



UNSW
SYDNEY

Australia's
Global
University



THANK YOU

Donor Impact Report 2017

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHANCELLOR AND PRESIDENT & VICE-CHANCELLOR

At UNSW Sydney, we believe in the transformative value of education. We are passionate about providing high quality tertiary education to anyone who is able, and we foster a culture of academic and research excellence. However, as our 2025 Strategy sets out, this is just the baseline for a university in the 21st Century. For a university to truly have a positive global impact, it has an obligation to contribute to the wider community and to engage with society's grand challenges for the benefit of all humanity. We are so pleased that you share our vision and have chosen to enable some of the projects that will define UNSW Sydney as a global leader in years to come.

UNSW has a unique history. Our institution's legacy is one that recognises the value of innovation. We approach things with a mindset that challenges the status quo, and we are always looking for more creative and efficient ways to achieve

our goals. From designing more personalised forms of learning, to outstanding research, we strive to provide an environment that amplifies potential at all levels of the University.

With your tremendous support, UNSW was ranked within the top 50 universities in the QS World University Rankings this year, and can offer a growing range of new scholarships in 2018. We are excited to launch our ground-breaking new UNSW Futures initiative, which presents a bold new framework for addressing humanity's major challenges through innovative interdisciplinary and cross-faculty research.

We have also established the Sydney Culture Network, forming a new collaborative platform for Sydney's cultural organisations. The network will strengthen the city's status as a centre for arts and culture, enhance our creative and cultural diversity,

and increase Sydney's liveability and global competitiveness.

This publication captures a snapshot of the impact of philanthropy across the University, demonstrating a breadth of activity that has been made possible through your support. In conversation with recipients, donors and academic staff it highlights the fundamental importance of your contribution and illustrates the incredible benefits of strategic philanthropy. In many cases, these initiatives and opportunities would never have been realised without gifts from people like you. For all you have made possible, we say thank you.

Mr David Gonski AC
Chancellor
UNSW Sydney

Professor Ian Jacobs
President & Vice-Chancellor
UNSW Sydney

LAYING THE FOUNDATIONS FOR TOMORROW'S ENTREPRENEURS

UNSW Sydney's Founder program is a new initiative in line with our ambition to build a world-class university that encourages entrepreneurial thinking and supports innovative startups.

Our leading Founder program consists of a suite of modules aimed at bridging the gap between current UNSW programs and getting our student-led companies investment-ready.

These modules range from beginner to advanced, supporting participants to build skills at every step of their startup journey, from project management to creative problem solving, right through to pitching their ideas for investment funding.

The flagship offering of the program is the Founder 10x Accelerator, which supports a select cohort of high impact startups. In its first round, the Accelerator has attracted a diverse range of promising student and alumni-led startups from across many faculties.

The Founder 10x Accelerator program is made possible by our generous donor community, who are as passionate about shaping innovative young minds as we are.

With their support, successful applicants receive \$20,000 of funding and a 10-week program that arms them with the skills to become a more resilient entrepreneur.

This is achieved through intensive workshops and masterclasses, access to an outstanding network of UNSW founders, alumni and mentors, and a trip to San Francisco to attend workshops hosted by Blackbox.vc in Silicon Valley.



DRIVEN BY GENEROSITY

DR MICHAEL CROUCH AC

The Accelerator program is supported greatly with access to the Michael Crouch Innovation Centre (MCIC) on our Kensington campus. The MCIC provides a co-working space and resources throughout the program and for up to six months after completion. Funded generously by innovation pioneer and UNSW patron Dr Michael Crouch AC, the MCIC is a hub for dynamic thinkers that represent Dr Crouch's own ethos around collaborative innovation. It provides users an opportunity to learn the skills and techniques needed to turn ideas into reality and be inspired by collaborating with others.



DR WONG FONG FUI

The Accelerator is also supported by a generous philanthropic donation from Dr Wong Fong Fui, a champion of innovation and UNSW alumnus. As Chairman and Group Chief Executive Officer of the Boustead Group, Dr Wong is an entrepreneur with proven success in diverse fields including commercial aviation, engineering, education, food manufacturing and retail, information technology and telecommunications. Dr Wong says his success has been possible through hard work and an indomitable spirit. Born into a poor family that worked on a rubber plantation in Johor, Malaysia, he taught himself English using a dictionary and would wake up early each day to listen to BBC radio. His family's life savings were used to send him to Australia to study chemical engineering at UNSW. Taking calculated risks was always something he was willing to do, he says, because he started with nothing to lose.



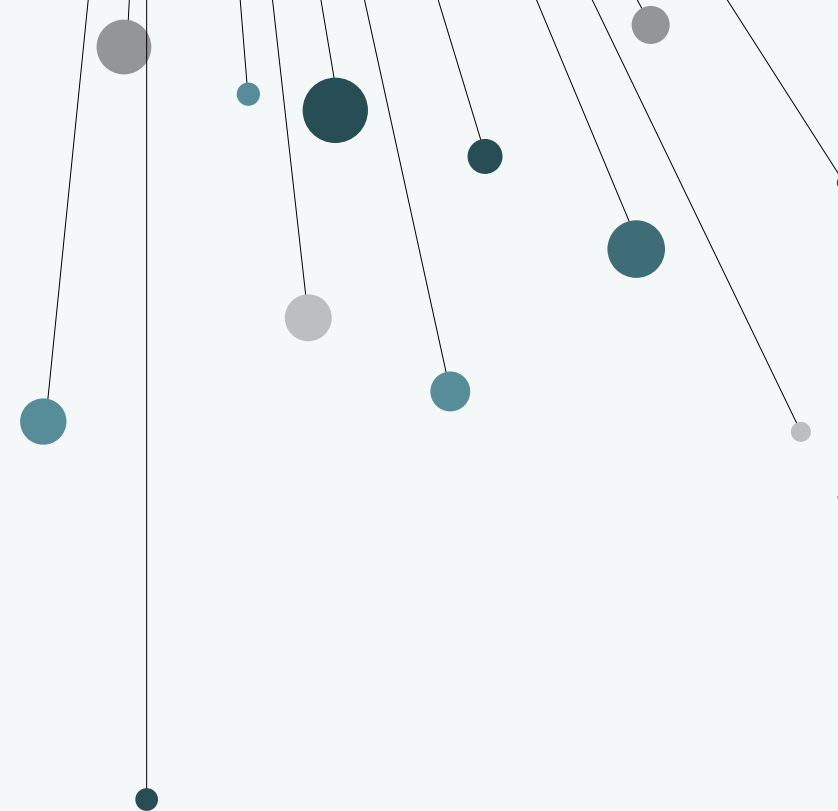
MR MAHA SINNATHAMBY

Another generous supporter of the Accelerator is Australian-Malaysian civil engineer and UNSW alumnus, Mr Maha Sinnathamby. Coming from similarly humble beginnings as Dr Wong, in a small village in Malaysia, Mr Sinnathamby was sent by his father to study civil engineering at UNSW. Driven against all odds to succeed, he overcame a number of setbacks to become one of Australia's wealthiest and most successful entrepreneurs. Mr Sinnathamby believes universities need to be at the forefront of the innovation economy, training students to think "outside the square" and equipping them with a "fighting spirit" that will help them reinvent themselves in response to a rapidly changing world. He says that Australia needs to innovate to capitalise on new and disruptive technologies, and to ultimately create jobs.



THE FIGHTER: MAHA SINNATHAMBY

From growing up in a Malaysian village with no electricity to becoming one of Australia's wealthiest people, Maha Sinnathamby learned the art of survival while studying at UNSW.



"We will all have dark nights, whether it is health, financial, professional or personal failures. But when you have a failure you just keep going. You have to face tomorrow." – Maha Sinnathamby

In 1992, civil engineer Maha Sinnathamby purchased 7,000 acres of bushland south of Brisbane. On the market for close to a year, it was a vast tract of land riddled with planning problems that nobody seemed to want.

But Mr Sinnathamby had a vision for creating something special. Over the last 25 years, he has transformed that land into Australia's only fully master-planned city, apart from the nation's capital. Today, the city known as Greater Springfield is home to some 38,000 residents and is projected to have a population nearing 130,000 by 2030.

The award-winning region has become a model of sustainability and a major contributor to the Queensland economy, boasting a hospital, 10 schools, and extensive transport infrastructure. It is a prescient glimpse into Australia's urban future, but a world away from the small Malaysian village where Mr Sinnathamby grew up in the 1940s and '50s.

"There was no electricity," he recalls. "I had to study under a kerosene lamp. The school was 18 kilometres away, and we went by bus every day, an hour in each direction." His parents instilled in him a relentless work ethic, and at 17 his father made a bold declaration: Maha would travel to Australia to become a civil engineer.

After completing his matriculation in Sydney, a city "moving at a million miles an hour," Mr Sinnathamby enrolled in an engineering program at UNSW and his early memories are of struggling: "In those days you had eight subjects and if you failed one you failed the whole lot. I failed my first and second year."

Dispirited, he wrote to his father to tell him the news. The letter he received in return moved him to tears and ultimately changed his life: "It was very moving," he remembers. "He said, 'son, just keep going. The darkest night brings the brightest dawn.'" It struck a nerve, he says. "We will all have dark nights, whether it is health, financial, professional or personal failures," says Mr Sinnathamby, now aged 77. "But when you have a failure you just keep going. You have to face tomorrow."

An emboldened Mr Sinnathamby embraced the struggle; he began driving a taxi at night and on the weekends to help cover his expenses, and in the classroom he adopted a newfound drive to succeed, convincing himself he was the "world's best engineer". He completed his degree at UNSW but came away with much more than a certificate and qualifications: "I had learned the art of survival," he says. "I also learned the art of overcoming failures."

Both were vital: after 10 years working as a civil engineer, Mr Sinnathamby had amassed a sizeable fortune of about \$7 million by 1982. Three short years later this fortune was not only gone, he was in considerable debt: "I was a negative millionaire," he recalls. "I had no money and had to hold a creditors' meeting, we went away able to readjust and start again."

That fighting spirit has paid off in droves; today Mr Sinnathamby is one of Australia's wealthiest people, with *Forbes Magazine* ranking him number 41 on the country's Rich List. The odds were certainly stacked against him when he purchased his 7,000 acres, facing a gauntlet of naysayers who repeatedly told him Greater Springfield would never succeed. But Mr Sinnathamby and his fighting spirit prevailed. "You have to have a deaf ear to all of that," he says, "and a strong sense of self-belief."

Maha Sinnathamby has generously donated \$5 million to UNSW Sydney. This amount was distributed equally between Equity Scholarships, helping Indigenous students to access higher education, and our new Founder IOx Accelerator program, supporting our student-led startups.

UNSW MATRAVILLE EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP

An exciting new era is emerging in Sydney's south-eastern suburb of Matraville, thanks to an education partnership through the UNSW School of Education.

The UNSW Matraville Education Partnership is an ongoing initiative between the UNSW School of Education and Matraville Sports High School (MSHS). Established in 2015, this partnership sees academics and students from UNSW working with Matraville students, teachers, and the wider public.

The program is delivering a suite of fun and supportive activities to improve both school and university education practice, and involve UNSW more closely with its local community.

Left: MSHS music students perform at a recent Meet & Greet event with the UNSW President & Vice-Chancellor

Middle: Some MSHS student artworks on display

Right: MSHS students with Principal Nerida Walker, Head of UNSW School of Education, Professor Chris Davison, and UNSW Matraville Education Partnership Coordinator, Katherine Thompson

SNAPSHOT OF MSHS

The diversity of the MSHS student population is one of its greatest assets. The school has:

- 22 language backgrounds
- 1/3 students from Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander backgrounds (one of the highest concentrations of Indigenous students of any Sydney high school)
- 1/3 students from a language background other than English
- 1/5 students with special needs
- 1/2 students from families in the lowest income quartile

Research shows the best places for children to be educated are those rich in diversity, and initiatives that unite communities are the best way to raise educational outcomes.

The first partnership of its kind in Australia, this initiative is led by an esteemed steering committee of advisors, volunteers and donors, and chaired by UNSW President and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ian Jacobs.

"This is a really fantastic program to which I am proud to offer my full support," Professor Jacobs said at a recent Meet & Greet event with MSHS students. "Big things are happening here at Matraville."

Known for the strength of its elite sports program, MSHS has also enhanced the scope and success of its academic curriculum in the past two years. Integral to the program's success has been fostering stronger relationships with the surrounding primary schools, which form a consortium called the Little Bay Community of Schools (LBCoS). The LBCoS includes Chifley

"The focus on Indigenous education has easily been the best part of the degree so far. I'm quite sure the experience will have a lasting impact on how we interact with Aboriginal students, families and communities."
– Master of Teaching student, 2016

Public School, La Perouse Public School, Matraville Soldiers' Settlement Public School, Malabar Public School, Matraville Public School, and more recently the Sydney Children's Hospital School.

ENRICHING THE TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Thanks to this initiative, MSHS staff and teachers at surrounding schools now have access to 'hands-on' professional learning sessions and collaborative enquiry projects organised by UNSW. Activities are underway to help build capacity in the realms of gifted education, technology in education, culturally responsive schooling, Indigenous education, and educational leadership.

Our research shows:

- 100% of teachers want the same or higher levels of involvement in the partnership in future years.

- 96% of MSHS teachers feel the partnership adds value to their school.

UNSW teachers-in-training also gain valuable experience, with:

- 500+ UNSW students having experienced coursework in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education since 2015 through partnership with the local Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (AECG).
- 100 education students completing a placement at MSHS in 2016.
- Of those 100 students, 75% report they feel better prepared to teach students from diverse backgrounds and a range of ability levels, and they are now more certain that teaching is the right career choice for them.
- Going ahead, more than 50 pre-service teachers are to undertake professional training at the school each semester.

EXTENDING THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE



UNSW offers after school workshops for students in drama, music and gifted education



Sydney Story Factory creative writing workshops drive student creative expression through the Norma Cowper Literacy Program



An in-school Mathematics Tutoring Program matches UNSW education students one-on-one with MSHS students who need extra support



A homework and tuition centre run by UNSW is open to both primary and secondary students in the community



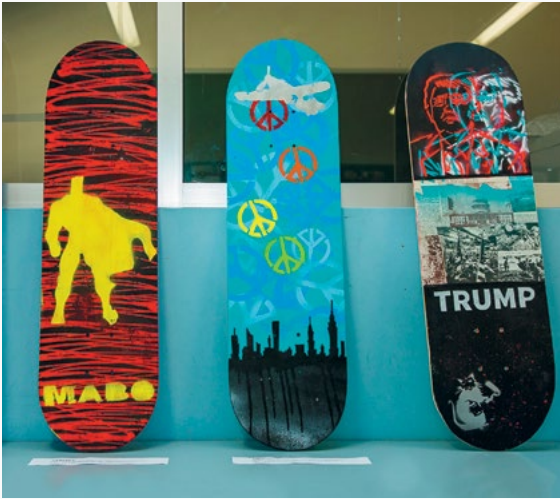
50 computers were donated to MSHS by UNSW in 2016



A Breakfast Club is offered one day per week, funded by UNSW



MSHS students receive special opportunities to attend programs held at UNSW, such as the Nura Gili holiday programs, ASPIRE Three-Minute Thesis Competition, Museum of Human Disease and Women in Science days



The UNSW Matraville Education Partnership is supported by The Ian Potter Foundation, The James N Kirby Foundation, Stan Cowper (in memory of Norma Cowper), and a fourth donor who wishes to remain anonymous.

THE CULTURE, CURRICULUM & COMMUNITY PROJECT

Indigenous communities have long yearned for an equal voice in education. We are helping to deliver this change through a wonderful community-driven initiative.

As part of the UNSW Matraville Education Partnership, members of the AECG from the La Perouse Aboriginal community have contributed to all UNSW School of Education Indigenous initiatives, the highlight of which is the thriving Culture, Curriculum & Community Project (CCCP).

Launched in 2015, the CCCP invites Aboriginal community members into the classroom to share their knowledge and experience, working alongside teachers as equal leaders to craft curriculum and deliver key lessons that cultivate a greater understanding of Aboriginal culture.

The landmark co-teaching initiative leverages the existing partnership with Matraville Sports High School and surrounding local primary schools, including Chifley Public School, La Perouse Public School, Matraville Soldiers' Settlement Public School and Matraville Public School.

"I think it's fantastic, this is something that the elders always wanted to do, they wanted to get into schools and teach our ways, bring all that Aboriginal perspective into the lessons," says local Aboriginal elder, Aunty Maxine Ryan. "We'd love to see it spread to more schools."

Aunty Maxine has worked across all the integrated schools with all age groups from kindergarten to high school. "This is really telling the true

stories about Aboriginal people and what they've passed on to us. These are the real stories about how the Aboriginal people survived; what my elders taught me, I'm teaching them."

The curriculum is developed in consultation between the teachers and the participating community members, with a focus on dreamtime stories, natural landmarks, Indigenous languages and lifestyle. This semester alone, Aunty Maxine's teaching has included hikes around Indigenous landmarks, cooking traditional 'bush tucker'; making a map of Aboriginal Australia using shells, and comparing

the Sydney Opera House with Uluru to identify differences between natural and man-made environments.

Chifley Public School teacher Louise Jreige says she has found it easy to adopt this new team-teaching style, and has seen major benefits delivered to the students and the community as a result. "I'm so glad I've had the chance to be a part of this program, and I'm hoping it continues to grow next year.

"The kids are really enjoying it and learning a lot about Indigenous culture and the local area," she says.



Pictured: La Perouse Aboriginal elder, Aunty Maxine, with Chifley Public School students.



"The Aboriginal kids too are feeling proud of their culture. We have some students showing us traditional dances, teaching us Indigenous words. They have lots of stories to share with everyone, you can see how they love getting up and talking about their life and their family."

The students aren't the only ones expanding their knowledge, adds Louise. "I'm learning a lot as well, I live in this area and there was so much that I thought I knew but I didn't really, so it's been good to speak to Maxine and some of the other community elders to understand more," she says. "I would definitely encourage other schools to adopt programs like this, and even the schools that don't have a big Aboriginal population."

"I would love to say a big thank you for supporting this project, we wouldn't have done it without you," Aunty Maxine says. "As long as we have your backing, the stories can flow on, getting bigger and bigger."

CCCP SNAPSHOT

- 5 schools
- At least 300 primary school students
- 12 teachers
- 8 Aboriginal community members

The Culture, Curriculum and Community Project is supported by The Ian Potter Foundation.

"Aunty Maxine is very kind and she helps us with school work and everything, so I really want her to stay with us forever. She is fantastic and wonderful." – Grade 2 Chifley Public School student



Left: Ateeq-ur Rahman sits in the Ainsworth Building.
Right: Primary and high school students participating in the UNSW ASPIRE program.

ASPIRE AMBASSADOR FIRST IN FAMILY TO FINISH UNIVERSITY

With the help of the UNSW ASPIRE program, mining engineer Ateeq-ur Rahman is the first in his family to earn a degree, but his dream of attending university nearly didn't eventuate.



In 2011, after completing year 10 in his native Pakistan, Ateeq-ur Rahman came to Australia with a plan to finish high school. However, initially speaking no English and with money being quite tight, university was a faraway dream.

His father had travelled to Australia 12 years earlier – a relocation necessitated by financial hardship. “He had to make a decision to support his family,” Ateeq says. So he moved overseas to Sydney, where he could earn money as a taxi driver and send it home with a favourable exchange rate.

It was challenging: “We grew up behind our dad’s eyes... he couldn’t see us,” recalls Ateeq. Coming to Australia was a welcome reunion, but the transition was difficult and the pressure of supporting a “very extended family” in Pakistan weighed on Ateeq, even as a teenager.

He felt compelled to find full-time work to help his father shoulder the burden. “I came very close to dropping out of school,” he recalls. It was around that time, while attending Holroyd High School near Parramatta, that Ateeq was introduced to UNSW’s award-winning ASPIRE program.

ASPIRE partners with schools that have low numbers of students progressing to university, with the aim of creating awareness among young people about the pathways to higher education. Through workshops, academic skills and enrichment programs, ASPIRE serves to encourage students from

disadvantaged backgrounds to reach their potential and access university education.

Nobody in Ateeq’s family had been to university or knew anything about the process for applying, getting accepted, or getting funding assistance through the HECS-HELP loan scheme. It was a mystery, and Ateeq had assumed it was going to be too expensive. ASPIRE helped him realise that university was within reach.

It wasn’t a fluke that Ateeq found his way onto ASPIRE’s radar; he aced his first-term year 11 exams, topping biology and chemistry, and getting excellent results in mathematics. “I guess that was a turning point for me,” he says.

He was selected by the Principal of Holroyd, Mrs Dorothy Hoddinott AO, to take part in ASPIRE’s Step-Up program – a three-day workshop at UNSW’s Kensington campus. Ateeq participated in group activities, attended lectures, met university staff, and worked directly with ASPIRE’s volunteer ambassadors, who made a lasting impression on him.

From there, Ateeq renewed his focus on school, excelling in STEM subjects while practising his English. With guidance from ASPIRE he applied for university, and was offered a position at UNSW Sydney to study mining engineering.

Throughout his time at UNSW, Ateeq has volunteered as an ASPIRE ambassador, keen to give back

to the organisation that helped him realise his potential. He wants donors to know their financial support “is not gone with the wind.”

“It’s going to the right place... especially students coming from a migrant or refugee background. They really need that support.” Ateeq has just finished his thesis investigating floor stability in underground mines, and will soon begin a graduate job in the Hunter Valley with Glencore Australia.

He’s excited about the opportunity, and is thrilled to be the first in his family to obtain a university education – something that seems to have ignited an encouraging trend. Ateeq’s younger sister is now following in his footsteps, studying to become a teacher.

“I guess I brought in that family tradition,” he says. “My parents are very happy now, I can see it. I can see it on their faces.”

ASPIRE began as a pilot project with two Sydney high schools in 2007 and its network has since grown to include 54 primary, secondary and central schools in Sydney and across regional and remote NSW. The successful program has been supported by the Federal Government, Citi Foundation, Google and many individual donors. This funding is instrumental to the continuing growth and impact of the program on ASPIRE partner schools’ students.

A GLIMPSE THROUGH OUR HISTORY

In this visual map of the UNSW Kensington Campus, we identify some of the much-loved buildings, centres and precincts that have been developed or transformed over the years, through the generosity of our wonderful donor community.

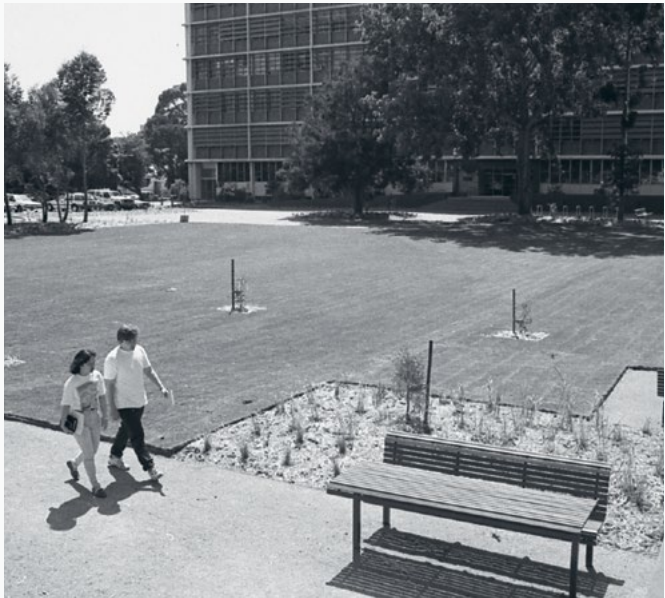
LOWY CANCER RESEARCH CENTRE

This leading cancer research hub was named in recognition of businessman and philanthropist, Sir Frank Lowy AC and his family, who donated \$10 million towards the cost of the new building. This represents one of the largest single philanthropic donations received by the University.

The UNSW Lowy Cancer Research Centre houses a cross-disciplinary team whose work spans the laboratory sciences, clinical practice and health policy. It is one of the largest dedicated cancer research centres in the Southern Hemisphere and the first in Australia to bring adult and childhood cancer research together under one roof.



THEN In 1970, long before the building of the Lowy Cancer Research Centre commenced in 2007, the space was occupied by a greenhouse (pictured above), and then officially became the Michael Birt Gardens (below right) in 1993.



NOW The Lowy Cancer Research Centre today.

KENSINGTON COLLEGES

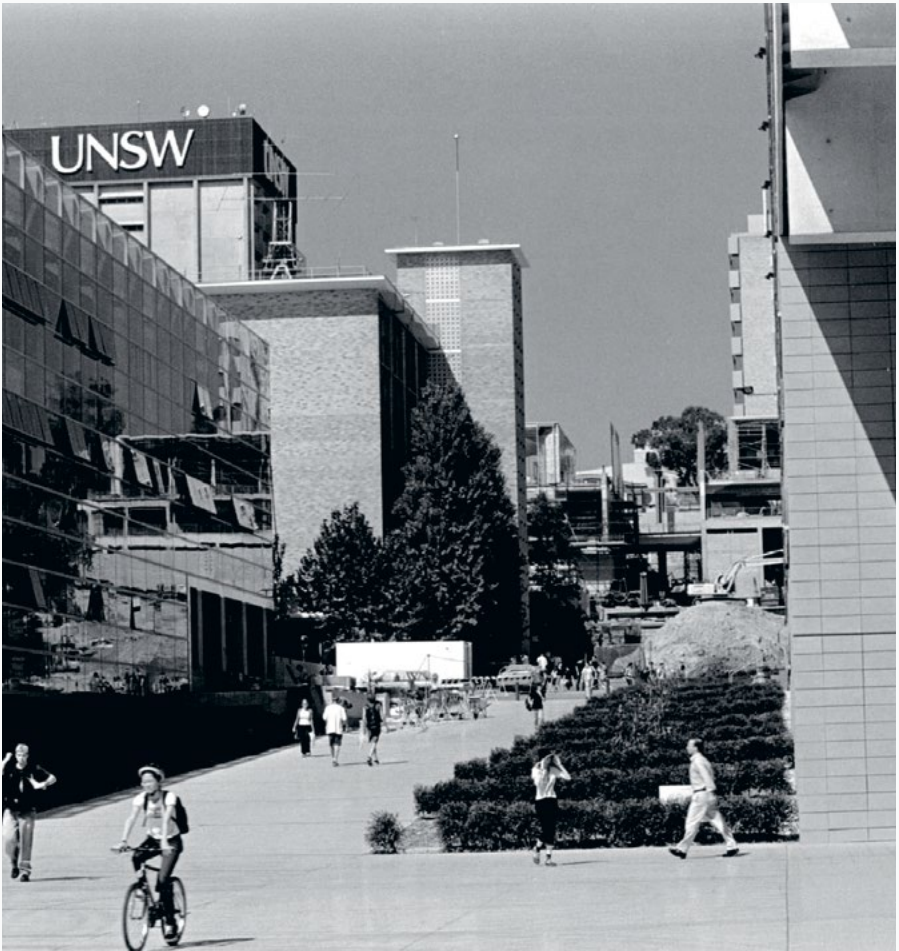
Made up of three collegiate communities – Basser, Goldstein & Philip Baxter – residing or working at the Kensington Colleges means also being a part of the rich history of UNSW.



THEN Basser College was the first to be established in 1959 after a generous £40,000 donation from businessman and philanthropist Sir Adolph Basser (the University's first ever philanthropic supporter). Since that time, Kensington Colleges have been home to more than 10,000 students.



NOW The Colleges were knocked down and rebuilt more than 50 years later, opening again in 2014 as part of a \$110 million redevelopment. Currently 4,500 students live on campus, 650 of which reside in the Kensington Colleges. Through the support of college alumni, we have created a strong scholarships program for students from rural or disadvantaged backgrounds.



JOHN NILAND SCIENTIA BUILDING

Funded by many donors through the Scientia Appeal, which commenced in 1997 and officially completed in 2000, the building is a multi-purpose space used principally for conferences and receptions. While a great many donors gave towards the appeal, including its Chair, Mr Peter Ritchie AO, the building was named in recognition of Emeritus Professor John Niland AC, UNSW alumnus and former Vice-Chancellor, for his fundraising efforts.

THEN Before the appeal, the John Niland Scientia Building was a missing ingredient on our map.



NOW Today, this sleek modern structure overlooking the University Mall sits at the heart of Kensington Campus.





THE ROUNDHOUSE

A much beloved relic for UNSW, in particular for our international students who establish their social networks here, the Roundhouse has always been an important hub of activity, thought of with affection by many of our alumni and students. It is no surprise that the current \$25 million redevelopment of the Roundhouse has been generously supported by many of our international alumni.

THEN Officially opened in 1961, the Roundhouse has since been the heart of social student activity on Kensington campus. Since then, approximately 250,000 students have passed through its doors, as well as thousands of members of the general public.



SET TO OPEN 2018

The redevelopment, due for completion in early 2018, will retain the architectural essence of the Roundhouse, while bringing the latest in design and materials to carry the building into the 21st century. This renewal will allow the Roundhouse to continue to be the centre of the student experience for current and future generations of students.



MECHANICAL AND MANUFACTURING ENGINEERING PRECINCT

The Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering Precinct, featuring both the Willis Annexe and the Mechanical Engineering Building, has long served to support young engineers within a vibrant, contemporary and engaging learning environment, while also encompassing the architectural language of UNSW established in the 1960s.

THEN First built in 1963, the two engineering buildings put the School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering at the forefront of innovation.



NOW Fifty-two years later, a substantial philanthropic donation of \$10 million from Dr Len Ainsworth allowed a complete redevelopment of the precinct, which now features state-of-the-art refrigeration, laser and mechatronics labs, as well as wind tunnels, a flight simulator, and machines for tensile and compression testing. The precinct also boasts innovative design studios and teaching spaces, and a solar thermal energy system on its roof, which doubles as a working lab.

UNRAVELLING A GENETIC MYSTERY

Supported by a community of MSA patients and their families, Dr Michael Janitz and his research team are pioneering solutions for early detection and treatment of this rare and misunderstood neurodegenerative disease.

The brain is our most complex organ, and arguably our most important. So how can we keep it healthy and running smoothly into old age? This is a fundamental question driving the research of Dr Michael Janitz, a geneticist at the UNSW School of Biotechnology and Biomolecular Sciences.

In Australia's ageing society, Dr Janitz believes the focus on preventing neurodegenerative diseases is beginning to rival that of curing cancer, from a public health perspective. With help from many generous donors, the founder and Director of the UNSW Laboratory for Brain Transcriptomics wants to better understand the genetic factors that cause age-related brain diseases and cognitive decline.

To do so, he and his team of six researchers are peering inside brain cells to get a molecular-level understanding of gene expression, using tissue from healthy donors and comparing them to people with neurodegenerative diseases. Using sophisticated genetic sequencing techniques, Dr Janitz and his team are creating a reference for what constitutes 'normal' gene expression in healthy brains, and thus begin to search for deviations that might be symptomatic of diseases.

Dr Janitz is particularly interested in trying to untangle the genetic cause of a condition called multiple

systems atrophy, or MSA. People often develop MSA in their 50s or 60s, and it can lead to progressive immobility as well as trouble breathing, talking, seeing and swallowing. There is currently no treatment for the debilitating disease.

"MSA is a rare neurodegenerative disease, affecting around 2,500 people in Australia, with a lack of early biomarkers to indicate its onset," says Dr Janitz. Although it doesn't have the same profile as Alzheimer's or other dementias, it can be devastating for patients and families affected. Further, MSA is often mistaken for Parkinson's disease, which can result in patients starting ineffective treatment programs, living with the worsening disease for years before getting a proper diagnosis.

THE SCIENCE BEHIND SUCCESS

Dr Janitz believes circular RNAs hold the key for diagnosing MSA.

When DNA instructions are copied into the gene expression process, an RNA molecule is produced. These act like messengers, transporting the instructions from the cell's nucleus to one of the cell's many protein-making factories, called ribosomes. Here, the RNA translates the instructions, and proteins are generated.

RNA molecules are typically shaped like straight lines, but sometimes they are converted to circular

structures. In this form, they become non-coding RNAs, meaning they carry genetic instructions, but never translate them into proteins. Because they are more stable than their linear counterparts, however, they show up in the bloodstream.

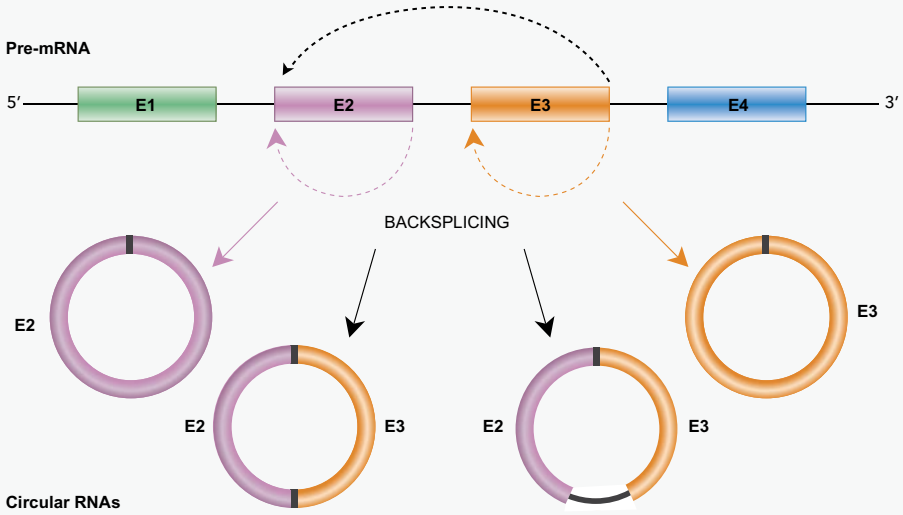
"If we know which circular RNAs or circular lines we are looking for... we could actually just take a simple blood test to diagnose MSA," says aDr Janitz. In a significant breakthrough, his team recently identified a potential circular RNA biomarker for MSA, enabling its early detection. The next step is getting statistical confirmation that it's the right needle in the haystack.

A COMMUNITY OF SUPPORT

After being contacted by the family of an MSA patient three years ago, Dr Janitz was inspired to set up the MSA Research Fund at UNSW, which is crucial to support ongoing breakthroughs in this area. He has since also begun a dialogue with many members of the MSA community, offering support and information about research findings. In response, the community have rallied to generously support his cutting-edge brain science.

At this early stage, the goal isn't to provide a cure or drug for the disease, cautions Dr Janitz. "What we are delivering is a long-term perspective that [the disease's untreatable status] can change."

Dr Janitz believes identifying circular RNAs could be the key to earlier diagnosis.
Credit: Curry-Hyde et al. (2017) Neuroscientist;
doi: 10.1177/1073858417723915



"We are always open to talking to people and trying to explain the problems and challenges. This is what we have been doing with MSA patients and families, and this is extremely important."
– Dr Michael Janitz

As one of the very few Australian research laboratories studying MSA, Dr Janitz says his group is well-positioned to improve understanding about the disease and develop applied solutions.

His goal is to develop a blood test for quick and early diagnosis, which he says would enable better management of the disease, and could one day lead to more effective treatments.

More immediately, he is motivated by providing hope to the people impacted by the disease: "My impression is that many MSA patients and their families feel a little bit abandoned in terms of the awareness and information available," he says. "So my message to them is that we are here to specifically focus on this disease and to progress understanding."

"We are researchers," he adds, "but we are always open to talking to people and trying to explain the problems and challenges. This is what we have been doing with MSA patients and families, and this is extremely important."



OUR GLOBAL PATHWAYS

As Australia’s global university, UNSW Sydney strives to provide our students with access to international opportunities, giving them an advantage along their desired career path as well as forming enriching and memorable life experiences.

Throughout the past 12 months, our generous donors have continued to create opportunities for students to undertake the study and exploration of a foreign market and culture, either through international exchange programs with partnering institutions, or overseas internships with select global organisations. These gifts not only broaden the horizons of our students, but open the door to more international opportunities, helping them to develop the worldly perspective desired in young job seekers and future leaders.

Three such scholarships that will commence or continue in 2018 include the Gail Kelly Global Leaders Scholarship, the Vanessa Hardman Law Memorial Scholarship, and the Sternberg Family Scholarship.



**EXTENDING THE NETWORK:
THE GAIL KELLY GLOBAL
LEADERS SCHOLARSHIP**

Former Westpac CEO, Dr Gail Kelly, has donated \$1 million along with her skills and experience as a respected banking leader in support of an international exchange program between UNSW and Dr Kelly’s South African alma mater, the University of Cape Town (UCT).

From 2018, the Gail Kelly Global Leaders Scholarship will provide \$20,000 each year, in perpetuity, to facilitate a transformative semester-long exchange for one

undergraduate student from the UNSW Business School in Sydney, and one from the Faculty of Commerce, UCT.

The gift will fund travel, accommodation and other key expenses, while successful candidates will also have the opportunity to be mentored by the South African-born Dr Kelly, both before and after the program. Dr Kelly says that since the scholarship will be available every year, she is looking forward to building a special network of young scholars over time.

“In my time as CEO of Westpac, I saw the importance of executives having a world view and developing outstanding leadership capability. I’m hoping that we can provide an opportunity for students to develop in these areas,” she says.

“It is an absolute delight to launch this scholarship. I am grateful to UNSW and UCT for their support in facilitating this exchange program, particularly as it links the two countries that are most special to me. I look forward to meeting the scholars over the years to come.”



**A LEGACY OF LEARNING:
THE VANESSA HARDMAN LAW
MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

After battling breast cancer for six years, UNSW Law alumna Vanessa Hardman sadly passed away in 2016 at the age of 47. Due to her commitment and support of UNSW, the UK Board along with a number of family, friends and former colleagues have established a memorial scholarship in her honour.

The recipient of the inaugural Vanessa Hardman Law Memorial Scholarship in 2018 will receive \$20,000 per annum for up to five

years, and an additional \$25,000 stipend in their final year to cover the cost of travel and accommodation should they choose to study at King’s College London, or another approved UK university. The scholarship will also involve an optional mentorship program and work experience placement at a top international law firm in London.

“One of Vanessa’s biggest strengths was her selflessness,” remembers her husband, Dominic Spacie. Vanessa, who was a securitisation partner at international law firm Allen & Overy in London, also

believed in excellence, Dominic adds. “She continued working from hospital beds throughout her illness. The sheer guts she had in the last years was staggering.”

So far, \$125,000 has been raised from donors in Europe, Australia and North America. Dominic and the Hardman family are humbled by the generosity: “We can never thank anyone enough, because it means Vanessa’s name will live on,” he says.

“The fact that she never gave up sends an important message to future scholars that you have to cherish life.”



**VIVA LIBERAL ARTS: THE STERNBERG
FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP**

Since 2012, UNSW students undertaking a Bachelor of Arts/ Bachelor of Laws combined degree can apply for a scholarship of \$10,000 per year, plus an additional \$10,000 in their fourth or fifth year to undertake an internship with an international arts-related organisation.

The program is a result of our generous donor, Michael Sternberg, UNSW alumnus and owner and investor in various businesses, including Valiant Furniture.

Mr Sternberg recalls the relative ease with which he had accessed a tertiary education in law and commerce, and wanted to pay it forward. “The fees for my degree were very minimal. Today it’s costing students a lot more, and when I considered where I was in my life, it made sense to contribute,” he explains.

Now living in New York and having witnessed his sons’ university experience, Mr Sternberg says he finds the US higher education system more accessible when it comes to studying and practicing in the creative industries at undergraduate level. “The

system here gives people a liberal arts education, whereas Graduate School is the platform more intended for shaping careers in the US,” he says. Meanwhile, students in Australia must choose their careers at the mere age of 17, and from there arts education is often minimal unless undertaking a specific degree in the fine arts sector.

“I hope my scholarship is helping students get through their law degree; giving them a chance to experience another part of the world, and to broaden their scope by continuing their arts education,” he says. “Nothing inspires more than travel and the arts.”

INTERGENERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

Meet Melanie and Ashleigh Webb. Both recipients of UNSW's Ben Lexcen Sports Scholarship, this powerhouse mother-daughter duo proves that sport and study are a winning combination.



Right: Melanie Webb windsurfing at Balmoral Sailing School

Left: Ashleigh Webb's Taekwondo skills create a new interpretation of 'hitting the books'

Dr Melanie Webb – former Olympian, doctor, senior clinical lecturer, windsurfing and sailing instructor, mother of four – understands the challenges and rewards that come with juggling multiple interests. A windsurfer from the age of 13, in 1984, Melanie competed in the Los Angeles Summer Olympics while also studying for her HSC, shortly after which she was accepted into UNSW Medicine.

While initially struggling to devote enough attention to both her sport and studies in 1985, Melanie took two years off to compete in international windsurfing competitions. When she returned to University in 1989, Melanie became the recipient of the UNSW Ben Lexcen Sports Scholarship during its second year of being available to students. The added support meant she didn't have to choose between pursuing her sporting dreams and attending university.

Some 20 years later, Melanie is still a keen windsurfer and sailor, and her daughter Ashleigh is following very closely in her footsteps, awarded the very same scholarship as an Australian Junior Taekwondo Champion. Her Ben Lexcen scholarship, sponsored by McDonald's, has supported Ashleigh through her combined Law and Arts degree, and seen her deliver high-kicks to the status quo that says a sporting and academic career can't go together.

"I love that mum and I both received the same scholarship. It's like being able to walk in her footsteps. I find her really inspirational. She has been my best support," says Ashleigh. "To have a parent like that is something special, because you know that they fully understand what you're going through."

Even with financial support, Melanie says juggling academic commitments isn't easy, but it's important for athletes to have a career during and after sport. "There are so many talented people who are bright and sporty, so to be able to support them is really fantastic. The extra cash can cover the cost of airfares to competitions or new equipment, whatever they need."

It is this forward-thinking that has allowed Melanie to win 15 national events, including multiple national and world titles, as well as working as a medical registrar and Chief Medical Officer for the last 25 years. Just like her mother, Ashleigh began competing at a young age and since then has come second twice at the Open National Championships, and won three out of the five annual Australian University Games (Unigames) throughout her degree.

Her sporting achievements haven't taken away from her academic ones, having also been awarded the UNSW Scientia Scholarship. "She's done so brilliantly both academically and in her sporting competitions, so I'm very proud of her," Melanie says.

As well as providing financial support for Ashleigh, who trains five times a week on top of her studies, the program has allowed her to connect with other scholars in the community, whom she says have been an inspiration. She has also had opportunities she wouldn't have otherwise, like public speaking – a task she finds much more daunting than any Taekwondo tournament. "It has made such a difference to how I can communicate with people," she says.

Now Ashleigh has set her sights on coming first at the Taekwondo Nationals Open Division, while taking up a job offer with Unilever's Future Leaders Programme next year. Her advice for future students who don't think they can juggle both?

"Sport can in so many ways enhance the opportunities that you have," says Ashleigh. "It's never going to limit you, and it might result in things that you don't expect."

Created in 1988, this scholarship program was named after yachtsman and marine architect Ben Lexcen AM and was the first sports assistance scheme of its kind in Australia. The scholarships were designed to help develop well-rounded future leaders, offering elite-level sporting students with up to \$10,000 through corporate and private donors to assist in balancing their sports and study commitments.

THE SUN KING KEEPS SHINING

Guided by his drive to combat climate change, UNSW donor and Adjunct Professor Dr Zhengrong Shi continues to innovate with solar power technologies, while helping UNSW students become global game-changers.



Chinese-Australian businessperson and inventor Dr Zhengrong Shi has played a pivotal role in shaping the global solar power industry, helping to lower costs while delivering new photovoltaic technologies to market.

The UNSW-trained engineer, who helped establish China as the leading solar panel manufacturer globally, believes the technology will revolutionise how solar panels are integrated into our built environment. For Dr Shi, renewable energy represents the clearest path to tackle the “monumental issue” of climate change.

“We don’t need to wait for another 50, or maybe 100 years, for changing

technology. We don’t need to rely on nuclear power,” he says. “The technology for wind, solar, and storage is already here. It is already cost effective. We just need the determination from government.”

A SOLAR EDUCATION AT UNSW

Dr Shi was born in 1963 in a farming village near Shanghai. A determined student, he obtained a Bachelor’s degree in optical science and a Master’s in laser physics, before travelling to Australia.

In 1989, he began an electrical engineering PhD at UNSW under the supervision of Scientia Professor Martin Green AM, a world-renowned solar engineer widely regarded as the ‘father of photovoltaics’.

Dr Shi finished his PhD in just two-and-a-half-years, a record for the University, and became a core member of Professor Green’s lab working on developing thin-film (second-generation) solar cells. A record of success and a promising patent allowed Professor Green to raise AU\$45 million in the mid-90s to start Pacific Solar. As deputy research director here, Dr Shi led 20 senior scientists, focusing on commercialisation.

He worked with Pacific Solar from 1995 until 2001, when he received an enticing offer to return to China to build a solar manufacturing

operation. He was compelled enough to write a business plan, in Mandarin, a language he had not used professionally for more than 10 years. Essentially, he proposed to take the cost of solar panels from US\$5 per watt of output to US\$3 per watt. This meant his hypothetical company could make a 25% gross margin (25c on the dollar), he says.

THE SUN KING RISES

In March 2001, Dr Shi founded Suntech Power Holdings. The goal was cost-reduction and, in a few years, the company was selling solar panels for US\$2.80 per watt. “That totally changed the industry,” he says.

In 2005, Suntech became the first Chinese firm to publicly list on the New York Stock Exchange. Not long after, it became one of the world’s top solar photovoltaic manufacturing companies, with annual revenue greater than US\$3 billion. Dr Shi became one of China’s richest men, and earned the apt moniker, the ‘Sun King’.

During the height of the solar behemoth’s success, Dr Shi maintained a close connection to UNSW, collaborating with Professor Green and other colleagues on research activities, and funding a number of postgraduate study positions.

Despite taking a considerable hit during the Global Financial Crisis,



Suntech continues to operate under new management. Dr Shi has stepped away from the helm, but still takes pride in what he was able to accomplish, not just for the company but also for the Chinese renewables industry more broadly.

“I would say, probably 60% of the modern talent in the solar industry in China were trained by me,” he says. It is a profound legacy.

TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE

When it comes to tackling climate change, Dr Shi has not shied from the spotlight. In 2007, the UNSW alumnus was *Time Magazine*’s Hero of the Environment, and was included in *The Guardian*’s list of “50 people who could save the planet”.

In 2011, he managed a joint project between Suntech and UNSW to adorn the Sydney Theatre Company’s roof with a 500-kilowatt solar installation.

“At the time, [rooftop solar] technology was not widely adopted in Australia,” says Dr Shi, who donated an extraordinary \$2 million to UNSW through his family foundation to make this project happen. “I thought I could use my own money to complete an impactful project to educate people, and influence them to begin using solar.”

Dr Shi’s passion for educating and influencing has not wavered.

The Adjunct Professor dedicates much of his time to supervising students, conducting research, and helping young engineers achieve their entrepreneurial ambitions.

“I see many technologies that are developed, or processes still in development, which have the potential to be commercialised,” he says. “I’m in a position where I can help the [students] to do that.”

The solar visionary is full of sage advice: the main things, he says, are for students to be passionate, to embrace opportunities for collaboration, and to believe in themselves and their ability to make the world a better place. “I want to encourage them to believe they can change the world using their technology.”

Dr Shi’s latest innovation is an ultra-thin, flexible solar panel, which is 80% lighter than conventional rooftop panels. Capable of being cut to any size and curved, the new high-performance panels – called eArche – will enable virtually every surface of a building to generate clean electricity. They can also be mounted onto roofs and surfaces not typically designed to shoulder heavy loads.

“I thought I could use my own money to complete an impactful project to educate people, and influence them to begin using solar.”
– Dr Zhengrong Shi



OUR SCHOLARS – PAST & PRESENT

Every year, UNSW reaches out to its alumni community to seek support for the President and Vice-Chancellor's Alumni Scholarship, helping to give the gift of opportunity to bright young minds.

The President and Vice-Chancellor's Alumni Scholarship supports students from a range of backgrounds with limited or restricted access to higher education, including from rural or low socio-economic backgrounds, Indigenous heritage, students with disabilities, or to those who are experiencing other forms of hardship. The \$5,000 annual scholarship follows students throughout the duration of their degree and helps them to pay for the essentials like accommodation, textbooks, computers, transport, and other living expenses.

Since 2009, more than 6,900 alumni have generously donated towards the appeal, allowing UNSW to offer more than 100 scholarships to gifted students in need. Of these worthy recipients, 41 have already graduated from our University. We spoke to three generations of these scholars to see how the scholarship helped them individually, and what great things have come from this support.

"The sincerest thank you for making the wonderful things I've been able to experience possible."
– Simba Kuestler

ED YOUSEF CURRENT STUDENT, 2ND YEAR MEDICAL SCIENCE

At 18 years old, Ed Yousef migrated from Syria to escape the threat of war and mandatory military conscription. On arrival in Australia he spoke little English and, remarkably, learned more than enough to support him through his tertiary endeavours with six months of intensive classes. He's now studying medical science, with aims to move to medicine in the future, but for a time he didn't feel he'd be able to jump the initial hurdles to university entry. "I'm very grateful to actually be here," he says.

Ed explains that the support of the scholarship has been invaluable for him, as he isn't able to access

course fee support through more traditional channels.

"With my visa I don't get access to HECS, so my only option was to pay up-front." He says the scholarship has allowed him to focus on his studies and stick with his degree, having removed the burden of seeking alternative finances. "There's less pressure on me and my family to make money." The scholarship has also meant the space in Ed's schedule that would have been filled by work is now open for him to spend time giving back to his community, volunteering to tutor kids in Western Sydney who are also new arrivals or refugees. "I'd like to thank the donors. Studying makes me very happy," says Ed.



SIMBA KUESTLER NEW GRADUATE, RENEWABLE ENERGY ENGINEERING

During his time at UNSW, it has become clear that Simba Kuestler has a bright future ahead of him. Simba was project manager of the UNSW Engineering Sunswift Team in 2016 and 2017 – a group of students working on a solar-powered car to race in the World Solar Challenge. The group's goal is to effect mass-market change in the automotive industry to, as Simba describes it, "make a car that powers itself."

In 2014, the team obliterated a 26-year-old world speed record for the fastest electric vehicle. In 2017, the team drove the vehicle, the Sunswift Violet, more than 3,000km as part of the Challenge. That gutsy drive mirrors Simba's ambition for himself, his teammates, and for the future of sustainable technologies.

With the Sunswift team often volunteering up to 60-80 hours per week, Simba says he would not have been able to contribute towards this incredible project without the help of the scholarship. "I didn't need to find a part-time job while studying. This meant that I could use my time at university more effectively." Simba is keen to make his appreciation apparent, and to donors he offers, "the sincerest thank you for making the wonderful things I've been able to experience possible."



MADDISON LUCHETTI 2016 GRADUATE, MINING ENGINEERING

Maddison Luchetti hails from Bathurst and is the first member of her family to go to university. Completing her degree in mining engineering last year, she was quickly offered a graduate role with Barminto in Tasmania working at Rosebery Mine, where she was promoted in under a year.

She is currently giving back to the community and the industry through her involvement in Mines Rescue. "I've become involved in the Mines Rescue Team, which has allowed me to experience other aspects of the industry. We do regular training in areas such as operating breathing apparatus, road crash rescue,

hazardous materials response and underground search and rescue," she explains.

Also a recipient of the Mitsubishi Rural Scholarship in Mining Engineering, Maddison has always been passionate about service, and she says the scholarships afforded her the opportunity to pursue that calling, even while studying. "They assisted in paying for my accommodation to live on or close to campus. The scholarships allowed me time to become involved in the community, helped me to make friends outside of the mining school, and alleviated the stress of having to work to support myself," she says. "This allowed me to focus on the aspects of university that really mattered."

"The scholarships allowed me time to become involved in the community, helped me to make friends outside of the mining school, and alleviated the stress of having to work to support myself."
– Maddison Luchetti

RESEARCH FUELLED BY LOVE

After nine months searching the globe for researchers who could help their son, the Singha family finally found the support they needed at UNSW Medicine.

When Vivek and Monika Singha welcomed into the world their fourth child, Kushagra, it didn't take them long to notice something was amiss. Their first son had been attempting to walk at 10 months but for Kushagra, or Kush, within six months he still wasn't able to roll over or crawl. When his parents tried to make eye contact, baby Kush would often stare off elsewhere, which at first made them suspect autism. Then the seizures started.

"Two days before his first birthday, he had a big seizure, then two months later he developed the infantile spasms, which lasted from when he was 14 months until around 21 months. That was a very rough time for us," explains Vivek and Monika. Kush was put on medication for child epilepsy, which the paediatrician said should stop the seizures within two weeks, but it wasn't until eight months later that they began to ease.

After a few more months and more than 75 medical tests, Kush was officially diagnosed with FoxG1 syndrome – a very rare genetic condition characterised by impaired development and structural brain abnormalities, meaning affected children struggle to walk, eat or talk. The relief at having a diagnosis was short-lived however, when internet searches showed there was little awareness around the condition. Kush was in fact the first child in Sydney to be affected by the disorder, and only the 159th in the world.

THE GLOBAL SEARCH BEGINS

The Singhas are not a family to rest on their laurels, and immediately began contacting every specialist or researcher they could – from oncologists, immunologists and geneticists, to biohackers and computational biologists – and in doing so drawing up a research roadmap for finding a cure. Throughout their global search, they also discovered the US-based FoxG1 Foundation, and decided to set up their own arm of the foundation here in Australia. Their search finally came to an end nine months later after a telephone conversation with Dr Fabien Delerue, a UNSW Medicine researcher.

"I received a call from a father who told me about his son's condition and explained how he had been in touch with scientists worldwide but could not get any research started," says Dr Delerue. "The story sounded as confronting as it was exciting and challenging. The main reason he contacted me was because when it comes to rare genetic disorders, the first step is to create an animal model of the disease, and this was precisely what I had specialised in for the last 20 years."

From there, they set up a small research team that includes UNSW's Head of the Dementia Research Unit Professor Lars Ittner and PhD candidate Daniel Tan. This latter position was financed by the Kushagra Singha FoxG1 PhD

Scholarship, which the Singhas and Dr Delerue tirelessly raised funds for, through everything from Bunnings barbecues and family fun runs to riding 1,000km around New South Wales. "Before, nobody was fundraising for FoxG1, and now we've managed to raise about \$100,000 for this research," says Vivek. "If we can raise more funds, we can continue to scale up progress in this area."

RESEARCH CHALLENGES

The research team is working on identifying ways to correct the damaged gene, while a breakthrough in gene editing technology known as CRISPR has brought more hope to the family for its ability to deliver more accurate, faster and cost-effective gene editing. However, because the FoxG1 gene is located in the brain, they must first develop a vector that can safely cross the blood-brain barrier.

While working so closely with the Singhas in his research efforts has been a wonderful and rewarding experience, Dr Delerue says it can be very challenging when things don't go according to plan. "Research is about troubleshooting, so as much as we want to be accountable for the hope and trust people put in us, we cannot always guarantee that we will be able to fulfil their expectations."

"Earlier, there was a point of reflection where we thought, this might not

work, so is it worthwhile doing all of this?" Vivek adds. "We want Kush to be able to run around on the beach like the other kids, but we think that even if his trajectory only moves slowly upwards, where he could one day walk on his own, that would still be a great improvement for him. The whole process will be a learning curve, so long-term research will be useful."

A RAY OF HOPE

Though FoxG1 syndrome has since become a standard test on the epilepsy panel, to date only 332 people in the world have been diagnosed with the condition. Vivek and Monika say they have come in contact with at least four other children diagnosed with FoxG1 syndrome in Australia, including one mother whose son is now in high school, able to use a standing frame and interact with the other kids.

"She said that her son was exactly like Kush when he was younger, but he grew out of a lot of it. That was really encouraging for us to know – that though this was hitting Kush really hard at the time, he had a ray of hope," says Vivek. Since then Kush has been able to slowly adapt to using a standing frame, and is showing some progress in his ability to balance. "He's trying his best, and visually where before his eyes wouldn't focus, if you hold his iPad in front of him now, he just latches on to it, so that is a big deal," he adds.

Dr Delerue says that everyone who has donated towards FoxG1 research should be commended for their kind support. "I really want to let them know that their support makes a tangible difference in FoxG1 patients by genuinely providing us with what we need to try and find a cure."



Vivek and Monika Singha with their son Kushagra



The Singha family

"We want Kush to be able to run around on the beach like the other kids, but we think that even if his trajectory only moves slowly upwards, where he could one day walk on his own, that would still be a great improvement for him." – Vivek Singha

NEWS & EVENTS

NEW SENIOR HIRES CHAMPION DIVERSITY & EQUITY FOR UNSW

UNSW has reaffirmed its commitment to driving social equity and diversity through the appointment of two new high profile positions.

Professor Megan Davis was appointed UNSW's first Pro Vice-Chancellor, Indigenous in March this year, and is responsible for leading important aspects of our 2025 Strategy around Indigenous equality, inclusivity and policy.

Professor Davis, a Cobble Cobble Aboriginal woman from the Barrungam nation in south-west Queensland, is one of Australia's most highly-regarded lawyers specialising in public law and public international law. She has worked at UNSW since 2001,



Professor Megan Davis, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Indigenous

spending the past decade leading the Indigenous Law Centre and its research agenda. Professor Davis says she is honoured to take on this new role at UNSW. "I'm excited about showcasing and developing UNSW research excellence across many important areas of Indigenous policy that impact communities on the ground and, in particular, nurturing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander scholars," she says.

In June, Professor Eileen Baldry was named Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Inclusion and Diversity at UNSW. A Justice Medal winner and social justice champion, Professor Baldry

is UNSW's first female DVC and has been driving the University's ambitious objectives around maintaining an equal, diverse and inclusive University for all.

A long-time UNSW staff member, Professor Baldry is one of the country's leading academics in the field of criminology and was awarded the prestigious NSW Justice Medal in 2009 for her "indefatigable" support for justice-related causes. Professor Baldry says her first priority is to work with all staff to achieve the 2025 Strategy targets around gender equity.

"We need cultural change across the University that will require inspirational and inclusive leadership and support from staff and students," she says.



Professor Eileen Baldry, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Inclusion and Diversity

RESEARCH & GIVING

With vital support from our generous donor community, we have managed to conduct pioneering research and deliver leading education programs with global impact.

REMARKABLE RESULTS FOR SPINAL MUSCULAR ATROPHY DRUG TRIAL

An international study involving UNSW and Sydney Children's Hospital researchers has led to the first approved treatment for spinal muscular atrophy, a devastating genetic disorder in babies.

BREAKTHROUGH IN NANOPARTICLE CANCER TREATMENT

UNSW Science research has discovered plastic nanoparticles inspired by nature, and encapsulating cancer-fighting

drugs, could enter tumour cells more easily and allow faster and more effective cancer treatment.

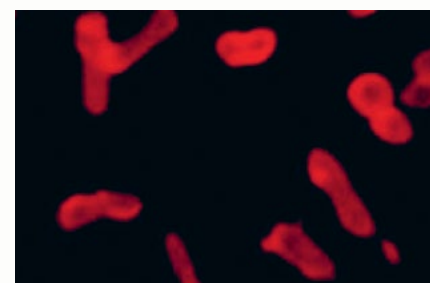
UNSW STUDENTS WIN HARVARD BIOMOD FOR THIRD TIME

A student-designed DNA scaffolding nanostructure that provides new insights into self-assembling biological systems has taken out the grand prize at Harvard University's annual biomolecular design competition.

ORIGIN FOUNDATION GIVES \$5M FOR GRANT KING INDIGENOUS SCHOLARSHIPS

UNSW Sydney has received a generous gift from the Origin Foundation to assist Indigenous students to pursue a career in STEM-related fields. The program will provide two residential scholarships

annually for talented students to undertake studies within the faculties of engineering or science.



The UNSW Staff Giving Appreciation Afternoon Tea

EXCITING EVENTS

BIG ANXIETY FESTIVAL A BIG WIN FOR MENTAL HEALTH

Our recent Big Anxiety Festival held on Sep 20 – Nov 11 showcased some of UNSW's most innovative mental health research across UNSW Arts & Social Sciences. Hosted at various multicultural hubs across Greater Sydney, visitors enjoyed access to more than 60 events featuring state-of-the-art immersive environments, international art exhibitions, theatre and performance, interactive media events and public forums designed by some of the world's most progressive creative innovators. The event was the result of a unique collaboration led by UNSW and the Black Dog Institute, and supported by a number of philanthropic partners in the cultural and government space.

LUNCH HELD TO THANK SCHOLARSHIP DONORS

The recent Scholarship Donor Appreciation Lunch hosted by UNSW on Oct 11 gave many alumni and friends the chance to get together and celebrate the impact of their support of the UNSW scholarship program. Guests at the event had the opportunity to speak with some of the scholarship recipients to see the impact these have had on their lives. It was also a great privilege to have Vera Boyarsky, UNSW alumna, and Director and owner of Anka Property Group, share her thoughts



Esteemed UNSW donor Vera Boyarsky with some of our bright scholars at the 2017 Scholarship Donor Appreciation Lunch

on the value of the scholarship program, inspiring guests with her drive to 'give back' and to amplify the value of her own UNSW education. We are incredibly proud of what our scholarship recipients have been able to achieve during their time at UNSW and there is no doubt that the support of their scholarship donors makes university experiences like theirs all the richer.

STAFF GIVING APPRECIATION AFTERNOON TEA

UNSW's President and Vice-Chancellor Professor Ian Jacobs, along with members of the executive team, donned chef's hats and aprons



to serve afternoon tea to staff to show their gratitude for UNSW's generous staff donors. Held on Wednesday July 12, the event provided an opportunity for the University to thank and recognise UNSW staff who have made a significant financial contribution to UNSW's philanthropic programs. Staff donate through the UNSW Workplace Giving program in support of a variety of initiatives including student scholarships, prizes or awards as well as life-changing research. Some of the most popular areas that staff contribute to include Nura Gili, the ASPIRE program, medical and cancer research, refugee law and photovoltaics.

MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT, PHILANTHROPY

Thank you for your generous support this year. Your gifts, both large and small, contribute to a vibrant philanthropic community that we are continuing to build at UNSW Sydney.

With your contributions we have been able to support students, foster innovative research, and commence new capital projects that significantly add to what the University is able to provide and achieve.

Through your continuous support, we are able to make the significant impact that you have read about in this report.

Thank you again for sharing our vision to become Australia's global university, and for entrusting us with your donations.

Sincerely,

JON PAPARSENOS

Vice-President, Philanthropy
Alumni, Engagement & Development



Jon Paparsenos with two scholars at the Scholarship Donor Appreciation Lunch.

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Continuing your support of UNSW Sydney

Donation form

I would like to donate to:



☐ ASPIRE

Help school students from low socio-economic communities access and succeed at university through in-school workshops, homework centres, mentoring and visits to UNSW.



☐ President & Vice Chancellor's Alumni Scholarship

Empower UNSW students experiencing financial hardship and other disadvantage to achieve their potential and succeed at university, by alleviating financial pressure.



☐ Area of greatest need

Enable UNSW to apply your donation to the area where it is needed most including student support, research and capital projects.

I would like to make a donation:

☐ Monthly*

☐ Annually*

☐ One-off

* Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible in Australia.

* I understand I may cancel my authority for credit card charges for an ongoing gift at any time by contacting UNSW at the contact details below. UNSW will confirm your request in writing.

To the value of:

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☐ \$1000

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Thank you for your support. Together, we can make a difference.

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