

A future with purpose

Donor Report 2019



UNIVERSITY
OF WOLLONGONG
AUSTRALIA



A message from the Vice-Chancellor

Since its inception, philanthropy has formed the very foundation on which the University of Wollongong has been built and it will no doubt continue to play a vital role in our vision and mission as we look towards 2030 and beyond.



Our ability to take on some of the world's most challenging problems and deliver intellectually fearless graduates has been significantly propelled thanks to the generous gifts received. The University recognises the importance of these valuable relationships with you, our donors, and the immense value you place on making education more accessible for our students. We also acknowledge your contribution to helping UOW resource and deliver life-changing research. Each gift received allows us to achieve and even surpass our strategic goals, and have a greater impact year after year.

In 2019, the University announced one of the largest transformative gift to humanities and the arts in Australian history, from the Ramsay Centre for Western Civilisation. The new Bachelor of Arts in Western Civilisation degree aims to educate our students on the value of how to think independently and seek the truth. This gift of more than \$50 million over eight years, has helped UOW establish the new School of Liberal Arts, support 30 annual scholarships and employ up to 10 new world-class academics. In 2020, we welcomed the first group of UOW Ramsay Scholars and five new staff members.

UOW also received a wonderful gift from the Movement Disorder Foundation that will enable one of our Higher Degree Research students to travel to the US and work closely with BrainGate researchers at Brown University. This ground-breaking research aims to one day help people with paralysis to interact with smart phones, using just their thoughts. It is just one example of how philanthropy allows UOW to collaborate with the best institutions in the world.

Over the years, I have had the pleasure of meeting a range of our donors who have contributed to UOW's ability to enrich society, and transform lives, by supporting our next generation of leaders. This form of support comes full-circle as our beneficiaries become philanthropists and continue to encourage the spirit of giving.

We are extremely grateful to all of our donors who have helped enable the University to continue to build on our strengths, create opportunities, and stand for our collective future. We appreciate the ongoing commitment of our partners who are equally ambitious and understand our vision and mission to make a lasting global impact.

UOW continues to be recognised as a world-class University, currently ranked 188th in the Aggregated Ranking of Top Universities (ARTU). In 2019, we ranked equal 13th in the world in the first ever Times Higher Education University Impact Rankings for our commitment to delivering on the United Nations Sustainability Development Goals. Domestically, UOW was recently named the top university in NSW in the Quality Indicators for Learning and Teaching (QILT) Employer Satisfaction Survey, reflecting the high-calibre of our graduates.

Each year, UOW raises the bar even higher across teaching, learning, research and innovation and we are extremely proud of the tremendous achievements of our staff and students.

I want to thank you for helping us prepare our future leaders for their role in society. Your philanthropy makes a remarkable difference across all areas of our institution.

**PROFESSOR PAUL WELLINGS CBE
VICE-CHANCELLOR AND PRINCIPAL**

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Front cover image:

UOW alumna and bequestor, Cynthia Brew, competing in the diving team during a Teacher's College sporting event at North Sydney Pool.

The power of many

BY JEN WATERS

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(L-R) Researchers Dr Luke McAlary and Senior Research Assistant, Natalie Farrawell with Professor Justin Yerbury.

Motor Neurone Disease (MND) can strike without warning and progress rapidly, devastating those in its path. The disease is incredibly complex and scientists have long struggled to understand its origins and progression.

Molecular biologist, Professor Justin Yerbury, has dedicated his life to solving the puzzle. He and his team at the Illawarra Health and Medical Research Institute (IHMRI) continue to lead crucial breakthroughs in understanding how MND is triggered at a molecular level. This fundamental step towards an elusive cure is supported by funds raised through UOW's MND Appeal since its launch in 2018.

"One of the biggest hurdles in finding a treatment and a cure for MND is effectively delivering drugs to the affected neurons in the brain," Professor Yerbury explains.

"We have discovered a way to increase the chances of gene therapy treatments working by crossing the blood-brain barrier. We have also identified and tested a wide range of potential new drugs and gene therapies. None of this would have been possible without generous and ongoing donations to our research."

Many will be familiar with Professor Yerbury's story, both his resolute determination to wipe out MND and his personal battle with the debilitating condition which has claimed so many in his family. Though he has long been celebrated in international research circles for his work, the first of two ABC Australian Story documentaries on his life, aired in March 2018, raised public awareness of Professor Yerbury's battle and triggered a groundswell of support.

Eleven-year-old April Barker was one of those inspired. Moved by Professor Yerbury's story, she held a yard sale in August for potted plants rescued from a neighbouring home, raising more than \$1,000 to support his MND research.

And she's not alone. Justin Yerbury's passion and unshakable commitment to finding a cure for MND has galvanised so many to join the cause. Earlier in 2019, The Biggest Loser's Commando Steve donated his time to put 200 people through their paces at a special fitness boot camp. His celebrity status helped ensure the event was a sell-out, raising \$6,000 and helping the MND Appeal surpass initial targets to achieve close to \$38,000 gifted through IHMRI.

This collective power for good has also generated a host of community-led donations, from \$16,455 through a Victorian Ladies Back on Your Bike Challenge to \$10,000 in contributions made by guests of Intelligent Polymer Research Institute Director, Professor Gordon Wallace, in honour of his birthday. Professor Yerbury's highly anticipated UOW Knowledge Series Lecture in May spurred further support, while a recent trivia night raised an additional \$17,000.

"Every donation counts. We would not be able to do the work that we do without this community support; it's just as important as an extra person in the lab," Professor Yerbury says.

"Without philanthropic support we would have to forgo certain experiments and tools, which would limit our scope and impact. Essentially, our research would grind to a halt."

And Professor Yerbury's mission has not only inspired philanthropic contributions. On hearing of his decision to undergo life-prolonging surgery so he could continue his work, his long-time friend Christen Chisholm was compelled to transition to a research career after 20 years in teaching. She is now a PhD candidate in his research group at IHMRI, under a scholarship endowed by Professor Yerbury's own family.

"I knew straight away that I wanted to be a part of his fight, and to do everything in my power to help," Chisholm recalls.

"Being part of this extraordinary group of people searching for greater understanding and hopefully a treatment for MND is incredibly exciting and rewarding."

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I have absolutely no doubt that, within my lifetime, we will find a cure for MND.

With the 2019 MND Appeal chasing a target of \$20,000, Professor Yerbury is energised by the possibilities this next wave of support could bring to improving lives. He refuses to rest until he's wiped MND from the face of the planet.

"Within the next few years we will be ready to move to preclinical testing, but we can't do that without vital funding to continue this exciting research," he explains.

"It costs roughly \$1,000 to screen a single drug in our cell line, and \$10,000 to train one researcher to perform faster, more accurate experiments using UOW's high-powered Titan microscope. Every single contribution can enable a vital part of the process and take us closer to our ultimate goal.

"I have absolutely no doubt that, within my lifetime, we will find a cure for MND."

To learn more about giving to MND through UOW please contact us at giving@uow.edu.au or +61 2 4221 5757

Life-changing research: Just a thought away

BY KEELI CAMBOURNE



Associate Professor Lezanne Ooi (L)
with PhD student Michelle Newbery (R)

Biomedical research by a US-based company is taking **being connected through our smart phones to a new level.** Their brain implant system aims to help those who have lost control of their limbs or other body parts.

The “neuro-prosthetic” device – an electrode implanted into the brain creating a brain-computer interface - has been effectively used to enable people with paralysis to perform functions, such as lifting a cup to drink and operating computers, via their thoughts alone.

Now, thanks to a \$250,000 scholarship from the Australian Movement Disorder Foundation (MDF), a UOW student is able to participate in this ground-breaking research and thus bring back to Australia the knowledge and skills that will change the lives of those with physical disabilities.

“The Movement Disorder Foundation Medical Research Scholarship provides support for PhD student, Michelle Newbery, and her research project at the University of Wollongong. This has enabled her training in various laboratory techniques and science communication skills at UOW,” says Associate Professor Lezanne Ooi from the School of Chemistry & Molecular Bioscience.

In an association formed in 2014, the Movement Disorder Foundation has provided the University with philanthropic funding for undergraduate students with a disability, who seek to focus their future career on driving significant advances that can change the lives of those living with a movement disorder. This latest higher degree research scholarship allows Newbery to spend up to a year working closely with Braingate researchers at Brown University. They include Dr David Borton, an Assistant Professor of Engineering at Brown University and Dr Leigh Hochberg, a Neurologist, Professor of Engineering and a Senior lecturer of Neurology at Harvard Medical School, who is working specifically at designing an interface that can interpret messages coming directly from the spinal cord.

“The project aims to address the Movement Disorder Foundation’s goal of improving the lives of people with movement disorders in two distinct ways,” says UOW’s Associate Professor Ooi.

“Firstly, by using stem cells in the lab at UOW to understand how the brain controls movement and how the brain could be ‘rewired’ as a treatment for movement disorders. Secondly, by going to the USA to work with the Braingate team, who are investigating how implantable devices can be used to stimulate movement in people that are paralysed due to spinal cord injury, stroke or motor neurone disease.”

When she returns to Australia, Newbery will spend two-and-a-half years completing the research at University of Wollongong liaising closely with researchers in the US.

“The research will help bring knowledge of how stem cells and implantable devices can be used to restore movement, as well as understanding the mechanisms underlying movement disorders,” Newbery says.

“There are a variety of neurological diseases and disorders that show similar characteristics. Therefore, it may be possible to adapt knowledge or treatments we identify to benefit other disorders.”

Associate Professor Ooi believes this collaboration is one of the major benefits of the Braingate and MDF funding. “This funding enables the unique opportunity for Michelle to learn from the world experts in wireless implantable neurotechnologies. It will provide Michelle with the incredible opportunity to travel to the USA, study at an Ivy League College and to network and collaborate with international researchers, which would not have been possible without this funding” she says.

Associate Professor Roland Bigg, Chairman of the Movement Disorder Foundation, says one of the Foundation’s philosophies is to collaborate rather than compete.

“With such limited resources, it’s hard to do this kind of research effectively in single isolated research institutions. And the anticipated outcome of the collaborative research is that eventually people with severe disabilities worldwide will benefit,” he says.

“There are a lot of patients who can benefit from the results of this research and we want an Australian to be able to add to that reservoir of research innovation. Australia benefits not just from the link to researchers in the US but it also means that if there is a treatment breakthrough, Australians will be more able to access treatment.”

“The Movement Disorder Foundation has always had as a guiding philosophy the saying ‘Give a man a fish and he eats for a day. Teach a man to fish and he eats for a lifetime,’” Associate Professor Bigg says.

“A treatment breakthrough from the Movement Disorder Foundation-funded research may enable severely disabled patients more autonomy in their life, meaning better quality of life for them, and better quality of life for carers. The University of Wollongong is a valuable part of this goal,” he says.

To learn more about giving to student scholarships through UOW please contact us at giving@uow.edu.au or +61 2 4221 5757

Shaking the global tree

BY JEN WATERS

When traditional models have failed, it takes vision and courage to seek out new paths to tackling the world's most pressing issues. This is the passionate intent of one exceptional couple whose significant financial gift will **enable risk-taking research to bring about systemic and sustained humanitarian impact.**

The Olivier Ferrer Fund – named after the former artist, musician and philanthropist whose estate enabled the pair's remarkable philanthropic gift – will support research under UOW's Global Challenges Program's 'Building Resilient Communities Challenge' over the next five years.

In 2020, the Fund is calling for globally-focused proposals targeting:

- the politics of refugee and migrant movements in an era of populist nationalism
- systemic entrapment, inequality and injustice
- leadership integrity which values the common good, especially regarding climate, at a time of crisis in democracy

"The donors came to us looking for bold ideas that would make a tangible difference in vulnerable communities; they unequivocally want to 'shake the global tree,'" says Global Challenges Program Executive Director, Senior Professor Chris Gibson.

"The Building Resilient Communities challenge is about building resilience against inequality, disaster and vulnerability in an era of growing uncertainty through driving transformational change in thinking, policy, infrastructure and everyday practice. This aligns intrinsically with the donors' determination to enable extraordinary change in the world in the best way that they possibly can."

The Fund will support projects with a global footprint (whether through location, engagement or collaborators) and a strong commitment to using research as a catalyst to shift public debate. It seeks to flush out audacious ideas that defy norms and tackle root causes, using engaged and participatory methodologies for real-world impact.

Deeply engaged with the process, the donors will work side-by-side with the Global Challenges team to set priority areas for each annual call for proposals and select the ideas and collaborations that best address them. The first round in March 2020 will focus on research around climate action, community transformation and the prevention of inequality and injustice at the source.

Funds will be matched dollar-for-dollar by the Global Challenges Program which this year supported projects tackling multifaceted issues including antimicrobial resistance, disability, education, structural barriers to women's empowerment, greener cities, systemic entrapment of First Nations Peoples, digital welfare innovations, and more.

With the Olivier Ferrer Fund now extending the boundaries of the possible, Senior Professor Gibson says that there's no telling just what kind of initiatives will be unearthed.

"The donors have made it clear that they're not looking for incremental change. They want to really push the boundaries and look at these core, systemic causes of disadvantage and how we can boldly address them from different perspectives; that's incredibly exciting," he explains.

"Enabling our researchers to move beyond the scope of existing funding systems emboldens them to address complex challenges in radical new ways. There's a freedom to take risks and engage more deeply with communities and issues at their source, and that's a place from which genuine innovation and change can grow."



UOW's Director of Advancement, Monique Harper-Richardson, describes the couple – who wish to remain anonymous to ensure the focus remains on the research and the vision it will enact – as inspiring young philanthropists.

"They are enormously passionate and courageous, and they don't want to wait to make positive change in these humanitarian issues that are close to their hearts," she says.

"That they actively sought us out from the other side of the world as a partner that shared their ideals and goals and could help them bring about this fundamental change... I think that's extraordinary.

"Philanthropy is about the opportunity to do things that you wouldn't ordinarily be able to do. In supporting unconventional research that may otherwise not receive funding, they are enabling our best minds to come together to genuinely drive thought leadership and transformation for humanity. We're enormously grateful, and deeply inspired by just what this partnership could create," says Harper-Richardson.

Senior Professor Gibson agrees.

"We're honoured that the donors have entrusted us with this opportunity to help them enact their inspiring vision," he says.

"We truly believe that this will create real change in the world, and in our most vulnerable communities in particular."

GLOBAL CHALLENGES PROGRAM

UOW's Global Challenges Program harnesses the expertise of world-class researchers across a variety of disciplines to lead transformational change across four key themes: Building Resilient Communities, Making Future Industries, Sustaining Coastal and Marine Zones, and Living Well, Longer.

Visit globalchallenges.uow.edu.au to explore the projects and find out more.

Generous donation broadens research

horizons

BY SARAH VICKERY

A significant gift from two passionate and generous philanthropists will help UOW researchers unlock the potential for **ground-breaking research at a molecular level.**

University of Wollongong

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The newly-opened groundbreaking Molecular Horizons building

Enhancing the University's ability to gain a clearer understanding into the diagnostics and the pathology approaches to the early detection of disease, the \$300,000 gift will support the creation of a new Fellowship – the Horizons Fellow of Molecular Pathology – to be based at UOW's newly opened Molecular Horizons facility on the Wollongong campus.

The donors, who wish to remain anonymous, were inspired to channel their funds into this valuable research to help accelerate the research capability and potential for life-changing outcomes.

Their personal interest in molecular sciences combined with a desire to have a positive impact on the health of our community formed the basis of a vision shared between the donors and the Institute.

In welcoming the gift, Distinguished Professor Antoine van Oijen, Director of Molecular Horizons, acknowledged the profound influence such generous donations can have.

"It's a great example of how philanthropy can be aligned with strategic research directions. This gift will prove to be catalytic for our efforts to develop cutting-edge technology to visualise disease processes in human tissue. By applying fundamental science to clinical problems, our research will have real-world impact.

"Molecular Horizons is all about developing molecular visualisation technology to drive the life sciences and develop new medical approaches.

"Together with the donors, we looked carefully at how the gift can have the biggest impact on the goals that are shared by both the donors and the University," says Distinguished Professor van Oijen.

The new Fellow position is seen as a globally prestigious research opportunity that will attract interest from researchers in Australia and offshore. An international search has commenced to

identify talented candidates who could add to UOW's rich knowledge base and innovative approach to research. The University aims to welcome the inaugural Fellow to Wollongong later this year.

Under the mentorship of Dr Shane Ellis, who joined UOW's Molecular Horizons team this year, the Fellow will have the opportunity to support the development of tissue imaging techniques by chemical fingerprinting.

Dr Ellis graduated from UOW with a PhD in Chemistry in 2012, before moving to the Netherlands for postdoctoral research at the Maastricht Multimodal Molecular Imaging Institute where he became an Assistant Professor (tenured) in 2014.

"We have been lucky to recruit Dr Ellis to the Illawarra and are happy to be able to help the establishment of his research team with this Horizons Fellowship of Molecular Pathology," says Distinguished Professor van Oijen.

"A pioneering researcher in the area of mass spectrometry, a technique that measures chemical fingerprints of material, he uses this method to measure the chemical composition of living material, spot by spot. This allows him to construct chemical photographs of cells and tissues, not using light but using the chemical information as a way to image.

"We look forward to continuing this exciting journey with the donors to help move the science forward. We are also excited about supporting the career growth of a talented junior researcher with this Fellowship.

"I would like to thank our donors for the generous contribution they have made, enabling us to make this Fellowship possible," Distinguished Professor van Oijen applauds.

ABOUT MOLECULAR HORIZONS

A world-leading research facility, Molecular Horizons was completed at the start of the year and is dedicated to impact-driven research, where the world's best molecular research will be put into practice to improve and save lives. It illuminates how life works at a molecular level, enabling our scientists to solve some of the biggest health challenges facing the world.

To enable this ground-breaking research, UOW has invested in a suite of revolutionary technology including Australia's most powerful biological electron microscope, the Titan Krios cryo-EM microscope.

The molecular life sciences are at the forefront of scientific discovery, unlocking the innermost secrets of the living cell and developing new ways to detect and attack disease. If cancer is to be cured, new classes of antibiotics developed, and Alzheimer's disease reversed it will most likely be biochemists and molecular biologists powering these breakthroughs.

To learn more about giving to research through UOW please contact us at giving@uow.edu.au or +61 2 4221 5757

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Improving the delivery of

With the state of healthcare delivery in Australia primed for reform, the support of generous philanthropy has helped the University of Wollongong to initiate a conversation around **patient-focused care.**

In September 2019, the University hosted the inaugural UOW Health Symposium at its Innovation Campus, highlighting a commitment to innovation in health delivery and improved community healthcare outcomes.

Heralding the development of UOW's person-centred Health and Wellbeing precinct at the Innovation Campus, the event brought together the collective expertise and experience of healthcare practitioners from across the public and private health sector, community health representatives, academics and students.

The Symposium was supported by the McKinnon Walker Trust, a \$1.3 million gift donated by former UOW Vice-Chancellor Emeritus Professor Ken McKinnon AO and UOW alumna Suzanne Walker. Their vision was to help foster innovative programs, activities and ideas at UOW over successive years.

Under an overarching, person-centred healthcare theme, key topics included: closing the healthcare gap for groups at higher risk, Indigenous health, the economics of ageing, building a person-centred health service and associated best practices, Australian health care reform, technology and big data to improve patient outcomes, and personalised medicine.

A joint initiative by UOW Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Health and Communities), Professor Alison Jones, and UOW Executive Dean of the Social Sciences Faculty, Professor Glenn Salkeld, the Symposium was designed to capture insights from health leaders on the existing challenges and promote ideas on best practice in putting the patient's needs first.

"By bringing together innovative thinkers we aim to create an environment for debate on delivering the best person-centred care models of the future," Professor Jones said.

"This is just the beginning. We've started the conversation now and we look forward to continuing to consult with health professionals and patients alike.

"We hope to set new standards for quality of living and opportunity for learning as we work to implement change that matters at our Health and Wellbeing precinct," she affirmed.

The Symposium also featured special guest and UOW honorary doctor, Ita Buttrose AC OBE, who gave the McKinnon Walker keynote address. As an ambassador for Dementia Australia, she shared her own very personal experience in dealing with aged care and dementia, and acknowledged the need for significant reform in aged-care living.

Following several presentations and panel discussions throughout the day, the participants unanimously agreed on the importance of consulting directly with diverse groups of people, who use different aspects of the healthcare system before implementing change.

Health Consumers NSW Executive Director, Dr Anthony Brown, is a passionate advocate for patient involvement in healthcare delivery. He highlighted the need to include those who are directly affected, in the decision-making.

"The insights that doctors and nurses bring are really valuable, but the more we involve patients in the design of services the more we can help people in their healing," Dr Brown said.

UOW will continue the conversations with patients and health sector professionals to work towards delivering an effective person-centred Health and Wellbeing precinct, while supporting community-led discussions at future Health and Wellbeing Symposiums.

ABOUT UOW'S HEALTH AND WELLBEING PRECINCT

UOW's state-of-the-art Health and Wellbeing Precinct, currently under development, will be located at the Innovation Campus and provide patient-centred, multidisciplinary health facilities to improve the health outcomes for people in the Illawarra and Shoalhaven.

The hub of the precinct will be a \$44 million community health clinic - intoHealth. An Australian-first, this University-led centre of excellence in integrated healthcare will address preventative health issues and maintaining overall physical and mental wellbeing.

The centre will provide a one-stop shop model of care, focussed on the needs of the patient and their family. A strong teaching component will be partnered by research dedicated to transforming practice, patient experience and outcomes.

The integrated health facility will deliver rehabilitation, disability and aged-care services, and mental health services in the one precinct. It will bring together a range of health professionals including doctors, physiotherapists, psychologists, dietitians, dentists, pharmacists, academics and pathologists.

The precinct will also include an innovative and integrated aged care and senior living village. In partnership with an aged living provider, this initiative will see aged-care services link research, teaching and learning on a daily basis.

Ita Buttrose AC OBE
Doctor of Letters (honoris causa) 2015

To learn more about the Health and Wellbeing Precinct please contact us at health-wellbeing@uow.edu.au or **+61 2 4258 3583**



Ita Buttrose AC OBE

healthcare

BY SARAH VICKERY

Emboldening a new generation of critical

A visionary gift is set to reinvigorate liberal arts education in Australia and equip the trailblazers of tomorrow.

thinkers

Senior Professor Daniel D Hutto



Whether consciously or otherwise, our thinking is shaped by a rich history of ideas. In 2020, an extraordinary philanthropic vision has enabled an exceptional group of students to embark on an adventure to understand and challenge history's most enduring ideas.

The UOW Bachelor of Arts in Western Civilisation is uniquely designed to provoke profound conversations. Made possible by a \$50 million, eight-year gift from the Ramsay Centre for Western Civilisation, the degree is being led by its primary architect, Senior Professor Daniel D Hutto.

"The program operates on the assumption that these great works from the classical period to the present influence our thinking, for good or ill," Professor Hutto explains.

"One of the program's most distinctive aspects is that it explores a variety of great works of Western origin – not only written texts and literature, but narratives, art, architecture, music, poetry – in a carefully curated and coordinated manner. We approach these great works through the philosophical lens that 'to come to know thyself', you must examine the influences, or potential influences, on your thinking."

Hutto says students will learn how to think, not what to think. While STEM and professional degrees have taken centre stage in recent years, the liberal arts have much to offer in developing insightful future leaders across a diversity of fields, from business and politics to the arts, sciences, community and more.

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This gift offers an unprecedented opportunity to advance humanities education.

"You can't have serious thinking on important topics like democracy, freedom of speech, or even the nature of thought and how we relate to one another, without first understanding the foundations. Without this, we fall prey to unreflective, pre-packaged thinking."

One of the largest single philanthropic contributions to humanities education in Australia's history, the Ramsay Centre gift has enabled the rapid establishment of the degree and the new School of Liberal Arts which plans to recruit up to 10 academics and support staff. And, it promises an astonishingly powerful set of experiences for students.

"The gift supports 30 annual scholarships of \$30,000 for up to five years, plus one return airfare for an approved international study program for each scholarship student," Professor Hutto explains.

"The cohort is capped at just 35, with students benefiting from small, personalised class settings and unrivalled access to academic mentorship."

The School of Liberal Arts will also host a regular visiting speaker program and an annual major public lecture.

The Ramsay Centre, formed in 2018 following an endowment by late Australian businessman Paul Ramsay AO, aims to reinvigorate the study of liberal arts and foster interest in exploring the masterpieces of Western civilisation.

"This gift offers an unprecedented opportunity to advance humanities education," says Professor Hutto.

"Demand has been astronomical, including for strictly limited non-scholarship places. We're attracting a high calibre of students in the arts and humanities, and have selected not just on ATAR but on a variety of factors such as creativity, critical thinking, self-awareness, the desire to empower others, and qualities such as empathy, humility and diplomacy. Those who benefit from the scholarship can focus on the challenging and absorbing program without distraction."

Students will undertake a sequential program of 16 subjects which can be part of a double degree connected to other UOW disciplines.

Though the new program has attracted indignation amid fears that it would elevate Western thought and ideas to the exclusion of others, Professor Hutto says this couldn't be further from the truth. It also doesn't shy away from examining the darker elements of Western civilisation, including its impact on Australia's First Nations peoples.

"We do not just foster a great conversation between the many diverse perspectives within the Western tradition. Here we also draw inspiration from internationally-based, non-Western 'great books' programs," states Professor Hutto.

"We'll relate some of Aristotle's thinking about the nature of rhetoric, and the difference between using an argument to pursue truth versus persuasion, to modern questions in the media and arguments by prominent modern thinkers and politicians," explains subject coordinator, Dr Elena Walsh.

"We will also look at Buddhist philosophical logics that make room in other ways for the possibility of true contradictions. This focus on open-minded and respectful discussion of how divergent ideas relate to one other is deeply embedded throughout the course."

It's a bold program where courageous thinkers are sought out, nurtured and comprehensively equipped to address future complexities. Professor Hutto is energised by the potential for diversification and growth.

"It's early days, but we're already sketching out what new opportunities this might create in liberal arts education that connects with other schools of thought."

To learn more about giving to student scholarships through UOW please contact us at giving@uow.edu.au or +61 2 4221 5757

Alumni mentors give students the edge on their careers

BY JESSICA SPARKS

When UOW students stand on the threshold of their careers, having an **experienced mentor in their corner** can be the edge they need for a successful start in the workplace.

Initiated in 2018, the eight-week UOW Mentoring Program seeks to make this happen. It enhances the employability prospects of current students in their final years of study by matching them with experienced alumni as they prepare to enter the workforce.

Jointly coordinated by Emily Warren from UOW's Alumni Relations team and Rochelle Boys from the Graduate Career Development and Employability team, the Program has built valuable relationships between alumni mentors and more than 175 students.

Emily says the Program's rich learning experience enables a greater understanding of the career paths available to future graduates, helping them to feel inspired to reach their full potential.

"We have alumni participate from all walks of life and all degree backgrounds. These alumni have the drive to make a difference in the lives of UOW students. They vary in age and career level, from mid-level to executive-level management. Some of our most committed mentors are also retired but maintain strong connections with colleagues and networks," she explains.

For mentors volunteering their time, the program is an investment in the next generation – an opportunity to build capacity, collaborate and enjoy exchanging ideas, setting goals and sharing advice with an enthusiastic starter in their field.

For mentees, it's a chance to gain precious industry experience and exposure, increased awareness about the workforce they wish to enter, and a better understanding of how to balance career ambitions and wellbeing – things not necessarily learned from books or attending class.

"Our alumni have such a positive impact on these students," Rochelle observes. "Confidence would be the biggest, most transformative outcome we witness in graduates of the program. We also see mentors greatly assist their mentees in broadening their professional networks, developing their career options and finding clarity on a direction ahead," she says.

Dorothy Fields (L) and Mabel Adongo (R)



UOW alumna and 'community in-home nursing' business owner, Dorothy Fields, has been a mentor with the program twice, describing it as a rewarding opportunity to give back and support students who want to be not just graduates with degrees but exceptional graduates who excel in their careers.

"I've discussed with my mentees a multitude of things: what they've done, where they are now, what they want from their degrees, their goals and how I can help. It's satisfying to know you've made a difference and helped someone think outside the box to succeed," Dorothy says.

"It's an amazing thing to meet someone, work together with them and see them grow. There's a feeling of fulfilment, gratitude and pride as you impart your knowledge and learned experiences to young people who really want to grow as individuals in their field.

"There're also little delights, like forming friendships as well as working relationships. I'm so proud of my mentees and I expect I'll stay in contact with them both."

One of Dorothy's mentees is Mabel Adongo, an international student in her final year of a Bachelor of Medical and Health Sciences. The 24-year-old hopes to become a medical scientist specialising in human genetics.

A grateful participant, Mabel says, "I entered the mentoring program to gain industry expertise from someone in the health sector. The program went above and beyond my expectations. I not only acquired insight but discovered thousands of other job opportunities available to me that I hadn't considered.

"My mentor was a supportive professional who knew when to present me with challenges and when to encourage me to keep pushing. Her advice helped me relate what I'm learning in class to day-to-day life in the health industry.

"Importantly, she always reminded me to not be so caught up in getting to the destination that I forget to enjoy the journey."

Mabel sums it up well: "When studying, most of us are so caught up in getting perfect grades that we forget that other things can prepare us for our careers as well. Being part of the UOW Mentoring Program has been a priceless experience that I will treasure throughout my career journey and my life."

Dorothy Fields agrees it's a fantastic initiative and speaks highly of her experience helping guide these enthusiastic students.

"I thoroughly enjoyed the UOW Mentoring Program and will participate again. I would definitely recommend being a mentor to others. The journey is worth it, it's a win-win for mentor and mentee."

Dorothy Fields

Bachelor of Nursing (2014)

Masters in Public Health and Nutrition (2016)

Mabel Adongo

Bachelor of Medical and Health Sciences

To learn more about the UOW Mentoring Program please contact us at giving@uow.edu.au or +61 2 4221 5757

Grassroots philanthropy with a big

impact impact impact impact impact impact

BY JULIE-ANN JEFFREY

Kim Earp wasn't a typical first-year university student. She was a 46-year-old mother-of-two holding down a full-time job when she first walked through the gates of the University of Wollongong.

"I was the first in my family to come to uni, I was older, I was a busy mum," Kim says.

Kim completed a Bachelor of Arts (with a major in History and a minor in Politics) in 2009 and is now the Learning and Teaching Coordinator at UOW's Faculty of Science, Medicine and Health. As a former student and a current employee, she's a passionate advocate of the UOW Cares program.

"Lots of small things can make a really big difference," she says. "I didn't receive financial support but I did benefit from a generous employer who gave me time off to attend lectures and classes. I know what it's like to receive support.

"It's easy to want to give back to others when you've received help," Kim muses over a coffee as students bustle past on campus. True to her beliefs, Kim gives a percentage of her pay to support other students via the UOW Cares program.

Established in 2007, UOW Cares is the University's staff giving program. It allows academic and professional staff to make regular donations through their pay to 14 charitable causes and organisations.

“

You can't be heard if you don't get a chance to sit at the table. A staff giving program like this gives people less fortunate a real chance.

"Most of our causes are very local, very community-based, and go directly to the organisation or cause," says Clare Rhodes, Community Engagement Coordinator.

"We support many local organisations on the South Coast as part of our commitment to community engagement, as well as a number of organisations both nationally and internationally."

UOW Cares is grassroots philanthropy with a big impact.

"It's about our collective contributions," Clare says. "If all UOW staff gave less than the cost of a cup of coffee bi-weekly that's \$140,000 - the impact of that is really, really significant."

In the past decade, donations to UOW Cares have funded five \$9,000 student scholarships (\$3,000 per year over three years).

"It's about helping to share the love," says Kim Earp who is committed to supporting minorities. "It's just about people, whether that's refugees or students, men or women, people who may not get a chance to come here, people who may not get a chance to study."

Kim speaks from experience, having received an opportunity to have a voice on matters she would have been denied without her degree.

"You can't be heard if you don't get a chance to sit at the table. A staff giving program like this gives people less fortunate a real chance."

For Kim, a big upside of giving to UOW Cares is that her donations go directly to those in most need in our community, such as children with autism, indigenous youth and refugees. One hundred per cent of all money donated through UOW Cares funds each cause or organisation, with no management or administration fees deducted.

"If we could increase the pool of those who give a nominal amount it would have a huge impact," says Kim when asked about her passion to raise awareness amongst colleagues.

Once a year the University holds an event called 'Coffee for a Cause' to raise a little more money for UOW Cares causes. For three whole weeks, 20 cents from each coffee sold at participating cafes on campus is donated to UOW Cares. \$6,000 was raised in 2019 alone. That brings the total raised by Coffee for a Cause since its inception in 2008 to \$46,868. That's a lot of coffee and a lot of good will.

Recently UOW Cares expanded to include eight external community organisations or causes and six dedicated UOW scholarships and programs. Donations from staff to UOW Cares provide a regular funding stream to:

- Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience (AIME)
- Autism Spectrum (Aspect)
- Headspace Wollongong
- Indigo Foundation
- Landcare Illawarra
- Strategic Community Assistance to Refugee Families (SCARF)
- The Fred Hollows Foundation
- The Smith Family

Within the university the UOW Cares program goes directly towards supporting:

- UOW Transforming Futures Scholarship
- Motor Neuron Disease (MND) research
- MIND the GaP (an initiative to improve the mental health and wellbeing of all residents of the Shoalhaven region)
- Tanzanian Teacher Training program
- UOW Library and Archives
- UOW Art Collection

UOW Cares helps students when they really need it, helps researchers solve pressing issues and helps sustain our community and region.

Kim Earp
Bachelor of Arts (History) 2009

There's a growing number of quiet philanthropists on UOW staff making an impact without making a noise. If you'd like to join them please contact community@uow.edu.au or visit uow.info/staff-giving



Kim Earp

Transforming Futures

Our partnership with our donors inspires and enables UOW to **create meaningful change.**

In September 2019, we brought together donors with scholars past and present to celebrate the impact of philanthropy and collective giving through UOW's Transforming Futures Scholarship Program.

Hosted by Vice-Chancellor, Professor Paul Wellings CBE, the occasion recognised the generosity of our supporters and the profound effect these scholarships have had on the lives of many UOW students.

"The University has partnered with supporters in our communities for over 12 years to offer this program to our hardworking and talented students, and together we have raised more than \$800,000 and welcomed more than 120 scholars. This is an amazing achievement and it is the spirit of giving that has allowed us to continue this program," Professor Wellings said.

"We have always sought to partner with like-minded individuals and organisations who share our sense of mission, the urgency of acting now, and the possibility of creating an improved society. We want our donors to be inspired about what they are supporting."

A panel of scholars shared their personal stories of struggle and triumph and spoke about what receiving a scholarship meant to them and their ability to achieve their educational goals.

For Bianca Hunt, currently completing a Bachelor of Arts degree with majors in Psychology and Criminology, her scholarship has been a vehicle for inter-generational change.

"My eldest daughter asked me a few years ago if she had to attend university and I said yes and her reply was, but you and Dad didn't go. This conversation gave me the push to enrol and become the first person in my family for generations to attend university. Now my daughter has finished year 12, and it is her turn," Bianca says.

"I'm grateful for my scholarship. The funds have allowed me to purchase textbooks, stationery and computer equipment, pay for parking and much more. However, most of all I am grateful that there is one less thing to worry about and this is because I have people in my corner who I haven't even met, who are helping me on my university journey."

In addition to her studies, Bianca volunteers at Lifeline telephone crisis service and has worked with UOW's Advancement Team to raise awareness and funds for the Transforming Futures Scholarship Program.

"These causes have special meaning for me, and I'm privileged to be a part of it and show my children the value of helping," Bianca says.

A Transforming Futures Scholarship has also helped Nicolas Marin to realise his family's dream of attaining a university education. Nicolas, a first-generation Australian, is the first of five siblings to attend university and he intends to set a high bar for his siblings to not just meet, but surpass.

For Nicolas, securing a scholarship means he does not have to choose between academic excellence in his pursuit of a combined Bachelor of Politics, Philosophy and Economics and Bachelor of Laws degree, and continuing his remarkable work in the community.

"From a young age, I have wanted to help the multicultural future of Australia by tackling the cultural and linguistic barriers that face migrant families on a daily basis," Nicholas says.

"I did this initially at a grass roots level as a volunteer for the Spanish and Latin American community organisation. I'm now facing these issues at an organisational level as the youngest current board member for the Multicultural Community Council of the Illawarra. But even now, I aspire to help at a deeper level, aiming to one day solve these issues and many more at a legislative level.

"This is why I am a law student at UOW, a university which has consistently represented strong community values thanks to the help of its amazing staff, alumni and other members.

"So thank you. Thank you for believing in the power of students and believing in our capacity to make a real difference. From each and every scholar you've helped with your support, thank you for making this wonderful program a reality," Nicolas acknowledges.

Previous Transforming Futures Scholarship recipients, Dr Benjamin Buckley and Suellen Knight also shared their stories of inspiration during a panel discussion at the celebratory event.

The success of this long-standing program is attributed to the collective giving of UOW staff, alumni, and community members.

ABOUT TRANSFORMING FUTURES SCHOLARSHIPS

Transforming Futures Scholarships were previously known as the Learning and Development Scholarship Fund.

A Transforming Futures Scholarship will make a profound change to a student's life. With your support, we will invest in more scholarships for young people who have the ability to study with us but whose situation may prevent them from achieving their goals.

To learn more about giving to student scholarships through UOW please contact us at giving@uow.edu.au or **+61 2 4221 5757**

(L-R) Bianca Hunt, Nicolas Marin, Suellen Knight and Dr Benjamin Buckley

celebrating 12 years of impact

UOW USA Foundation Travel Grant opens doors and minds

BY JULIE-ANN JEFFREY



Mikayla Dennelly

It's snowing in Boulder, Colorado and early morning classes on campus have been cancelled. Buzzing with excitement, UOW fourth year student Mikayla Dennelly watches the snowfall and talks about **life as an exchange student at the University of Colorado (UC).**

"The school spirit is just amazing, everyone is very involved on campus," she says. "I absolutely love it. Plus there's so much to do beyond studies."

Thanks to UOW's USA Foundation Travel Grant, Mikayla is immersed in a semester at UC, where she's taking journalism, psychology, theatre, and cinema studies. The grant allows UOW students to take a semester exchange at several major North American universities.

"It's defied my expectations in terms of classes, you really have to be on top of your stuff all the time here," she remarks when asked about the academic program. "It's definitely made me more productive in terms of my course work. My journalism class is very small, only 13 students, and really close knit."

Born and bred in the Illawarra, Mikayla had never travelled outside Australia before her student exchange. It took a dose of courage to move out of her comfort zone and she admits to being a little nervous about the whole thing.

"I was stepping into a totally new experience, I'd never been overseas before, never travelled far from home before," she recalls about landing in Colorado not knowing anyone.

Despite waves of homesickness, Mikayla has actively embraced the required role of UOW ambassador, speaking at events and student gatherings. Her passion for UOW and the region has sparked interest amongst many of her peers at UC, Boulder.

"If you want to go on exchange you need to do the work, maintain a credit average and remember you're representing UOW," she says. "Lots of my fellow students at UC are looking into studying at Wollongong because I'm passionate about it."

As the snow continued to fall, this UOW student was still surprised that one travel grant had introduced her to a wide network of friends from many parts of the world.

"I've made friends I'll keep for a lifetime, I have been invited to visit Spain, England, Brazil and other parts of America," says Mikayla who had dreamed of studying overseas but didn't know how to make it happen.

"I kept putting it off and believed I couldn't afford it. I put it off for three years. And when I finally applied in my fourth year I still didn't believe I'd get the scholarship," she explains. "I was already stretched paying rent, bills, running a car and working three or four jobs."

Having experienced the impact the experience has had on her own life and others, her advice to UOW students wanting to study in North America is to put your hand up for the travel grant.

"Just apply, just try, you never know ... people are always willing to help if you reach out," says Mikayla.

When the snow season is over and Mikayla returns home, she'll bring with her a rich academic experience, a solid international network and new ideas for her future.

"I have a career path in marketing when I graduate but this experience has given me many more options to think about," she says. "I'm also the new president of the UOW snow sports club," she adds, with the 2020 Australian national ski competition clearly in her sights.

"Once I start earning, I'd really like to donate to a scholarship like this," she says. "Whoever you are, your gift, no matter how small, made a big impact on my life. Thank you, I'm really incredibly grateful."

USA TO UOW

In 2019 a dream came true for Jordan van Berkel, a Geology student from the University of Minnesota, when he landed at UOW to study Australia's landscape and geological terrain. Thanks to a travel grant from the UOW USA Foundation, Jordan was able to gain international experience with a semester at UOW. "Not only did it add to my skill set for future employment, it expanded my passion and knowledge of earth science globally," Jordan says. It was an unforgettable experience all made possible by a UOW travel grant."

The UOW USA Foundation was established to unite the many UOW alumni living in the US. It holds alumni and fundraising events in North America. You can find out more or contact the UOW USA Foundation at uowusafoundation.org/about-the-uow-usa-foundation

Scholarships afford students the chance to thrive

BY MICHELE TYDD



Juliet Gobran

Juliet Gobran can thank her school's career adviser for his persistence when it came to **tips on tackling a university degree.**

"He pushed us all as much as he could to apply for scholarships but I was still a bit reluctant at first because it seemed a lengthy process," she recalls.

In the end, UOW creative arts and computer science student secured two scholarships – one from Westpac Scholars Trust and one from UOW which, when combined, give her financial and professional support until she graduates in 2022.

Juliet, now 19 and in her second year, says the scholarships have made a world of difference to her overall university experience.

"I started working part-time jobs quite young and thought it would be enough to support myself through university but, like a lot of other people, I didn't realise how hard it can be for students to manage financially and still have what most of us consider a balanced, normal life," she says.

Juliet receives \$5,000 per year from the Westpac Young Technologists Scholarship and another \$10,000 from the UOW Research and Innovation Work Integrated Learning Scholarship.

"I still have part-time jobs but the scholarships ease most of the financial burden and leave me plenty of time to focus on my studies."

Juliet understands many students are not so fortunate.

“

Knowing somebody is believing and investing in you inspires you to achieve the best results, and for me that has been just as important as the financial help.

"It can get pretty tough without some sort of support, especially if you live a long way away from the university and you're relying on maintaining hours at a part-time or full-time job. I've seen friends in this situation go into hibernation during exam time so they can cram," she says.

"And for all of us, there is the HECS debt mounting up at the back of our mind."

Westpac's recent University Students and Personal Finance Report, based on a survey of 1,000 respondents, found that one in five students juggles full-time work and full-time study.

More than half of all students manage part-time or casual employment while about 30 per cent survive on an income of between \$200 and \$400 a week.

Since it was established in 2015, UOW's Living Learning Trust has committed \$250,000 for scholarships that support students in need as well as the academically gifted. They provide not only financial help but also the convenience of living in UOW student accommodation, which, as UOW data has shown, gives an academic advantage.

The Living+Learning Partners Residential Equity Scholarship has proved a godsend for Matthew Gadenne. The Bachelor of Bio-nanotechnology (honours) student has overcome many personal obstacles to achieve academic success, including severe anxiety and depression in 2018 due to external pressures.

In 2019, Matthew received \$15,000 to assist with the first year of his campus accommodation, enabling him to live independently to recover, and providing him with the security of comfortable student housing.

In a letter of appreciation to the Trust, Matthew wrote:

"I came to apply (for the scholarship) at a very dark time and your philanthropy has proved important – leaps and bounds beyond what I expected.

"I have been able to stay living in Wollongong and continue flourishing in my studies – maintaining excellent grades of which I am proud. I have also been able to keep working and maintaining a healthy social life and positive wellbeing. I can confidently say this is solely thanks to you."

Matthew went on to say that, without the support provided through the scholarship, he would have had to terminate his studies, which would have de-railed his professional ambitions.

"I will truly never forget the direct positive impact you have had on my life during my tertiary education, and as I come closer to embarking on the next chapter of my career."

The Living Learning Trust has renewed its pledge to help other students like Matthew over the next five years.

Matthew and Juliet align with the 61 per cent of students, identified in Westpac's student affordability report, who believe their scholarships have improved their finances.

"Knowing somebody is believing and investing in you inspires you to achieve the best results, and for me that has been just as important as the financial help," says Juliet.

"The Westpac Scholars Trust networking events are amazing because I'm constantly meeting other recipients who are motivated and engaged. With every event I attend my confidence to talk about what I'm doing at university grows and grows."

Juliet's goal is to eventually combine her two streams of study in a career that makes a difference.

"Technology is the future so wherever I land, I want to be doing something that brings about positive change," she says.

To learn more about giving through UOW please contact us at giving@uow.edu.au or +61 2 4221 5757

New scholarship donors open doors to academic and career success

BY RANDI MORRIS

The University of Wollongong's capacity to support our students financially can significantly enhance both their academic outcomes and their career-readiness.

We aim to develop graduates who are intellectually fearless and leaders in their chosen fields, but we couldn't do this without the generous support of our donors.

UOW seeks to partner with individuals and organisations who are aligned with our values, enabling us to offer scholarships and help students take full advantage of their degrees. With financial assistance, students can purchase essential textbooks and equipment and even study abroad. Scholarships also open up the opportunity to reduce paid work and focus more time on study and research as well as on contributing to the community.

We are taking this time to especially acknowledge our new scholarship donors for 2019 and thank you for your support. You join a larger group of dedicated individual and organisational donors who have collectively supported our students' academic and career goals over the years. Your generosity has enabled our students to do more, learn more, and experience more as they seek to 'find their why'.

INDIGENOUS SUPPORT

Scholarship: Jamie Ross Scholarship for First in Family Indigenous Students

Value: \$1,500 per annum for duration of three years. Total \$4,500 per scholar.

Aim: to relieve some financial pressure for a 'first in family' Indigenous student.

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT - DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS AND THE ARTS

Scholarship 1: Regional Communication and Media Scholarship

Value: \$8,000 per annum for duration of three years. Total \$24,000 per scholar.

Scholarship 2: Regional Journalism Scholarship

Value: \$8,000 per annum for duration of three years. Total \$24,000 per scholar.

Aim: to assist students to acquire the skills and knowledge necessary to operate effectively as journalists in the contemporary news media industry in a regional or remote area and to be job-ready at the completion of their studies.

AUSTRALIAN MARITIME SAFETY AUTHORITY (AMSA)

Scholarship 1: AMSA Excellence in Maritime Policy Postgraduate Scholarship - Master of Maritime Policy

Value: \$10,000 per annum for duration of one year

Scholarship 2: AMSA Excellence in Maritime Studies Postgraduate Scholarship - Graduate Certificate in Maritime Studies

Value: \$10,000 per annum for duration of one year

Aim: to support the next generation of maritime professionals who are committed to generating solutions to the problems related to maritime law and policy.

RURAL SUPPORT

Scholarship: Rural and Regional Agriculture Scholarship

Value: \$3,000 per annum for duration of four years. Total \$12,000 per scholar.

Aim: to help young rural and regional Australians with big ambitions to realise their potential through education.

HOLT ESTATE

Scholarship 1: Holt Estate Environmental Science Scholarship

Value: \$10,000 per annum for duration of three years. Total \$30,000 per scholar.

Scholarship 2: Holt Estate Environmental Science Honours Scholarship

Value: \$10,000 per annum for duration of one year

Aim: to support first year and honours students studying an environmentally-focused science degree through The School of Earth, Atmospheric and Life Sciences.

SOUTH 32

Scholarship: South 32 David Crawford Scholarship

Value: \$10,000 per annum for duration of one year

Aim: to assist third year students studying a Bachelor of Engineering (Mining, Mechanical and Electrical).

UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (UNAA)

Scholarship: UNAA Sustainable Development Goals Scholarship

Value: \$8,000 per annum for duration of one year

Aim: to support students who can successfully demonstrate their commitment to one or more of the Sustainable Development Goals and how their chosen degree will assist them fulfil this commitment.

The Scholarship is open to all future and current applicants in any area of study.

YANCOAL AUSTRALIA

Scholarship: Yancoal Mining Engineering Scholarship

Value: \$7,500 per annum for duration of one year

Aim: to provide mining students with financial support during their undergraduate degrees.

INENCO

Scholarship 1: Inenco Group Work Integrated Learning scholarship

Value: \$10,000 per annum for duration of one year

Scholarship 2: Inenco Group Corporate Social Responsibility Work Integrated Learning Scholarship

Value: \$7,000 per annum for duration of one year

Scholarship 3: Inenco Group Community and Equity Scholarship

Value: \$5,000 per annum for duration of four years. Total \$20,000 per scholar.

Aim: to enable current students from rural and regional areas to drive a live project over the duration of the designated program.

Inenco also committed \$3,000 to UOW's Woolyungah Indigenous Centre's (WIC) Opening Doors to Aboriginal Employability mentoring program.

SHELLHARBOUR CITY COUNCIL (SCC)

Scholarship 1: Shellharbour City Council Community Scholarship

Scholarship 2: SCC (Best Team Practice) Work Integrated Learning Scholarship (WILS)

Scholarship 3: SCC (Best Practice Performance Management) WILS

Value: \$25,000 per annum across the three scholarships

Aim: to recognise and reward a student's contribution to their local community, as well as the opportunity to gain valuable and relevant work experience in team collaboration and organisational performance.

To learn more about giving to student scholarships through UOW please contact us at giving@uow.edu.au or +61 2 4221 5757

A teacher's passion for education lives on in her bequest

BY KEELI CAMBOURNE

Cynthia Brew knew that **even the smallest things can make a difference** to someone's life.

She also knew that supporting others to achieve their goals has a ripple effect that helps to change the lives of many more.

Thanks to her generosity, each year four students from UOW's Faculty of Social Sciences will receive a \$1,500 scholarship to support their studies and enable them to study in a different country and culture. Another four, \$1,000 prizes will be awarded each year to students who demonstrate how they have transferred their learning into activities that benefit the community.

In discussing the impact of the scholarships, Professor Glenn Salkeld, Executive Dean of the Faculty of Social Science, observes, "An opportunity to study and work overseas opens the minds of students, and will have an immediate benefit to the young people who many of them will work with in the future.

"As a teacher, Cynthia knew that opportunities could change people's lives and I believe these scholarships and prizes will honour her gift to the University of Wollongong.

"It's not just about the academics but about how our students apply their learning to contribute to their communities," Professor Salkeld says.

“

She wouldn't accept much help but was always helping others.

Helping others was always part of Cynthia's life, whether it was in her career as a physical education teacher or through her passion for sport and adventure. As a new graduate from Sydney University's Teachers' College, she was selected to go to the 1956 Olympic Games in Melbourne and, later in life, she volunteered at the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

"As an independent woman capable of supporting herself through professional work, Cynthia could follow her interests of travel, sport, the arts and history," says Susan Dobinson, her second cousin.

"She travelled widely and extensively over her life – she is the only person I know who has been to Tashkent. One of my favourite photos is of Cynthia sitting beside two of those inscrutable ancient Easter Island statues."

In 1967, Cynthia became a member of the National Trust (NSW) which is now another beneficiary of her generosity. Her bequest will help the Trust to continue to transform the lives of children in NSW through an education program designed to capture their imagination as they learn the significance of heritage to our communities.



Cynthia's teaching career took her around Australia, including Newcastle, Bathurst, Sydney and Tasmania. Even when she retired from the classroom, she didn't stop helping others reaching their potential. Nor did she stop her own educational journey.

In 1980, she completed a Research Master of Arts from UOW and continued her association with the University through her work with migrant families as a volunteer in the Adult Migrant English Service.

Cynthia never slowed down. She continued to travel, play golf and bowls, and contribute to her community. She was a Meals on Wheels volunteer and, for many years, a volunteer guide at Don Bank Museum in North Sydney. She participated in many clubs and associations – the Bush Club, Historic Houses Trust, the North Shore Historical Society, Geographical Society of NSW and Trumps Bridge Club. Cynthia was a Justice of the Peace until her death in 2017.

"She was a one-off, and independent to the end," Ms Dobinson says.

"She wouldn't accept much help but was always helping others. She had a passion for education and completed two Masters degrees in her adult life. She was a keen scholar and she decided to include three universities to which she had a connection, as well as other organisations, as bequests in her will.

"She was very generous in her bequests. She had a lot of empathy with children, especially those who were experiencing difficulties in their lives. She wanted to help people and was very community-minded which is why she wanted to be able to continue to make a difference."

Cynthia Brew
Research Master of Arts (1980)

To learn more about making a bequest to UOW please contact us at giving@uow.edu.au or **+61 2 4221 5757**

A young Cynthia Brew who had a passion for adventure and the outdoors.

Stronger Together

At the time of going to print we are facing unprecedented challenges, first the devastating bushfires in our home communities on the South Coast of NSW and now a health crisis facing the globe.

We will remain connected with you, our community of highly-valued donors, in solidarity as we face these extraordinary obstacles.

We believe in these times it is important to recognise and celebrate impact and progress - thank you for your unwavering support. Now more than ever your gifts are having an impact, supporting students to continue their education and researchers to tackle societal issues. We are amplifying the capacity and pace of this important research which we anticipate will have a remarkable impact on our global communities. We are supporting students through a greater number of scholarships, enabling them to capitalise on opportunities to become leaders in their field.

I am humbled to work with such generous people who have contributed to the ongoing success and progress of the University of Wollongong. You are a constant source of inspiration.

Our cover image is of Cynthia Brew, alumna and benefactor to UOW. This image was taken when Cynthia was a young woman. Her dive captured mid-flight depicts a woman of determination and focus, which is characteristic of Wollongong; fearless, with a strong sense of who she was and striving for excellence. Cynthia went on to dedicate her life to teaching and helping others, and, through her generosity, supported many organisations including the University of Wollongong.

In these very uncertain times we share a belief in the vital role of education, research and their transformative impact. We will seek to keep you updated as we always have, and please feel free to reach out to us. We truly appreciate the gift you have made to the University and as a gesture of our gratitude, we have acknowledged all our donors on our website: giving.uow.edu.au/donors

Thank you for your support and connection.

Best wishes,

Monique Harper-Richardson
 Director of Advancement
 University of Wollongong

Impact in numbers

2019

\$55,140,000+

Total funds raised in 2019 towards creating meaningful impact through supporting our world-class teaching, research and learning environments.



STAND FOR OPPORTUNITY

Total raised in philanthropic support for student support: **\$52,595,000+** from **1,939 gifts**



STAND FOR OUR FUTURE

Total raised in philanthropic support for Research: **\$602,600+** from **569 gifts**



STAND TOGETHER

Total raised in philanthropic support for Community Connections: **\$1,115,000+** from **107 gifts**



2781

The total number of active donors, within our philanthropic community.



218

students directly supported through philanthropic programs and scholarships.



482

new donors, expanding our giving community by 20 per cent since 2018.



\$50,000,000

The largest gift raised in 2019, establishing the School of Liberal Arts, Bachelor of Western Civilisation and the UOW Ramsay Scholars Program.

Advancement Division
University of Wollongong

GENERAL ENQUIRIES

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