



Solving big picture health crises in the US

As one of the first Maurice de Rohan International Scholarship recipients, Dr Ivana Stankov has taken full advantage of the invaluable opportunity to study abroad, leading her to making waves in the American Health industry. [more...](#)



A high-flying career breaking ground across the Asia Pacific

Malcolm Lai has gone from strength to strength in his career - graduating as an Architect in Perth in the early 90s to leading a team of project managers on a \$7billion property portfolio across the Asia Pacific region. [more...](#)



Delene and John's journey to cure ovarian cancer

Four years after John Weber's wife, UniSA's Associate Professor Delene Weber, was diagnosed with ovarian cancer, he will be joining the Tour de Cure South Australian Discovery Tour to raise vital funds for game-changing cancer research, support and prevention projects that will bring the dream of a world without cancer closer to reality. [more...](#)



Supporting family and social justice for Aboriginal Australians

Warren Guppy's dedication to supporting Aboriginal Australians achieve the social and family justice deserved has resulted in a 27 year career, supporting policy, legal rights and social services for the Aboriginal communities and families who call South Australia home. [more...](#)



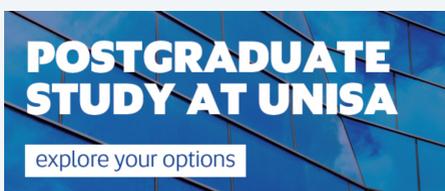
The future of transport

When the sci-fi DeLorean sports car first hit movie screens in Back to the Future in 1985, audiences delighted in the time travelling antics of Marty McFly and Doc Brown. Thirty years on, and futuristic transportation-tech continues to feature in many a blockbuster, raising the question: what will transport actually look like in the future? [more...](#)



Alumni Events

- UNTIL 19 JULY** **For Country, for Nation**
This Australian War Memorial Touring exhibition brings to light the long-standing tradition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in fighting for Country to reveal stories of service in the military and on the front lines of war.
- UNTIL 19 JULY** **Reality in flames: modern Australian art and the Second World War**
Comprising over eighty artworks drawn from the Australian War Memorial's collection, Reality in flames features work by leading artists of the time including Joy Hester, Sidney Nolan and Albert Tucker. An Australian War Memorial Touring exhibition.
- UNTIL 19 JULY** **Unbound Collective: Sovereign Acts V: CALLING**
The Unbound Collective brings together four Adelaide-based First Nations women working across art, activism and academia: Ali Gumilya Baker (Miming), Faye Rosas Blanch (Mbararam/Yidinyji), Natalie Harkin (Narungga) and Simone Ulajka Tur (Yankunytjatjara).
- 07 MAY** **Unmaking Images: Image-Making and Representation**
Retracing the history of her own practice, Hoda Afshar recounts how the camera has served her as a tool for exploring issues of identity and marginality, both as a documentary photographer in Iran, and as part of her visual-art practice after migrating to Australia.
- 16 MAY** **The Bilingual Advantage**
Bilingual programs in Australian schools are booming. Focusing on the benefits of bilingualism and multilingualism, this lecture, led by an expert on bilingual education, will provide an opportunity to bring some balance to the current debate and to examine the impact of bilingual education.
- 23 MAY** **London Alumni Cocktail Reception**
Join the University of South Australia's Vice Chancellor Professor David Lloyd and catch up with your classmates at an alumni cocktail reception in London.
- UNTIL 29 MAY** **Cultivate**
Cultivate explores the concept of recovery through nurturing and strengthening a person's identity. Featuring multidisciplinary artworks by emerging artists attending the Neami National Visual Art Programs, the exhibition encompasses the depth of the human psyche and the community connection we invest in to grow and flourish.
- 12 JUNE** **UniSA Networking Event in Adelaide**
Join the University of South Australia's Vice Chancellor Professor David Lloyd and catch up with your classmates at this event to be held at MOD, our future-focused museum of discovery.
- 13 JUNE** **Brisbane Alumni Cocktail Reception**
Join the University of South Australia's Vice Chancellor Professor David Lloyd and catch up with your classmates at an alumni cocktail reception to be held at Blackbird, Riverside Centre, Brisbane.



Solving big picture health crises in the US

Dr Ivana Stankov

Senior Research Scientist, Urban Health Collaborative, **Drexel University**

Maurice de Rohan International Scholarship recipient, 2015

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), Social Epidemiology, 2016

Bachelor of Applied Science, Physiotherapy with Honours, 2009



Amid the bitter cold, brutal storms and mountains of snowfall of the Philadelphia winter, Dr Ivana Stankov is busy working away on the **Salud Urbana en América Latina (or SALURBAL) Project** as a Senior Research Scientist in the Urban Health Collaborative at Drexel University.

The Project focusses on understanding the social and environmental factors of health and disease from deep analysis of Latin America's cities for a healthier future throughout the whole world.

Ivana and her team are currently exploring how various aspects of city living (e.g. transportation, safety, food environments) affect health in Latin America – and importantly attempting to translate this research into policy action through collaboration and partnerships with city governments and NGOs in the region.

This necessary and expansive work has been the culmination of Ivana's career as a social epidemiologist that was kicked into high gear when she received the Maurice de Rohan International Scholarship during her time at the University of South Australia as a PhD Candidate.

The Maurice de Rohan International Scholarship is the legacy of one of South Australia's greatest ambassadors, the late Maurice de Rohan AO OBE. As the South Australian Agent General in London from 1998 to 2006, Maurice was committed to the development of a strong relationship between South Australia and the United Kingdom.

Following his death, the de Rohan family wished to establish this scholarship in recognition of Maurice's passion for building relationships between nations. A number of generous donors supported the family's vision to fund the scholarship for high performing PhD students at UniSA to gain an international perspective in their research.



As one of the first recipients of the Maurice de Rohan Scholarship, Ivana was given a priceless chance to travel to two prestigious institutions; the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, and the Brookings Institution in Washington D.C., to expand her research capabilities in public health and social epidemiology, and gain crucial international perspectives.

"Receiving the scholarship gave me an invaluable opportunity to develop a wide range of skills and spend time with one of my PhD supervisors, Dr Ross Hammond, at the Brookings Institution" she says.

"During my visits, I received a lot of support that ultimately helped me advance my PhD which included the development of a model that simulated the travel patterns of commuters in the north-west region of Adelaide."

"I also had the opportunity to collaborate with Assistant Professor Pamela Matson at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine on a project focused on alcohol and marijuana use among adolescents."

Ivana says while the wide range of skills she developed was important, the working relationships and friendships developed during her time overseas endure to this day.

These relationships are key since she now lives and works in Philadelphia, just a few hours away from where her scholarship took her, exploring how safety concerns influence commuter behaviour, travel patterns, and air pollution in Latin American cities and the types of policies that might prove most effective at improving the health of residents.



(Ivana Stankov)

Her PhD supervisor, Dr Ross Hammond, whom she met in Washington D.C. thanks to her Maurice de Rohan International Scholarship, is a consultant on the Project.

"I like being able to engage and collaborate with diverse groups of people that work in public health and beyond, including researchers from different disciplines and backgrounds, as well as policymakers from government and not-for-profit organisations, all tackling the same issues from different angles," she says.



(Image: Drexel University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, United States.)

Ivana did not come to public health research straight after university however. She spent at Calvary Wakefield Hospital where she began seeing certain groups of patients admitted and readmitted into hospital with increasing frequency.

This allowed Ivana to grasp how health care and medicine engages people at the individual-level, while often sidelining broader social and environmental factors that influence how people function within society – and the ultimate consequences for health and wellbeing – innately understanding how necessary looking at the bigger picture can be.

"I wanted to better understand these patterns by thinking beyond the clinical setting, to also consider social and environmental factors that shape people's behaviour in their day-to-day lives and ultimately their risk of developing or worsening different types of diseases, particularly chronic diseases," she says.

"The reason social epidemiology is so important is because it considers the wide range of factors that drive health. It deals with health issues such as smoking, cancer, cardiovascular diseases, infectious diseases and motor vehicle accidents by exploring how, factors such as climate change, housing and neighbourhood quality, segregation, diverse forms of discrimination access to healthy food, healthcare and green spaces, predispose and heighten people's risk of developing and worsening various diseases."

"I really enjoy working in an area where I'm contributing to efforts that seek to address important societal issues that affect us all."

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A high-flying career breaking ground across the Asia Pacific

Malcolm Lai
 Managing Director, Head of Construction & Development - Asia,
 Baring Private Equity Asia Ltd
 Masters of Construction Project Management, University of South Australia
 (in association with Hong Kong Baptist University)



When Australia hit a recession shortly after Malcolm Lai graduated as an Architect in Perth, Western Australia, he decided to try his luck in Hong Kong. Now, almost 30 years later, he hasn't looked back.

"At the time I anticipated that Asia would have great opportunities for my career development," says Malcolm.

Mr Lai's predictions proved correct and shortly after moving to Hong Kong he found work as an Architect. However, after a number of years at various firms in Hong Kong and Singapore, including Sherman Kung Architects, ONGGONG and Leigh & Orange Architects, he found his enthusiasm waning.

"Whilst at Leigh & Orange I was the Project Architect for the School Improvement Programme for the Hong Kong government – a mass roll out of improvements and expansion works for a series of schools in Hong Kong," he says.

"It was depressing work at some schools, given the size of the school grounds. One school had to chop down the only tree on the school courtyard to make way for an extension of a block of multi-storey classrooms."

It was at this time that Malcolm chanced on an advertisement calling for a Project Manager with an architectural background for American International Group (AIG) Global Real Estate. They were planning a major refurbishment of their historic building on the famous Bund waterfront area in Shanghai. This was the building in which AIG was born back in 1919.

He jumped at the opportunity to extend his career in this new direction. Four interviews later Mr Lai won the job and was immediately posted to Shanghai in 1997.



(Image: The 17 Bund Restoration refurbishment of a historic building on the Bund in Shanghai)

"For six months I was stationed in Shanghai to oversee the refurbishment of AIG's original, heritage listed, 90,000 square foot office building," he says.

"There were some cash flow problems with the main contractor and AIG was intending to terminate the contract and re-tender, which would have meant substantial impact on time and cost. I managed to persuade the management team to stick with the main contractor and reorganised the payment schedule which relieved the contractor's cash flow to enable the project to be completed on time."

It was this hands-on approach that allowed the 17 Bund refurbishment to be finished on time. The experience also led Malcolm to a reinvigorated passion for the industry.

"At the peak of my time at AIG, I managed a team of 16 project managers at AIG Global Real Estate, overseeing the company's assets and third party fund investments in Asia Pacific," he says.

This work included 107 projects with a contract value of around USD\$7billion and over 29 million square feet of built area during my 14 years working at AIG.

"During this time, I also chose to go back to University to undertake a Masters in Project Management," he says.

"I chose UniSA as it had a comprehensive programme relevant to the real estate development industry that is highly competitive and was ideal for my career development."



(Image: Sail@Marina Residential Towers in Singapore)

During his time at AIG, Mr Lai also developed a deep interest in green and sustainable building practices. He often speaks at conferences on the topic and many of the projects he has led have achieved gold sustainability ratings, including the AIG Tower in Hong Kong, the Sail@Marina Boulevard in Singapore, and the 5.7 million square foot Seoul IFC mixed-use development.

Planning for sustainable practices has also offered opportunities to ensure projects have been finished to the highest standard, even when issues arise or costs first appear exorbitant.

"For example, for the Nagasaki office project I managed to value engineer the project from the tender to the award of the contractor, saving AIG USD\$2.98million and reducing the construction period to 11 months for a five storey 220,000 square foot construction," he says.

"This was mainly achieved by replacing the all steel structure design to a composite concrete/steel structure design which was just as strong but cost less."

Another challenging build was the Royce Residence – a luxury 512,000 square foot residential development in Thailand.

"Our site was around the corner from the ex-Prime Minister's house, which was blocked and barricaded due to the political unrest at the time," he says.

"We managed to complete the development on schedule and to budget in 2012, despite the riots and severe flooding that affected Bangkok during the construction by augmenting labour and resources to catch back the schedule."

Mr Lai stayed with AIG until 2010 when Invesco Real Estate absorbed his business unit after the Global Financial Crisis affected AIG's Asia investments.

"I stayed with Invesco until 2013 when I heard my old boss was putting the AIG band back together at Baring Private Equity Asia – and I've never looked back," he says.

Baring recently closed a USD\$5billion real estate opportunistic fund covering investments in the Asia Pacific region.

"I like to keep things low key until they are fully completed, but I can share that the company has some exciting projects coming up – including a cutting edge 36 storey office tower that has just broken ground in Manila, and a very cool high-end luxury residential project in Tokyo that will commence in mid-2019," he says.



(Image: The 5.7 million square foot Seoul IFC mixed-use development)

As for his own personal interests in his work, they come full circle to his time earlier in his career working with the school developments in Hong Kong.

"There is still much income and wealth disparity in the Asia Pacific region where our portfolio serves," he says.

Through a corporate giving structure Mr Lai and his team focus on helping low socio-economic communities and NGOs – such as schools, orphanages and women shelters – to try to make some difference through charitable duties in the countries where the company holds investments.

"Each year we have an annual offsite day where we all dedicate a full day of charity work including repair and maintenance, painting, general construction works and also support through staff donations to the respective charities," he says. "Sometimes we also get to help with practical things like preparing and distributing lunch to school children."

"It is an important aspect of our work as we need to stay humble and well-grounded and give back to the communities that we have derived so much from in our industry."

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Delene and John's journey to cure ovarian cancer



Thirty years ago, while completing Master's degrees at the Southern Illinois University, John and Delene's eyes met across a crowded room, and the rest as they say, is history.

Three decades later, multiple jobs, a couple of different cities to call home, and proud new roles as doting parents to their two children; neither of them could have predicted the rollercoaster they would be on after coming together from opposite sides of the world.

However, four years ago, life undoubtedly took a turn when Delene was diagnosed with ovarian cancer.

John finds it hard to put into words just how tumultuous and daunting the cancer diagnosis was for Delene and their family, but after surgery and two stints of chemotherapy, she is currently healthy and all clear.

"Obviously our lives have changed but Delene is always positive and we work to keep our young kids informed but not anxious," he says.

"The knowledge of the situation is never forgotten though since things like daily medication, the imbedded port, and scars are always there.

"Routine blood tests and scans are now a part of our daily lives, but these sad reminders are always followed by the hope and knowledge that each day is one day further from the original diagnosis that turned our world upside down."

Now, with his whole family's unwavering support, John is joining Tour de Cure's SA Discovery Tour to raise money for vital cancer research at the University of South Australia and the Flinders Foundation, to not only contribute meaningfully to his wife's cancer journey, but to tangibly make a real difference in eradicating the most devastating and pervasive diseases on the planet.

The Tour will take place in late May, with John riding alongside a number of dedicated cyclists, all with a similar goal, to cover more than 350 kilometres in three stages around the pristine wilderness and unspoilt beaches of Kangaroo Island and the Fleurieu Peninsula.

"I'm not looking forward to the way my backside will feel but I am very excited to join everyone and experience Kangaroo Island like never before," he says.

"In a previous life – about 25 years ago – I trained and ran with a group of people to run the Chicago Marathon, while Delene and myself were living in South Carolina, to raise money for leukaemia.

"The entire experience was wonderful and I know the SA Discovery Tour is shaping up to be one as well with the great cancer researchers and projects attached. I can't wait for the challenge."

Joining Team UniSA on the SA Discovery Tour was a relatively easy decision for John after hearing Professor Peter Hoffmann, Strand Leader for Biomaterials Engineering and Nanomedicine at UniSA's Future Industries Institute, and Professor Martin Oehler, Director of Gynaecological Oncology at the Royal Adelaide Hospital will also be riding.



Professor Peter Hoffmann, Strand Leader for Biomaterials Engineering and Nanomedicine at UniSA's Future Industries Institute

Both are key figures in the ovarian cancer research community here in South Australia and funds from the tour will go directly to their research into a promising new early detection test for ovarian cancer to improve the chance of survival for women with the disease by finding it early.

Furthermore, after their studies in the United States, John, originally from a small farming town west of Chicago in Illinois, and Delene, had long careers at the University of South Australia.

John was part of the Centre for Environmental Assessment and Remediation (CERAR) for 12 years and Delene has been a fundamental part of university for more than 20 years as an Associate Professor in the School of Natural and Built Environments, currently doing important research into bushfire survival plans in conjunction with the SA Country Fire Service.

With the couple having been entrenched and involved in research at the university before, they understand the process and know how imperative raising money is for game-changing cancer research, support and prevention projects that will bring the dream of a world without cancer closer to reality.

"We understand that raising money and carrying out research is critical not only for people in the present but for those in the future," he says.

"Understanding genetics and having a young daughter, taking action today may benefit both Delene as well as our daughter, and the future generations of both our children."

To support John and his family on their incredible, personal quest to fund ovarian and other cancer research projects at the University of South Australia and the Flinders Foundation, you can donate to his campaign [here](#).



Want to do your part in eradicating the most pervasive and devastating diseases on the planet? Join the SA Discovery Tour, experiencing the best South Australia has to offer, all while funding vital cancer research and saving countless lives.

As part of Team UniSA, you will be privy to expert fundraising support and one-on-one mentoring, along with a community of supportive cyclists and cancer researchers from all walks of life and abilities along the journey with you.

What: SA Discovery Cycling Tour

When: 23 - 26 May 2019

Where: Return trip from Victor Harbour, to Kingscote via SeaLink Kangaroo Island Ferry. 300 - 450km over 3 stages around Kangaroo Island.

Route Details: <https://tourdecure.com.au/tours/sa-discovery-tour/>

If you are interested in riding please contact Jacinta Mazzarolo at jacinta.mazzarolo@unisa.edu.au for more information or expressions of interest.



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Supporting family and social justice for Aboriginal Australians

Warren Guppy

Senior Manager Metropolitan Services, Aboriginal Family Support Services
Bachelor of Social Science (Community Service)



From left: Warren Guppy, The Hon. Rachel Sanderson (Minister for Child Protection) and Sharron Williams (Chief Executive, AFSS) at AFSS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day Connection to Culture event, 3 August 2018 at Tauondi Aboriginal Community College

Now leading one of Adelaide's key metropolitan social service teams for Aboriginal Australian support services, Warren reflects on his working life starting at the young age of 14 as a Trolley Boy in the carparks of his local Target. This time was followed by a number of years moving from Perth to Melbourne and finally Adelaide in hospitality – flipping pancakes, working as a bus boy, and a two year apprenticeship in silver service.

Beneath all of this hard physical work however – a passion for social justice and a keen interest in ethics was brewing.

"I have always had a strong sense of doing what is right," says Warren. So, when he moved to Adelaide in 1990 he decided to follow his interest and enrol in the Bachelor of Social Science (Community Service) with the UniSA antecedent, the South Australian Institute of Technology.

It was here that Warren says he began to learn Australia's 'true history' and the unacceptable and harsh treatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

"I chose electives and topics that allowed me to continue to learn about Aboriginal Australians, which eventually led me to do an eight week student placement with the Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement in my final year of study," he says.

"This was another huge learning curve. It was around the time when the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody and its recommendations were being implemented.

"At the conclusion of my placement, they offered me a three month contract. Before I knew it nine years had passed"

Warren remembers his time at the Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement (ALRM) fondly as a place of learning and forming lasting friendships with people who work tirelessly to achieve real justice for Aboriginal people in South Australia.

While at ALRM, Warren worked on the reporting of how the recommendations from the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody were being implemented.

"I had the honour of working closely with Tauto Sansbury – and a number of Aboriginal Elders and community members – as the Secretariat to the South Australian Justice Advocacy Committee, of which he was Chair.

"The committee was tasked with monitoring the Government's implementation of the 339 recommendations that came out of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody.

"Part of my role was to support the Committee to meet its Terms of Reference which included community consultations to ensure Aboriginal communities were having a say about how the recommendations were being implemented.

"Despite a number of reports, sadly, it remains that Aboriginal people are still overrepresented at all levels of the criminal justice system and funding levels to Aboriginal legal services have not improved."

When an opportunity arose at Adelaide City Council, Warren made the hard decision to move on from ALRM. He then spent nine years across a variety of roles including Reconciliation Officer, Manager of Grants and Sponsorships and Senior Policy Officer, before moving to the Aboriginal Family Support Services (AFSS) where he has since served as a Senior Manager of Regional Services and Metropolitan Services.



From left: Warren Guppy with Peter Shattock (Senior Manager AFSS Corporate Services, Ang Fee (Manager AFSS Port Lincoln), Susan Richards (Senior Manager AFSS Residential Services and Tom Steeples (Senior Manager AFSS Regional Services) cutting the cake at the opening of AFSS new office in Port Lincoln in 2018

"In my current role I manage a number of teams including an Aboriginal Gambling Help Service, a Family Based Foster Care team, a Youth Homelessness Service, a Community Safety and Wellbeing team and a number of other areas including communications, child protection reform and cultural officers and the Berril and Murray Bridge offices as well," he says.

"Some of the biggest challenges in this work is ensuring that we continue to reflect on the work that we do and make sure we are doing a good job.

"Unfortunately, the removal of Aboriginal children and young people from their families, communities and culture, remains as one of the most significant challenges for Aboriginal families and communities across Australia.

"At AFSS we work hard to ensure that child protection authorities engage with Aboriginal communities, and where possible, involve Aboriginal people in the decisions that affect their lives and the lives of their children.

"It is always a cause for celebration when our efforts result in Aboriginal families being able to keep their children and young people at home or, if the children have been removed, in being successful at helping families get their children back to family, community and culture."

One of the projects that Warren is particularly excited about at the current time is the AFSS Child Protection Reform – Aboriginal Community Engagement Project.

"This is a new two year project we have achieved support for from the Sidney Myer Foundation," he says.

"We strongly believe that all Aboriginal people have a right to be heard and to be involved in all decisions that affect their children and young people. This project will engage Aboriginal families and communities across the northern suburbs of Adelaide and Port Augusta about child protection.

"AFSS's role will be to facilitate genuine, meaningful and honest engagement with local Aboriginal families and groups to create pathways of communication between Aboriginal groups and the Department for Child Protection.

"Our goal is to share information about the changes in the child protection system and to consult with Aboriginal parents, extended families and local communities – with the focus to improve outcomes for Aboriginal families and find ways to keep Aboriginal children within their family and communities."

To find out more about the Aboriginal Family Support Services visit www.afss.com.au.



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