, and I am looking forward to being part of the team to deliver the exhibition at the V&A – and to be working with such exquisite dresses!"

As the largest fashion exhibition the V&A has staged since *Alexander McQueen: Savage Beauty* in 2015, the exhibition spans from 1947 until the present day, and will include perfume, accessories, photographs, film, sketches and hundreds of dresses – including Princess Margaret's 21st gown – which will be keeping Sarah on her toes as Exhibition Manager well into the new year.

"On any given exhibition you may be working with a variety of internal and external stakeholders such as artists, conservators, fine art transport agents, text editors, exhibition 3D and 2D designers, sound engineers, lighting designers, costume and object mounters and exhibition set work contractors."

"It is always an exciting role and each day brings something new."



Photo: Sarah Jameson

Making art was Sarah's original passion, and an important beginning to her early career. After studying drawing and painting at the North Adelaide School of Art Art (now TAFE's Adelaide College of the Arts), she took a year out to work in the Tate Britain bookshop in London and there discovered museums were the environment she most wanted to contribute to.

However Sarah credits her time at the University of South Australia, studying a Bachelor of Visual Arts and majoring in Art History & Theory in the following years, as a major influence on her eventual career in museums, boasting an eclectic professional life that has taken her all over the world to travel for work

"The degree enabled me to consider what options my career path might take and the teaching staff at UniSA were inspirational and incredibly supportive of students. They encouraged both experimentation and scholarly research," she says.

"One of the highlights of my study at UniSA was a textiles field trip to the Flinders Ranges organised by Emeritus Professor Kay Lawrence and led by Dr Ruth Hadlow. We spent several days exploring the landscape and its histories, and using natural materials to create sculptures, installations, and natural textile dyes.

"It was a brilliant experience."

Following UniSA, Sarah completed a Masters of Curatorship at Melbourne University and was then lucky enough to obtain a role at the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV) as a documentation officer progressing to various Registrarial roles in acquisitions, loans, and exhibitions.

After stints at NGV and Tate, Sarah has now been at the Victoria and Albert Museum for almost five years in the Exhibitions Department as an Exhibition Manager.

"I love working at the V&A, it is a vibrant and dynamic museum and I work with a highly skilled, professional and enthused team. I hope to continue working on exciting museum projects and exhibitions that engage the public and encourage new and young audiences to the arts," she says.



Photo: Sarah Jameson

As an advocate for museum and gallery spaces as places of independent academic knowledge and research, new ideas, and as places to protect objects and material of social, cultural, historic and religious significance, Sarah is not resting on her laurels when it comes to the representation and intersectionality of such cultural institutions.

She is a strong proponent of museums being a space of architectural wonder, a place for being curious and a place to engage in learning for everyone. This includes the elevation of talented women and minority groups in the industry, worthy of top roles and responsibilities, gaining more recognition in such a creative and culturally important space. Sarah notes that South Australia is leading the way in some respects.

"One thing that I would love to witness within my working career is a marked increase in women holding more senior management and leadership roles across the arts sector, and the recent appointment of Rhana Devenport to the role of Director at Art Gallery of South Australia (AGSA) brings with it hope that this shift may happen sooner rather than later."

Despite Sarah's career taking her from Adelaide to Melbourne and now to London, and being fortunate to travel for work visiting cities in Russia, Canada, America and Europe to oversee the installation of exhibitions and loans, she still undeniably has a soft spot for Adelaide.

"I think that the future looks bright for Adelaide, with the recent phenomenal success of increased visitor numbers at AGSA with Nick Mitzevich as Director, the much loved Adelaide Festival continuing to grow, and Adelaide Contemporary, in whatever form it manifests, has the potential to continue to transform the North Terrace precinct," she says.

"It is exciting to keep an eye on what Adelaide is up to from afar, and if there was ever an opportunity to work on exhibitions within one of Adelaide's cultural institutions, coming home to my beloved festival city would be a career dream come true!"

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## Keeping strong ties with homegrown success

Jindou Lee

CEO and Co-Founder, **HappyCo**

**Bachelor of Visual Communications, Graphic Design (Honours)**



Image: Andrew Mackenzie-Ross and Jindou Lee (right)

When he first developed the property inspection app Happy Inspector, entrepreneur Jindou Lee was not thinking of international success or relocation to the US – he just wanted to solve a problem in his everyday life.

As an investor, landlord and tenant in the Adelaide property market, he discovered a widespread issue with how properties were managed and inspected.

Realising that property management companies relied on an out-of-date, paper-based inspection and documentation process, Jindou searched for mobile platforms that could address the issue, but found none that offered a sufficient solution.

"I experienced first hand how the industry wasn't using technology to solve some very basic problems, like documenting the condition of properties over time. All I wanted to do was solve my own challenges as an investor; that was the genesis of Happy Inspector," says Jindou Lee.

In 2011, Jindou and his friend Andrew Mackenzie-Ross, a software developer, co-founded HappyCo in a tiny office in Adelaide's Morphett Street, where they built the first version of Happy Inspector. The mobile inspection app, which provides users with a visual, digital record of properties including photographs, comments and inspection results, gained hundreds of clients in its first year.

"We never really started off wanting to run a tech company, so we've been very lucky along the way to be able to grow as much as we have. The early years of the company were full of massive successes and spectacular failures, but along the way we've been fortunate enough to convince some of the largest real estate brands in the world to trust our software to solve their challenges," he says.



Within a year of launching HappyCo, Jindou and Andrew moved the business overseas to the tech capital of the world, Silicon Valley, to set up an office and participate in the SOO Startups incubation program through which they gained investors and fundraising.

Over the past five years, HappyCo has expanded its platform to offer clients a multitude of products alongside Happy Inspector, including Happy Manage, Happy Insights and Happy API, but one of Jindou's proudest accomplishments is the Adelaide-based office they set up in 2014.

"Keeping a team in Adelaide is very important to me. Adelaide has a lot of very smart and promising people – our universities are some of the best in the world. However, there is a lack of great, dynamic and iconic South Australian companies for students to join after they graduate," he says.

"People are forced to move interstate or overseas to find exciting opportunities and be challenged in their professional life. HappyCo are on a mission to change that. We want to provide a great workplace for people who are looking for a challenge and want to be part of a global company with lofty ambitions.

"In the long run, this will help improve the South Australian economy and create a stream of talented individuals who might go on to one day start their own companies and employ the next crop of local talent."



While the technology industry has grown tremendously on a global scale, Jindou believes the tech scene in Adelaide is growing at a much slower rate than other major Australian cities. He is passionate about making HappyCo part of the solution to inspire creativity and further ignite opportunities for growth.

"There should be more success stories coming out of Adelaide. We need to focus on solving problems and adding value to the world – people can contribute and make a difference by working for a small company or starting their own companies. I hope we can all leave the world a better place than when we arrived," he says.

"We are really starting to hit our stride in the business, so the future looks very exciting for HappyCo.

"The people aspect at the company really drives me to become better at my job; we have amazing people that go above and beyond what's required in their work.

"My favourite achievement by far is seeing members of our team grow in their careers and become amazing professionals and we want to continue to find talented, passionate and hungry people that can help make our vision of 'creating great places to live' a reality."



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## Exposing the dark underbelly of climate change in the idyllic Maldives

Aishath Niyaz

Consultant, UNICEF

Founder, Aishaniyaz Consulting

Master of Environmental Management and Sustainability



A strong believer that ‘every little bit counts’ when tackling climate change and environmental issues, Master of Environmental Management and Sustainability graduate and Australian Awards scholarship recipient, Aishath (Aisha) Niyaz is on a mission to save the Maldives by raising awareness of environmental sustainability and inspiring other youth to find their voice.

Now working as a Sustainable Development Consultant for some of the most important humanitarian and developmental efforts in the area – including UNICEF, UNDP and Maldivian Red Crescent – Aisha says her time at UniSA further enhanced her knowledge and skills and boosted her confidence in advocating for sustainable development.

It was an opportunity that nurtured and bolstered her passion for sustainable development – a seed that had been planted from a young age growing up in the Maldives.

Environmentally conscious as a child, Aisha vividly remembers bringing her school bag home filled with food wrappers in an attempt to stop her friends from littering. However, it took joining a team of scientists from Australia and New Zealand conducting a study on the vulnerability of the Maldives to climate change to truly comprehend the scope of the issue.

“It was an invaluable experience which opened my eyes and helped me understand the fragile ecosystem of my home,” says Aisha.

This role as a Surveyor Trainee at the Environment Research Centre under the Ministry of Environment of Maldives, further ignited her passion for protecting the Earth.

“As an island nation of roughly 1,200 tiny coralline islands spread across the ocean, we are extremely dependent on imports for our survival. Climate change is very real to us, and over the past 15 years I have personally witnessed its negative impact,” she says.

“From increasing erosion of the islands, growing frequency and intensity of storm surges, droughts and flash flooding, to the prevalence of dengue and increasing prices of basic commodities – climate change threatens our very survival as a nation.”

When she returned home to the Maldives after completing her undergraduate degree from the University of Queensland, Aisha received offers to work with environmental consultancy firms, where a major part of the work was conducting Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs).

Advocating for environmental conservation and minimum harm in development projects, Aisha worked to convince clients to alter original project ideas that had the potential to cause irreversible environmental damage.

“My colleagues started calling me an activist and basically told me my job was to follow what the client wanted, which made me feel as if I was facilitating environmental destruction. So in 2010, I stopped doing EIAs and since then have worked as a freelance consultant, providing consultancy to UN agencies, tourist resorts, community-based organisations and government projects.”



Presently, Aisha is wrapping-up a Consultancy with UNICEF, Maldives. The role has involved creating awareness for community-based waste management in nine islands of the Laamu Atoll as part of the Low Emission Climate Resilient Development (LECRd) program, funded by the Government of Denmark.

On top of her independent consultancies working for organisations like UNICEF and volunteering work, Aisha created her own sustainable development consultancy firm ‘aishaniyaz consulting’ in 2016 to formalise her consultancy services and broaden the scale of making a positive difference.

She is also currently working on the final stages of publishing a children’s book on environmental consciousness with the hope of instilling love for the nature so that more children will grow up to become environmental stewards.

At the end of July the Maldivian Red Crescent (MRC) requested her to be part of the Steering Committee to advise in the development process of MRC’s new Strategic Plan and has been closely involved with the process.



On reflection of her career, and balancing so many roles and responsibilities, she says there have been many invaluable lessons in her journey so far.

“Integrity is very important to me and I refuse to compromise on ethics and values. It can be very challenging and overwhelming at times when politicians and powerful corporations around the world destroy the environment for short-term political and financial gains,” she says.

“What stops me falling into despair is my faith and belief that ‘every little bit counts’ – one individual can make a difference with small, simple actions. Not littering, carrying reusable shopping bags and refusing to accept single-use plastics such as bags, straws, coffee-cups and water bottles can make a significant difference.”

Aisha believes global campaigns and movements for beating plastic pollution and climate change play a major role in enhancing environmental consciousness, enabling behaviour change and inspiring sustainable lifestyles, but she also stresses the importance of recognising ‘greenwashing’ amongst both small and large corporations and entities.

“For those aspiring to make a positive difference for humanity and the world, my advice is to always remember that change starts from within and to celebrate small wins. Self-care is very important, as is finding a balance between volunteering, paid work and time for family and friends,” she says.

“I also deeply believe in the concept of Gandhi – ‘be the change you want to see in the world’. History proves that people power should not be underestimated in bringing about significant change.”

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## Bringing communities together through socially engaged art

Daniel Connell

Artist

Lecturer in Visual Art, **Adelaide Central School of Art**

Master of **Visual Art** (UniSA)

PhD Candidate – Visual Art (UniSA)



Image: Daniel Connell (back row, third from left) in India

The artistic process has always comprised of more than just creating portraits for UniSA PhD candidate Daniel Connell, who believes the relationship between artist, subject and audience should extend beyond an artwork's completion and exhibition opening.

Passionate about interculturalism and connecting communities within the arts space, Daniel's work is a socially engaged practice and he strives to share people's stories through his art and research.

Just this past May, Daniel presented at TEDx Ubud, Indonesia – presented and supported by The Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Centre – in the hope of spreading his message about fighting against challenges that newly arrived migrants face in their new country and advocacy for displaced peoples to the masses.



His most recent venture, an art project and exhibition curated with Ellen Schlobohm of **Tutti Visual Arts**, reflects his own work by bringing together Adelaide's Sikh community and Tutti visual artists to create beautiful and meaningful art.

*Standing Up, Standing Out*, exhibited and sponsored by The Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Centre and Nexus Arts in June and July 2018, aimed to promote diversity and understanding of the Sikh culture as well as the artistic expression and identity of artists living with a disability.

"Both communities have a strong understanding of what it means to stand up and out in society. We used the turban as a mediating object throughout the project, and the Tutti artists created their own turban artworks with the help of a wonderful group from the Sikh community," says Daniel.

"It's a beautiful exhibition. It's rare to see all these people from the Sikh, Indian and disabled communities brought together – especially in the arts space – there were really beautiful moments where the artists and Sikh community interacted like long lost friends.

"One of the beautiful things about the artists with a disability is they create a very welcoming and honest space where wonderful conversations can take place. That's the ongoing success of projects like this – relationships keep expanding between two diverse groups."



Standing Up, Standing Out

Daniel, who currently lectures in visual arts at the Adelaide Central School of Art (ACSA), has always been a passionate advocate for migrants' rights and for creating understanding and compassion among different cultures. He started this journey after moving to India in 2007 to begin his career as an artist.

"India provided me with a lot of opportunities to experiment with my art and to understand what I was doing and why, which linked me very suddenly with the Indian community," he says.

"When I returned to Adelaide in 2010, the level of migration from India was massive but there weren't many programs to help migrants settle into Australian life. India looked after me so I felt I had to look after the Indian people I met back home."

Upon returning to Adelaide, Daniel studied a Master of Visual Art at UniSA, using portraiture as a catalyst for dialogue between diverse communities. His project *Faith in Taxis* aimed to create an inter-cultural exchange between Sikh taxi drivers and the wider Adelaide community.

"What really inspires me about the Sikh culture is the concept that each community should stand up for the next and we should all help and look out for each other regardless of our differences. In constructing portraits of Sikh taxi drivers I wanted to establish a human connection between artist and subject, drawing and audience.

"Drawing someone's portrait is just the beginning of the representation process – it's through solidarity that we create art which brings people together in a meaningful way."

After completing his Masters, Daniel wanted to build upon this concept and undertook a PhD to examine his ideas in a more theoretical way, further exploring the role of the arts in building social infrastructure.

"The arts can play a major role in helping people become more invested in the communities we create in Australia. My research isn't just about art as a symbolic act, it explores how art stops being about objects and becomes a pure investigation into ideas and a visualisation of hybridity between people."

A range of different campaigns and groups have stemmed from Daniel's artwork and PhD research, including the initiative Turbans and Trust which Daniel established in 2012 alongside Harjit Singh, who is passionate about helping Australians embrace the turban after experiencing years of racial discrimination.

"Sikhs in Australia know that when they tie their turban, they're going to stand out and be a beacon. It's a lovely and powerful notion not to hide from who you are and to stand for the principle that everyone has the right to be who they are. It constantly inspires me," says Daniel.

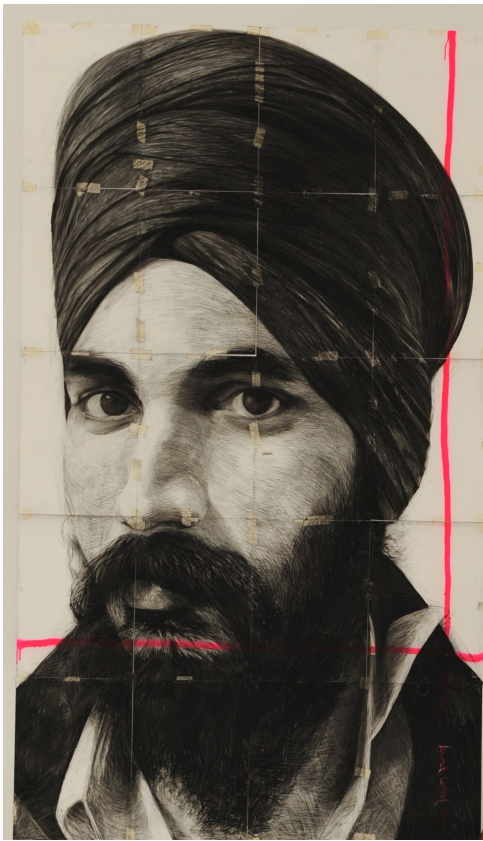


Image: Faith in Taxis by Daniel Connell

In addition to Turbans and Trust, Daniel also started the South Australian Professional Network Association for Migrants (SAPNAM). Composed of around 300 members, the group meets once a month to help migrants get job ready by building resumes and offering mentoring for those just finding their feet in Adelaide.

"One of the biggest achievements to come from my PhD and early drawings from *Faith in Taxis* is our 'Parent Long Stay Visa' campaign. A group from the Indian community asked for help to change the Visa laws so visiting parents of migrants could stay longer in Australia," he says.

"We developed a policy and plan and were assisted by South Australian politicians until eventually meeting with the Federal Opposition.

"The Labor Party changed their policy after meeting with us, which led the Liberal Party to announce a change too. We actually achieved temporary policy change in both major parties on this issue – the matter is not yet resolved and still ongoing, but I like talking about it because a lot of people think the arts can't achieve anything practical.

"This all stemmed from my drawings, our meetings and my connection with the Punjabi community. We worked very strongly together which was a wonderful experience. The campaign became a force to be reckoned with, which shows that if communities join together, change can happen."



Image: Faith in Taxis by Daniel Connell

In November 2015, the South Australian Government forged a new sister-state relationship with the Indian State of Rajasthan. With the aim to create a dialogue between South Australian and Indian artists, the Department of State Development asked Daniel to design and lead an **Art Engagement Program** supported by the State Government and ACSA.

UniSA, ACSA, TAFE and SALA joined together to select artists Jessica Lumb, Zoe Freney and Jake Holmes to travel with Daniel across Rajasthan and Mumbai in November 2017.

"In Mumbai we worked with about 150 children in disadvantaged schools where we did some really amazing work. We held an array of workshops – silk screening, soft sculpture, pot plant holders, vinyl banners – the kids were just beautiful. It was an intense eight days but such a valuable experience to teach these different skills to them.

"Next we travelled to Jaipur where Princess Diya Kumari hosted us and gave us an amazing gallery space. We worked with 14 local artists from all different backgrounds – craftspeople, labourers, senior and emerging artists, people with and without an education – but everyone was placed on an equal platform to aid collaboration.

"From this work we created 47 artworks that are currently being exhibited in Jaipur and will travel to Adelaide to be exhibited at the Hawke Centre in 2019, which is going to be beautiful."

For updates on Daniel's upcoming exhibitions with The Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Centre please visit the website [here](#).



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## Mentorship leads to full circle career success

Brett Dienhoff

**Bachelor of Business (Administrative Management)**



From Left: Brett Dienhoff and Nabil Imran

As a high achieving University of South Australia Business School graduate, Brett Dienhoff's journey after graduation has seen him work his way up the automotive and manufacturing corporate ladder, both nationally and internationally.

Brett is the current Chief Operating Officer (COO) of the Samvardhana Motherson Group's (SMG) Global Strategic Procurement based in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates, a company that had a turnover of \$14.44 billion during the 2017-18 year.

Brett has been at the company and affiliate organisations for almost 20 years and has watched it turn into one of the largest automotive suppliers in the world, recently even expanding with two regional Strategic Procurement offices in China and the U.S.A., and now taking support from colleagues based in India.

After graduating from UniSA in 2001, Brett had the opportunity to join the South Australian Government's Graduate Program, before being employed by what was then Schefenacker Visions Systems (now Samvardhana Motherson), as a Purchasing Officer and relocating with the company to Detroit in the United States for nine years.

Brett and his team focus on delivering additional value to the Group's professional Purchasing organisation. This is done through analysis of the group's consolidated Purchasing activities, which is then used to develop and execute strategies to capitalise on opportunities for both SMG and the supply base.

The driving force of innovation at the Samvardhana Motherson Group is providing an international network of partners with innovative technologies for the automotive industry, which was exemplified this past July when under his direction Brett's team took home two accolades at the 2018 Chartered Institute of Procurement & Supply CIPS Middle East & North Africa Awards.

While enjoying the heights of his professional success, Brett has not forgotten how he got there. Returning to Adelaide in 2013 in his then role of Executive Vice President - Global Purchasing for SMR, Brett was motivated to help the next generation of graduates – as he had been after his degree with the UniSA Business School's Executive Partners Program (EPP).

Brett recognises it was these mentors and influential leaders he looked up to and learned from during his time as a young business professional that made a difference in his career and solidified his success.

"I have been fortunate to work with really great leaders that have helped and challenged me to develop myself and a satisfying career. I felt that I had some things to offer the next generation of leaders," he says.

After mentoring Nabil Imran - a UniSA International Business and Marketing Masters student, through the EPP for over eighteen months - Brett was so impressed he decided to make an intentional investment and recruit his own mentee to work for his team in Dubai as a Business Analyst.

"Since mentoring Nabil as a student at the Business School, through our meetings and conversations, I knew him to be a reliable and capable person. His UniSA Masters Degrees in International Business and in Marketing have also prepared him well for the Business Analyst role," he says.

"Having the opportunity to now work with Nabil and seeing him develop has been the most rewarding so far.

"Working with other extremely talented students and helping them to understand themselves, their motivations, and also help them work through the transition between studying to work life has been rewarding as well."

Nabil also acknowledges he owes a lot to Brett and attributes him with helping him develop and establish a promising international career through their mentoring relationship. As a result of the guidance, Nabil has become an integral part of the success of the office.

"As a student, you have a lot of questions about your career and your mentor is someone who has navigated their way past these uncertainties," he says.

"Brett is really the type of mentor who is always in my corner, who cares enough about my success to provide input and support but is also objective and gives advice that keeps me on track.

Further information about the Executive Partners Program visit the website [here](#).



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