

WESTERN SYDNEY
UNIVERSITY



Impact Report

2015

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REALISING WESTERN
SYDNEY'S UNLIMITED
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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN 2015

As we look back on 2015, it is heartening to see how much we have accomplished with your help. We would like to express our thanks to all of our supporters – our alumni, friends, industry partners, staff and the broader community – for the tremendous support you have provided to Western Sydney University.

At Western Sydney University we believe in a world of unlimited potential for anyone with the drive, talent and ambition to succeed. With a bold new identity reaffirming our place in Western Sydney and internationally, we value academic excellence, integrity and the pursuit of knowledge.

Working closely with our community, we are committed to unlocking the potential of our students as future leaders and change-makers. With this in mind, our vision is to create one of Australia's largest scholarship programs – to provide unlimited opportunities for success for our students and the extended community. Scholarships are life changing, with benefits that flow for generations far in excess of the initial investment made.

Thanks to your support we were able to offer significantly more donor-funded scholarships to students than ever before – with 155 students receiving donor-funded scholarships in 2015 compared to 87 in 2014.

We must also recognise the work of the University's Foundation Council in achieving such a fantastic result. Their guidance, commitment and support has propelled our scholarship campaign aspirations significantly, especially through the leadership of Foundation Council member, Katie Page, who spearheaded the \$300,000 Harvey Norman Scholarship Program.

We thank our passionate and committed staff who donated towards Community Scholarships, as well as our new Refugee and Higher Degree Research scholarship funds. We are proud to be leaders in workplace giving across universities in Australia – with 408 staff participating in fortnightly payroll giving in 2015. That's close to triple the number we had at the beginning of 2015, with a staff participation rate of 14.5%. This will result in more scholarships for more students in 2016 and more again in 2017.

With one of the most diverse student populations of any Australian university, it is fitting that we launched a Refugee Scholarship Fund in 2015, with the University contributing the first \$500,000. Our plan is to help many more students on humanitarian visas over the coming years with scholarships.

We thank philanthropist Mr Xiangmo Huang for his visionary gift, the largest single gift ever received by the University at the time, which will be utilised to establish the Australia-China Institute for Arts and Culture in

2016. The new Institute will educate future generations of students and serve as a resource for Australians aspiring to develop their knowledge and appreciation of Chinese culture through research, education and international exchange.

We would also like to thank the Jacka Foundation of Natural Therapies and the Blackmores Foundation for their generous gifts in 2015, towards the National Institute of Complementary Medicine (NICM), which will bolster the future of complementary medicine research in Australia.

Last year the University doubled the impact of donations towards scholarships by matching gifts of more than \$500,000. We again thank Mr Xiangmo Huang for being the first to donate a gift of this size to the scholarship fund and see the value of his gift doubled.

In 2015 we were saddened by the passing of long-time friend and supporter of the University, Dr William Chiu. Dr Chiu will be remembered for his exceptional service to those less fortunate, his successful international business career, a commitment to the peaceful reunification of China and his philanthropic support of many important causes across the globe.

No matter whether you donate towards scholarships, research, facilities or the arts, we thank you for your commitment to the betterment of our community. When you give to Western Sydney University you can rest assured that 100% of your donation goes directly to where you intended, maximising its impact now and into the future.

Thank you for making 2015 a great success and for your continued support.



Professor Peter Shergold AC
Chancellor
Western Sydney University



Professor Barney Glover
Vice-Chancellor and President
Western Sydney University

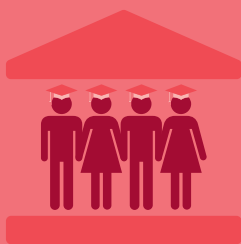


Danny Gilbert AM
Chairman
Foundation Council



WESTERN SYDNEY: LEADING THE WAY IN SUPPORT OF REFUGEES

15



NEW REFUGEE
SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

OVER
\$500,000



RAISED FOR REFUGEE SCHOLARSHIPS

We, as a community, have united in the face of terror and a refugee crisis which has left countless thousands persecuted and homeless.

Now is the time to act – to help settle and rebuild the shattered lives of people who have been forced to flee their homes, people whose livelihoods have been destroyed, and who will never go back.

Western Sydney University has a history of welcoming students who would otherwise not have the opportunity to attend university. We have more students from refugee backgrounds than any other higher education institute in Australia.

Today's humanitarian crisis in the Middle East will present new challenges.

I was recently appointed the NSW Coordinator-General for Refugee Resettlement, tasked with harnessing all levels of government, business, education and the community to settle at least 4,000 of Australia's additional intake of 12,000 refugees. It will be the largest single resettlement of Middle Eastern refugees in the state's history.

Scholarships will be vital to this resettlement process.

Many refugees coming to our shores have been forced to abandon their studies, but they will have an opportunity to rebuild their lives, to gain an education, find employment and to contribute to Australian society.

We know that education is the key to unlocking potential.

We know scholarships empower students.

A scholarship of around \$7,500 a year can ease the financial burden of gaining an education. It can allow a student to be self-sufficient and, with an education, these skilled and talented people can go on to make a difference to our community and our country.

In September, Western Sydney University launched a Refugee Scholarships Fund with a \$500,000 lead donation by the University. Our goal is to be able to help hundreds of

refugee students over the coming years.

As a result of a boardroom lunch hosted by our Foundation Council Chairman, Danny Gilbert AM, it is with immense gratitude that I report, to date, three major gifts totalling \$382,500 courtesy of Nadia and Alf Taylor of TNA Solutions, Mr Talal Yassine of the Crescent Foundation and an anonymous donor. Our generous suppliers, Talent International and Allianz, have contributed \$37,000 and it is estimated our staff will donate an additional \$100,000 through our Staff Giving program in 2016.

Our scholarships will help support students and enable them to rediscover and pursue their dreams.

Compassion and acceptance is part of our make-up at Western Sydney University. We are leaders in helping students in need.

We have one of the most culturally and socio-economically diverse student populations of any university in Australia, and have more than 350 students on humanitarian visas.

The inspirational story of graduate and lawyer Deng Adut shows the impact we can make – as individuals, a university, a community. Deng's extraordinary life and the contributions he has made to society demonstrate the power of opportunity for those escaping persecution – and the reality is there are many other students at Western Sydney University with similar stories.

For more information, or to contribute to our Refugee Scholarships Fund, please visit **give.westernsydney.edu.au/potentialunlimited** or contact us on **02 9685 9511**.

For those of you who have already contributed, I thank you sincerely for helping to change the lives of people who come to our country seeking safety and opportunity. Your generous support provides opportunity not only for the individual scholarship recipients, but for their families, the community and, ultimately, Australian society.



Professor Peter Shergold AC
Chancellor

GIVING AT WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY 2015

\$8,261,932



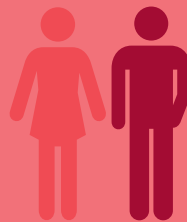
TOTAL VALUE OF GIFTS

752



DONORS

414



FIRST TIME DONORS

4,552



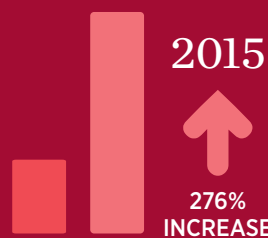
GIFTS

\$6,066,555

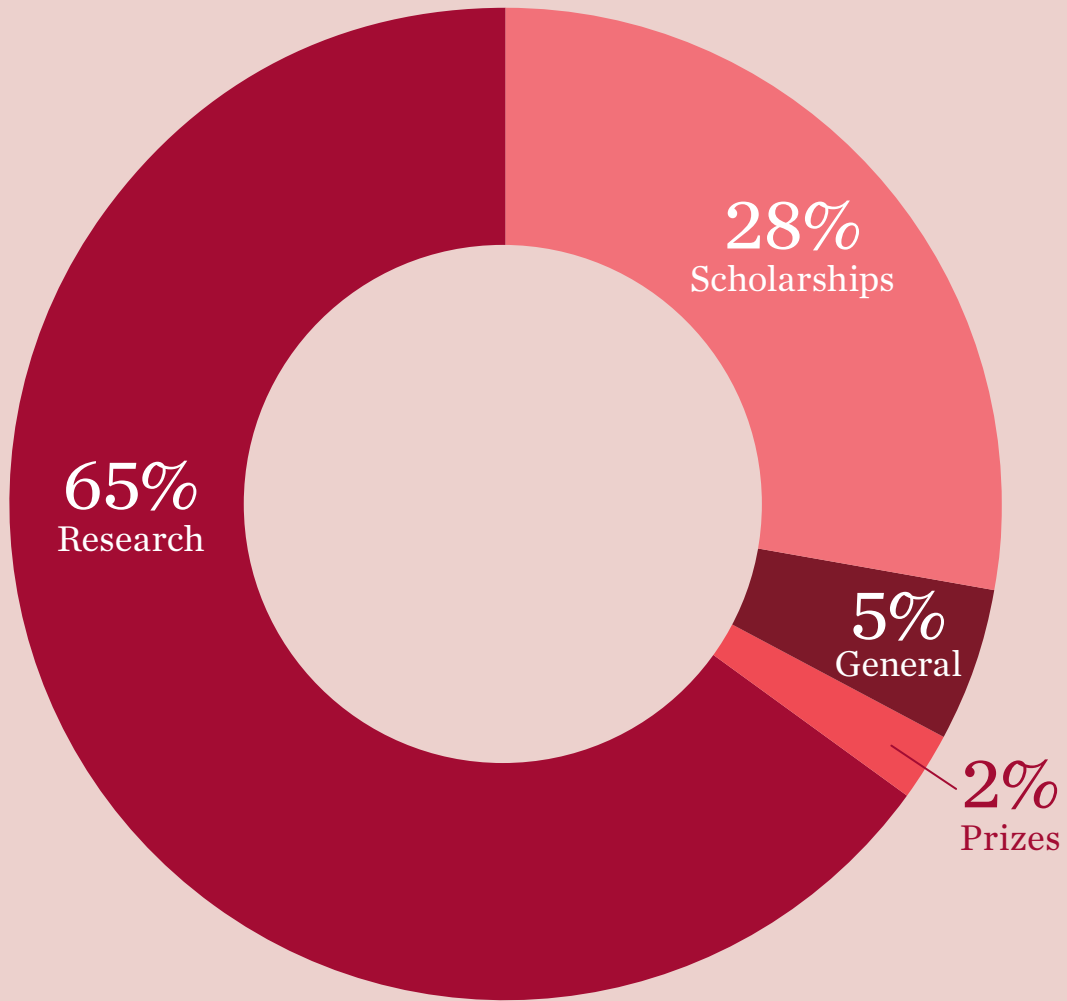
INCREASE ON 2014

2014

2015



ALLOCATION OF GIFTS



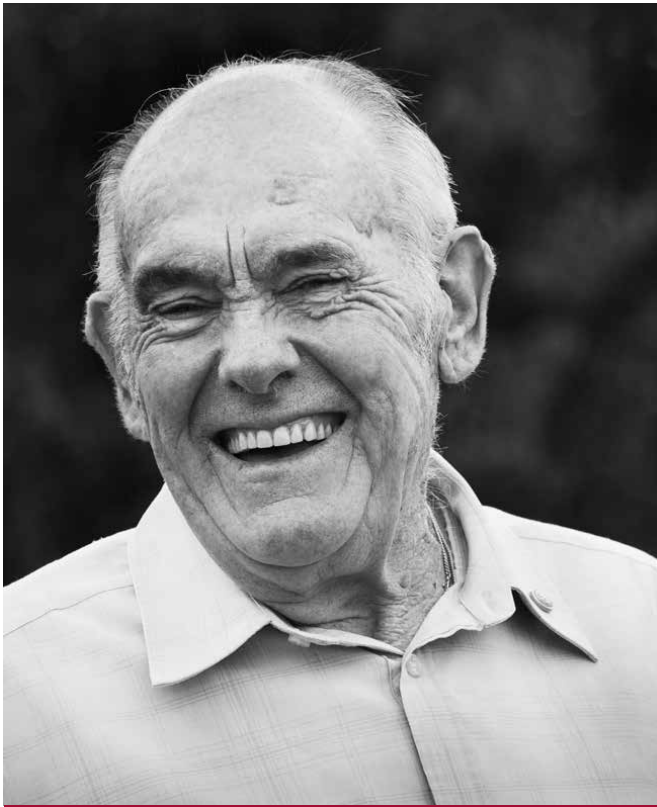
170

DONOR SUPPORTED PRIZES AWARDED IN 2015

\$128,000

TOTAL VALUE OF PRIZES TO RECIPIENTS IN 2015

MEDICAL SCHOLARSHIP TO HELP RURAL INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES



Mr Rod McLean, donor to the Miriam McLean Prize for Excellence in Nursing

PRIZE IN HONOUR OF DEDICATED, CARING NURSE

In her husband's words, Miriam McLean was an "old-style nurse". She was "dedicated and truly caring."

"Miriam trained in the '50s, and back then nurses did everything," says Rod McLean, who established the Miriam McLean Prize for Excellence in Clinical Practice in her memory.

The \$1,000 prize awards students who aspire to contribute to nursing in a similar way.

Miriam was a nurse for 40 years, graduating in 1958 at War Memorial Hospital Waverley. She married Rod that year.

She gained her Diploma in Applied Science and became a clinical nurse consultant at Milperra College, which later became part of Western Sydney University. Miriam, who retired in 1998, was designated a Paul Harris Fellow by Rotary in recognition of her volunteer work and community service, particularly around tuberculosis.

He may have three years of study remaining, but 21-year-old Tom Hatch is firmly focused on helping meet the medical needs of rural Indigenous communities.

A Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) student, Tom was awarded an Australian Rotary Health Indigenous Health Scholarship at the start of 2015, his second year as a medical student. It allowed him to move closer to the Campbelltown Campus where he is completing his studies.

Tom, whose father is Aboriginal and mother is Samoan, says getting Indigenous medical students "over the line to become medical doctors in turn helps Indigenous

people and communities, and helps to close the gap.

"I do think that as a preference a lot Indigenous people are more comfortable opening up to another Indigenous person, so having Indigenous medical or even health practitioners in a rural setting helps."

Australian Rotary Health Program Co-ordinator Cheryl Deguara says the organisation supports areas that generally receive less acknowledgement and assistance.

Thomas Hatch
MBBS STUDENT



“Indigenous and mental health, and rural doctors and nurses are the areas that we are supporting because they don’t get a great deal of support elsewhere,” she says.

Australian Rotary Health, with the support of local Rotary clubs, has funded scholarships at Western Sydney University as part of a national program since 2004. Scholarships are currently supporting two Indigenous health and medicine students, and two medical students completing rural clinical placements.

For Tom, it’s about helping communities in need. He also has his sights set on sharing his expertise in Samoa.

“I like to be in touch with both of my cultures. I try to embrace them both so working over in Samoa with the other half of my family is something I’d love to do as well.”

Tom encourages other Indigenous students considering a medical degree to chase their dreams.

“There are a lot of people to talk to about finances, and a lot of uni staff are there specifically to talk to Indigenous people, or are Indigenous themselves.

“I would encourage any Indigenous person do it, especially if they have a love of science.”

For more information about establishing a scholarship, visit westernsydney.edu.au/give

SCHOLARSHIPS CHANGING LIVES, SECURING FUTURES



Harvey Norman Scholarship recipients:
top left – Kathryn Engledow, B Social Work student
top right – Arezo Masoomy, B Medical Science student
bottom left – Amanda Burnet, B Occupational Therapy student

**“I’m ambitious and now see a future for myself that is separate from my children as they become more and more independent.”
– Kathryn Engledow**

The future of 13 inspiring people has been rewritten with a scholarship that, for some, will be a launch pad to become leaders in their field. For others, it will secure positive life changes for their families.

Meet three of the diverse and aspirational students now on track to achieve their dreams, thanks to the \$300,000 Harvey Norman Scholarship Program, launched this year.

Arezo Masoomy came to Australia with her family as a refugee from Afghanistan; Amanda Burnet was inspired by the therapists helping her autistic son; and Kathryn Engledow is a single mother of four. Respectively, they are studying Medical Science, Occupational Therapy and Social Work.

Their stories are one thing, but it was a mutual determination for success and a hunger for a better life that earned them a scholarship of \$7,500 for each year of their degree.

Arezo, a second-year Medical Science student and carer for her parents, excels at university and aims to advance into Medicine and give back to her community. Her scholarship helps with expenses such as textbooks and tuition fees.

Amanda experienced the incredible impact occupational therapists have on children during therapy for her own son. Her scholarship

helps her get to campus and eases the pressure of having to work.

“I owe it to my family to show that whatever you go through, at the end of the day if you want to do it, you can,” she says.

Single mum Kathryn wants to inspire other mothers to study and develop their careers: “I’m ambitious and now see a future for myself that is separate from my children as they become more and more independent”.

“Supporting the University is vital to securing the region’s future success” says Harvey Norman CEO Katie Page, also a Western Sydney University Foundation Council member. “We all need to share the responsibility and get behind the University – our scholarship recipients are bright, hard-working, determined and diverse. There are many more whose life can be changed by the support of business and the broader community.”

For more information on the Harvey Norman Scholars, visit westernsydney.edu.au/harveynorman

THANK YOU TO HARVEY NORMAN AND THEIR SUPPLIERS

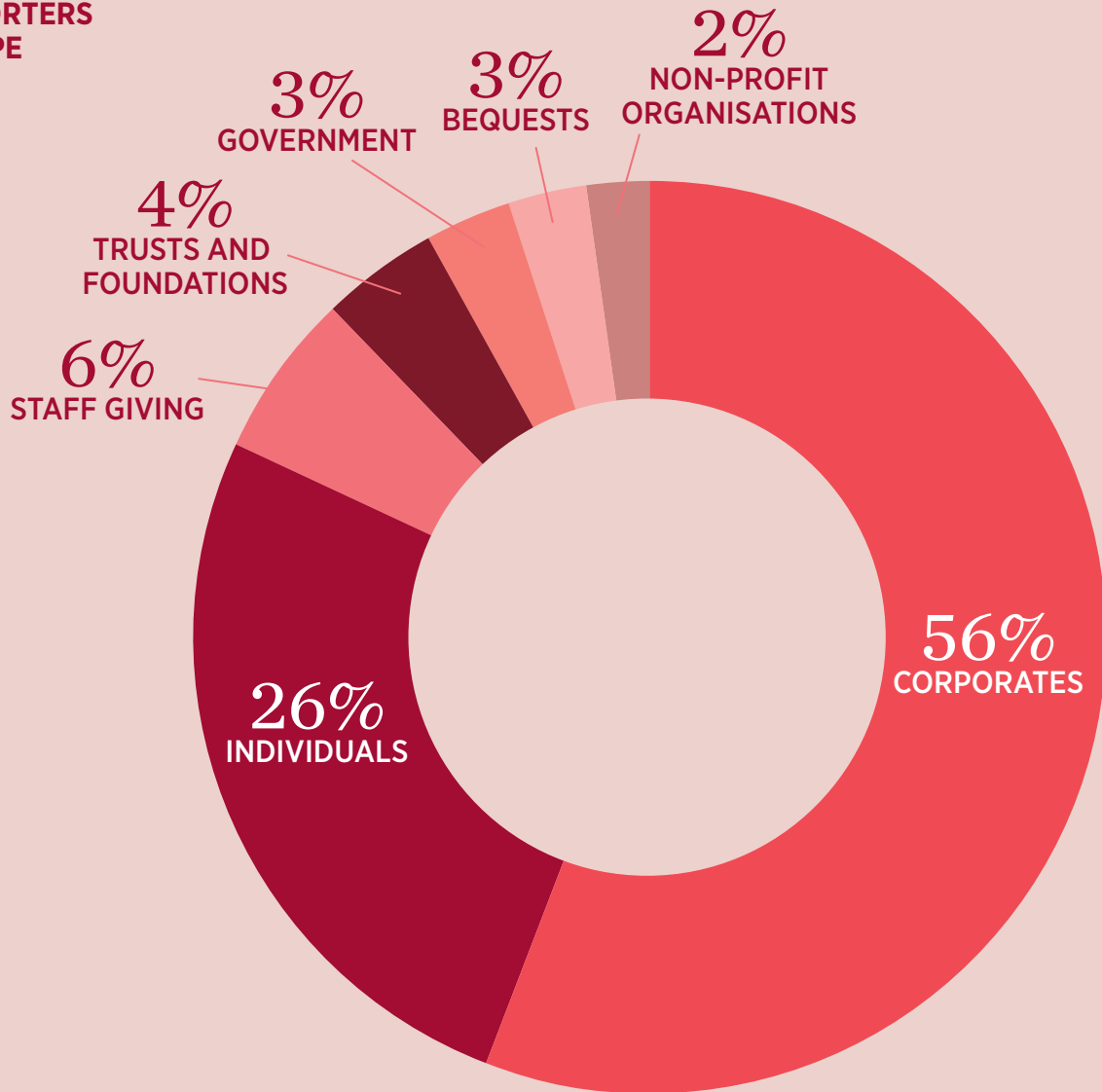
AH Beard
Asus
Australian Comfort Group Pty Ltd
t/a Sleepmaker
Bambi
Beats – C/O Ingram Micro
BSH Home Appliances Pty Ltd
Coral Bay East Coast
Dyson
Electrolux
Fisher & Paykel Aust Pty Ltd
FitBit

Fujitsu General (AUST) PTY Limited
Furniture Solutions
Garmin
Guardisman Australia
Lenovo
LG Electronics
Logitech
Lyndon Valley
Masport
Miele
Mitsubishi
Oak Grove Upholstery

Paddington Furniture
PYS Furniture
Sealy Australia
Snug Fit
Sony
Sunbeam
Tempur
Toshiba (Australia) Pty Ltd
Vivin Imports
Zeta Design
Harvey Norman

POTENTIAL UNLIMITED SCHOLARSHIPS CAMPAIGN

SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORTERS BY TYPE



2013: **84**

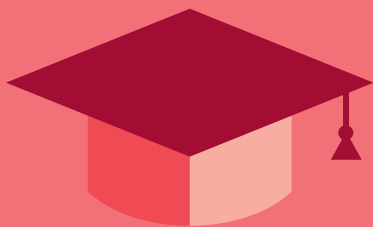


2014: **100**



2015: **177**

TOTAL NUMBER OF AVAILABLE DONOR-FUNDED SCHOLARSHIPS



\$2,300,923

TOTAL VALUE OF
SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS



SUPPORT FOR SCHOLARSHIPS
FROM STAFF GIVING VIA PAYROLL

\$71,326

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

\$13,011

REFUGEE SCHOLARSHIPS

2014



2015



63%

INCREASE IN
SCHOLARSHIP
FUNDING FOR
STUDENTS





John B Fairfax AO

BUSINESSMAN AND
PHILANTHROPIST

Danielle Creek

PRIZE RECIPIENT,
PHD STUDENT

My research focuses on the adaptations that arid Eucalypts possess to enable them to survive Australia's harsh outback conditions. I have a major drought experiment underway on the Hawkesbury campus using 2m tall arid Eucalyptus saplings that are repeatedly undergoing drought events. I want to know whether repeated droughts will better enable these trees to cope with future drought (through processes such as anatomical modifications or more efficient use of water) or instead will they sustain irreparable damage each drought and eventually succumb to some future event? I have also started to test some of these theories using mature trees in the National Parks in Bourke, NSW. This research should begin to shed some light on the future of these trees in our increasingly dry and hot climate.



DISTINGUISHED RURAL ADVOCATES SUPPORT HAWKESBURY APPEAL

One hundred and twenty-five years of tradition and academic excellence at the Hawkesbury campus has drawn the support of a diverse group of alumni, business people and politicians – all with a long-standing affiliation with the region.

Businessman and philanthropist John B Fairfax AO, 1940s graduate George Bennett – who worked with John at the Royal Agricultural Society, and the Hawkesbury Alumni Chapter (HAC) are all passionate advocates for rural issues, and are leading supporters of the Hawkesbury Appeal.

Agriculture and Nursing students will be the first to benefit, with recipients of two

Hawkesbury Scholarships and the \$3,500 Hawkesbury Appeal Prize for research excellence to be announced.

“No longer do farmers rely on the wool from a sheep’s back to sustain their ‘passion’ for a rural lifestyle. Farming today is a skill to be learned. These scholarships enable young people to become aware of the many opportunities modern farming offers,” says John Fairfax.

John, who has started work on his memoirs, has a long history of service to the community through executive roles with agricultural and charitable organisations, including serving on the board of the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW Foundation. As Chairman of Rural Press for more than 15 years, he helped build the agricultural and regional publisher into a highly successful media company.

“The Hawkesbury campus has a long and strong tradition

in agricultural education. Australia has benefitted from methods and techniques developed at institutions such as Hawkesbury. It is therefore vital to maintain and encourage this education.”

Throughout history, leaders in the rural industry have been educated at the campus, which opened in 1891 as the Hawkesbury Agricultural College. Many heritage buildings remain in the 1,300 hectare grounds, which feature a working farm, extensive orchards and vineyards.

The Hawkesbury Alumni Chapter, which celebrates the past and future of the campus, donated proceeds to the appeal from its annual lunch hosted at NSW Parliament House by alumni Niall Blair MLC and Rick Colless MLC.

For more information about establishing a prize or scholarship, visit westernsydney.edu.au/give

DISTINGUISHED RURAL ADVOCATES SUPPORT HAWKESBURY APPEAL

A LIFE-LONG ASSOCIATION

Seventy-five years after first stepping foot on the campus, HAC member George Bennett is still a loyal supporter of the values and traditions that set his career in motion.

In 1942 the teenager, who had grown up on a Muswellbrook dairy farm during the Depression, received a telegram to say he had been selected to attend Hawkesbury Agricultural College on a bursary.

“I got on the train the next day and went down to Hawkesbury,” he said.

And so began a long and dedicated association with a campus that means so much to so many.

A week after his arrival at the college, George won the Junior Farmer Scholarship, which funded his entire Diploma of Agriculture. The outbreak of World War II suspended his studies, but he was able to complete his second diploma – in dairy technology – in 1948.

George began his career with the Department of Agriculture at the

Hawkesbury Dairy Factory, but soon renewed his association with the college when, in 1958, he became a junior farmer supervisor with the Department of Education. He became a staff member at Western Sydney University at Hawkesbury in 1970, where he organised practical training for Agriculture students until his retirement in 1986. He also served as Director of the Hawkesbury Foundation for more than 10 years, until 2009.

“Every contribution towards bursaries or scholarships can provide opportunities to help people who can’t afford to go to university,” says George. “In my case, I’d never have been there if it wasn’t for the bursary.”

For more information about opportunities for alumni to give, please visit westernsydney.edu.au/alumni_giving



George Bennett

DIPLOMA IN AGRICULTURE 1944,
HAWKESBURY DIPLOMA IN
DAIRYING 1948

PROUD STAFF SHARE COMMITMENT TO SUCCESS



Azadeh Ehsan had always loved science and studying. She held an Advanced Diploma of Radiography when she arrived in Australia with her husband as an asylum seeker from Iran five years ago.

Azadeh found acclimatising to the customs and language of her new country difficult. At the time, it was hard to imagine she would become a researcher at Western Sydney University.

But Azadeh found the courage to turn their lives around. She took English courses and applied to university.

She isn't a researcher yet, but she is well on her way – thanks to the support of a scholarship.

Now in the third year of her undergraduate science degree, and a recipient of the Joan Reid Scholarship for Refugee Women, Azadeh was on the Dean's Merit List and this year won The Great Irish Famine Memorial Award, a donor-

funded prize for academic excellence and service to the community.

"The scholarship means a lot to me. It will allow me to continue my studies," she says.

The "amazing contributions" of donors that help students like Azadeh inspired Carolyn Bennett to join the Staff Giving program. The Projects Coordinator in the Office of Organisational Development realised she could make a difference when she met the University's new Annual Giving Manager Ray Villarica while taking him through orientation.

"At that point, there were only 145 staff giving, and when you consider how many people actually work here, that isn't many," says Carolyn, who now promotes the program to new staff with "a real sense of pride".

"I took it on as a personal challenge. It's great to be able to share this opportunity with new staff attending orientation. I promote the program from my heart and set myself 'recruitment goals' to inspire others to join."

Less than a year on, Carolyn's efforts, combined with a staff giving campaign launched by Chancellor Professor Peter Shergold AC, have helped boost staff giving numbers to 409.

The University matches every dollar donated by staff towards scholarships, which means the impact of each donation is doubled. Staff can choose to direct a portion of their pre-tax salary to scholarships, the Whitlam Institute or one of four charity partners. The Staff Giving program supports Community Scholarships, which assist students

limited by hardship, and the new Refugee Scholarships Fund and Higher Degree Research Scholarships.

"Staff Giving is an effective way of fundraising for the University and its charity partners," says Ray. "One hundred per cent of payroll donations go towards the scholarship or charity partner – with no administration costs."

That means helping more students achieve their dreams – like Rebecca Ayton, a Paramedicine student whose life was turned upside down when a series of tragic circumstances hit her family. Burmese refugee Stepnar Htoo, the sole English speaker and provider for his family, has graduated with a Bachelor of Community Welfare. He knew education was key in establishing a career and contributing to the advancement of other refugees. Vanessa Askew, a mature-aged student and single mother of five, can now pursue a career in teaching despite financial hardship.

Vanessa says, "being a single mother of five children has meant that money is a real struggle. Sometimes even having enough money for food has been an issue. I want to finish my studies so that I can do better by my children and for myself. Thank you to all the donors who are making this possible."

Carolyn concludes "to think that I am helping somebody who is having a hard time, to enable somebody to realise their degree dreams – it feels really good to contribute in a small way."

To become a staff giver and help students achieve their dreams, visit westernsydney.edu.au/staffgiving



Staff member Carolyn Bennett (left) with Community Scholarship recipient Christine Foote, Bachelor of Midwifery student

GRANDMOTHER FIRST IN FAMILY TO ATTEND UNIVERSITY

Christine Foote is a mature-aged student of Midwifery. She is a grandmother and the first in her family to attend university. She has appeared on the Dean's Merit List for academic achievement. Her life-long goal is to become a registered midwife.

Her Western Sydney University Community Scholarship has allowed Christine to take part in important work that will inform best practices in the care of new mothers and their babies.

STAFF GIVING ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2015



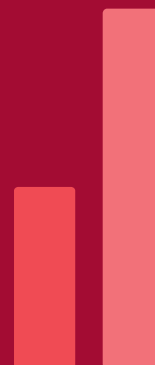
\$125,006

TOTAL VALUE OF
PAYROLL DONATIONS
MADE BY STAFF IN 2015



15

COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIPS
AWARDED AS A RESULT OF
ALUMNI AND STAFF GIFTS



182%
INCREASE IN THE
NUMBER OF STAFF
PARTICIPATING IN
PAYROLL GIVING

FORMER SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT LEAVES LASTING LEGACY

Adversity in the workplace certainly hasn't impeded Professor Margaret Vickers in achieving her goals – despite being diagnosed with multiple sclerosis (MS). It is, however, the focus of her research – and in some ways, the inspiration behind her bequest to the University.

A stipend scholarship helped Professor Vickers complete her PhD at Western Sydney University in 1998. Her bequest will provide two ongoing stipend scholarships for research students with a disability or chronic illness.

“I wanted to do something that will help people reach their life goals like I did. I thought about how much the uni has changed my life,” says Professor Vickers, who had never imagined gaining a university education when she went to technical college to become a typist in the 1970s.

She began her university studies, aged 21, when she realised her typist's pay was not enough to live on. She was one of only 11 students graduating in 1987 from the fledgling Bachelor of Business (Computing and Information Systems) at the then Nepean College of Advanced Education, now part of Western Sydney University.

A turning point came when Professor Vickers was diagnosed with MS.

“I didn't want to go back to the corporate world – I wanted to do something more meaningful,” she says. Her life changed when she crossed paths with a former lecturer who told her about a tutoring role at the University. That job turned into a role as a lecturer, and led to a PhD in Commerce.

Now the accomplished academic not only aims to help businesses develop policies to support their workforce, she aims to help others achieve their goals.

“I'm interested in the difficulties that people encounter while working and how they've coped, whether they have a chronic illness, disability, mental health issues, or are victims of workplace bullying.

“I've gone from being a typist to being a Professor who has travelled the world and had wonderful learning and teaching opportunities.”

For more information on leaving a bequest to Western Sydney University, please visit westernsydney.edu.au/bequest

Professor Margaret Vickers

**BACHELOR OF BUSINESS (COMPUTING
AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS) 1986,
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (COMMERCE)
1998**

“I wanted to do something that will help people reach their life goals like I did. I thought about how much the uni has changed my life.”



WESTERN SYDNEY
UNIVERSITY



Australia-China Institute for Arts and Culture

澳大利亚-中国艺术与文化研究院



Vice-Chancellor and University President Professor Barney Glover (left) and Mr Xiangmo Huang (right) at the signing ceremony to establish the Australia-China Institute for Arts and Culture.

AUSTRALIA, CHINA: FUTURES ENTWINED

At a time when Australia-China relations are of utmost importance, Western Sydney University's connections in China – and with Australia's Chinese community – are also deepening.

Generous philanthropic gifts from the Chinese community have not only provided the momentum to build stronger ties with China; ultimately, they will help future Chinese leaders increase their understanding of Australia and Western Sydney.

Thanks to this support, the University can help establish a greater understanding of Chinese culture, forge relationships with Chinese universities and support students studying Chinese language and culture.

VISIONARY GIFT TO ENHANCE CULTURAL CONNECTION

A new Australia-China Institute for Arts and Culture will open the hearts and minds of students, researchers and the community to Chinese culture, thanks to the single largest gift received by the University to date.

Philanthropist and businessman Xiangmo Huang was inspired by a vision to build an enduring relationship between Australia and China. His gift will help develop a global mindset

through internationally relevant research and an understanding and appreciation of Chinese culture through a program of scholarships.

The Institute will provide an opportunity for language, literature, art, knowledge, teaching expertise and ideas to be fostered and exchanged.

“To be a university of international standing is to have an international

mindset that is embedded in our students, our teaching and our research,” says Vice-Chancellor Professor Barney Glover. “This can only be realised with great leadership and courage from individuals like Xiangmo Huang.”

To discuss opportunities to provide philanthropic support for research, please contact the Office of Advancement and Alumni on **02 9685 9511**

NEW SCHOLARSHIPS ANNOUNCED

Every year Western Sydney University hosts a Chinese dinner to celebrate the special relationship between the University and its multi-cultural communities – and the support they provide. This year

two new gifts from the Chinese community were announced: a scholarship funded by the Australian Fujian Association that will support bilingual education research and support

for international scholarships by The Australian Economics Trade and Culture Association.

For more information on how you can support students, please visit westernsydney.edu.au/give



8,000
WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY ALUMNI LIVE IN HONG KONG AND CHINA



3,000+
WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY STUDENTS SPEAK CHINESE AT HOME

SCIENCE PROVING VALUE OF COMPLEMENTARY MEDICINE

It is a \$3.5 billion industry, and two in three Australians use it to prevent or treat illness, and promote wellbeing.

But this health care practice is not usually delivered by your local GP.

Complementary medicine is a range of health care practices, including traditional and natural medicines and therapies, that fall outside the realm of conventional medicine.

As its benefits continue to be proven, rigorous research is building a scientific base of evidence for its use.

This is where the National Institute of Complementary Medicine (NICM) is recognised as a world authority – and why it has the support of Australia’s leading complementary medicine companies.

“We know there are as many consultations for complementary therapies (in Australia) as there are GP visits,” says Blackmores Institute Director Dr Lesley Braun. “On that basis alone, there is an ethical imperative to uncover more research and evidence for their use, but also to understand the mechanisms of action, new applications and also safety issues.”

Blackmores, a key supporter of NICM, recently funded three more scholarships at the Institute.

NICM Executive Director Professor Alan Bensoussan says the support of Blackmores and the Institute’s

other supporting partners, the Jacka Foundation of Natural Therapies, Flordis and Catalent, was vital to building capacity in the sector.

“We do the research that’s required to guide patients and practitioners to use the best in complementary medicine – resulting in greater health outcomes for the entire community,” says Professor Bensoussan.

“We are training the next generation of researchers in this area to build collaborations between medical research institutes, hospitals and universities that are doing work in these national priority areas.”

NICM Managing Director Janice Besch says both Blackmores and NICM have an enormous commitment to building capacity.

“These traditional and natural medicines have a long history of use and a high level of use within the Australian community, and we’re here to build a modern, scientific evidence base for the particular herbs or supplements or practices that have been used for a very long time by a lot of people,” she says.

Blackmores’ Dr Braun says there is also the need for more informed debate and opinion in the media, and in guiding government policy.

“NICM is more than a research institute. It also gets involved in public debate and policy.”

Of the Australians using complementary medicine, 42 per cent are doing so to prevent or manage chronic conditions identified as national health priorities.

FELLOWSHIP SUPPORTS RESEARCH INTO CHINESE HERBS AND DEMENTIA

NICM recently announced Dr Genevieve Steiner as a recipient of the prestigious National Health and Medical Research Council and Australian Research Council Dementia Research Development Fellowship.

The \$574,644 grant will allow Dr Steiner to increase our understanding of the brain activity that relates to the problems with learning and memory that occur during the early stages of dementia. This is important for understanding the syndrome and how it works, as well as for the development of targeted treatments. The project will also focus on how a new herbal treatment affects the brain and different indicators of the syndrome. The research will be conducted in collaboration with leading dementia experts across the country and within NICM.

The funding for Dr Steiner’s four-year project will also help broaden recognition for complementary medicine research.

For more information on supporting the National Institute of Complementary Medicine, please visit westernsydney.edu.au/give

Lesley Braun
DIRECTOR
BLACKMORES LIMITED



**Marcus C
Blackmore AM**
CHAIRMAN
BLACKMORES LIMITED

HIGH HOPES FOR INNOVATIVE CANCER RESEARCH

In an Australian-first, Professor Soon Lee and his team are using high-tech next generation sequencing to investigate two possible causes of prostate cancer: high cholesterol and bladder infection.

Professor Lee's ground-breaking research wouldn't be possible without the ongoing support of the Ingham family.

"Their donation is essential to allow us to do innovative research, that will help us to break through with important discoveries," says the Chair of Pathology, who is based at the Western Sydney University Liverpool Hospital Clinical School and the Ingham Institute.

Professor Lee says donors such as the Inghams are filling an important gap in medical research.

Bob Ingham AO and his family have long been advocates of medical research in Western Sydney, and in 2012 opened the world-class Ingham Institute adjacent to Liverpool Hospital. Its research has had an immediate effect in the treatment and prevention of diseases prevalent in the region, and is also having an impact on the world stage.

The family's generous gifts to the University have enabled the School of Medicine to attract and retain leading researchers such as Professor Lee, who can carry out cutting-edge research that is not bound by the restrictions of traditional funding.

"My family's belief is that research into health is where we need to be," says daughter Lyn Ingham. "We need to find prevention rather than cure, and the only way that's going to happen is through research, and the only way research can happen is through funding – and it pretty much has to be funded through the community."

Similarly, the Ingham Medical Research Scholarship inspires talented, ambitious and passionate students with a medical research focus to hone their skills while providing support to the University's top researchers.

With Western Sydney fast becoming a hub for medical research, established international researchers and specialists are attracted to the facilities, says Professor Lee. "Liverpool Hospital is currently the largest teaching hospital in the country. We are in a position to roll this research out into the population because of the sheer number of patients we see.

"It is four times the size it was 20 years ago. We are not a small university clinical school, and in 10 years' time, you will see meteoric changes."

For more information about funding cutting edge research, please visit westernsydney.edu.au/give/research

NEW RESEARCH INTO ANTI-CANCER PROPERTIES OF HERBS

A \$70,000 gift from the Maxwell Family Foundation is supporting research into more effective cancer treatment using Chinese medicine – which shows fewer side effects. The donation will also help build awareness and understanding among Western clinicians about how Chinese medicine can be used to prevent and treat cancer.

The University's National Institute of Complementary Medicine will use the donation to extend current knowledge on Chinese herbal medicine for treating cancers by identifying at least three herbs and extracts with potent anti-cancer actions.

Emerging evidence has revealed beneficial effects of Chinese herbal medicine on the survival rate, quality of life and immune function of cancer patients. However, further studies are needed to identify the active ingredients in these herbs and to understand mechanisms involved in their actions with cancer cells.

The use of Chinese medicine for the management of tumours can be traced back to ancient China more than 3,000 years ago.

For more information about the research conducted by the National Institute of Complementary Medicine, please visit nicm.edu.au



Professor Soon Lee
CANCER RESEARCHER

“If this works, it will be a major breakthrough.”

Professor Soon Lee believes there is every chance his research could lead to prevention and cure for prostate cancer, one of the most commonly diagnosed cancers in Australia.

BUILDING A CAREER FROM THE GROUND UP



Tim Dekruif (left), B Construction Management student and Andrew Steventon (right), Bachelor of Building (Construction Management) 2002

Tim Dekruif may be at the very beginning of an exciting career trajectory, but he already has his sights firmly set on the fast-paced, high-pressure environment of a top-tier construction firm.

Since being awarded one of five Leighton Properties Scholarships, the third-year Construction Management student has already networked with some of the industry's most highly regarded project managers.

But he hasn't lost sight of the significance of that first stepping stone – his degree – from which he plans to graduate with First Class Honours.

“By obtaining this scholarship, I will be able to maintain my focus towards my studies with the main goal of achieving excellent results,” says Tim, who saw the scholarship as an opportunity to gain valuable experience and share his passion for the construction industry with like-minded professionals.

Tim is photographed with Andrew Steventon, Leighton's Project Director and the Senior Project Manager of IPSQ, the University's new flagship Parramatta campus.

Andrew is one of the 'highly regarded' project managers Tim aims to emulate. He is also a graduate of Western Sydney University. Andrew was invited to address the Property Careers night with students and employers at the University last year, where he recounted the launch of his career in 1997.

The cadetship he had been chasing with Multiplex wasn't possible without a degree, and his tertiary ranking wasn't high enough to get into university. So he visited the University's engineering and construction departments.

“The doors were locked and I thought I had no hope when a gentleman with glasses and snowy hair heard me and approached with a smile,” said Andrew. “[Lecturer] Mr Phil Love

listened to my story and managed to secure me a position in the Bachelor of Building course... I was awarded that cadetship.”

Andrew took five-and-a-half years to achieve his degree while working full-time with Multiplex. He quickly moved up the ranks from tasks such as taking lunch orders and copying drawings, to those tasks he aspired to do. He project managed many high-profile developments, including Sydney's Macquarie Bank Building at 1 Shelley Street, before moving into development management in 2010.

“Things seem to have taken me back to Western Sydney University after my introduction almost 20 years ago,” said Andrew.

For more information about establishing a scholarship and recruiting top students, please visit westernsydney.edu.au/give/scholarships

EXCEPTIONAL GROUP SUPPORTS EXTRAORDINARY OUTCOMES



“They’re a pretty exceptional group of people who want to support the people of Western Sydney,” says Sarah.

The Refugee Scholarship Fund will assist some of the 350 Western Sydney University students who hold humanitarian visas through a scholarship of \$7,500 per year.

Vice-Chancellor and President Professor Barney Glover says the public response to the inspirational story of graduate Deng Adut – now a lawyer – shows the extraordinary difference that can be made to society if those escaping war-torn countries are given the chance to start a new life.

It took just two months for the James Ruse Class of '88 to commit to funding a scholarship that will change the life of a refugee.

In September, Western Sydney University announced a \$500,000 scholarship fund to assist refugees, with plans to raise \$12 million to help 400 students over the next four years.

At the same time, the group of former classmates, including two University alumni, touted the idea over Facebook of supporting an educational scholarship.

“I tagged my school friends and got quite a big response,” says Sarah Sims (Master of Arts – Social Ecology, 2007), who approached Annual Giving Manager, Ray Villarica.

“He helpfully worked out the figures. It’s a great model that allows people to support something that has a beginning and an end, rather than on an ongoing basis. It’s manageable because even though it’s a significant sum of money, there are 24 of us and it’s over four years.”

Not only has the group pledged to donate \$30,000 towards the scholarship, the friends are also discussing the possibility of offering mentoring opportunities for the scholarship recipient.

“The greatest thing that could happen to a person like me is to be able to get an education,” says Deng. “It’s life. It’s the opposite of death, which I was going to face in South Sudan.”

The scholarship funded by the James Ruse Class of '88 will transform another life.

“When you can support an individual story, you know you’re making a big difference in somebody’s life,” says Sarah. “And that’s an amazing feeling.”

For more information about supporting your alma mater, please visit westernsydney.edu.au/alumni_giving

ALUMNI GIVING

Western Sydney University graduates are helping ensure future generations follow in their footsteps and reach their potential. Since 2012, alumni have helped support 20 Community Scholarships and are now also supporting the Refugee Scholarship Fund.

A black and white portrait of a woman with long, dark hair, wearing glasses and smiling. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey.

Megan Bromley

BACHELOR OF BUSINESS (HUMAN
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND
INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS) 2004

**ALUMNI INSPIRING
CAREER PATHS**

Megan Bromley didn't follow a traditional career path, but she has accomplished everything she set out to achieve. Now, after more than a decade in the workforce, the award-winning HR practitioner has returned to Western Sydney University to let current students know they don't need to follow the rules either.

A 2004 graduate of Human Resources Management and Industrial Relations, Megan is one of several alumni and community members helping domestic and international students jumpstart their career through the eight-week Social Engagement and Leadership Program (SELP).

"I think the program is amazing. It can make students better rounded and more ready for entry into the workforce," says Megan. "The more opportunities students have to hear about different stories in the workplace, the better educated they'll be to make the best decisions. They see different ways of working."

SELP gives students the opportunity to engage with successful professionals through masterclasses and leadership workshops. They develop skills in business leadership, achieving team outcomes, cross-cultural perspectives, globalisation and social responsibility.

Many students were enthusiastic to speak one-on-one with Megan after her masterclass.

"The one thing I got from speaking to the students is that they need access to someone who's not part of the university – someone who has a different level of experience and is willing to share and take the time to listen to their stories. I think that is very powerful."

She encourages other alumni to give back to the university through SELP: "The University sent me on my path, and I am really grateful to be able to give back and share my story."

"Think about the time, effort and energy you put into your university career, and how you can make a difference to someone else's life down the track. I think that's a pretty special thing."

For more information about how Alumni give back to the University, please visit westernsydney.edu.au/alumni_volunteers

DIVERSITY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CRITICAL FOR 'URBAN GROWTH'



Emilie Baganz and Ildi Vukovich, Master of Philosophy (Social Science) students, with Alison McLaren of UrbanGrowth (centre)

Cultural acceptance and diversity have always been a part of Emilie Baganz's make-up.

So, when she saw an advertisement for a postgraduate scholarship funded by UrbanGrowth NSW to research how diversity contributes to economic, social and cultural sustainability, she instantly knew she was made for it.

Emilie grew up in Germany where diversity has been encouraged and promoted through education since the end of WWII.

She was initially impressed by Western Sydney University when she came across its Unlimited advertising campaign which went viral in 2015. "I was working on the Challenging Racism project for Courage to Care NSW and immediately liked what the University stood for and the diversity it promoted," she says.

Emilie and fellow UrbanGrowth NSW Research Scholarship recipient Ildi Vukovich start their two-year projects this year through the Urban Research Program in the School of Social Sciences and Psychology. Ildi will research Community Engagement in Major Urban Renewal Projects.

UrbanGrowth NSW is using government land to create vibrant living and work places that integrate with public transport, community facilities and public open spaces.

"The aim of the research being undertaken by the two Masters students is to support the work of UrbanGrowth NSW in the important areas of diversity and community engagement," says Senior Manager - Government & Industry Relations Alison McLaren. "As the future workers and residents of our city, the aspirations, ideas and innovations of university students across NSW will be critical in shaping UrbanGrowth NSW's major urban transformation portfolio of projects into genuine world-class communities of tomorrow."

For Emilie, the project will not only provide her with the experience and skills needed for further research positions, it will also - she hopes - reveal a positive impact of diversity in areas of urban renewal - and ultimately work towards combatting racism.

"I think it's important that people don't live segregated - that there's a healthy mix of people."

To discuss funding a research scholarship, please contact the Office of Advancement and Alumni on **02 9685 9511**.

REALISING WESTERN SYDNEY'S UNLIMITED POTENTIAL

The impact of Matt and Nicole Graham's gift to Western Sydney University is obvious in terms of the opportunities it opens for the University and scholarship recipient James Halligan.

But the other great – and unexpected – benefit is for Matt and Nicole, themselves.

“The opportunity to sit with young people at a really important stage of their career and play a small role in helping them understand their own potential, and give them an opportunity to celebrate the strengths and gifts they have is so rewarding,” says Matt.

A Partner at PwC and a member of the University's Foundation Council,

Matt and wife Nicole intend to open doors and expand boundaries for business students of the region through the 'Matt & Nicole Graham Scholarship'.

“I feel there's so much untapped talent in young Australians in Western Sydney. We have a responsibility to help young people broaden their own definitions of their potential and expand some of the boundaries they might put around that,” says Matt, who lived there for almost 40 years.

“Western Sydney will be the engine of growth for New South Wales for the next 20 to 30-year period,” he says. “And the talent who will be the leaders in 20 to 30 years' time live there now. From a business point of view, there's definite competitive advantage in accessing a really talented pool of young Australians.”

Majoring in applied finance as part of his Business and Commerce (Advanced Business Leadership) degree, James Halligan is one future leader. His values and work ethic set him apart from an impressive group of applicants, to be awarded the inaugural scholarship.

“He is ambitious and humble in equal measure,” says Matt, who sat with Nicole on the selection board. “His discussions were consistently values aligned, and he had a really clear picture of who he wanted to be. As generations have changed, a strong work ethic in a graduate is a real differentiator.”

To establish a scholarship in your name and open doors for Western Sydney University students, please visit westernsydney.edu.au/give



Matt and Nicole Graham with their scholarship recipient, James Halligan, B Business and Commerce (Advanced Business Leadership) student (centre)

ENDOWMENT PROVIDES BRIGHT FUTURE FOR SINGLE PARENTS

With just one year to go, Nursing student Tanya Shaw is proud to say she has a Distinction average.

But academic excellence is just one reason she was awarded the Knox Family Scholarship at the start of 2015 for the remainder of her degree.

Tanya studies full time. She is also a single mum of three – her children, a girl and two boys, are aged between two and 11.

Juggling timetables, study and month-long placements was one challenge, but financial hardship was another.

With no one to leave her children with, part-time work wasn't an option for Tanya, 34, who sees her degree as an opportunity to advance her career and provide for her children.

"I had to do something. I couldn't keep going the way I was. I wasn't able to function financially," she says.

The Knox Family Scholarship changed her life.

"It's given me the financial opportunity to keep going, and it's meant I haven't had to uproot my kids and cause disruption to them.

"The scholarship is allowing me to put them into care when I'm on placement, and it's allowed me to really focus on what I need to do to get to the end of the degree."

Over 14 years, the Knox Family endowment has allowed 18 single parents to achieve their dream of obtaining a degree. The nature of the gift means that only the interest earned from its investment is spent – thus providing support for many years to come.

For Tanya, knowing she has the support to finish her degree is "a blessing".

"I am doing it for advancement and opportunity," she says. "At the end of three years I'll have an opportunity for a really great career. There are so many different fields you can go into once you've got your degree."

She says it's important other people in similar situations realise support is available.

"There are opportunities out there and help is available. You're not in it alone. There are people out there who want to see you succeed. There are people who want to see you do well."

To support talented students like Tanya, please visit westernsydney.edu.au/give



Tanya Shaw

KNOX FAMILY
SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT
B. NURSING STUDENT



**Professor
Lisa Jackson Pulver AM**

PVC, ENGAGEMENT & ABORIGINAL &
TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER LEADERSHIP

LEADERSHIP ROLE TO BOOST INDIGENOUS EDUCATION

Professor Lisa Jackson Pulver AM will help extend the University's commitment to Indigenous education.

Professor Jackson Pulver will lead the University's initiatives, particularly relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander outcomes, and help make it the university of first choice for Indigenous people.

A Koori woman whose traditional roots lie in south-western NSW, Professor Jackson Pulver trained as a nurse before entering medical school at the University of Sydney in 1992. She has since gained qualifications and experience in epidemiology and public health.

Professor Jackson Pulver broke new ground by becoming the first Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander to receive a PhD in Medicine from the University of Sydney, and is a prominent researcher, educator and advocate in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and education.

In 2011, Professor Jackson Pulver was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for service to medical education, particularly through the Muru Marri Indigenous Health Unit at the University of New South Wales.

For more information on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander initiatives at Western Sydney University, please visit westernsydney.edu.au/badanami

IN MEMORIAM – DR WILLIAM CHIU

“Everyone can play a role in charity. Love has no boundaries.”

These were the words of a supremely generous man, whose legacy will benefit the University’s students and Australia-China relations for many years to come.

In 2012, Dr William Chiu presented the University with one of its most significant individual donations, establishing a program for young people to gain a deeper

understanding of Chinese language and culture. His support has been far-reaching.

As well as promoting cross-cultural understanding, his gift allowed the University to provide opportunities for students with Chinese partners, locally and internationally.

The program has delivered 25 scholarships for study at leading Chinese universities, 16 academic prizes in Chinese language and culture, two literary translation projects, sponsorship

of an Asian study conference, three research internships and two PhD scholarships.

Earlier last year, Dr Chiu was presented with the prestigious Doctor of Letters (honoris causa) from Western Sydney University to acknowledge his distinguished service to the community and his role in fostering the relationship between Australia and China.

To leave a gift in memoriam, please visit westernsydney.edu.au/memorial_giving

EXTRACT FROM DR CHIU’S MEMORIAL PRESENTED BY VICE-CHANCELLOR AND PRESIDENT PROFESSOR BARNEY GLOVER

We remember Dr William Chiu JP as a visionary leader, a great supporter of Western Sydney University and a friend to many.

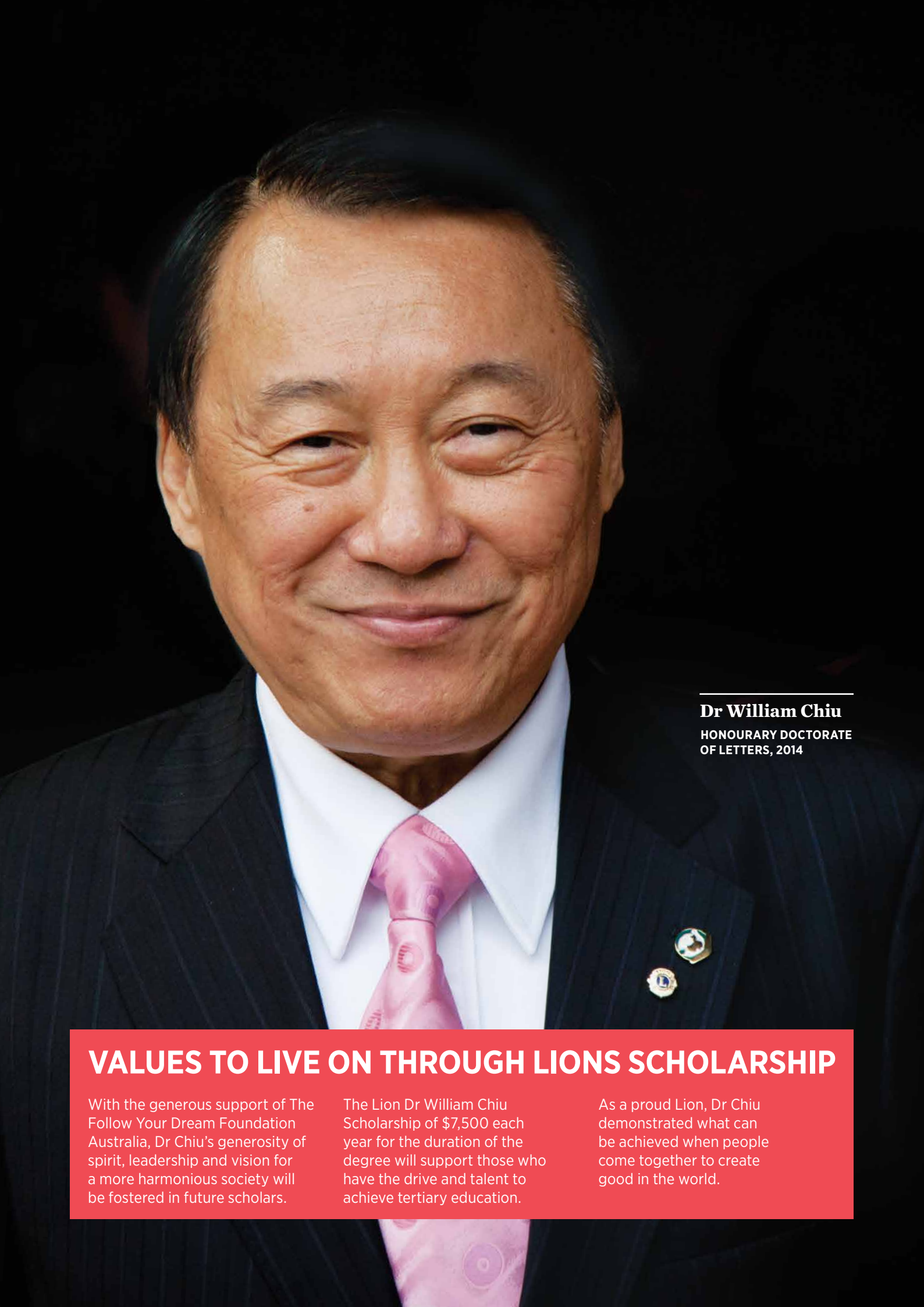
I was privileged to meet William shortly after I joined the University in early 2014 and again when we presented William with the prestigious award of Doctor of Letters, *honoris causa*, acknowledging his distinguished service to the community and to fostering the relationship between China and Australia. On this day, I recall fondly meeting many of William’s friends and colleagues, all present to show their support for a man who had given so much of his life to helping others. Many of you are here today.

William will be remembered for his exceptional service to those less fortunate, his successful international business career, his life-long commitment to the peaceful reunification of China exemplified through his chairmanship of the Australia Council for the Promotion of the Peaceful Reunification of China and his philanthropic support of many important and worthy causes.

William’s support for our University is appreciated immensely. It provided young people with opportunities to experience and gain a deeper understanding of Chinese language and culture by providing scholarships for Western Sydney University

students to study at top Chinese universities; academic prizes for talented students to reward their engagement with Chinese language and culture; and the translation of two Chinese novels into English to enhance high-level cultural links between Australia and China.

Dr Chiu’s significant generosity has been critical in helping Western Sydney University to develop closer relations with other universities in China, and to encouraging and supporting students to pursue studies in Chinese language and culture. It has provided the University with the momentum to continue these efforts well into the future with the support of the community.



Dr William Chiu
HONOURARY DOCTORATE
OF LETTERS, 2014

VALUES TO LIVE ON THROUGH LIONS SCHOLARSHIP

With the generous support of The Follow Your Dream Foundation Australia, Dr Chiu's generosity of spirit, leadership and vision for a more harmonious society will be fostered in future scholars.

The Lion Dr William Chiu Scholarship of \$7,500 each year for the duration of the degree will support those who have the drive and talent to achieve tertiary education.

As a proud Lion, Dr Chiu demonstrated what can be achieved when people come together to create good in the world.

2015 HONOUR ROLL ORGANISATIONS

Thank you. Western Sydney University is able to support the next generation of leaders and fund research that has the potential to change lives, thanks to the generosity of our donors.

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