

## Who we support

Aspect South Coast School

Australian Conservation Foundation

Cancer Council NSW

Indigo Foundation

Oxfam Australia

Para Meadows School

RSPCA

The Fred Hollows Foundation

The Smith Family's Learning for Life Program

UOW Equity Fund

For More Information contact:

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## Learning and Development Scholarships Awarded for 2010

Support for the Equity Fund through UOW Cares has helped to make a huge difference in the lives of 10 current UOW students.

With the combined support of donations from alumni through the Annual appeal, and staff contributions through UOW Cares, the University has been able to offer 10 Learning and Development Scholarships valued at \$3000 each for 2010.

These scholarships provide opportunities for students whose life experiences may make University study more challenging than for others. Factors such as geography, ethnicity, family commitments, disabilities and financial constraints can impact on a student's ability to access university and to complete their degree. This means each year at least 500 conscientious students will contemplate dropping out of UOW due to the significant financial burden university study brings. The aim of the Learning and Development scholarships is to enable students to remain at UOW

and ensure their educational aspirations remain a reality.

Pariz Lythgo is testament to the real and immediate impact gifts to the learning and development fund can make to a student's life. "At the time I applied for and was awarded a Learning and Development Scholarship I was seriously considering whether I could continue with my university education. Undertaking 30 hours a week of classes for my double

degree left me little time to find a casual job to help assist me with the costs of living and study. My family was not in a financial position to help me". She said.

"The Learning & Development scholarship helped me hugely, allowing me to purchase textbooks and cover living costs like my rent."

Thank you to all everyone who supports the Learning and Development Fund at UOW.

*Below: Pariz Lythgo last years Scholarship recipient.*



## Upcoming Events

West's Illawarra Bandage Bear Benefit Night

Gala Dinner @ West's Illawarra Saturday 17th July, 2010

For further information call Leigh Stewart on 0412 499 971 or

email: [lstewart@uow.edu.au](mailto:lstewart@uow.edu.au)

UOW Cares Spotlight Speaker Sessions

June 24th - Community led development: How Principles made a difference in Afghanistan - Presented by Sally Stevenson, the Indigo Foundation

August 19th - Equity Scholarship

October 18th - Making Our Cities More Liveable - presented by Moncia Richter, Australian Conservation Foundation

For more information please call Rachel Dyer on ext 8889

Daffodil Day Ball 31st July 2010

The Illawarra Grammar School (TIGS) for further information please contact Jessica Saad ext 5803

## Partner Focus

### The Fred Hollows Foundation in Vietnam

Treatment of cataract blindness has come a long way in Vietnam since Professor Fred Hollows first visited in 1992 to introduce modern surgical training and techniques.

At the time, around one million Vietnamese people needed cataract surgery and 350,000 were totally blind. Only 1,000 cataract operations using Intraocular Lenses (IOL) were performed each year.

That figure is now around 160,000 per year.

Fred died just 10 months after that initial visit. But with the formation of The Fred Hollows Foundation, his work and passion for helping improve eye care in Vietnam has continued with The Foundation's Vietnamese program, beginning in 1993.

Since that time, The Foundation has helped train and equip hundreds of doctors to perform modern sight-restoring cataract surgery, expanding the program to all parts of the country.

Operating in 16 provinces, the key components of the blindness prevention program in Vietnam are:

- **Disease control services:** including the prevention and treatment of the leading causes of blindness, and the provision of cataract surgery subsidies for poorer patients
- **Infrastructure development:** including the construction of eye units or hospitals and the provision of necessary medical equipment
- **Human resource development:** including the training of ophthalmic personnel, village health volunteers, hospital administration and management staff, and strengthening of patient referral pathways from village to provincial level for better access to eye care services
- **Community awareness:** raising awareness for the prevention and treatment of eye disease through multi-media channels
- **Research capacity building:** for partnered eye units including research into community eye care development and ophthalmologic issues.

Through our program work in Vietnam in 2009, The Foundation:

- Screened 810,148 people
- Performed 27,331 sight restoring or improving interventions - including 11,383 cataract surgeries
- Trained 2,193 eye care professionals - including 17 ophthalmologists and 1,600 community health workers
- Constructed a Provincial Eye Care facility in Quang Ngai Province, and renovated four district eye care facilities
- Conducted school eye health programs - training 412 school teachers in eye health and screening 231,693 school children
- Placed a major focus on strengthening primary eye care at a village level through training of community health workers, local doctors and other support staff
- Strengthened our relationship with Vietnam National Institute of Ophthalmology
- Provided small level of support to emergency relief in response to Typhoon Mirinae in October 2009.

Below: Nine-year-old My Linh was born with cataracts in both eyes. Sight restoring surgery has changed her life – she can now go back to school, play with her friends and once again dream of becoming a teacher.



### Make A Difference – Become a Champion

You are invited to find out more about UOW Cares, the University's workplace giving program, and how you can make a difference by becoming a Champion of the Program.

The UOW Cares Champions Program plays a central role in UOW Cares. Its main purpose is to act as a link between the Office of Community and Partnerships and staff within the University; to facilitate the communication of campaigns and events and to encourage new members. This Program will benefit from your insights into your area.

In 2009 UOW Cares achieved the benchmark of \$100,000 in giving since it began in 2007. The Program also received international recognition, awarded the 2008 Association of Commonwealth Universities PR, Marketing and Communications Award in the category of Outreach and Community Relations.

Your support in promoting our events and campaigns will be vital to the on-going success of UOW Cares.

Please call Rachel Dyer of the Office of Community & Partnerships on 4252 8889 or x8889 to find out more.