Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, two new scholarships have been created at the Faculty of Economics and Business to help students realise their full potential.

EVERY YEAR, THE Faculty awards more than 90 scholarships to its students to help them expand their horizons or afford the costs of study, or in recognition of their academic achievements. But maintaining a strong scholarships program is only possible with the help of the Faculty’s network of philanthropic supporters, according to the Dean, Professor Peter Wolnizer. “Alumni and friends play a central role in funding scholarships and helping us to educate the future leaders of society,” he says.

One of two scholarship schemes created this year has been very generously endowed by Dr Robert R Sterling, an eminent accounting scholar in the United States who was a close colleague of the late Professor Raymond J Chambers (BEC ‘39 DScEc ‘73), the University’s first full-time lecturer in accounting and the Foundation Professor of Accounting from 1960 through to his retirement in 1983. Dr Sterling also provided our Dean, Peter Wolnizer, with a postdoctoral fellowship to study in the US after Peter completed his PhD under Ray Chambers’ supervision at Sydney University.

Like Ray Chambers, Robert Sterling had a most illustrious academic career which included serving as the founding Dean of the Jones Graduate School of Management at Rice University in the US. Professors Chambers and Sterling are recognised as the world’s leading exponents of mark-to-market accounting and of the decision-usefulness theme in accounting; with Dr Sterling’s work focussing on the empirical foundations of accounting measurement. They were the first two scholars to be appointed as Distinguished International Lecturers in Accounting by the American Accounting Association. For their individual research, both won the American Accounting Association’s Notable Contribution to Accounting Literature Award (Sterling receiving the Award twice), were awarded Gold Medals by the American Institute of Certified Practicing Accountants, and were inducted into the Accounting Hall of Fame.

The Robert R Sterling Distinguished Honours Scholarship in Accounting will enable an outstanding accounting student to complete an honours year in financial accounting at Sydney. “I am truly delighted and deeply grateful to Dr Sterling for generously endowing this distinguished scholarship in accounting at the University of Sydney – his ‘intellectual home’, as he has described it. To have his name associated with accounting at Sydney is a great honour.” says Professor Wolnizer.

The other new scholarship scheme for students of the Faculty was established by leading Hong Kong-based lawyer Larry Kwok (BEC ’79, LLB ’81, LLM ’86), who was featured in the last issue of E&B Connect. His gift has now created two prizes – the Larry Kwok Sydney–Peking Scholarship and the Gough Whitlam Sydney–Peking Scholarship – which will enable undergraduates to study for a semester in China, with priority given to Economics and Law students.

To find out how you can support scholarships, please contact Veronica Pardey, Philanthropy & Development Manager at v.pardey@econ.usyd.edu.au or phone (+61 2) 9036 6268.

“I have found my scholarship both a motivational force and an enormous contribution to confidence when approaching tertiary study”

David McGregor, 2007 scholarship recipient