

**WESTERN SYDNEY**  
UNIVERSITY

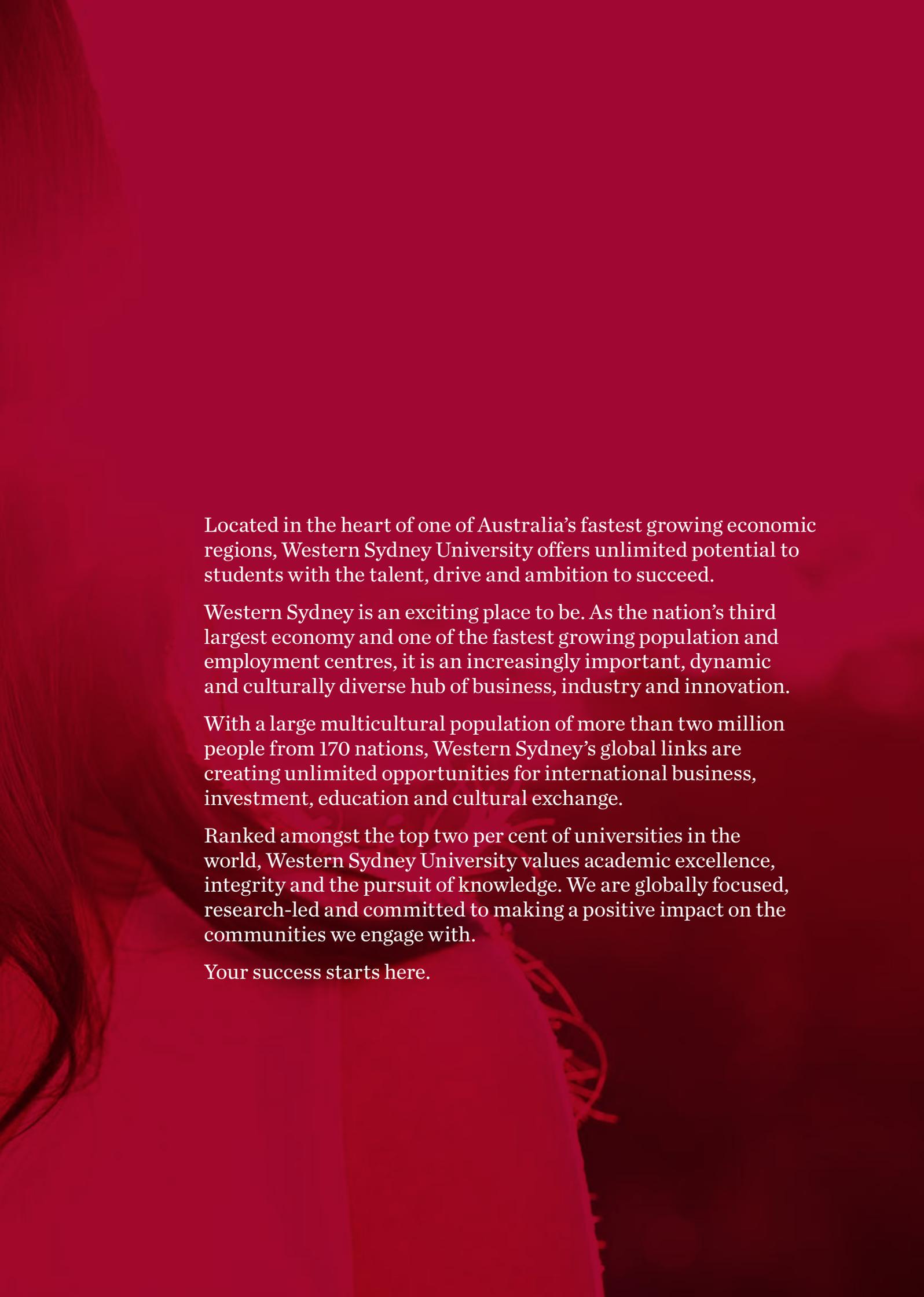


# Impact Report

2014



**WE ARE  
WESTERN  
SYDNEY**



Located in the heart of one of Australia's fastest growing economic regions, Western Sydney University offers unlimited potential to students with the talent, drive and ambition to succeed.

Western Sydney is an exciting place to be. As the nation's third largest economy and one of the fastest growing population and employment centres, it is an increasingly important, dynamic and culturally diverse hub of business, industry and innovation.

With a large multicultural population of more than two million people from 170 nations, Western Sydney's global links are creating unlimited opportunities for international business, investment, education and cultural exchange.

Ranked amongst the top two per cent of universities in the world, Western Sydney University values academic excellence, integrity and the pursuit of knowledge. We are globally focused, research-led and committed to making a positive impact on the communities we engage with.

Your success starts here.





# THE UNIVERSITY'S MISSION AND VISION

## OUR MISSION

To be a university of international standing and outlook, achieving excellence through scholarship, teaching, learning, research and service to local and international communities, beginning with the people of Greater Western Sydney.

## OUR VISION

To secure success for our students and the Greater Western Sydney region through innovation and discovery in a dynamic and technology-enabled world.

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# MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

With more than half of our students the first in their families to go to university, and many from low socio-economic backgrounds, Western Sydney University is committed to helping all individuals reach their full potential.

When financial difficulties put this stepping-stone out of reach, scholarships can provide a vital helping hand. Many recipients say the benefits aren't merely financial. Knowing that someone, possibly a stranger, wants to help them succeed can be a powerful motivator.

We are incredibly grateful for the many forms of generosity we receive from philanthropists, our business partners, charitable organisations, alumni and staff donors. Along with funding scholarships, philanthropic donations also contribute to our University's excellent research, special educational opportunities, internships and many other worthy causes.

In demonstrating a shared commitment to the University's mission, our staff have again contributed generously in 2014 to support Western Sydney University Community Scholarships for students experiencing hardship, but who have the drive and determination to succeed. We have matched all of these staff gifts and will continue to do this to ensure that the generosity of our staff can have an even greater impact on our community.

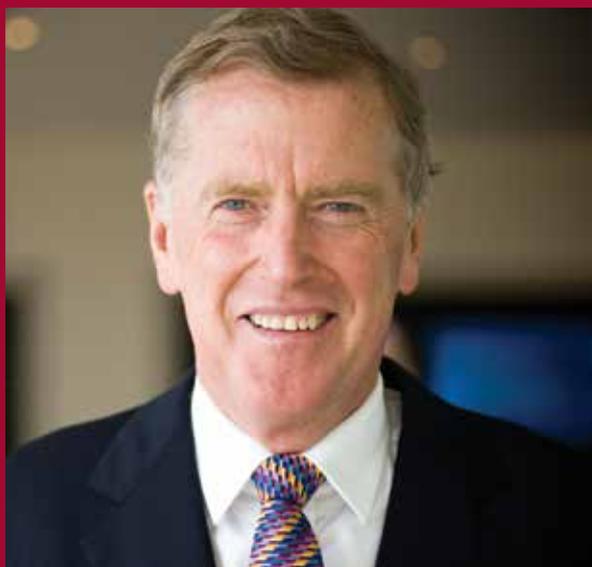
In many cases, supporting Western Sydney University is a gift that keeps on giving. Whether it's medical research that can improve people's lives, or graduates who, through the assistance they've received, are inspired to help others, philanthropy through Western Sydney University is a tangible way to drive positive change and make a difference.



Professor Barney Glover  
Vice-Chancellor and President



# MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDATION COUNCIL



**During 2014 Foundation Council members considered how best to assist Western Sydney University address disadvantage and realise human potential through philanthropy. We believe education can and does change the lives of individuals and the generations that follow. In the pursuit of greater equality, social cohesion and economic prosperity, tertiary education is the most powerful tool we have.**

Equally, who is better placed than universities to conduct research into the myriad issues that confront the globe today? Who is going to fuel the innovation and deliver the ingenuity we need to survive and thrive in the century ahead? Universities like Western Sydney University, and teams of talented higher degree researchers focused on this century's biggest challenges, and given opportunities to address these challenges.

The entire Foundation Council became involved with Western Sydney University because we believe in the transformative power of tertiary education. This is also the rationale for a focus on creating opportunity through scholarships.

Foundation Council will work towards adding significant numbers of new scholarship opportunities to Western Sydney University's current offering, with a special focus on creating international exchange opportunities – both incoming and outgoing. We aim to develop a critical mass of our best, brightest and most deserving young people, to lead

the advancement of the Greater Western Sydney region and beyond. The youth of today are the leaders of tomorrow. This is our chance to equip them, and the region, with the skills and support they need to succeed.

Our focus on funding scholarships will continue into 2015 and is Western Sydney University's most ambitious fundraising effort to date. It is based on an unwavering belief of the potential of this young university, and the people of Greater Western Sydney. It will require the talents and contributions of many, many people. We will need to reach out to our alumni, engage our students and teachers, and win support across our region and beyond, as we work together to propel Western Sydney University forward.

We aim to retain the best in the West, attract the brilliant, and define the future. We'd love it if you could join us.

**Danny Gilbert AM**  
**Western Sydney University**  
**Foundation Council Chair**

# RECOGNISING THE SUPPORT OF OUR FOUNDATION COUNCIL



Western Sydney University would like to acknowledge the time and effort of the members of the Foundation Council in providing vision and guidance for philanthropic activity at the University.

**Danny Gilbert AM (Chair)**  
Managing Partner, Gilbert + Tobin

**Professor Peter Shergold AC**  
Chancellor  
Western Sydney University

**Professor Barney Glover**  
Vice-Chancellor and President  
Western Sydney University

**John Banks**  
Director, Talent2

**Professor Richard Bawden AM**  
Emeritus Professor  
Western Sydney University

**Mark Bouris AM**  
Executive Chairman, Yellow Brick Road

**Cameron Clyne**  
Former Group CEO, National Australia Bank

**Matt Graham**  
Partner, PriceWaterhouseCoopers

**Peeyush Gupta**  
Chairman, State Super Financial Services

**Susan Lloyd-Hurwitz**  
CEO and Managing Director, Mirvac

**Pip Marlow**  
Managing Director, Microsoft Australia

**Harold Mitchell AC**  
Executive Chairman, Mitchell Communications

**Katie Page**  
CEO, Harvey Norman

**Gabrielle Trainor**  
Director, Whitlam Institute and Member,  
Western Sydney University  
Board of Trustees

**Kim Williams AM**  
Freelance Corporate Advisor and Director

# THANK YOU IN OUR STUDENTS' OWN WORDS



Michael Sewell, Business Services Director, Campbelltown City Council, Ian Porter scholarship recipient Alyssa Llorando and Judy Porter

At Western Sydney University we recognise and appreciate the significance and impact of your contribution as a donor. Students often share with us the boost it gives them to receive a scholarship or award, knowing that a donor believes in them and validating that they are on the right track. For others, it reduces the financial burden and allows them to concentrate on their studies, or even turn on their heater in Winter. In their own words, here is a snapshot of the impact you have...

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## **Emma Dasey**

### **AD INSTRUMENTS AWARD IN MEDICAL PHYSIOLOGY**

“The most satisfying achievements are the ones that you work really hard for and this award is a much appreciated encouragement to keep studying hard. I am grateful to be selected for an award that will help me feel academically equal to my peers (which is something that I struggle with at times!).”

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## **Jillian Munday**

### **2/5 AUSTRALIAN GENERAL HOSPITAL AWARD IN NURSING EVELYN CULLEN NURSING AWARD**

“The award donors are just amazing. I can’t describe the boost this has given my confidence. When I opened the email, I was astonished. Then when I absorbed the message I felt absolutely thrilled. This will remain a cherished part of my study journey. Evelyn Cullen must have been an exceptional person and nurse to inspire her family to formally create an award. I am sad that I will never meet her personally.”

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## **Brooke Levingston**

### **BLUE MOUNTAINS YOUTH COUNCIL AWARD FOR SKILL SHORTAGE**

“This award acknowledges that the efforts I have made have been very worthwhile.”

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## **Crystal Wood**

### **BRENTON BANFIELD MEDICAL SCHOLARSHIP**

“I am extremely grateful for this scholarship as it means the costs of living and studying will be far less of a burden. I am responsible for working to support myself. This scholarship means I won’t have to work as many hours each week, and can dedicate more time to study. This scholarship means I will be in a much better position to succeed.”

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## **Ingrid Haralovic**

### **SMSA AWARD IN SOCIAL SCIENCE**

“I am extremely honoured and grateful that I was selected to receive such a prestigious award. This award will motivate and encourage me to strive and work harder. I am grateful my academic efforts and perseverance and I am extremely privileged to receive this award.”

# BUSINESS LEADERS LEND SUPPORT

Western Sydney was the launch pad for some of Australia's leading business figures. Several have now returned to their roots as members of the Western Sydney University Foundation Council.

Mark Bouris of Yellow Brick Road grew up in Bankstown, former NAB head, Cameron Clyne, in Penrith and Katie Page, Managing Director of retail giant Harvey Norman which opened its first store in Auburn are just a few of the high-profile individuals who have joined the Western Sydney University Foundation Council to help raise funds to support our students, research and other nationally and internationally impactful initiatives. The Council members also help connect the University with other leaders from philanthropic, government and business sectors.

Chairman, Danny Gilbert AM, Founding Partner of Gilbert + Tobin Lawyers, leads the Council to support the University's role to be the advocate and champion for the Greater Western Sydney region and its people.

All of the Council members come from the top rungs of large corporations and share a passion for the region, says Western Sydney University Advancement and Alumni Executive Director, Dr Joe Collins.

"They all appreciate that Greater Western Sydney is one of the major growth areas for Australia and that the region, with its multicultural population, is the face of Australia in many respects," he says.



“Our University is at the heart of that. The Council has taken a genuine leadership position in assisting the University in our philanthropy.”

Among Council initiatives is the monthly Gilbert + Tobin Lunch Series, each hosted by a different member. The lunches draw on members’ networks and help Western Sydney University connect with business leaders and potential donors.

“Our Vice-Chancellor, Professor Barney Glover tells (attendees) the story about Western Sydney University, our areas of excellence and the contributions we make to the region,” Dr Collins says. “Exposing such a compelling story to Australia’s business leaders creates opportunities to have an ongoing dialogue with individuals and companies.”

Western Sydney University Excellence Tours are another initiative, designed

to give Foundation Council members a first-hand insight into the University’s key areas of excellence so they can share their discoveries and anecdotes with others.

One of the latest tours saw a group visit the MARCS Institute in Bankstown, where research spans infants through to ageing populations and robotics. The tour also included the Western Sydney University School of Medicine and the Ingham Institute, a state of the art medical research centre involving Western Sydney University, South Western Sydney Local Health District and UNSW. Members also met some of the high-achieving students involved in Western Sydney University leadership school, The Academy.

One of these students, Lakshmi Logathassan, was named NSW Young Woman of the Year for 2014 after establishing a program for sending

unwanted laptops to disadvantaged schools in Sri Lanka and Kenya.

“This project has gone from being a local region project to a state-based project, and connecting with Microsoft may give her the opportunity to expand the project across the South-East Asian region,” Dr Collins says.

“Our Foundation Council members have amazing contacts and an amazing desire to help us be successful,” Dr Collins says.

“They’re contributing actively not only to raising funds, but also raising awareness. For us, it’s not about walking into a meeting and asking for money. By developing awareness about our research excellence and the great work we’re doing, people will and do want to help.”

Photo: Foundation Council member Katie Page and Gerry Harvey toured the EuCFace facility in a mini Excellence Tour.

# GIVING AT WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY 2014

\$2,895,681



TOTAL DONATED

425



DONORS

177



FIRST TIME DONORS

2,581



GIFTS

\$501,690

INCREASE ON 2013

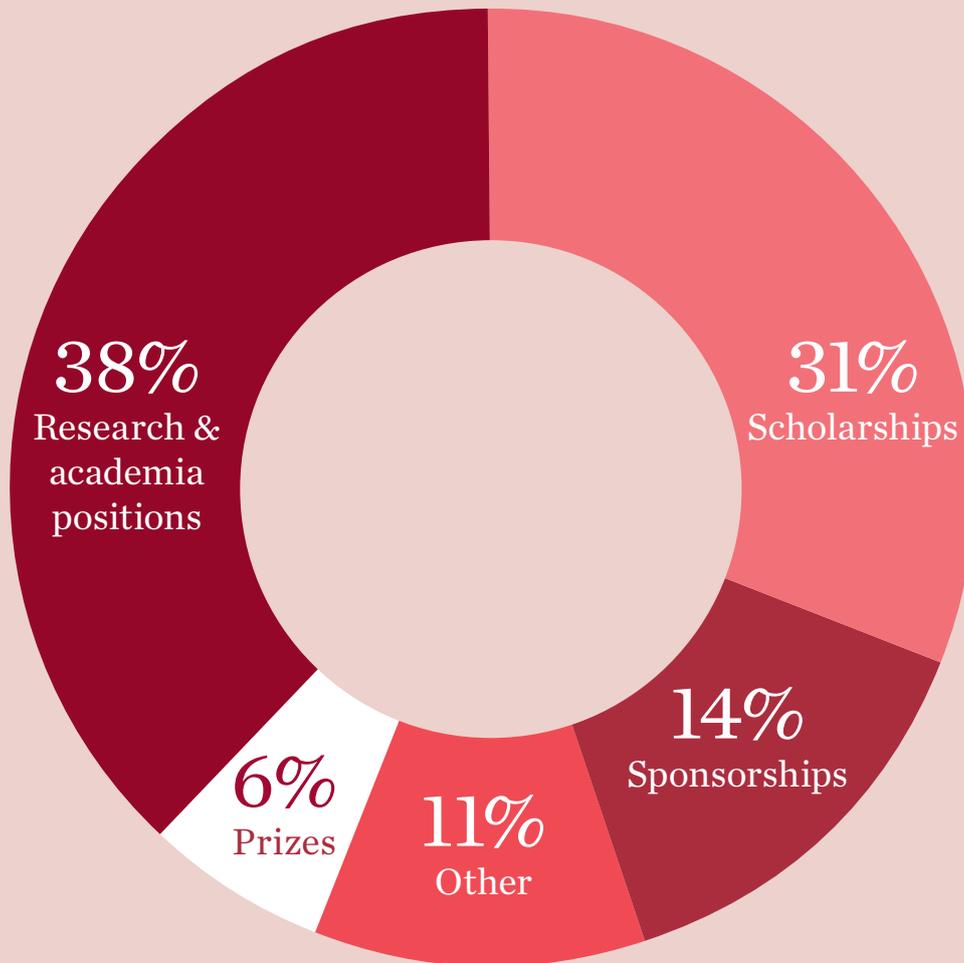
2013

2014



21%  
INCREASE

# ALLOCATION OF GIFTS



177



DONOR SUPPORTED PRIZES AWARDED IN 2014

\$121,420



TOTAL VALUE OF PRIZES TO RECIPIENTS IN 2014

# WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY STUDENTS LEAD THE WAY TO CHINA

A large group of Western Sydney University students has been armed with the skills and knowledge to build cross-cultural links with China, thanks to the generosity of Dr William Chiu.

A successful businessman and active member of the Australian Chinese community, Dr Chiu is one of the largest single benefactors to Western Sydney University, with his contributions totalling \$500,000.

Benefits of Dr Chiu's support, which began in 2012, have been far-reaching, but all the scholarships, internships, prizes and projects he funds are geared towards promoting understanding between China and Australia.

The William Chiu Achievement Awards, for example, support a five-year prize fund to encourage high-achieving students in relevant fields. There are four prizes awarded annually to the most outstanding student in Interpreting and Translation, specialising in Chinese; in Asian Studies and International Relations; Chinese and International Studies.

In addition, 15 students have received William Chiu Scholarships to participate in a semester of study at a top Chinese university. Bachelor of International Studies student, Aaron Colquhoun, was a 2014 recipient. He says being immersed in the language every day, while studying at the Beijing Foreign Studies University, greatly improved his Chinese conversation skills. It's an opportunity Colquhoun says he could only have dreamed of without

Dr Chiu's support. "I would like to thank Dr Chiu so much for offering me this scholarship and giving me the opportunity to study in an amazing country," he says.

Another student, Shirley Stidston, received both the International Studies award and an International Exchange Scholarship. "My studies in Beijing enabled me to learn about Chinese culture and language," she says. "I loved my time at Beijing Foreign Studies University and still pursue my love of Chinese."

A further 12 students from the Western Sydney University School of Humanities and Communication Arts travelled to Guangzhou and Shenzhen for a short-term Chinese language and culture study camp, supported by the William Chiu Travel Scholarship. The 2013 trip was the first time some of the students had ever travelled beyond Sydney. They were immersed in the Chinese language, visited a range of sights and experienced cultural activities. Professor Peter Hutchings, Dean, School of Humanities and Communication Arts, says it left participants keen to build on their experience and learn more about Chinese culture, language and society.

"It opened our students' eyes, unlocked their minds and connected them firmly to the joint future of Australia and China," he says.

Dr Chiu also supported an internship for honours student Sarah Abbass, enabling her to complete an essay on Hu Shih, a mid-20th century Chinese intellectual who served as an ambassador to pre-Pearl Harbor Washington. Two more internships have been awarded for 2015. Recipient Leah Peters is working on an essay about religion in Nationalist China, while her counterpart, Erin Hall, is writing an essay examining China's first nuclear test in 1964.

Another donation has funded translations of two contemporary Chinese novels through the Western Sydney University Writing and Society Research Centre. The translated novels, *Death Fugue* by young Beijing novelist Sheng Keyi, and *Debt of Sin* by Ye Xin, will give Australian readers an insight into the richness and subtlety of contemporary Chinese writing.

Dr Chiu was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Letters at Western Sydney University last year in recognition of his distinguished services to the community and to fostering China-Australia relationships.

For more information about establishing international scholarships, please contact Western Sydney University Advancement and Alumni on **02 9685 9511**.



Shirley Stidston

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“My studies in Beijing enabled me to learn about Chinese culture and language. I loved my time at Beijing Foreign Studies University and still pursue my love of Chinese.”

# GETTING TO KNOW OUR TOP TRADING PARTNER



Scholarship recipients meet donor, Josephine Lam

## Cultural understanding tours are building links with China.

China represents immense opportunities for Australian businesses, but a lack of cultural understanding can get in the way, according to Josephine Lam.

Founder of successful import-export company TK Pacific Marketing, Josephine is now helping others tap into China through a generous \$100,000 donation to Western Sydney University.

The contribution supports the Australia-China Bridging Scholarship Program, providing cultural trips to China for up to 20 Western

Sydney University students annually and aims to enhance friendship and increase understanding between the two countries.

“The more we learn about Chinese culture, the more the (trading) boundaries will go away,” says Josephine who is also Director of the National Institute of Chinese Education and Chair of the Australian Fujian Association. “Dealing with Chinese businesses, you need to build relationships and trust. Going overseas and learning the Chinese philosophies, some of the language and the Chinese thinking around business is very important.”

Josephine was born in Hong Kong to a mainland Chinese family, and raised in Japan. She migrated to Australia

in 1988 and has developed a deep affection for her adopted homeland.

“This (donation) combines my background with my love of Australia,” Josephine says.

“By helping the younger generation to be more internationally minded in business, I hope to also help Australia.”

Participants in the scholarship program are introduced to Chinese language, business and trading opportunities through a short course organised by the Australian Fujian Association, Chinese Language and Cultural Foundation of China and Huaqiao University in Xiamen, Fujian Province.

## SNAPSHOT

**IRON ORE AND CONCENTRATES ARE AUSTRALIA'S TOP EXPORTS TO CHINA, FOLLOWED BY COAL, GOLD AND COPPER.**

**CHINA IS AUSTRALIA'S MAIN TRADING PARTNER, REPRESENTING ALMOST 30 PER CENT OF ALL IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.**

**AUSTRALIA'S SERVICE EXPORTS TO CHINA ARE DOMINATED BY EDUCATION-RELATED TRAVEL AND PERSONAL TRAVEL.**  
SOURCE: DFAT.GOV.AU

# EDUCATION IS A LIFE-CHANGING BUSINESS

**Staff member and alumnus, Professor Yi-Chen Lan, shares his father's passion for education by giving back to Western Sydney University.**

The late George WH Lan started his career as a school teacher, and even though he went on to become a multinational business owner, his passion for education never waned.

His son, Professor Yi-Chen Lan, chose a scholarship for high-achieving business students as the perfect way to honour his memory.

"There are young people who are really talented, but can't go to uni because of their economic situation," Professor Lan says. "My father believed that if we have the capacity to support these young people, we should."

The Taiwan-born professor, who started as an international student at Western Sydney University 20 years ago, has experienced the life-changing impact of education himself. After completing a Bachelor of Commerce and a PhD in management information systems, he went on to become a lecturer and is now Deputy Pro Vice-Chancellor (International).

"Australia is a great country and I decided I wanted to make it my home," he says.

"Even in the early days of my studies when was finding it very tough, I was fortunate that my father was supporting me."

With the help of the scholarship, which amounts to \$10,000 per year for the duration of a student's degree, Professor Lan hopes to give students the same chance he had to achieve their best without the distraction of financial pressures. "The last scholarship recipient comes from a low socioeconomic family and had to do all sorts of part-time jobs," Professor Lan says. "The scholarship has meant he's able to spend more time at uni, studying and engaging with his students and professors. He has achieved really high results and can see what direction he's heading in. It's absolutely delightful to see his progress and it's great to be able to contribute back to my own uni."

For more information on Staff Giving visit [westernsydney.edu.au/give/Staff\\_Giving](http://westernsydney.edu.au/give/Staff_Giving)



Professor Yi-Chen Lan and 2014 recipient Hayley Thrupp

# FROM THE SCHOOL OF HARD KNOCKS TO UNIVERSITY

SISTERS OF CHARITY FOUNDATION

## Reba Meagher

CEO SISTERS OF CHARITY FOUNDATION

“We find these students are often quite attracted to the idea of being able to give back to the community because they know how hard life can be, so we think this program can make a difference on many levels.”

Less than three per cent of young people who live in foster care or other out-of-home arrangements have the opportunity to go to university, and many end up locked in a cycle of disadvantage, according to the Sisters of Charity Foundation.

The not-for-profit is hoping to break this cycle with a series of scholarships offered through universities across Australia.

The organisation came on board with Western Sydney University this year to provide a \$30,000 scholarship to a selected student who lives in out-of-home care.

“It’s a very generous scholarship for a reason,” explains Sisters of Charity Foundation CEO Reba Meagher. “Some of these kids are the most disadvantaged

in our community. They’ve all had a very traumatic start in life. Most will go through multiple foster care or group care home placements until they finally settle.”

There are usually a range of legitimate reasons why young people in these situations have compromised educational outcomes, she adds: “A vast majority of people in out-of-home care end up on their own from the age of 18 and have really limited means of support”.

Many of these students are not only the first in their family to go to university but also the first among their peers.

“Getting an education is personally empowering to these young people, giving them opportunities they wouldn’t otherwise have, and they can also become great role models to their friends and family,” Reba says.

# BUILDING SKILLS BEYOND THE CITY

## Amelia Ash

NSW DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY  
AND COMMUNITY SERVICES  
SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Social work students from Western Sydney University have opened their eyes – and minds – to employment opportunities beyond the city, thanks to scholarships funded by the NSW Department of Family and Community Services (FACS).

Offered for the first time in 2014, the \$5,000 scholarships support up to five final-year social work students during three-month work placements at rural or regional FACS offices.

The inaugural recipients were based in Tamworth, Dubbo, Queanbeyan and Inverell – all areas where social workers can have a large impact, according to Deidre Mulkerin, FACS Deputy Secretary, Operations. “Rural and regional locations are often the most disadvantaged and being able to provide a service in these areas to children, young

people and their families is essential to achieving better outcomes for these people,” she says. “Motivated practitioners that are able to practice in a culturally sensitive manner have a lot to give these areas.”

Recipient Amelia Ash was placed in Queanbeyan and plans to eventually work in a regional area on the NSW North Coast. “It was great to experience a different kind of community atmosphere,” she says.

“I feel really blessed to have completed my placement with great people who were willing

to take the time to help me develop my skills.”

Western Sydney University Associate Professor of Social Work, Dr Brian Stout, says the program is a win-win for everyone involved. “We want to support FACS and our students are always looking for different learning opportunities,” he says.

He hopes the students involved will ultimately consider working in a rural or regional area at some stage of their career. “They also come back and share their experiences which can then inspire other students,” Dr Stout says.

# PREVENTION A VITAL STROKE

**A husband's heartfelt campaign leads to an enduring legacy.**



Nancy and Vic Allen were enjoying a drive through a country town when their lives changed forever.

Mrs Allen started feeling ill and was taken to hospital with incredibly high blood pressure, but was discharged. A few days later, she suffered a massive stroke. More strokes followed over the next two years and she was left severely paralysed until her death a decade later in 1996.

A devastated Mr Allen, a former RAAF pilot and business owner, took on the role of carer for his wife, but also set off on a broader mission. Concerned there wasn't enough being done to educate people about stroke prevention, risks and warning signs, he became a campaigner and generous donor to the cause. From developing and funding warning cards for people to carry in their wallets, to speaking publicly and making donations to medical research, Mr Allen was tireless in his mission.

He died in 2009 aged 90, leaving the Nancy & Vic Allen Stroke Prevention Fund to continue his work. Around Mrs Allen's birthday in May each year, the Fund invites and reviews applications for a grant of some \$40,000. Vic was a keen supporter of natural therapies, and this year it went to the National Institute of Complementary Medicine (NICM) at Western Sydney University. A team lead by PhD candidate Stephen Penman is developing and testing a health behaviour change program aimed at preventing and correcting chronic and lifestyle conditions including stroke. The

risk factors for stroke, which include physical inactivity, inappropriate nutrition, smoking and alcohol overconsumption, are largely the same as those for cardiovascular disease and a host of other common conditions: "The same grouping of behavioural determinants and risk factors is responsible for at least 70 per cent of the total healthcare burden," Stephen says. "Taking nutrition as an example, as a society we commonly eat empty calories, saturated fats, added salt, added sugar and refined foods, while failing to meet nutritional requirements for optimum health."

With the prevention project to be delivered entirely online, he hopes its widespread accessibility will have a significant impact on these figures. "I hope to see this online health improvement program become a permanent part of the healthcare system before too long. There will be a program that doctors can enrol their patients in that reports back to the doctor, and a program the general public can access themselves to improve their health at any time."

Ava-May Morgan, a trustee of the Fund, became close friends with Mr Allen while she was working at the National Stroke Foundation and believes he would have been particularly keen on the preventative focus of the research. "Vic wanted to try and reach as many people as possible so that stroke could become a thing of the past," she says. "He did not want to see other people suffer the way he and his wife did."

More: [nicm.edu.au/stephen\\_penman](http://nicm.edu.au/stephen_penman)



## Stephen Penman

PHD CANDIDATE

“I hope to see this online health improvement program become a permanent part of the healthcare system before too long.”



#2

STROKE IS AUSTRALIA'S SECOND BIGGEST KILLER AFTER CORONARY HEART DISEASE AND A LEADING CAUSE OF DISABILITY.



ONE IN SIX PEOPLE WILL HAVE A STROKE IN THEIR LIFETIME.



51,000

IN 2014 ABOUT 51,000 AUSTRALIANS SUFFERED A NEW OR RECURRENT STROKE - THAT IS 1000 STROKES EVERY WEEK OR ONE STROKE EVERY 10 MINUTES.

SOURCE: STROKEFOUNDATION.COM.AU



**Grace Micali**

---

PHD CANDIDATE

“It’s always two steps back, one step forward with this work, but to know that there are people who are just as passionate about what I’m doing makes me want to work even harder.”



# BRAINPOWER TO BATTLE SUPER-BUGS

**Healthcare-associated infections are the most common complications affecting Australian patients, with around 200,000 cases each year. One Western Sydney University student is determined to see these numbers shrink.**

Bacteria commonly associated with hospital infections, such as 'golden staph' and Vancomycin-Resistant Enterococci VRE are constantly evolving, often making antibiotics ineffective. While pharmaceutical companies attempt to develop new drugs to combat this, Western Sydney University PhD student Grace Micali is trying a different approach by seeking to understand and ultimately disrupt the mechanisms that facilitate the spread of resistance.

"More drugs will potentially be made, but based on the trends of the last 50 years, resistance will develop shortly after," says the 23 year-old. "I want to understand the biology of mobile DNA which carries genes that confer resistance to multiple antibiotics and disinfectants, using a genetic and cell biology approach."

A PhD student with the Western Sydney University Antibiotic Resistance and Mobile Elements Group (ARMEG), which is led by Associate Professor Dr Slade Jensen from the Western Sydney University School of Medicine, Grace hopes to unravel the secrets of resistance maintenance and spread, and then find ways to counteract and interfere with it. Infections caused by superbugs have a significant impact on health outcomes, especially in the largely populated western Sydney region, and Grace wants her work to eventually help people in her own community.

"I'm a local Liverpool girl and I've heard of cases where patients go into hospital with a previous illness and acquire a bacterial infection that ends up being their cause of death," she says. "They go in already immunocompromised and vulnerable to these infections."

As with most medical research, making discoveries is a slow and painful process. Grace has the added pressures of university teaching shifts and part-time weekend work to make ends meet, along with caring responsibilities as the eldest of six children. Her hard work recently saw her nominated for the Young Women of the West Award, which drew the attention of Lynda Cowan, Trustee of the L&M Cowan Foundation. The Foundation has since supported her with a \$8,500 grant which will help Grace with the expenses of attending conferences and workshops in her field, and also go towards her research costs and general living expenses.

"(The grant) has relieved the pressure and I'm just so grateful," she says. "It's always two steps back, one step forward with this work, but to know that there are people who are just as passionate about what I'm doing makes me want to work even harder."

Lynda Cowan, who has a background in public health, is enthusiastic about the direction of Grace's research. "'Golden staph' is a problem that's getting out of hand, along with other microbes that are evolving and developing resistance (to antibiotics) and supporting this research is an area where we can make an important contribution," she says.

She also commends Grace's hard-working nature and determination to help her community, describing her as an ideal candidate for the L&M Cowan Foundation's support. "People with this kind of passion are the ones who can really go on to make a difference," she says.

# FUNDING A POTENTIAL GAME-CHANGER IN MS RESEARCH



Members of the Narellan Rotary Club with their Western Sydney University scholarship recipients and Professor Jens Coorssen

**Almost 24,000 Australians know what it's like to live with multiple sclerosis and now a team of Western Sydney University researchers is getting to know the disease on a deeper level.**

Led by Professor Jens Coorssen, head of the Western Sydney University Molecular Medicine Research Group, industry leading researchers are testing the hypothesis that multiple sclerosis (MS) actually initiates as a degenerative condition of the central nervous system, rather than an autoimmune disorder as it's commonly understood.

Results of the research, which has been supported by the Rotary Club of Narellan through over \$100,000 in donations over the last seven years, could change the way the condition is diagnosed and treated.

"Clearly, if there is to be any hope for a cure, the actual initiating mechanisms must be known," Professor Coorssen says.

"In addressing this, we also anticipate that we could identify biomarkers that would enable better diagnosis and prognosis of MS, potentially develop an animal model that better reflects MS as seen in the clinic, and move towards targeted therapeutics directed to the mechanisms initiating MS, rather than only its progression." Findings could also impact on other degenerative conditions, such as Alzheimer's disease.

With rates of MS increasing around the globe, gaining this deeper understanding of the disease is both timely and potentially game-changing. According to Professor Coorssen, none of it would be possible without Narellan Rotary Club's generous support. One of the first donors to the School of Medicine, the club also funds an annual scholarship for a

promising medical student and has enabled the Molecular Medicine Research Group and the Western Sydney University School of Medicine to establish a PhD scholarship specifically for the MS research project.

The Rotary Club of Narellan is also a long term supporter of Western Sydney University student scholarships, with nine successful scholarship recipients to date.

"The Rotary Club of Narellan is a key community partner of Western Sydney University and the School of Medicine, and is constantly reviewing the changing face of research and medical education in order to maximise the impact of the support they provide," Professor Coorssen says.

For more information on helping Western Sydney University researchers make inroads visit [westernsydney.edu.au/giving\\_opportunities](http://westernsydney.edu.au/giving_opportunities)

# MORES SECURE TIMES AHEAD

Receiving a scholarship was a stroke of good fortune during a bad run for Mehdy Diab and his family.

Diab's father had a successful air conditioning business, was a generous charity donor and a community benefactor before a large contractual dispute sent him into financial ruin. Last year, during Diab's first year studying Business and Commerce/Laws at Western Sydney University, he took on a series of labouring jobs to help his family pay the rent.

Towards the end of the year, while contemplating the need to put university on hold and get a full-time job, the 19 year-old received a Bennelong Foundation Scholarship. Totalling \$5,000 per semester for the duration of his degree, the funds have significantly eased Diab's financial pressure and work responsibilities.

An added bonus of the scholarship is a paid part-time position through a Bennelong Group partner organisation, Avoca Investment Management.

"I'm getting experience from the get-go which is invaluable in the competitive finance industry," says Diab, who plans to fast-track his degree through extra course units and summer school. He wants to do an MBA eventually and build a management career in finance. "I really want to make the most of this opportunity for myself and my family," he says. Diab is also keen to be in a position to help others throughout his career, the way his father did. "I previously wanted to study medicine, but I think that through a career in business I can help support the community on a wider scale," he says.

For more information on how to help students shine, visit [westernsydney.edu.au/give/scholarships](http://westernsydney.edu.au/give/scholarships)



## Mehdy Diab

BENNELONG FOUNDATION  
SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

**"To the Bennelong Foundation, my gratitude is beyond words. I want you to know how much you've helped me. I hope that one day I can give back to others the way you have given to me."**

Bennelong Foundation scholarship recipient Mehdy Diab

# ENGINEERING A BRIGHT FUTURE

**Education lifted Franco Belgiorno-Nettis beyond the poor Italian village where he grew up, to the top of Australia's engineering sector.**

His son, Luca, together with his wife Anita, recently donated \$100,000 through their Foundation, to Western Sydney University Equity Scholarships to help today's students build their own success stories. The funds will be directed towards engineering students in financial hardship.

"Engineering is part of our family DNA and it's a useful vocation," says Luca, who chose to support Western Sydney University because of its large number of students from low socioeconomic backgrounds.

This was certainly the case for the late Franco Belgiorno-Nettis. Growing up in the south of Italy, in Puglia, he received a scholarship to study engineering in Turin. After returning from service with the Italian Army during World War II, he went on to obtain a second degree in Electrical Engineering and Postgraduate Diploma in Electronics. These qualifications led to a job in Milan with one of the biggest transmission line companies in the world, and then to a project in Australia. Settling in Australia, Belgiorno-Nettis launched his own construction and engineering company, Transfield. He became one of Australia's most successful industrialists and was a big supporter of the arts.

Luca is upholding his father's legacy as Executive Director of Transfield Holdings, and has also continued his philanthropic work. Western Sydney University awarded Luca with an Honorary Doctorate of Letters last year acknowledging his contribution to the arts and Western Sydney University, which includes chairing the Western Sydney University Arts Advisory and Promotion Committee. He was made a Member of the Order of Australia in 2009 for his service to the arts and the community through a range of philanthropic endeavours and executive roles.



Luca Belgiorno-Nettis AM

“An appropriate vocational education is often critical to a young person’s wellbeing,” he adds. “I hope this scholarship will help students reach their full potential.”

Anita and Luca Belgiorno-Nettis AM

# BOOSTING WOMEN UP THE PROPERTY LADDER



**Susan Lloyd-Hurwitz**

CEO AND MANAGING DIRECTOR, MIRVAC

“Some people think a woman can’t be a site engineer, for example, but from my Mirvac experience, I can say that the best graduate site engineer we have, hands-down, is a woman.”



Susan and Stuart Lloyd-Hurwitz

## As CEO and Managing Director of property giant Mirvac, Susan Lloyd-Hurwitz acknowledges that her success is the exception, rather than the rule, in the male-dominated property sector.

An eagerness to support other women in the property sector led Susan and her husband Stuart Lloyd-Hurwitz to establish a scholarship for female students in property-related degrees at Western Sydney University. The scholarship, which was launched last year, particularly targets women who are keen to take on leadership roles. It provides \$5,000 each year for the duration of a recipient’s degree.

The couple attended the applicant interviews and was highly impressed by the inaugural recipient, business and commerce student Lauren Nightingale. “She has demonstrated absolute dedication in wanting to create a better life for herself,” Susan says. “She was working full-time to support herself through uni and still getting excellent academic results.”

Offering the scholarship through Western Sydney University was an easy choice for Susan, as she has always thought highly of its accessibility to people from disadvantaged backgrounds. “I see the drive of the uni to create better futures for a whole range of people,” she says. “The people they produce are every bit as good as any other university graduate. Compared to other universities, their value-add to the students who come out is much more.”

Along with a lack of female role models in the industry, Susan says many women are held back by assumptions that they can’t do certain jobs - particularly in construction. “Some people think a woman can’t be a site engineer, for example, but from my Mirvac experience, I can say that the best graduate site engineer we have, hands-down, is a woman,” she says.

“I’ve been fortunate enough to work for companies that have given me opportunity after opportunity and I’ve never encountered discrimination, but I do see difficulties for other women trying to move through the ranks.”

For more information on establishing a scholarship, visit [westernsydney.edu.au/give/scholarships](http://westernsydney.edu.au/give/scholarships)

# FOUNDATIONS FOR PROPERTY SUCCESS

Supporting talented students is both a philanthropic gesture and a wise move for property company, Mirvac.

The company partnered with Western Sydney University last year, launching an annual scholarship as well as a cadetship and internship for students in relevant degrees. Mirvac Group Executive, Corporate Affairs, Marie Festa, says it's a great way to tap into emerging young leaders. "It's important for companies like Mirvac to support up-and-coming talent and, for us, there's nothing better than watching someone grow in their chosen field," she says.

The inaugural scholarship recipient, Troy Hamer, has also joined Mirvac as a cadet. A recent graduate from the Western Sydney University Bachelor of Housing, Troy's interest in construction was sparked during a work experience stint on Mirvac's Middleton Grange

project several years before he enrolled at university. Having been born deaf, Troy has had to overcome significant obstacles to get to where he is today - from extensive speech therapies to school bullies - and is now looking forward to a bright future.

For internship recipient, Western Sydney University Construction Management student Dena Nassir, working at Mirvac follows a childhood fascination with building. The daughter of a builder, Dena grew up listening to her father's stories about his projects, and loves seeing homes come together.

"These students are very passionate about the industry, and came to Mirvac knowing a lot about our business. They are an absolute delight to have on our team," Ms Festa says.



Scholarship recipients Dena Nassir and Troy Hamer

# HONOURING MOTHER'S LIFETIME OF CARING



Joan Reid Scholarship recipient, Azadeh Eshan

**Emeritus Professor Janice Reid AM, AC grew up expecting that an overseas student or new Australian family, (as immigrants were often described in those days), might turn up for dinner.**

“My parents were imbued with their own families’ values of giving and of caring for others. In quiet postwar Adelaide they also just loved meeting people from different countries and cultures, an interest that might partly explain why I became an anthropologist, specialising in cross-cultural health care,” she says.

The former Western Sydney University Vice-Chancellor and President is now honouring her late mother, Joan, through the Joan Reid Scholarship for Refugee Women. Offered to one new Western Sydney University student each year, the scholarship currently provides \$7,500 annually to support recipients throughout their studies. “All refugees, male and female, suffer many of the same traumas and privations, but the trauma to women and their children is often less visible and they suffer silently in shame, in pain or with memories that are hard to bear,” Professor Reid says. “I just felt that my mother would have been particularly pleased to support a woman and, by extension, her family.”

Joan Reid’s charitable work included volunteering with organisations that welcomed newcomers to Australia. Through this work, she became an honorary grandmother to Khmer people who had fled after war and imprisonment in Indochina.

As well as offering the scholarship, Professor Reid continued her mother’s legacy through her own research and teaching, and contributing to the development of health services, especially for disadvantaged groups. These efforts saw her named a Member of the Order of Australia in 1998, and a Companion of the order of Australia in 2015.

## AZADEH ESHAN’S STORY

Azadeh Eshan fled Iran as a refugee before moving to Sydney to start a new life. She has since completed her second year of a Western Sydney University Bachelor of Science, majoring in biochemistry and microbiology.

With her husband sick and unable to work, Azadeh says the Joan Reid scholarship has provided vital assistance. “Without this valuable scholarship I can strongly say that I wouldn’t be able to continue my study at Western Sydney University,” she says.

Azadeh has maintained solid grades and plans to do postgraduate study. “I want to do research at Western Sydney University and represent my university,” she says. “I will do all I can to achieve my goal.”

## AYEN CHOL’S STORY

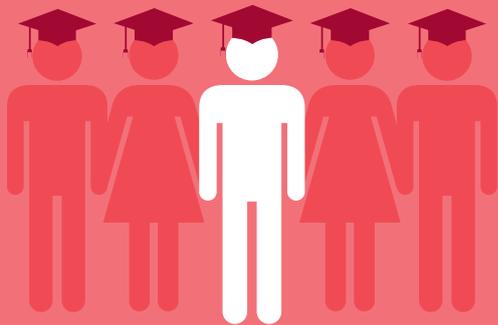
“I refuse to let my background define my future,” says Ayen Chol, a Sudanese refugee. Having graduated from Medical Science in 2013, the 27 year-old is now completing a Bachelor of Nursing at Western Sydney University, assisted by a Joan Reid Scholarship for Refugee Women. She eventually wants to work as a microbiology researcher: “I really want to focus on infectious diseases – the kinds of diseases that affect a lot of people in Africa”.

Ayen, an orphan, came to Australia with relatives in 2007. As the only female in the group, she felt obliged to follow her cultural traditions and take on all caring responsibilities. When demands from both home and university intensified, she moved out on her own to focus on her education. “I can give back so much more by having an education,” she says.

The scholarship, which Ayen started receiving during her second year at University, has made this possible. “It also boosted me psychologically,” she says. “Life is difficult when you arrive as a refugee and this (scholarship) makes me feel like someone is holding my hand.”

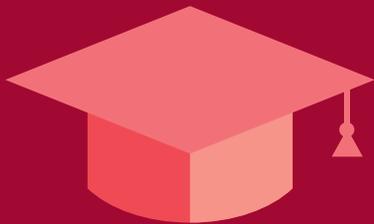
While Ayen says she was initially criticised by members of her community for “abandoning” her family, she is now held up as a role model; “They see me as an example for women to look at the bigger picture and follow their dreams”.

# SCHOLARSHIPS



87 Scholarships

TOTAL NUMBER OF DONOR FUNDED SCHOLARSHIPS IN 2014



\$608,000

TOTAL VALUE OF SCHOLARSHIPS TO STUDENTS

2013



2014

↑  
58% INCREASE

58%

INCREASE IN SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING FOR STUDENTS



# GREAT-GRANDMOTHER PROVES IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO GRADUATE



Western Sydney University alumna and donor, Marguerite Tobin

**Marguerite Tobin is using any money she can spare to help people achieve their study goals without having to wait as long as she did.**

The great-grandmother was 74 when she finally had the opportunity to enrol in a Bachelor of Arts at Western Sydney University at Penrith.

She's now 89 and says being a graduate has given her a new lease on life: "Studying gave me a lot of confidence and I had a lot of encouragement from friends and family, tutors, lecturers and students who were much younger than me."

Growing up as one of seven children in a working-class family, the Mount Druitt local didn't have the means to study in her younger years. Nor was it an option once she was married and bringing up four children.

"After I turned 74, my children were all grown up and my husband had died four years before, and then the opportunity came up," says Marguerite.

"I read about a six-month course at Western Sydney University (UniStart) that, if you passed, would guarantee you a spot in a degree course."

Marguerite was granted a merit-based equity scholarship to help with her studies, and is now intent on giving back to her community. Since graduating at the age of 78, she has busied herself with volunteer work, which led to her receiving the Chifley Woman of the Year award for 2013.

Learning about Aboriginal issues also inspired her to join a local reconciliation group. Marguerite complements this work with regular donations to the Western Sydney University Community Scholarship program.

"I know what I can give is only a small amount, but I give as often as I can and hope it will make a difference to somebody," she says.

To date our Alumni community have generously donated almost \$165,000 towards helping students who might not otherwise have the opportunity to attend university.

For more information on Alumni Giving, visit [westernsydney.edu.au/Alumni\\_Giving](http://westernsydney.edu.au/Alumni_Giving)

156,716  
alumni



AS AT DECEMBER 2014

# SMALL PRICE TO CHANGE A LIFE

**It might sound like small change, but staff salary sacrificing can make an enormous difference through student scholarships.**

“Mindblowing” is how Western Sydney University lecturer Dr Matthew McGuire describes the recent experience of interviewing applicants for student scholarships.

“As a teacher you give them readings and mark essays, but when I actually heard the stories that some students have to tell and the places they’ve been, it was the most emotional day I’ve had for a long time,” he says.

Among about 100 applications to the University’s staff-funded Community Scholarships were stories of escape from war-torn countries, homelessness and coping with drug-addicted parents.

Dr McGuire, from the School of Humanities and Communication Arts, says sitting on the review panel for this year’s entries made him aware of how hard some students have to fight to gain an education. “I had no idea,” he says. “On the one hand you can’t get too emotionally involved in your students’ experience – you need to remain objective – but when people rock up to class five minutes late or haven’t done their readings, there could be a genuine excuse behind it. It has definitely made me appreciative of what some of them have to do just to get their bum on the seat in a lecture theatre.”

Western Sydney University staff fund about eight scholarships each year through salary sacrificing, and the University matches every donation.

Dr McGuire started giving in recent years as the ability to see where his donations would go appealed to him. “A lot of charitable donations are very abstract,” he says. “You sign up to a big charity doing work in Africa and get a brochure saying “thank you very much”, but you never really see what happens to your money. Staff giving is so close to home – you see where it goes by just walking around the campus which is as tangible as you can get.”

With a large proportion of Western Sydney University students the first in their family to attend university, and many migrants, refugees and people from low socioeconomic backgrounds among them, Dr McGuire believes it’s a place where small acts of generosity can have a particularly profound effect. A staff member’s \$10 fortnightly donation, for example, amounts to \$520 a year when combined with the university’s dollar-for-dollar matching. As funds are taken out of employees’ pre-tax salary, it’s even less money to sacrifice.

Scholarship recipients might put funds towards childcare while they attend classes, it could help with accommodation or enable them to give up one of their work shifts and free up time for studying. For some students, particularly those without family support, receiving a scholarship is the lifeline they need to keep them from dropping out. Dr McGuire adds. “Some of these people are living very close to the wire. You’re helping to provide a powerful tool for people who want to transform their lives. We’re not giving them a handout to rely on, we’re giving them a hand-up so they can get an education and help themselves.”

**\$47,541**



TOTAL VALUE OF DONATIONS MADE BY STAFF IN 2014

**14**  
**community scholarships**



HAVE BEEN AWARDED AS A RESULT OF ALUMNI AND STAFF GIFTS



Western Sydney University Lecturer, Dr Matthew McGuire

# 2014 HONOUR ROLL ORGANISATIONS

With the support of our donors, Western Sydney University is able to support the next generation of leaders and fund research that has the potential to change lives. These achievements are not possible without the generosity of our donors.

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ADCO Constructions Pty Ltd	Governance Institute of Australia Ltd	Penrith City Council
Analytics Anomalous	Graduate Management Association of Australia Inc (GMAA)	Planning Institute of Australia (NSW Division)
Anita Luca Belgiorno-Nettis Foundation	Guangdong Authentea Bio-Engineering Co. Ltd	Platinum Asset Management
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Australia Japan Society NSW	Hawker Foundation	Primary Health Care Limited
Australian Podiatry Association (NSW)	Hawkesbury City Council	Prime Minister's Indigenous Advisory Council
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Cerebral Palsy Alliance	Leighton Properties	Steel Reinforcement Institute of Australia
Charter Hall Limited	LexisNexis	Students Solution Center
Civil Service College	Liquid Learning Group Pty Ltd	Sydney Water
Coleman Greig Lawyers	Mainbrace Constructions	Teachers Mutual Bank
CPA Australia	Matthews Folbigg Lawyers	The Maxwell Family Foundation
Criterion Conferences Pty Ltd	Mind Connections (Carlingford & Norwest Specialist Practices)	The Medich Foundation
De Groot's Wills & Estate Lawyers	Mirvac Group	The Northside Group
Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu	Nancy & Vic Allen Stroke Prevention Fund	Thomson Reuters (Professional) Australia Limited
Denham Constructions Pty Ltd	Narellan Town Centre	Transport for NSW
Devonport Men's Shed	NEP (Global Television Services Pty Ltd)	TRN Group
Diversional Therapy Australia	Nepean District Historical Archaeology Group	UnitingCare Children's Services
Electric Energy Society of Australia Inc	NSW Bar Association	University of Western Sydney Hawkesbury Foundation Limited
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Ganellen		

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Australian Rotary Health Research Scholarship Fund	Heidi Hendriks Memorial Prize Fund	Professor Rao Memorial Scholarship Fund
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Dani Gilroy Memorial Prize Fund	John and Moya Phillips PhD Scholarship Endowment Fund	School of Medicine Scholarship Endowment Fund
David Finlay Memorial Prize (Horticulture) Fund	John Marsden Memorial Scholarship Fund	Soroptimist International Award Fund
Derek and Shirley Howes Prize Fund	Joyce Fife Wylie Prize Fund	Sun Microsystems Prize Fund
Dora Giacomelli Scholarship Fund	Lawrie Brooks Memorial Award Fund	Sydney Mechanics School of Arts Prize Fund
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# 2014 HONOUR ROLL

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