Since 2009, over 4,500 UNSW alumni have provided 60 scholarships and raised more than $1.7 million in gifts and pledges to support students at UNSW from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Each year we are grateful to the large number of UNSW alumni who generously support the Vice-Chancellor’s Alumni Scholarship Appeal and who take the time to have insightful conversations with UNSW students calling alumni.

UNSW alumni have offered disadvantaged students an opportunity to:

- participate in higher education
- experience first class education at a top University
- fulfill their educational goals and academic aspirations

What is the Vice-Chancellor’s 2012 Alumni Scholarship Appeal?

In 2012, the Vice-Chancellor’s Alumni Scholarship Appeal seeks the continued support of our alumni community to provide financial assistance to disadvantaged students. These students are from low socio-economic backgrounds and include rural students, Indigenous Australians, students with disabilities and students enduring hardship. A scholarship of $5,000 per year, for the duration of a student’s degree, has a huge impact assisting students in need.

Why do we need scholarships for disadvantaged students?

Last year UNSW received over 700 applications for financial assistance through UAC (University Admissions Centre) from disadvantaged students. From these applications the University was able to offer just 60 scholarships; this represents only a small proportion of scholarships required to assist disadvantaged students. Without assistance, these students may be unable to attend UNSW and may not fulfil their highest academic potential.

As a result of the generosity of our alumni community the University has been able to add an additional 60 scholarships since our first alumni appeal in 2009 to the UNSW pool of scholarships for disadvantaged students.

Your gift as an alumnus not only helps the next generation achieve their academic potential but also helps UNSW to continue to attract students with the highest potential in Australia.

Impact of your gift

As an alumnus of UNSW you have experienced the benefits and opportunities that come with higher education at a prestigious Australian university. Your gift will make an impact and help
create the same opportunities that you experienced at UNSW for students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Your gift does make a difference. In the students' own words:

“As a medical student with a long degree ahead of me this scholarship has made a big impact on my life, relieving many financial concerns and allowing me to concentrate on my studies… As a result, I am able to become the best practitioner I can possibly be. Your amazing contribution has also inspired me to set up my own charity in the future, to help others in need. Thank you so much for your contribution.”

Jan Zhang

“I loved my first year at UNSW. I am from Dubbo in central western NSW (where I was born and bred) so living in Sydney was very exciting, though quite costly. It is only thanks to your generous donations to this scholarship that I have been able to leave Dubbo and further my education at such a prestigious university. I thank you so very much for your kind generosity toward this scholarship, without which I would most likely not have been able to afford university at all.”

Olivia Smith

How does the University support students from disadvantaged backgrounds?

In 2012 the University will spend $1.3 million on scholarships for disadvantaged students. We understand how difficult it is for a young student from a disadvantaged family, and sometimes money is not enough.

UNSW has a number of programs to support entry into university for disadvantaged students. These programs include:

- Faculty specific pathway programs that allow students to obtain the assumed knowledge to meet the entry requirements of the degree program
- U@UNSW which looks at multiple indicators of ability, motivation and potential for success in Higher Education and incorporates transitional support to ensure success

Once at UNSW, the University provides support through the Student Equity and Disabilities Unit and the Student Participation and Engagement Unit. Programs include:

- support for individuals through student welfare officers
- counseling support services
- special programs for Indigenous students

By providing additional support for our students UNSW can claim a highly successful overall retention rate – 85.6% for disadvantaged students as compared to a national rate of 77.2%.

What are the criteria for the 2012 Vice-Chancellor’s Scholarship Appeal?

- Scholarships are offered at the beginning of each year
- All applicants must be Australian Citizens/Permanent Residents
- The successful applicant must be entering the first year of any single or combined undergraduate degree at UNSW
- Students must apply through the Universities Admissions Centre (UAC) Equity Scholarships Scheme
- Each applicant will be assessed on their ability to demonstrate financial hardship. In addition, the applicant must meet one or more of the following disadvantages:
  - Carer responsibilities
  - English language difficulties
  - Indigenous Australian
  - Long-term medical condition/disability or ongoing effects of abuse
  - Regional or remote disadvantage
  - Sole parent responsibilities

With your help we can achieve our 2012 goal

If 350 alumni give $333.33 a year, for the next three years, we will be able to support up to 7 new scholarships for students from disadvantaged backgrounds to reach their full potential.

Our graduates can also help by volunteering to support UNSW students through the new Host program, where alumni agree to host a new international student for an informal breakfast, lunch or dinner, to be offered in Semester 1, 2013. UNSW is also seeking expressions of interest among alumni volunteers to participate in the development of a mentor program for students and young alumni.

ALEX METELERKAMP graduated this year and is one of the first graduates to have received a scholarship in 2009.

"Sincerest thanks to UNSW Alumni donors whose generosity provided me with a scholarship of $5,000 per year. This support allowed me to focus on my goals, ignite my passion in the area of commercialisation and graduate with first class honours. Now that I am also a UNSW Alumni, I plan to make significant contributions to the alumni community and UNSW and encourage other graduates to give back in whatever way they can."

Alex Metelerkamp
BE (Hons) '12

Thank you for considering making a gift to the Vice-Chancellor's 2012 Alumni Scholarships Appeal.

UNSW remains committed to increasing available scholarships for students in need. Your gift will make a real difference to help disadvantaged students access higher education at UNSW.

Your gift of over $2 is tax deductible in Australia. The University of New South Wales (UNSW) is endorsed as a Deductible Gift Receipt.

For more information contact the Alumni Relations Office
Email: alumni@unsw.edu.au www.alumni@unsw.edu.au