

# UOW MOMENTS

**2014 REPORT  
ON GIVING**



**UNIVERSITY OF  
WOLLONGONG**  
AUSTRALIA



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**Front Page: The Bulli Sea Lions (L-R Hugh Carpenter, Wendy Carpenter, Barry Adams, John McGrath and Bob Badger) pooled resources and became a Giving Group to support research into breast and prostate cancer.**

# MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR



The University of Wollongong prides itself on being transformational — transforming the lives of our students, our community and ultimately the world, and 2014 has certainly been a year of transformation.

Our students, graduates and researchers achieved major milestones, all made possible due to the \$5.34 million supporters like yourself gave to help them reach their potential. The number of students who have graduated from UOW reached 125,000 in 2014 and for many the dream of graduating was made a reality because they received help in the form of scholarships.

The University is proud of the number of scholarships offered to students — both undergraduate and graduate. These scholarships are the result of donations from a myriad of supporters including our Alumni, community members, businesses and industry. They cover aspects from financial assistance, to workplace internships, even global study opportunities.

The one element they share is that they allow our students to expand their thinking, generate networks, and make discoveries which lead to major breakthroughs in all areas of research and learning.

In 2014 these included discoveries in the etymology of Motor Neurone Disease, treatments for prostate cancer, innovations to help manufacturing, discoveries about our ancient human history, and greater understanding of the ways in which children learn best.

Our Global Challenges research projects are already making an impact internationally in areas such as natural disaster emergency response. The PetaJakarta mapping study uses social media to collect data on flooding and climate change in coastal areas in order to better manage development and risk. Researchers are also working with agencies globally on creating more sustainable fishing practices throughout the world to ensure smaller countries continue to be independent and viable.

International collaborations on dementia research are providing information on how to best care for our ageing population through dementia-friendly communities, and innovations such as the hydro-gel condom are saving millions from diseases such as HIV.

It's because of the generosity of our supporters that we can continue to help change the lives of all those who are involved with us whether that be through study, through business, or by being touched by the research conducted in our facilities and the graduates that have come through our doors.

Our University has a long tradition of philanthropy, being founded due to the benevolence of the Illawarra community, and it is fundamental to our own ethos that as an institution we endeavour to give back to those who give to us.

In 2015 we celebrate 40 years of independence and look back on the achievements our graduates and the University have made in that time. The University of Wollongong is ranked among the top 50 young universities in the world due to the quality of our teaching, research and graduates. It's a reputation we hope to build on over the next 40 years with your continued support.

Thank you for taking the journey with us this far and we hope you'll continue on the road of discovery with us, inspiring our students and community to be the best they can be.

**Professor Paul Wellings, CBE**  
Vice-Chancellor  
University of Wollongong

# GIVING IN NUMBERS



**194**

SCHOLARSHIPS



**\$801,000**

IN NEW SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING



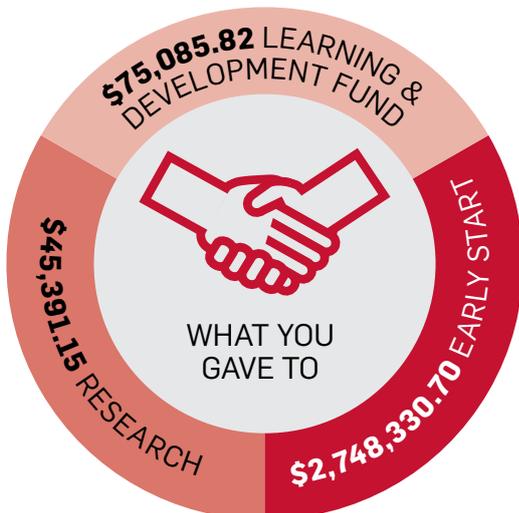
**625**

NUMBER OF DONORS



**\$6231.35**

AVERAGE DONATED



**\$5,349,000**

TOTAL RAISED

# HEALTH & MEDICAL RESEARCH



**\$1 = \$6**

SPENT ON RESEARCH

HEALTH BENEFITS



COST OF DEMENTIA IN 2010

**= \$4.9m**



1 PHD SCHOLARSHIP

**= \$100,000**

# DR JUSTIN YERBURY MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE

This year the world got a bucketful of information about Motor Neurone Disease — an ice bucket full on social media.

The Ice Bucket Challenge was certainly a success in getting this baffling and deadly disease front and centre of the world's mind, and raising millions of dollars for research.

Dr Justin Yerbury of the Illawarra Medical and Health Research Institute has his fingers crossed that some of those funds will be directed towards his own ground-breaking research in Wollongong.

"Dollars are always needed to run our research projects," says Dr Yerbury, "As a group leader I am particularly aware of this."

With the number of deaths from MND as a percentage of all deaths in Australia tripling in the past 15 years, those research projects are even more important.

Although a cure is the ultimate goal, Dr Yerbury says the first stage of research is trying to find a stop button for the disease so those patients who are diagnosed with MND in its earlier stages have a better chance of halting or slowing the degeneration process.

"We might not be able to give them back the movement they've lost, but we might be able to stop further loss," he says.

Dr Yerbury says that while genetic discoveries are increasing the list of known causes of MND, the actual mechanism that enables motor neurone death to result from the discovered mutations is still to be determined.

"We know it targets those neurons that control muscle movement, so what we're doing is trying to understand why those neurons die.

"We've been given a lot of genetic information and we are trying to piece it together, and we have a few leads to work on."

Dr Yerbury's wishlist is small — he says with \$10,000 his team could synthesise a small molecule to act as a disease marker which he is confident could take his research to the next stage.

"In the immediate future we would like to have a small molecule synthesised that we think might make a good disease marker. Our work has identified the cell-to-cell movement of disease in model systems in the laboratory, but we would like to develop a molecule (attached to a radio-isotope) that could be used in PET imaging in humans to allow us to know when the disease 'starts' (prior to clinical symptoms) in patients so we can identify the best treatment window," he says.

"The synthesis of the molecule will cost \$10,000 and the coupling to a radio-isotope another \$10,000.

Fortunately for Dr Yerbury he is on his way of achieving this with \$5000 being donated directly to his research in 2014.

"It's an exciting time to be in MND research because it's moving quickly and in the next 5 to 10 years we should have some treatment on the market."



**Dr Justin Yerbury is one of Australia's leading researchers in Motor Neurone Disease, trying to find a trigger for the illness in the hopes of finding ways of early detection and treatment that can stop its progression.**

# SCHOLARSHIPS OFFER REMEDY TO BETTER TREATMENT

Lorraine Pocock still finds it hard to contain her emotions when she talks about the foundation she established in the name of her son Troy, who died 13 years ago from meningococcal disease. Troy, a Shoalhaven photographer and artist, was on a working holiday in London when he contracted the disease and died within hours of its onset.

Lorraine and her family established the Troy Pocock Meningococcal Foundation in 2004 which has been a champion of raising awareness of this highly contagious disease to the public. But she wanted to take its reach one step further and in 2011 established the Troy Pocock Scholarship For Medicine.

"Establishing the scholarship was a good way of raising awareness of meningococcal to the medical fraternity. A lot of doctors never get to see it or come across it," Lorraine said.

"We decided to give the scholarship to a graduating student so they would be able to present their research to the rest of their graduating year who would then all have first-hand information and awareness about this disease."

The major requirement on the scholarship recipient is that they prepare an abstract and poster-presentation relating to meningococcal disease and that it be made available to the Troy Pocock Meningococcal Foundation.

"We also wanted the scholarship to stay local. The Shoalhaven community has supported us and we wanted the scholarship to benefit the Shoalhaven campus of the University — it just felt right," Lorraine said.



**Lorraine Pocock and scholarship recipient**

"We had money in the Foundation that we wanted to use to raise awareness rather than sit in the bank."

Lorraine said the four recipients of the scholarship so far have all been very grateful for the opportunity they have received.

"I think they are grateful that someone who lost a loved one to this disease has given them a chance to complete their own studies and find out more about meningococcal. The scholarship allows them to access anything from accommodation to resources that they may not have had the opportunity to take advantage of.

"And through the scholarship they learn a lot more about the meningococcal bacteria, the disease signs and symptoms that perhaps they were previously not aware of. When you see the students giving something back from receiving the scholarship, it is a wonderful feeling.

"We didn't do this for selfish reasons, but when you see what the recipients get out of the scholarship, you feel that you are also making a difference."

# SHINING STAR FOR DEMENTIA RESEARCH

After working in an aged care dementia facility for more than 20 years, Norah Mitchell understood how important educating the community about this illness can be to people living with dementia and their carers.

As the Grand Matron for the Order of the Eastern Star Wollongong Chapter, Norah had the privilege of choosing the charity that the organisation's fundraising efforts would be donated to.

"I chose dementia and Alzheimer's disease but I was not sure where I wanted the donation to go. Fortunately one of our members knew of the work being done by Professor Richard Fleming at the University of Wollongong and mentioned it to me," Norah said.

"I went onto the University's website and read what Prof Fleming was trying to achieve with his research into dementia-friendly communities and improving the quality of life for people living with dementia. After my years of working in aged care, I knew how fantastic this kind of research could be and more importantly how much it was needed."

After a year of fundraising, through monthly donations, raffles, afternoon teas and other events the members of the Order of the Eastern Star had collected \$3500 and with a commitment from Masonicare to match them dollar-for-dollar, had a year-end tally of \$7000 to donate to Prof Fleming's research.

"Finding a cure for dementia is of course important, but as Prof Fleming pointed out there are already hundreds of thousands of people in aged care and that is going to double very quickly, so it is important to make sure they get the right care," Norah said.

"That means education and training for staff and specialists, and educating the community. Prof Fleming's research benefits everyone in the community because it is creating a standard of care that can be applied anywhere."

It is through the generosity of organisations like the Order of the Eastern Star and Masonicare that research like Prof Fleming's into dementia-friendly communities can continue.

"Applied researchers like myself are always encouraged when they receive community support, but receiving \$3500 from the Order of the Eastern Star and having it matched with \$3500 from aged care provider Masonicare, for a project on increasing our understanding of what it takes to make a community dementia friendly, is particularly encouraging," Prof Fleming said.

"It is exactly this sort of far-sighted thinking and partnership that will enable Australia to meet the challenge of providing high quality support and care to those of us who develop dementia."



**Norah Mitchell (front) Grand Matron for the Order of the Eastern Star Wollongong Chapter says donating to dementia research is a way to help the whole community.**



# DIVING IN TO HELP THE CAUSE

**The Bulli Sea Lions Winter Swimming Club jumped at the chance to help UOW cancer researchers and to keep their donations local. Pictured (left to right) are Hugh Carpenter, Wendy Carpenter, Barry Adams, John McGrath, Bob Badger and Peter Dorrington.**

The brave souls of the Bulli Sea Lions Winter Swimming Club aren't ones just to dip their toes in the water. Taking the plunge is what it's all about for the men and women who every winter put their bodies and minds to the test in the chilly water of the Bulli sea pool.

So when one of their members was diagnosed with cancer, the others decided it was their duty to dive in again and do as much as they could to help raise awareness and money for cancer research.

In the past two years the Bulli Sea Lions have donated more than \$5000 to cancer researchers at UOW — to Professor Phil Clingan's research into anti-cancer drugs and Professor Anatoly Rozenfeld's research into prostate cancer.

"One of our members died of cancer and he and his wife were involved with UOW. One of our members is also a professor at the University," Mr Adams says.

"It has always been the Sea Lions' policy to donate locally so when we found out we could donate to the University rather than to an organisation in Sydney, we did so."

Mr Adams says the club had no idea the University accepted financial support to help research, and that 100 per cent of any money donated is given to whichever fund supporters nominate.

"We do give substantial donations. We hold a bowls day every year and combined with our raffle, sausage sizzles and other events we raise a fair bit of money," Mr Adams says.

There are about 40 regular swimmers with the Sea Lions and up to 80 members on its books and all the members were behind the decision to give their hard-earned funds to support local research to find solutions for global problems.

Dr Michael Lerch, a researcher at UOW's Centre for Medical Radiation Physics, and a member of the Bulli Sea Lions for the past 15 years, says when he told the other members about his research with Prof Anatoly they were quick to offer their support.

"They said they were looking to make a donation to cancer research and asked if it was possible to donate to our research," Dr Lerch says.

"It's only a small club but all the members like to do their bit and they really wanted their money to stay local. There are a lot of good things that researchers at the University are doing, and it's easy for the community to make a donation to something that is relevant to them.

"For the Sea Lions, we all voted on where the money raised should go and the university research was chosen. It has all blossomed from there."

Susie Clement wanted to lead by example as a student by becoming a regular donor to the Learning and Development Fund.

# STUDENTS PAYING IT FORWARD

Susie Clement talks the talk and walks the walk.

The University of Wollongong PhD student is one of the new breed of philanthropists — giving back to the University both financially, and with her time, to ensure that other students have every opportunity to excel.

Like most students, Susie doesn't have much spare cash to giveaway, but she knows that every dollar donated to the University's Learning and Development Fund helps to support those students most in need.

Susie, who is completing her PhD in Human Geography through the Faculty of Social Sciences, admits she didn't know much about giving to the University until she took part in a student phone appeal in 2012.

"I worked as a student caller for the whole year asking other people to help support the Learning and Development Fund and other things in the University," she said.

"I realised I could not do what I preached — asking people for money — without doing it myself. I thought if the people I am asking have the money to donate even a small amount, I should too."

Susie says many people don't realise that even a small donation of around \$50 a year can have a big impact on the overall support for students.

"I have less than some people I am asking to help support us, but I know I can afford it," she said.

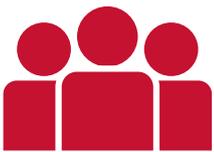
"You can see how it helps the students. I chose to give to the Learning and Development Fund because I have more affinity with it in coming to University.

"I know what it's like to have to move out of home, and how stressful it is emotionally and financially not just for students but for parents as well."

Despite not being eligible for a scholarship herself, Susie says she also understands how important they are for students who come from social hardship.

"Many students aren't as lucky as me," she says.

"I still have to work, and am completing my PhD so I know what it is like to balance commitments, but I know my support of the Learning and Development Fund is helping someone else as well."



**40**

STUDENTS EMPLOYED



**3455**

CALLS MADE



**\$295.67**

AVERAGE DONATION



**391**

PLEDGES MADE



"I HAVE LESS THAN SOME PEOPLE I AM ASKING TO HELP SUPPORT US, BUT I KNOW I CAN AFFORD IT."

# SCHOLARSHIPS: OPPORTUNITY FOR EDUCATION



# NURSING A DREAM TO SUCCEED

Caring for three kids single-handedly is hard enough. Throw a full-time degree on top of that and for many it would be impossible.

But for Deanne Chester, finishing her nursing degree and proving to her children that anything is possible was a dream she was determined to realise.

At 43, Deanne is probably a little older than many of her classmates, who perhaps have more in common with her oldest daughter at 18. However, she has not let that stop her from achieving a goal that she knows will give her and her children a better life.

"I wanted to better myself for my kids and to prove to them that if Mum can do it, they can too," Deanne says.

After a tough first year, Deanne decided to apply for a Learning and Development Scholarship so she could complete the task she had set herself.

"In my first year my daughter was unwell and people were telling me to give up uni and go to work. But I refused to listen to anyone because I believed that by being at uni, it gave me the freedom to help her when she was in crisis," Deanne says.

Living in Gymea, and studying full-time means Deanne has to commute, so working is not an option, but she says the Learning and Development Scholarship has meant she can stretch her budget to be able to afford text books and maintain the basic living expenses for herself and her children.

Having the opportunity to complete her degree, Deanne is also now resolute in her aim to be able to give back, and is keen to use her skills as a remote area nurse — an area of great need in the nursing industry.

"My kids are very proud of me. They have celebrated my passes with me and are proud that I have made it through," she says.



UOW HAS

## 125,000

LIVING GRADUATES

+



IF EACH GAVE

## \$10

=



IT WOULD SUPPORT

## 138

LEARNING AND  
DEVELOPMENT  
SCHOLARSHIPS

**Deanne Chester said without the Learning and Development Fund scholarship she may not have been able to finish her nursing degree and prove to her children that dreams do come true.**



Emagine staff support students with Work Integrated Learning Scholarships

# EMAGINING THE POSSIBILITIES OF HANDS-ON LEARNING

A Work Integrated Learning Scholarship not only provides a student with much needed funds for studying and living, it is also an opportunity to get on the job experience. These scholarships provide the best of both worlds for students and Emagine International has found that this works for them.

Emagine International is a specialist provider of real-time contextual customer marketing software and managed services, and offers two UOW students a \$5000, one-year WIL scholarship each year. The company expanded its support last year because it's finding that students are bringing a lot more than enthusiasm to the business.

"Software is a people business, and that can be something that is overlooked by IT professionals. Soft skills such as communication are an essential complement to technical knowledge

and expertise. Great people listen to customers and align themselves with the customer's needs," said Emagine CEO and founder Dave Peters. "Without this, they cannot create great solutions. That has always been one of Emagine's strengths and we're keen to instil the value of the approach in the next generation, as well as harvesting some great talent for our continued expansion of course."

The University was an ideal partner for the growing software company which is located in Ultimo in Sydney, providing an excellent source of bright new talent and enabling the company to also play a role in the development of the future workforce.

Emagine has experienced this first hand with its first internship which resulted in the successful creation of a new tool that dramatically simplifies the product

release process for the company, allowing it to have better control over the deployment of products to an increasing number of clients.

"The internship experience was invaluable to me," says UOW student Lauren Manzo. "While my academic studies have given me excellent theoretical knowledge, the application of real-world tools and technologies in the development of a commercial product has been fundamental.

"I now have first-hand experience of how projects and their releases are managed and organised in order to meet differing client requirements, as well as being able to apply user feedback in order to develop and improve products. I feel far more confident in my abilities and well-equipped for future roles."

# ANZAC SCHOLARSHIPS COMMEMORATE OUR DIGGERS

One hundred years ago, 111 young men from Balgownie answered the call of King and Country and fought on the other side of the world.

Not all of them came back, but those that did made a lasting impression on the world and especially on the Illawarra.

To commemorate their sacrifice, two University of Wollongong students will have the opportunity of a three-year scholarship to support them through their undergraduate degree to go on to make their own contribution to create a better world.

As a mark of remembrance for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the declaration of WWI on August 4 last year, the University of Wollongong and the Illawarra Centenary Advisory Committee created the Illawarra Centenary of ANZAC Scholarships.

The two annual scholarships, worth \$5000 each year for three years, will be open to students who begin their undergraduate studies in 2015 in any subject and whose ancestors or they themselves have seen operational service with the Australian or New Zealand Defence Forces. Service with Defence Force Reserves also qualifies.

The University of Wollongong and the Illawarra Centenary of ANZAC Committee are working to secure a \$250,000 endowment fund to ensure the ANZAC scholarships continue into the future.

"Already the committee has secured funding from the three local government councils – Wollongong, Shellharbour and Kiama – and the University is matching that commitment," says Paul Macinerney from the committee.

"We are hoping the business community will come on board to help secure the endowment."

Monique Harper-Richardson, Director of Advancement at the University of Wollongong said the scholarships were a "remarkable and fitting acknowledgement to commemorate the centenary of ANZAC and those who served in that tragic conflict".

"We are delighted to partner with the Illawarra Centenary of ANZAC Committee in the creation of the scholarships, and believe in investing in the future generations through higher education at the University," she said.



THE SPIRIT  
LIVES  
2014 - 2018





# NEW COURSE A WORLD CHANGER

Globalisation isn't just a phenomenon that affects the economic foundations of the world. As people and cultures move around the world, the study of human societies and their relationships is becoming even more important.

The Bachelor of Social Sciences is a new flagship course within the new Faculty of Social Sciences and will add a new element to the University in these times of perpetual change.

Around 200 students are expected to start the course in 2015, from different cultural and geographic backgrounds, ages and interests. They can build their own unique pathway of study including social policy, human geography, health promotion and criminology.

"This course will produce graduates who are able to take up a wide variety of roles in the government, not-for-profit and social enterprise sectors," says Professor Heather Yeatman, Head of the School of Health and Society.

"We know that understanding human behaviours within the context of people's lives and environment is critically important not only to support communities to be strong and resilient, but also to inform socially responsible public policies and programs. The Bachelor of Social Sciences will complement and strengthen the other courses already available at the University of Wollongong."

# SUPPORTING SOCIAL CHANGE A FAMILY AFFAIR

Philip Stevenson may be older than most of his fellow students — and lecturers as he likes to joke — but the Southern Highlands' retiree is adamant that education is one of the best gifts in life.

And it is a gift which Mr Stevenson and his wife, Elizabeth, wanted to make to students at the University of Wollongong through the establishment of a scholarship in the Social Science Faculty.

The Stevenson Family Scholarship in Social Work is one of the first in this burgeoning field of study and an area about which both Philip and Elizabeth are extremely passionate.

The Stevenson Family Scholarship is offered as an encouragement to prospective students who are seeking to improve the lives of others through the completion of a Bachelor of Social Work or Bachelor of Social Science.

The \$7000 per year scholarship will be awarded to a first year student for the duration of their three-year degree. One scholarship will be awarded annually.

"As a mature student at UOW I appreciate the value of education, perhaps more so than when I was trying to build my own career," Mr Stevenson says.

"I also appreciate how much more difficult it is to get started in a career in the present era without scholastic qualifications and so my wife and I agreed that we should try to help those whose advancement is restricted by financial constraints. So we decided to become sponsors of the UOW Scholarship Program."

The Stevensons contacted the University to see how they could best support students and after talking with the Development team decided a scholarship would be an ideal way to make a gift.

"It's through generous gifts and the support of people like the Stevensons that students at UOW can realise their potential and help make a difference to the world when they graduate," Renee Burton, Senior Development Co-ordinator, says.

**Steven and Elizabeth Stevenson wanted to encourage and support young students to make a difference to their community by establishing the Stevenson Family Scholarship.**





# HELPING MAKE FAMILY AND STUDY A PERFECT MIX

**Mother-of-three Tracey-Lee Ambrose said the Winifred Smith Scholarship for Excellence in Nursing was instrumental in helping her complete her studies.**

Tracey-Lee Ambrose had saved up five years of holiday leave so she could afford to undertake the practical component of her nursing degree. With a mortgage and bills to pay, the mother-of-three couldn't afford to give up her job while she was studying, but still managed to fit in full-time study, full-time caring and a job.

However, her bank of saved holidays only covered the first two years of the time she needed to take off for practical placement and she realised that finishing her degree in three years might be an impossibility if she couldn't find more financial support.

She applied for the Winifred Smith Scholarship for Excellence in Nursing the day before applications closed and didn't think any more about it.

Winifred Bullot Smith was at the forefront of nursing education in the region and was instrumental in establishing the Illawarra School of Nursing in 1979 at the Wollongong Institute of Education. It was the first nursing school in NSW to be located on the campus of a tertiary institution.

After her death aged 87 in 2009, Ms Smith made a \$400,000 bequest to the University to go towards a scholarship for a second or third year nursing student who demonstrates a commitment to the profession.

"I never thought I would receive a scholarship so it was a big shock to me when I got the call to say I had," Tracey said.

"I had a lot on my plate at the time, and I really didn't know if I would be good enough. I'm 36, had been out of school since I was 18, and although I'd done a few courses here or there, I didn't have any academic qualifications behind me except my Higher School Certificate.

"But I had had a lot of community involvement. I was always helping at the canteen at the kids' school, I ran a playgroup and even when I was around 15 I was doing community service at the local pre-school, and it was that community involvement the scholarship required."

Even after being told she'd been awarded the scholarship Tracey couldn't believe her good fortune.

"I kept asking why they had given it to me and one of the interviewers said 'why not?'," she said.

"I never thought I was capable of this. Before I received the scholarship I was facing the prospect of having to either defer the last year of my degree until I saved up enough money and holiday leave again, or going part-time, but now I can finish my degree in three years and even start doing my midwifery training which is what I really want to do. I am forever grateful for this assistance and for the further opportunities it will allow me to pursue".

# OPENING THE DOOR TO MORE EXPERIENCES

Like most students Farah Daher wants to be able to leave university with a well-rounded education.

But for Farah, that may not have been a possibility without financial help.

In 2013 Farah was a recipient of one of the University of Wollongong's Learning and Development Scholarships, which supports students with \$3000 per year for three years so they can participate fully in their course of study.

The Learning and Development Fund was created to finance scholarships supporting students in need and has grown from its beginning in 2007 as a one-off \$1000 scholarship to now being able to help 10 students each year.

"I heard about the scholarship through the University's messaging system. I was finding it was becoming very expensive for me to travel to university, pay for parking and to buy all the text books I needed for my double degree in Law and International Studies," Farah says.

Farah says textbooks each semester can cost her upwards of \$500, and she was struggling to meet all those costs as a full-time student.

"The scholarship has been very rewarding. I come from the Illawarra and I wanted to study locally.

"The extra financial support means I can now apply for the extra-curricular citizenship activities that are part of my double degree. Without the scholarship I wouldn't have been able to take part in those."



**Scholarship recipient Farah Daher is now able to participate in more extra-curricular activities that will give her a more well-rounded education.**

# A SPORTING CHANCE

Brendan Belsite had watched his sister try to fit in study and work.

So when he was accepted into a Bachelor of Physical Health and Education in 2014, the Illawarra local knew if he wanted to give his studies 100 per cent of his attention, he'd need some help.

"I'd heard about the Learning and Development Scholarship from a couple of people who were at university already," Brendan says.

The University of Wollongong was always Brendan's first choice for his degree.

"My sister is just about to finish her degree, and I'm the second one to go to university," he says.

"Although my parents would have supported me to go to uni, they are divorced so it would have been hard for them to help me financially. I also watched my sister try to work and study through her degree and saw how difficult it was."

Brendan says the Learning and Development Scholarship has meant he can not only afford to cover the expense of things like text books and computer equipment essential for students today, it has also given him a little extra breathing space in terms of working.

"The scholarship means I don't have to work as much and I can concentrate on my studies," he says.

**Brendan Belsite is kicking more goals in his undergraduate degree after receiving a Learning and Development Scholarship.**



# GIVING BACK IS GREATEST GIFT

Steven Bell is a firm believer in the notion of Noblesse Oblige.

"The modern day translation is it's about the old hand up rather than hand out," Steven says.

"I've been lucky, and worked hard, but there is also a thing about giving back."

Steven is one of UOW's longest supporters, making his first donation in 2003 when the University officially started seeking support for student scholarships and research.

As a UOW Alumni and father of four, Steven knows the gift of an education is one of the most inspiring and enduring anyone can receive and he is passionate about contributing to UOW.

"There's nothing like it [education] in terms of a gift. I believe education is the best way to improve society and a university education gives students the ability to learn about more than just their degree. It's not just about the piece of paper but all of what university involves," he says.

Steven's own university experience came later than many of his friends. After moving to Wollongong from Victoria in 1979 to work at Lysaghts, he took the opportunity to complete Year 12 at night school and apply to study maths, science and computing at UOW.

"I always wanted to go to university. I was the first in my family to go and it was a big deal for my family. Now three of my children have gone to university, and some of my nieces and nephews," he says.

"I worked full-time and went to lectures at night. During the time it took me to finish my degree I got married and started a family. Back in those days there was no such thing as PCs or remote access. I spent my Saturday nights in the computing lab, leaving on Sunday morning to get ready to go back to work."



**Supporter Steven Bell says the gift of education is priceless.**

Steven's work has since seen him working for some of the world's top companies, global organisations and the federal government managing IT projects and large programs all over the world.

"I have quite a few American friends and they would talk about their universities and alma maters wanting them to succeed and be strong," he says.

"When UOW called me to ask for support, I'd just read something about the multi-billion dollar investments of US universities and the Alumni fundraising campaigns. I realised I wanted to see my university become strong, and be a leader.

"Our future is an educated society, so the more people that can be educated, the better we will be as a society – we all win out of that. It is important to give back and try to encourage people as much as possible to continue their education."

"It makes sense to contribute to a university that can change lives. UOW gave me a chance to change my life and obtain something that was irreplaceable. It was the key to do things I could never have done without that piece of paper."

# USA FOUNDATION TAKES UOW TO THE WORLD

The University of Wollongong is already a global institution but it is now taking the next step in its strategy in strengthening its presence internationally, with the creation of the UOW USA Foundation.

The University has 3000 exchange graduates and 3000 full graduates now living in the United States and its graduates are working with and in some of the biggest names in the business from finance to IT, law, fashion and entertainment.

There are only a handful of other Australian universities which have been granted this facility giving the UOW USA Foundation the status of a tax exempt 501 (c)(3) public charitable organisation through which US taxpayers can claim gifts as tax deductions. In accordance with this, the Trustees of the UOW USA Foundation allocate all donated gifts.

The USA Foundation represents the University's continued commitment to a strong and sustainable presence in North America, with the aim of raising financial support from USA-based alumni and friends towards research, scholarships and opportunities that transform regions and lives.

The first board meeting was held in New York City on September 17 with trustees (alumni Randall Cupp and George Delic) and Professor Paul Wellings presiding as Chair.

"The University of Wollongong has established an enduring relationship with higher education institutions through international exchange and study abroad programs. Many of these relationships with significant US Universities have been in place for over 20 years," says Monique Harper-Richardson, Director of Advancement and President, the University of Wollongong USA Foundation.

The support from donors who give through the UOW USA Foundation can be directed to the University's main giving priorities — research and student support — to enhance the student experience, drive research outputs and propel UOW towards a ranking in the top one per cent of universities worldwide.

In 2014 a senior delegation from the University, including the Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Wellings, travelled to the US to meet key alumni at a range of events and activities in major capital cities.

The delegation was also working to strengthen its international research, teaching and learning partnerships.

"Philanthropy through education has the ability to create a bigger idea a bigger vision and a wider impact — community support that created the University is a great example of what a game changer education can be through philanthropy," Harper-Richardson says.

"Education changes lives and has an enormous impact. Powered by those giving back, it has the opportunity to change the big picture."





**Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Wellings, CBE in New York City for the inaugural Board meeting of the University of Wollongong USA Foundation.**

# AN OCEAN OF RESEARCH

A Wollongong University researcher is working to ensure the people of the Pacific Islands will have enough to eat for the foreseeable future after experts predicted there may not be enough fish to support the region after 2030.

Dr Quentin Hanich from UOW's Global Challenges Research Program is leading a new project in Sustaining Coastal and Marine Zones, working with the Australian National Centre of Ocean Resource and Security and other international bodies on making sure there is food security in the Pacific region for more than the next decade.

Dr Hanich, the convenor of the Fisheries Equity Research Network (FERN), an organisation conducting world-leading research into the multi-lateral distribution of conservation limits in trans-boundary fisheries, says international cooperation is essential for research to be funded and continued.

The Pacific Islands project, which is being supported by AusAid and the Australian Centre for Agricultural Research and FERN, is looking at how to make sure the inshore fisheries that are crucial to the rural economies and food supply of Pacific Island countries are not depleted through mismanagement and climate change.

These inshore fisheries not only provide important protein sources to regions but are also one of the few cash sources for village and coastal communities.

The project will focus on Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu to transform nearshore fisheries' governance and build on ANCORS' multi-disciplinary research and policy expertise.

"It is critical coastal communities can effectively manage and sustainably develop their fisheries in a region where fish provide 40-50% of animal protein for coastal communities and are a key resource for food security, livelihoods, revenue and development," Dr Hanich says.

**Dr Quentin Hanich's research is vital in ensuring the oceans of the world can support future needs.**





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# BANKING ON IT

Isaac Wall is used to dealing with large amounts of cash — now. But when he started at the University of Wollongong it was a different story.

Last year Isaac, who completed a double degree in law and finance, won the inaugural national award in one of the most competitive industries in Australia — he was named the AB+F Young Banking and Finance Commercial Banking Risk Professional of the Year.

Australian Banking + Finance magazine, in conjunction with Dun & Bradstreet, hosted the inaugural Dun & Bradstreet Young Banking and Finance Professional Awards in Sydney last September. The awards recognise the excellence of young people working across the banking and finance industry and were open to all banking and finance professionals under the age of 35 Australia wide.

Candidates were judged on their contribution to their organisation and the industry in areas of process improvements, innovation, leadership and proven examples of going above and beyond

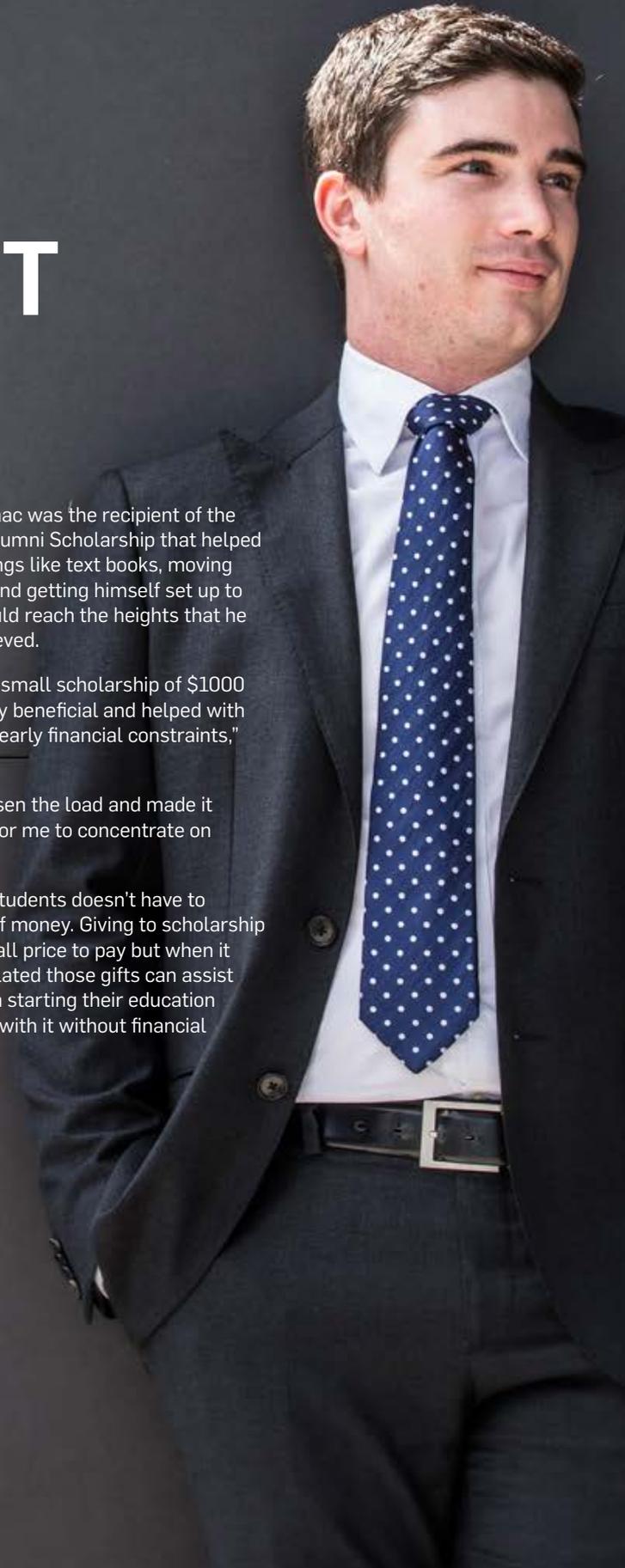
Isaac's hard work at UOW certainly paid off, and he was fortunate that he could devote that extra time to study thanks to a scholarship he was awarded in his first year at university in 2009.

Back then, Isaac was the recipient of the Children of Alumni Scholarship that helped him cover things like text books, moving out of home and getting himself set up to ensure he could reach the heights that he has now achieved.

"It was only a small scholarship of \$1000 but it was very beneficial and helped with a lot of those early financial constraints," he says.

"It helped lessen the load and made it much easier for me to concentrate on my studies."

"Supporting students doesn't have to involve a lot of money. Giving to scholarship funds is a small price to pay but when it is all accumulated those gifts can assist someone with starting their education or continuing with it without financial hardship."



# COFFEE FOR A CAUSE

One future scholarship holder can raise a glass — or in this case a coffee cup — to the campus cafes, their clientele and the University's Community Engagement team after the annual fundraising campaign, Coffee for a Cause.

The week-long campaign, now in its eighth year, raised more than \$3000, which is donated to the University's Learning and Development Fund and will help finance support for one of the scholarship holders for a year.

The campaign is part of the UOW Cares Workplace Giving Program which provides opportunities for staff and students to support not just students and research at the University, but other nominated charities.

Since UOW Cares started a decade ago, staff and students have raised around \$400,000 which has provided support to a range of community and humanitarian organisations including Headspace Wollongong, the Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience, and the Fred Hollows Foundation.

Coffee for a Cause has been growing each year and involves a 20 cent donation from participating cafes on campus for every coffee sold during the campaign. This year the University's satellite campuses at Shoalhaven, Bega and Moss Vale also participated for the first time, hosting morning teas at which donations to the Learning and Development Fund could be made.



**UOW student Melanie Dinnie takes a coffee break to support UOW Cares Coffee for a Cause campaign.**

The Learning and Development Fund supports students in need. Ten Learning and Development scholarships are offered each year valued at \$3000 per annum over three years which are only made possible by the generosity of supporters of UOW including alumni, staff and the wider community.

# A RARE FIND

When Margie Jantti, Director Library Services at the University of Wollongong, first laid eyes on the book that now takes pride of place amongst the University's rare book collection it was not in good shape.

But Margie could see its beauty and research value hidden beneath the water damage and binding issues and knew that the anonymous donation was something to treasure.

The book is a first edition of *The Voyage of Governor Phillip to Botany Bay: With an Account of the Establishment of the Colonies of Port Jackson and Norfolk Island* which was printed in London by John Stockdale in 1789.

It was presented to former Vice-Chancellor Gerard Sutton in 2011 and handed over to the library for safe keeping which is where Margie first saw it.

"We have sourced some auction catalogues and after looking through them I found that on the market, in excellent condition, this book was valued at around \$25,000," she says.

"I anticipated that through thoughtful restoration, the donated volume, in monetary terms could be worth upwards of \$10,000."

With that in mind, the library commissioned award-winning book restorer, German-trained Barbara Schmelzer, to put her skills to work and bring the book back to its full glory.

The restoration cost around \$6000 but the book is now worth more than its rebirthing costs and is one of the gems in the library's archive and rare book collection.

"The restoration is magnificent and we're excited about having it as part of our rare books collection and it is attracting a lot of interest," she says.

Interested to know about the donor, Margie researched the book's history and discovered the person who had handed the gift to Gerard Sutton was a former UOW student who graduated with a Bachelor of Mathematics in 1989.

"He has an interest in rare books and other historical records and has a wonderful collection," she says.

"I have since reached out to him to tell him the volume has been fully restored and got to meet him and show him what we had done. He was thrilled."

Margie says the motivation behind the donation was because the donor could see the benefit the book could bring to students, staff and other researchers interested in the history of the region.

"The intention was for the book to be used for both learning and research. He recognises the value of the book in this way (as do we) and that it ties in beautifully with our existing archives and rare books and adds a considerable richness to our collection."

Margie says with support the library could work with its rare books collection more fully, in both restoration and digitisation.

"Private financial support can help unlock our special collections," she says.

**Director of Library Services, Margie Jantti, says support through donations is vital in maintaining and growing the University's resources for both students and the community.**





# SCHOLARSHIP WILL HELP NATHAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The moment he received the Jack Goldring Memorial Scholarship was the moment Nathan Johnston knew he could help make a difference to the lives of the people for whom he has become an advocate.

Nathan's dreams, aspirations and his contributions to social justice epitomise what the Jack Goldring Memorial Scholarship is all about — fairness, equity and making a difference.

It's thanks to supporters of the scholarship endowment fund — UOW staff, alumni, family and friends of Jack Goldring — that Nathan will be able to continue to be an advocate of social justice and protector of the vulnerable.

Nathan is the second recipient of the Jack Goldring Memorial Scholarship awarded to a final year law student who has shown leadership in areas of social justice and upholds the vision of UOW's founding Dean in the Faculty of Law, Emeritus Professor Jack Goldring.

The \$10,000 scholarship will allow Nathan to continue his advocacy work with groups such as the Strategic Community Assistance for Refugee Families, and Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience.

"I often find that I am most focused on, and the strongest advocate for, social justice issues that I have worked in probably because I have had an opportunity to speak to those affected by the issue and gain a greater understanding of the nuances of the matter. The education of Australia's First People, and the welfare of refugees particularly as they transition into new



**The Hon Justice Virginia Bell AC and Nathan Johnston.**

lives in Australia, are just two of the issues I have worked with that I am passionate about.

"There are some incredibly gifted and committed people working within our local organisations on both of these issues (AIME, and SCARF in particular) and I owe an incredible amount of my passion to them. They have taken the time to talk to me and round out my understanding of the issues, motivating me to continue to work in these fields."

Nathan is hoping to forge a career in the High Court of Australia or the NSW Supreme Court as a judicial officer.

"Such a position would give me an incredible vantage point at which to study advocacy and the law in action and learn from the leading legal minds in the country," he said.

"By working within the law I want to be able to pursue fairness for the vulnerable in society. Ultimately, I hope to become a judicial officer of the Australian High Court."



**Professor Julie Steele of Breast Research Australia is working on a number of initiatives to help women with breast health including the lymphatic sleeve for post breast cancer surgery and the bionic bra.**

# THE WONDER OF A BIONIC BRA

Steve Austin may have been the world's first bionic man when he became a small screen hero on our TVs in the 1970s, but researchers at UOW have turned make-believe into reality with the world's first bionic bra.

Looking after breast health has been a passion of UOW researchers for many years and the University is the home of Breast Research Australia. As part of its work BRA has been working not just on the bionic bra, but on innovations like the lymphatic sleeve, a support garment to help breast cancer patients after surgery to maintain an active and pain-free life.

For the past 15 years Professor Julie Steele, director of BRA, has been working with Professor Gordon Wallace Executive Research Director of the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for Electromaterials Science, investigating the movement of women's breasts during physical activity.

Her research may not have been obvious to half the population but for women, especially active women, it was welcome

news because for many women, not having proper breast support can cause long-term damage including numbness in the fingers caused by compression of nerves on the shoulders, as well as neck and back pain.

"Unfortunately, the most supportive sports bras tend to be the most uncomfortable to wear. Making matters worse, BRA research has found that 85 per cent of women are wearing bras that do not fit or support their breasts correctly," Prof Steele says.

After more than a decade of investigations, technology is finally catching up to the researchers' vision with the Bionic Bra team discovering new actuators and sensing technologies that will bring the bra to life.

"Our ability to make things from advanced materials has been greatly enhanced recently with the advent of new approaches to fabrication. The advent of approaches such as 3D printing has enabled us to assemble structures containing new sensing

technologies to more accurately monitor movement and new artificial muscle technologies to control it. These advances have inspired us to revisit the challenges involved in creating the Bionic Bra," Prof Wallace said.

While vast improvements have been made recently to the design of the Bionic Bra, the researchers say there are still some kinks to iron out.

"Although we have made substantial progress, we still have a way to go before the Bionic Bra can be taken from the bench top to the washing machine. However, when finished, the Bionic Bra will transform bra design," Prof Steele said.

The team's most recent results show technologies can sense breast motion and provide additional breast support. The challenge now is to integrate these technologies into a functional, comfortable bra.



**Early Start Discovery Space project coordinator Adam Selinger is excited about the installations already in place at the new hands-on learning centre.**

# OPEN WIDE, COME INSIDE AND DISCOVER

There's only so much kids can stomach, and at the Early Start Discovery Space, they'll be able to get their fill of hands-on learning to last them until their next visit.

The Discovery Space will attract more than 120,000 children and their families from across Australia each year, and provide more than 2000 sqm of activity/exhibit space, outdoor exploration courtyards and discovery galleries.

It is the jewel in the crown of the Early Start Research Institute, and a project that aims to introduce children from 0 to 12 years to the joy of learning and discovery. It will be Australia's only example of a USA-styled 'children's museum'.

Project Coordinator at UOW's Early Start Discovery Space, Adam Selinger, says evidence suggests learning through play has the greatest impact on young minds and the space is designed to get kids playing like they've never played before.

"Imaginative play is a crucial component of a child's healthy development. It might look simple and uncomplicated but children's play is actually a complex process that affects all aspects of a child's life. Play shapes how children make sense of their world, how they learn thinking skills, and how they acquire language," Mr Selinger said.

When the Early Start Discovery Space opens later this year it will have more than a dozen interactive experiences. Visitors will be able to take a tour of a tummy (complete with full anatomical sound effects), crawl through a cave, create a masterpiece in the Artists' Precinct, barter in the Marketplace, and discover the genius of Galileo from his study.

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