CONTENTS
02 WELCOME
02 A message from the Chancellor
03 A message from the Vice-Chancellor
04 DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS
04 The inspiration factory: new Centre for Obesity, Diabetes and Cardiovascular Disease
06 Let there be music! The Gerald Westheimer collection of classic violins at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music
08 Human rights no theoretical matter: new Master of Human Rights and Democratization (Asia Pacific)
12 Year of the Dragon: coming to terms with the new China
15 Embracing the Chinese century: the new China Studies Centre
16 Nurturing social entrepreneurs: two new scholarships foster innovation in economics
20 Bringing home cancer support: community nurses can provide vital support to chemotherapy outpatients
24 From Camperdown to Bidyadanga: how veterinary science is helping improve health and education outcomes for Indigenous Australians.
30 Change of climate for Sydney Law School: new course focuses on global energy and resources law
32 GIFT REPORT
33 Recent graduates accept the challenge: how the ‘Challenge Fund’ is inspiring a new generation of donors
34 HONOUR ROLL
34 Individuals
56 Organisations and Foundations
60 Bequests and Estates
65 INVESTMENT AND CAPITAL MANAGEMENT REPORT
66 MORE INFORMATION
The generosity of the University's donors and benefactors in 2010 was, as always, tremendously heartening. So too was the sheer number of donors, with many thousands of generous individuals and organisations supporting us. The stories in Sydney Annual demonstrate the true impact which our donors and benefactors have on the University and, indeed, Australia. This year's inspirational stories cover a breadth of disciplines and initiatives, from diabetes research and chemotherapy patient support, to initiatives in Indigenous communities, through to research and education in international security and human rights.

It gives me great pleasure to thank and honour all of the University's donors and benefactors. Your belief in the University of Sydney and the power of research and education is truly commendable. Indeed, it is a most valuable investment in our nation.

Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO
Chancellor
The University of Sydney

The plan reflects our vision for the University as an institution in which students and researchers have a sense of belonging to a single community of scholars, of being engaged together in learning and enquiry, and in which excellence in research and education is prized because of the benefits it creates for Australia and the wider world. In this vision, our community of scholars is marked by its diversity, by its global orientation, and by its commitment to working in partnership with Indigenous Australia.

This year's edition of Sydney Annual demonstrates to me how our donors are already helping us to achieve this vision. It highlights just a few of the many gifts that are already helping to drive the University forward, and will continue to help us far into the future, increasing the breadth and intensity of our enquiry and ensuring we attract and support the most promising students from all backgrounds.

Dr Michael Spence
Vice-Chancellor and Principal
The University of Sydney

2010 was a pivotal year for the University in which we laid down our strategic plan for the next five years.

Sydney is immensely fortunate to have a large and growing number of supporters who believe in our vision and purpose. It gives me great pleasure to be able to thank all of our 8000 plus donors, on behalf of those who have benefited from your support. Your generosity and foresight is core to our University and its achievements.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHANCELLOR

Undeniably, our University is an inspiring place at the forefront of research and learning. It is collectively energised by the people who are part of our community of scholars, and our donors and benefactors form an integral part of that community underpinning our success.

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The eating habits of locusts may sound like an unlikely place to start in the search for new ways to tackle diabetes. But by understanding how the insects regulate their intake of protein – and the triggers that result in overeating – even when their protein level is adequate enough, Professor Simpson’s research project is just one of many surprising fields of study arising from a major new effort to combat obesity, diabetes and cardiometabolic disease using a cross-disciplinary approach. The University of Sydney’s state-of-the-art Centre for Obesity, Diabetes and Cardiometabolic Disease, to be completed in 2015, aims to become a global hub for innovative research in the three-related conditions.

At the heart of the centre will be the newly created Australian Diabetes Council Chair of Diabetes, which will spearhead research triggering us to overeat, and thereby driving up rates of obesity: a major risk factor for triggering us to overeat, and thereby driving up rates of obesity: a major risk factor for— and thereby driving up rates of obesity: a major risk factor for— and thereby driving up rates of obesity: a major risk factor for— and thereby driving up rates of obesity: a major risk factor for— and thereby driving up rates of obesity: a major risk factor for— and thereby driving up rates of obesity: a major risk factor for— and thereby driving up rates of obesity: a major risk factor for— and thereby driving up rates of obesity: a major risk factor for— and thereby driving up rates of obesity: a major risk factor for diabetes. We were inspired by the University’s vision to break down the barriers between traditionally individualistic disciplines.”

"We were inspired by the University's vision to break down the barriers between traditionally individualistic disciplines.”

Professor Neville Howard, President of the Australian Diabetes Council.

The Chair will be funded by a $5 million endowment from the Australian Diabetes Council, the nation’s largest diabetes charity. “We were inspired by the University’s vision to break down the barriers between traditionally individualistic disciplines.” says Dr Neville Howard, president of the Council. "The scale of the epidemic, and cost in human and monetary terms, is such that we have to minimise obesity, increase physical activity, and maintain as normal a body weight as possible.”

To address these issues, the centre will take a world-first interdisciplinary approach, bringing together public health and policy experts, social scientists, urban planners, architects and engineers, whose combined expertise can help build more active communities where people drive less and walk more. Meanwhile, legal scholars will have a role in asking how society might better regulate unhealthy food.

Another area under the spotlight will be risk factors for diabetes, such as obesity and a sedentary lifestyle: “Much of the focus will be on how we can have a healthier community, which means trying to increase obesity, increase physical activity, and maintain as normal a body weight as possible.”

"This is a very exciting aspect of patient management; seeing that quality of life as well as lifespan can be improved in people with diabetes. And it’s only by applying key learning acquired through research that we can find the best way to do it.”

"By putting our research knowledge into practice, including new technologies, we were able to avoid a hospital admission by reversing the excess acid which was developing in her blood. At the same time University research every day in his practice. He gives the example of a patient he treated recently, a woman in her 60s with type 2 diabetes who had unstable blood glucose..."
Madeline Procopio, a solo violinist at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, has always had a passion for performing. “It gives me great satisfaction to be able to communicate what I feel about the music to the audience, so they can feel the same emotions I do,” she says. Procopio has pursued a passion for the violin ever since she first played one at age seven. From childhood, her studies in violin continued through school and on to a bachelor’s degree in music performance. After completing her undergraduate studies Procopio enrolled at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music to study with renowned violin teacher and string pedagogue Alice Waten, Chair of Strings at the Conservatorium. Encouraged by a Conservatorium scholarship, Procopio is aiming high. She recently gained a Graduate Diploma in Music (Performance) and is now working towards a Master of Music Studies (Performance). The next step is a three-year doctorate in Musical Arts, researching the pedagogical aspects of teaching and the psychology behind learning as a child and an adult.

Procopio is no stranger to precious violins, having previously played with a Tomaso Eberle and Arthur E Smith violin. However, she describes the opportunity to play the Bernadel as “a life-changing experience. It makes me enjoy practising,” she says. “I love learning how to make the most gorgeous sounds on this instrument.” The Bernadel was given to the Sydney Conservatorium of Music as part of a series of donations by alumnus Professor Gerald Westheimer AM (BSc ’48). Professor Westheimer has since given a second Bernadel, an 1879 Anton Sprenger violin, and an endowment to care for the collection. These instruments form the beginning of the ‘Gerald Westheimer Instrument Collection’, which Professor Westheimer hopes to build on during the coming years. In his own words, he wants the collection to “enable talented young Australian artists studying at the Conservatorium to perfect their performance skills on high-quality instruments.”

Alice Waten believes the Bernadel, in Procopio’s hands, is already fulfilling Westheimer’s wish. “This beautiful French violin is helping Madeline to explore a richer and more sonorous sound, as well as discover more subtle tonal qualities. She is already a talented violinist, but is now taking her performance skills to the next level.”

Professor Westheimer’s donations are a magnificent addition to the resources of the Sydney Conservatorium of Music — gifts that will benefit students for generations to come, according to Kim Walker, Dean of the Conservatorium. “Our young performers need to learn on quality instruments, to develop and refine their virtuosity and musicianship. We can’t thank Gerald Westheimer enough for beginning a collection on behalf of young Australians who deserve this vital opportunity.”
For Chaw Ei Win Zaw (pictured), there’s nothing theoretical about studying human rights. As a child in Burma she saw her father imprisoned for 13 years without contact with his family – an experience that fuelled her resolution to help political prisoners and their families when she grew up. Now an experienced human rights worker, she is midway through the new Master of Human Rights and Democratisation (Asia Pacific) at the University of Sydney. “When my father was in jail,” she says, “my mother, brother and I were not allowed to visit him, and my mother struggled to provide basic needs to her two little children. Those periods were a nightmare for my family.”

Chaw Ei’s father is veteran Burmese journalist, writer and freedom fighter Ludu Sein Win. In 1960, aged 20, he started work as an editor with a local newspaper. Seven years later his paper was shut down and he and the other five editors were arrested. Ludu Sein was sent to notorious Insein Prison and put in solitary confinement for two years. This was followed by three years imprisonment in Great Coco Island, and another stint at Insein Prison before he was released in 1976. His freedom was short lived. Chaw Ei remembers the day Burma’s military intelligence unit returned to their house. “They asked my father to come with them, as they wanted some information from him.” Ludu Sein’s next period of detainment lasted four years. He was finally released after he suffered a stroke in an Insein cell where he had been kept alone for three years. Through the right side of his body was paralysed, he learned to write with his left hand after his release, and continued to produce articles for many journals and magazines.

Chaw Ei has clearly inherited her father’s indomitable spirit. “Her commitment to justice and human rights is absolute,” says Dr Danielle Celermajer, academic director of the master’s program. “She’s always asking, ‘How do I help? How do I make a difference to my country?’” Chaw Ei was keenly aware of human rights issues from an early age. “Government spies were everywhere,” she says. “On the campus, in the classrooms, near homes. When I graduated from high school, I was not allowed to enter the university I liked. The government chose for me, and my bachelor’s degree took six years, as the government forced the university to close for over two years. Undeterred, she completed her Bachelor of Science in Burma, and later a Bachelor of Science (Honours) in the UK and a Master of Public Policy in Singapore. Eager to develop her skills further (“Learning is never-ending,” she says) she enrolled to study the Master of Human Rights and Democratisation at the University of Sydney. Chaw Ei is exactly the kind of person the program was designed for. Established with funding from the European Union and supported through donations from alumni and
friends to the Sydney Development Fund, it was launched by the then Faculty of Arts in July 2010 with an initial enrolment of about 30 students from 13 countries including Australia.

Over two semesters the course teaches practical skills to help people advocate for human rights and democracy, both within local communities and across the region. The first semester involves intensive coursework at Sydney. The second takes place at one of four partner universities – in Indonesia, Nepal, Sri Lanka or Thailand – and comprises further coursework plus a dissertation or internship with a relevant organisation.

Chaw Ei has chosen to spend her second semester as an intern in Thailand, as it will give her a chance to work with refugees at the Thai-Burma border, and facilitate a comparative study between Thailand and Burma on human rights protection.

While benefiting from the University’s research and academic expertise, the students also contribute to the rich learning environment – sharing their own first-hand experiences and perspectives with students from other courses. “Our classes have been transformed by their presence,” says Dr Celermajer.

This ties in with the University’s larger objective: to be an active part of a civil society. Dr Celermajer believes the people of Australia are concerned about regional security in other countries, and this has to take into account issues like whether the people have enough to eat and can live without fear of violence.

For example, the Australian response to events in Burma has been strong, but it’s not necessarily the military threat that most Australians relate to. “It’s more a recognition of what it means in terms of the oppression of the Burmese people, and their ability to live a decent life,” says Dr Celermajer. “If we can teach our students to think strategically, we can have a significant impact on these situations.”

Chaw Ei also believes education is the key. “Burmese people like myself live always in fear,” she says. “They do not even know what their rights are. If we can educate them, if we can build their capacity, they certainly will come out to fight.”

Her long-term goal is clear. Together with fellow student and human rights advocate Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, she wants to build an ‘ami-meritocracy’ system in Burma (a combination of amity and meritocracy) – a nation rich with expertise for economic development, with humility to respect the rights of others as human beings, and peace to avoid war and violence. For more information on the new Master of Human Rights and Democratisation, see sydney.edu.au/arts/human_rights_democratisation.

“Regional security has to take into account issues like whether people have enough to eat and can live without fear of violence.”

Left: Refugees from Myanmar (Burma) sit in a temporary shelter set up by the Thai government inside a Buddhist monastery. Photo: AFP/Getty Images

Below: Chaw Ei Win Zaw
China is starting to flex its muscles in ways that have major implications for Australia and our region, writes Chris Rodley.

In November last year, an anonymous source uploaded 44 minutes of footage via video-sharing website YouTube. The leaked video – quickly taken down but later reposted by others – appeared to show a Chinese fishing vessel ramming into a Japanese coastguard vessel. The incident took place two months earlier, near the disputed Senkaku Islands, which are claimed by both China and Japan. The confrontation on the high seas is a prime example of the assertive new posture being taken by China in recent times, according to Professor Alan Dupont, who holds the Michael Hintze Chair of International Security and heads the University of Sydney’s Centre for International Security Studies (CISS). “The great dragon is starting to flex its muscles,” he notes.

The development has major implications for local security and the world at large, and raises important strategic questions. Can China live managed in a way that avoids confrontation? And what role will Australia play in maintaining stability?

Professor Alan Dupont has worked on Australian defence and security issues for over 30 years as a strategist, policy analyst and diplomat. His current role as Chair of International Security was created in 2006 thanks to a major gift from the distinguished University of Sydney alumnus and London-based financier Michael Hintze (BSc ’75, BE (Elec) ’77). Mr Hintze – who founded the hedge fund CQS Management and is one of Britain’s most prominent philanthropists – gave the multi-million dollar endowment in a bid to help find solutions to the security challenges facing a rapidly changing world.

Fast-forward to today, and Professor Dupont now oversees a large, multidisciplinary program of research spanning the full spectrum of security issues. As well as covering traditional topics like defence, he has gained a strong international profile for his work on non-traditional security issues relating to food, water and energy supplies as well as climate change.

The prospect of a clash between China and the United States is a pressing concern for Professor Dupont, as witnessed in a number of episodes that have ratcheted up tension between China and its neighbours. One episode followed the sinking of the South Korean navy ship Cheonan in March last year, which resulted in the deaths of 46 sailors. After a torpedo from a North Korean submarine was held to be responsible for the attack, the US planned to signal to the north that further aggression would not be tolerated by deploying an aircraft carrier into the area. But China objected vehemently to the ship being moved into the Yellow Sea, which lies between China and Korea, resulting in the US moving it to the Sea of Japan.

Another factor with the potential to increase tension in the Western Pacific is China’s development of a more expansive ‘far sea’ defence strategy. Whereas it was once principally concerned with protecting its own waters and Taiwan, China now wants to be able to send ships not only into the South China Sea but further into the Pacific where the US has historically dominated, explains Professor Dupont. China is expected to have a formidable blue water navy, equipped with aircraft carriers, by 2030.

“In November last year, an anonymous source uploaded 44 minutes of footage...”
rights as a Pacific power as well as an Asian power," he says. "This is tantamount to wanting a red rag to the American bull. It will inevitably draw us into a US region." For its part, the US is also becoming more assertive on the issue of China. "Up until this year they've been distracted by other changes – terrorism, Iraq and Afghanistan – and were relatively disengaged from Asia," he says. But during President Barack Obama's tour of Asia and at the 2010 Australia United States Ministerial gathering, "Australia signalled its intention to continue being a strong player in the region."

The growing potential for conflict between the two behemoths should be taken seriously by Australia, Professor Dupont emphasises. "Conflict between a major trading partner and major ally is the nightmare scenario for us." To manage the risk of conflict, he contends, "Australia could play a significant role as a facilitator and bridge builder. As a friend and partner to both sides, our nation can encourage the two parties to minimise their differences and develop a more constructive relationship. We probably have more leverage over China than many think, and we also have excellent relations with South Korea and Japan." Professor Dupont also believes that Australia research could play an influential role in seeding ideas, including practical proposals for building trust and conflict prevention. He believes the establishment of the new China Studies Centre by the University of Sydney will contribute to this process (see page 15).

"Given our strategic focus on China as a rising power in Asia, the China Studies Centre is set to become a major research partner and a valuable resource which can only grow in importance at a time of expertise expands and deepens in the field ahead," he says. Professor Dupont firmly believes that academics should focus on solutions as well as analysis – "this is our guiding philosophy at the University of Sydney and no issue in international security is more important than China's strategic future."

"Australia could play a significant role as a facilitator and bridge builder. Our nation can encourage the two parties to develop a more constructive relationship."
Named in honour of his parents, the Westbrook and Jessie Anstice scholarships were established in 2010 by a donation from alumnus David Anstice (BEc ‘70, Honorary Fellow ‘09), matched by the University of Sydney Business School. A lifelong supporter of the University, Anstice is currently president of the University’s USA Foundation, a director of the United States Studies Centre (USSC) and chair of the Advisory Committee on Innovation at the USSC.

Anstice is an ardent advocate for innovation, describing it as “the source spring of economic growth”. A second key factor in entrepreneurship is “required to transform innovative ideas into commercial viability”. He established the scholarships as a tangible expression of his belief that “Australia needs to look for new ideas derived from intellect. Universities are the best place to nurture intellect and thus lead innovation”.

Two newly established scholarships in the University of Sydney Business School show that entrepreneurship and innovation in business can be about more than generating wealth for shareholders.

The inaugural recipient of the Westbrook and Jessie Anstice Honours Scholarship in Economics and Business was Amelia Rochford, who completed a Bachelor of International Studies with honours in 2010. The scholarship enabled Rochford to complete a thesis about how social enterprise can benefit Australia’s long-term unemployed.

Social enterprise is a relatively new hybrid organisational form, Rochford explains. “Unlike traditional commercial activities, it explicitly combines a business model with social goals”. An example is Cleanable, a Melbourne-based cleaning business established in 2005. Cleanable gives mentally-ill people an opportunity for retraining and long-term employment using a self-funding business model.

Rochford was drawn to social enterprise because of its innovative approach. “It provides a market-based solution to social problems in a way that allows continued viability. This leads to ongoing benefits for those suffering social exclusion and disadvantage.”

Rochford’s research has convinced her that social enterprise has great potential to address environmental and societal concerns, especially in the lives of the long-term unemployed, but she is quick to point out the concept is underdeveloped in Australia.

“Although there has been recent focus on social enterprise through the Productivity Commission’s report into the contributions of the non-profit sector, there is still far more that can be done to foster growth. The current government attitude is quite limited. An approach favouring the development of all types of social enterprise would be far more beneficial.”

The inaugural recipient of the Westbrook and Jessie Anstice International Travel Scholarship, Andy Thomas, also used his scholarship for altruistic purposes. It enabled him to attend the Global Youth Enterprise and Entrepreneurship

NURTURING SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURS

Two newly established scholarships in the University of Sydney Business School show that entrepreneurship and innovation in business can be about more than generating wealth for shareholders.
Conference in Washington DC where he researched and shared new ideas about microfinance, the provision of basic financial services (such as savings, credit and insurance) to households below the poverty line to improve their socio-economic position. "The conference helped me broaden my understanding of microfinance issues," says Thomas. "Australia has relatively few microfinance organisations – the majority base their Western operations in the United States – so the conference discussion on effective program design and policy advocacy went well beyond the scope that I’ve had access to so far. It was a unique opportunity to meet people who have been involved in the field since its inception."

Thomas views his thesis as a vital stepping stone towards a career in development economics. After university, he hopes to work for a large development institution, such as the World Bank or the United Nations Development Programme. "I can think of little more rewarding than working in this field, doing practical work to implement development projects as well as being an advocate for greater government support for policies and programs to foster economic growth in some of the world’s poorest communities."

Both Rochford and Thomas are immensely grateful for the support provided by the Anstice scholarships. According to Thomas, "the specific focus of the new scholarships shows real foresight about what is in the best interests of students at the University."

ANKY THOMAST
RECIPIENT OF THE WESTBROOK AND JESSIE ANSTICE INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIP

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ANKY THOMAST
RECIPIENT OF THE WESTBROOK AND JESSIE ANSTICE INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIP

Right: Andy Thomas, recipient of the Westbrook and Jessie Anstice International Travel Scholarship
A new study at the Sydney Nursing School is exploring the experiences of family members and other informal carers who support people receiving chemotherapy as outpatients. Made possible in part by a donation from the Maple-Brown Family Charitable Foundation, the study is one of a number of University of Sydney projects focusing on community care of people with cancer.

FEELING THE STRAIN

Earlier this year Ian (note: names have been changed) was prescribed a course of chemotherapy. Every three weeks he had to visit the hospital’s cancer centre for treatment, then return home to rest. Within days of his first treatment Ian began to feel the strain. “I just felt so ill and wanted to stay in bed.”

FINDING NEW WAYS TO HELP

As if cancer wasn’t enough of a challenge, these examples show how outpatients can also struggle to navigate the health-care system when they are feeling very unwell. The repercussions don’t stop there. Families, plus an extra workload for hospital staff. Others simply felt too unwell to even consider going to hospital. “I didn’t want to trouble them,” he said at the time. "I just felt so ill – I just felt so ill and wanted to stay in bed.”

UNEXPLAINED HOSPITAL VISITS

The team found that some chemotherapy outpatients who Ian, Lenda and Wendy were struggling at home with distressing side effects. Many patients had delayed seeking help until their side effects became severe. During interviews, the team discovered many patients had delayed seeking help because they “didn’t want to be a nuisance” or “bother” hospital staff. Often they felt too unwell to even consider going to hospital.

Many patients had delayed seeking help because they “didn’t want to be a nuisance.”

They embarked on a 12-month retrospective study of a large Sydney hospital cancer centre, examining records relating to unplanned presentations of chemotherapy outpatients. The centre treated just over 1000 such patients each year, and during the year in question there were more than 200 unplanned visits. Many were hospitalised in admission for a median period of five days – a significant amount of unplanned hospital care. These findings indicated a serious area of unmet need.

A major reason why so many presentations just resulted in admission was because patients delayed seeking help until their side effects became severe. During interviews, the team discovered many patients had delayed seeking help because they “didn’t want to be a nuisance” or “bother” hospital staff. Often they felt too unwell to even consider going to hospital.

The team pursued a community nurse did exist, the nurse demonstrated that where a relationship with a community nurse had not been established, the nurse played a pivotal role in the patient’s care. 

such patients however, are not routinely put in touch with a community nurse unless some other aspect of their condition or circumstances calls for home care. An earlier study by Dr McKenzie and her team demonstrated that those with a relationship with a community nurse did exist, the nurse played a pivotal role in the patient’s care.

Uncertainty at home about how to respond to troubling symptoms can cause anxiety, distress to cancer sufferers and their carers (friends, family). Medical practitioners also feel frequently frustrated by their inability to extend support to patients at home. As one unscheduled hospital visit per year in question there were more than 250 unplanned visits. Many were hospitalised in admission for a median period of five days – a significant amount of unplanned hospital care. These findings indicated a serious area of unmet need.

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think, ‘OK I was told there was a fair chance I might get this …’ The problem is it can be difficult for a non-health-professional to decide what is or isn’t a serious side effect requiring further medical attention.”

**EARLY INTERVENTION**

The team developed an intervention program designed to reduce the number of unexpected hospital visits and admissions. They linked a small group of chemotherapy outpatients to specially trained community nurses, who visited the patients at home during key times in their treatment program. When participating patients visited the hospital for their first treatment, information was collected on their condition and passed on to a local community health centre. With each patient’s consent the information was also sent to their GP, to further integrate each patient’s care.

A local community nurse visited each patient at home the day after their first treatment, three days later, and once during their care. They linked a small group of chemotherapy outpatients to specially trained community nurses, who visited the patients at home during key times in their treatment program. When participating patients visited the hospital for their first treatment, information was collected on their condition and passed on to a local community health centre. With each patient’s consent the information was also sent to their GP, to further integrate each patient’s care.

**It’s very reassuring to have a nurse who visits or calls you the day after your treatment. People make a real bond with the community nurse when they’re visited in their own home.**

KEITH COX
NURSE PRACTITIONER, SYDNEY CANCER CENTRE

David McKenzie

**DEVELOPMENT**

To measure this more systematically, the team is now interviewing all stakeholders and refining the intervention program. It is anticipated the extra workload for community nurses will be offset by the reduced burden on the hospital system and improved patient outcomes. The positive impact is enormous; it’s a cost-effective means of achieving its dual objectives of reducing unscheduled hospital presentations and increasing patient well-being.

Giving advice and reassurance to patients and their loved ones can make a huge difference. The patient participates in an important ‘window’ of cancer treatment.”

For now, Dr McKenzie and her colleagues are focusing on the experiences of the friends and family who support chemotherapy outpatients in the days following a treatment. Their aim is to identify key issues arising in the role of primary support person. “This will provide information about an area we will understand at the moment,” she says. Dr McKenzie. “While there’s a lot known about how to support people living for others in a more general context, there isn’t much, certainly in Australia, about supporting them during the ‘chemotherapy window’ of cancer treatment.”
Dr Graeme Brown has travelled to places most of us have never heard of: Bidyadanga in Western Australia, Ti Tree, Yandeyarra and Ngaju in the Northern Territory. He goes there to study dogs with infectious diseases most of us wish we’d never heard of: giardia, salmonella, campylobacter, intestinal parasites, mange... It’s not a glamorous job, but for Australia’s remote desert communities, it’s a necessary one. Infectious diseases pose serious health concerns not only to dogs but also to the communities in which they live.

It’s common to hear the phrase ‘dogs are like family’ in Indigenous communities. Research shows that despite the sometimes outward appearance of neglect, dogs play an integral role in these groups, and the human-dog bond is very strong. Unfortunately, there are a lot of them. When Dr Brown conducted his PhD research in a desert community of 800 people northwest of Alice Springs, he counted 550 dogs. The sheer volume means diseases like salmonella, giardia and campylobacter are easily spread. Dr Brown attributes this in part to what he describes as the “degradation of the ecosystem”, particularly evident in the harsh conditions of desert environments where poor nutrition has impacted natural cycles and immune systems.

It’s easy to think that improving dogs’ health in such areas is simply a matter of culling or educating, but the situation is more complex. The current poor state of dog health is the result of many factors, such as inadequate access to veterinary services, socio-economic disadvantage, and lack of cross-cultural awareness in animal health education programs.

These are the challenges that face the Veterinary Science faculty, as they seek to promote and protect veterinary public health in Indigenous communities. One of the faculty’s initiatives is an Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage project called Healthy Dogs, Healthy Communities: From Camperdown to Bidyadanga.

The Faculty of Veterinary Science is expanding its focus – linking dog health to wider health issues in remote communities. Rachel Sharples looks at initiatives in remote Indigenous towns and on campus.
“You have to build a relationship with someone in order for them to listen to what you’re saying.”

LAYLA SCHRIEBER
INDIGENOUS MASTERS STUDENT

Communities – Dr Brown is part of this team. Together, they are investigating ways to improve canine health in remote Indigenous communities and bring health benefits to the wider community. Across six sites in the Northern Territory, Western Australia, Queensland and New South Wales, the team conducts dog health and welfare surveys. The data is then used to develop culturally appropriate education interventions to improve the health and welfare of these dogs.

Dr Brown’s expertise in infectious diseases is an example of the project’s interdisciplinary approach. Other contributions are made by team members with a focus on communication and education. Dr Robert Dixon, the project leader, specialises in animal welfare and public health. Dr Sophie Constable and Dr Rose Dixon develop knowledge-sharing programs that are culturally appropriate and specific to each community. In one region they commissioned female artists to paint stories conveying information on dog health. They also work with local environmental health workers to produce appropriate promotional material.

Layla Schrieber, an Indigenous masters student, is studying the epidemiology of canine streptococci in a North Queensland community. Based in community, Schrieber finds that research “is only part of the job description.” The larger role is building relationships with local animal health workers. They’ve started dog health days, which they promote by going into schools the week before and getting the kids to look at parasites under the microscope. It helps get them excited about the day. These kinds of community relationships are important. “If you have to build a relationship with someone in order for them to listen to what you’re saying. And you’ve got to listen to them, because they know exactly what’s going to work. It’s about them trusting you to help them put it together.”

The Faculty of Veterinary Science is also concerned about this issue. After an admissions review process in 1998 the faculty set targets to increase its level of Indigenous student participation; showing leadership in this area long before the University created specific policies on Indigenous enrollments.

Dean of the Veterinary Science faculty Professor Rosanne Taylor explains: “Indigenous students are under-represented across the University. We identified early on that as a faculty we needed to make a much greater difference to our Indigenous people. It was clear there was a real deficit of Indigenous graduates in the veterinary and animal science professions, and alternative pathways into the faculty were required.”

The faculty now sets aside 12 percent of its places each year for Indigenous, rural and disadvantaged students. Indigenous students enter through the Koori Centre’s Cadigal Program. Retention rates have been high: 17 students have come through the program so far. Professor Taylor believes this can be attributed to Koori Centre support, flexible teaching, in-house leadership programs and a small, friendly faculty environment. Two students will graduate from the Cadigal Program this year and the faculty’s first Indigenous PhD student is due to graduate in 2011.
full of foreign-looking buildings. You’d just leave and never come back. Mentoring is something I’d definitely like to do, to make sure nobody has to feel like that. I know that once I got to know people, they were wonderful. The University was excellent and I had a great time.”

Nathan Hallet, an Indigenous student now in his fourth year of the Animal and Veterinary Bioscience degree agrees – mentoring helped him immensely when he started at university and he is now eager to mentor others. “These programs are really important because there’s still a lot of stigma in Indigenous communities that says you can’t achieve. If we can visit these communities and show examples of Indigenous students who have gone on to succeed in the veterinary profession, I think it will make a huge difference.”

Veterinary Science Foundation Outreach and mentoring programs do have costs attached and the Veterinary Science Foundation plays a crucial role in meeting some of these needs. Established in 2000, the foundation aims to support the faculty’s vision of being a world leader in veterinary education and research, focused on the health and welfare of animals, and providing a community service. Over the last nine years the foundation has raised more than $9 million for the faculty. This contributed to upgrades of the university teaching hospitals at the Camperdown and Camden campuses, helped fund research into the Tasmanian devil facial tumour, and helped purchase state-of-the-art equipment for the faculty’s clinics and teaching hospitals.

One of the foundation’s priorities over the coming year is to help the faculty grow its Indigenous student cohort, especially from remote communities. “We know there are significant costs associated with university, especially if you’re coming from a remote area,” says McMurtrie. “The scholarships will help cover living expenses and extra tuition costs, as well as mentoring and pastoral care; basically whatever is needed to look after the wellbeing and lifestyle of our students.”

With the faculty’s first Indigenous students now graduating, Indigenous involvement in the veterinary and animal science professions is going to increase. Through their support of veterinary public health and research work in Indigenous communities, and Indigenous student programs, the Veterinary Science Foundation and the Faculty of Veterinary Science are determined to make a difference. Professor Taylor adds that, “we’re developing multiple, interlocking ways to lift awareness and graduate-readiness to manage animal health in Indigenous communities, as well as developing the next generation of Indigenous veterinary professionals.”

Professor Taylor admits they’ve never been able to entirely fill the Indigenous quota, but it’s something they hope to improve. They plan to introduce an Indigenous scholarships program, and develop outreach programs to attract students from the most remote and dislocated communities. A key element will be the establishment of mentors who can act as ambassadors – students seen to develop relationships with remote Indigenous communities and support Indigenous people during their transition to university.

Mentoring is something Schrieber has given a lot of thought to. She realized one of the first steps she took to the University of Sydney campus. She was alone, she didn’t know anyone, and she was dismayed to see other students already conversing in their own groups. Her “first inclination was to ‘run off, just get out of there’.” Fortunately she had the insight and courage to persevere.

“I’m an educated woman from an urban area, so imagine if you were from a remote community, on your own in a strange city, full of foreign-looking buildings. You’d just leave and never come back. Mentoring is something I’d definitely like to do, to make sure nobody has to feel like that. I know that once I got to know people, they were wonderful. The University was excellent and I had a great time.”

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Global Energy and Resources Law is an exciting addition to the faculty’s postgraduate program. It was made possible by seed funding from businessman and alumnus Kevin McCann (LLB ’64, BA ’61), matched by Macquarie Group Foundation. The course offers perspectives on global energy security, international access to energy resources and the resolution of cross-jurisdictional energy access disputes. Also on the agenda: reform of the Australian energy market and the implications of climate change on energy resources.

"Australia’s position as a supplier of energy and natural resources calls for specialist skills in providing professional legal advice," says Professor Gillian Triggs, Sydney Law School Dean and Challis Chair of International Law. "The new course allows Sydney to take a leadership role in promoting education, research and debate to benefit Australia’s security, environment and economy."

As a former energy and resources lawyer and Chairman of Origin Energy, Kevin McCann is fully aware of the importance of energy security. "Resource and energy exports are likely to underpin the Australian economy for the foreseeable future," he explains, "so it is important we have lawyers with specialisation in these fields. Research into legal and administrative regimes for energy and resources is needed by corporates, regulators and legislators to ensure development occurs efficiently and appropriately."

Feedback from the first intake of students has been very positive. "The unit gave me an excellent overview of the finance and regulatory structure that drives our energy economy," says graduate Amy Kean, managing director of Pinpoint Earth. "I particularly enjoyed learning about the complex interplay between the physical nature, political reality and regulatory frameworks of our energy markets. This knowledge is important if we are to meet the challenges of climate change and transition to a low-carbon economy."

On the evening before classes commenced, the inaugural Kevin McCann Global Energy and Resources Law Lecture was delivered by Dr Zwiggy Switkowski, then Chair of the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation. His topic was nuclear energy in the context of global energy security. It traced the growing importance of nuclear technology around the world, examined some of the concerns regarding its use, and contended that it cannot be excluded as an option of Australia or to meet its energy and climate change targets.

The support of Kevin McCann and the Macquarie Group Foundation is enabling the Sydney Law School to equip its students with the specialist knowledge needed to deliver sound advice on contemporary global energy and resources realities. With climate change looming large over the world, and moving to the forefront of Australian and global politics, this new course is destined to help shape our energy resources future.

Kevin McCann
FORMER ENERGY AND RESOURCES LAWYER, CHAIRMAN OF ORIGIN ENERGY

With energy security becoming a vital priority in the area of climate change, the Sydney Law School is taking up the challenge with a new course.
The year 2010 once again saw substantial growth in philanthropic income for the University thanks to the generosity and loyalty of our donors. Over $40 million was donated, up from $33 million in 2009.

More than 8700 donors contributed, across all 15 of our faculties. Total donor numbers grew by 16 percent, with the highest growth originating from mail and telephone appeals by the Sydney Development Fund. More than 5200 donors responded to these appeals, a 24 percent increase compared to 2009.

2010 was a record year for bequest income – totalling more than $20 million. Bequests were primarily directed toward student support and research, but considerable unrestricted bequests were also received. These will allow the University to apply funds to its highest priorities now and in the future. Philanthropy received significant support, thanks to a bequest from Tom Austen Brown (BA ‘74, LLB ‘46). Donations from individuals and organisations covered a range of purposes including the full spectrum of university life. Significant gifts were made to establish or continue scholarships in business, engineering, medical research, music and pharmacy, among other areas.

Very significant gifts were made to continue or establish professorial chairs, such as the Australian Diabetes Council Chair of Diabetes and the Thomas Wenkart Chair in Endothelium.

The University’s faculties, research programs and foundations benefited greatly from generous donors, allowing us to maintain world-class standards in teaching and research for the benefit of all Australia and the wider world.

INCOME BY PURPOSE

INCOME BY SOURCE

GIFT REPORT

The willingness of young alumni to give back to the University as part of the ‘Challenge Fund’ is reinventing traditional preconceptions of the typical donor.

Launched in November 2009, the Challenge Fund is an initiative that encourages recent alumni (graduated since 2005) to donate to the University of Sydney by matching every dollar from a specific fund gifted by a small number of generous alumni.

Since its launch the Challenge Fund has been used in separate appeals, including three successful telephone programs, and by the end of 2010 had received a total of 901 gifts.

It proved a major incentive for young alumni considering their first-ever gift to their university, and has greatly expanded the cohort of alumni support.

By the end of 2010, the combined effort of the campaigns and matching funds had raised $86,184. The majority of donations were for student scholarships and support, a reflection of the bond that recent graduates feel towards current students at the University.

Adrian Vandenbergh (BA ’99, BE ’05) sums up his reason for becoming a donor: “As a recent graduate, running a budget while studying is not a distant memory. I enjoyed my time at the University and would like future students to enjoy theirs.”

Gifts were also allocated to the University’s work with the Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience, the facilities, the museums and art gallery, the library, research and the Compass Project.

The University is indebted to the benefactors of the Challenge Fund for providing a means to attract the next generation of donors and ensure its long-term sustainability.

We would also like to thank our new graduates for their generosity, and welcome them into our donor community.

Recent graduates take up the challenge

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The University of Sydney thanks the following alumni, friends, organisations and estates for their generous support during 2010. Each and every gift is sincerely appreciated.
THANK YOU
The Kathleen Holmes McNee Trust
The Mervenda Legacy
The Returned & Services League of Australia
Therapy PhD
Thoracic Lawyers
Vinodhie Foundation
Walker & Elscott Trust
Wattie Bank Network

$5000 – $9999

Worldwide Universities Network

THANK YOU

[List of organizations and contributors]
The University of Sydney wishes to thank the talented and committed staff and volunteers of the following foundations and external centres for their fundraising efforts and support during 2010.

**EXTERNAL CENTRES**
- United States Studies Centre
- Warne Centre for Advanced Engineering

**EXTERNAL FOUNDATIONS**
- Friends of the University of Sydney UK Trust
- The University of Sydney Hong Kong Foundation

**INTERNAL FOUNDATIONS**
- Accounting Foundation
- Aerospace, Mechanical and Mechatronic Engineering Foundation
- Ageing and Alzheimer’s Research Foundation *
- Australian Lebanese Foundation
- Bone and Joint Research Foundation *
- Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering Foundation
- Save Sight Foundation
- Science Foundation for Physics
- Sydney Burns Foundation *
- Sydney Conservatorium of Music Foundation
- Sydney Law School Foundation
- Sydney Medical School Foundation
- Sydney Peace Foundation
- The Melanoma Foundation
- The Nepean Medical Research Foundation
- University of Sydney Sport Foundation
- Veterinary Science Foundation

* Divisions of the Sydney Medical School Foundation

For links to internal foundations, visit sydney.edu.au/research/about/foundations.shtml

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**INVESTMENT AND CAPITAL MANAGEMENT REPORT**

Investment and Capital Management (ICM) is charged with managing the University of Sydney’s endowment and trust assets, investment funds and commercial real estate investments. The ICM team is highly experienced with several members having spent more than 15 years in the financial markets. All University funds invested in debt securities are managed internally by the team, while funds invested in growth assets are managed externally by professional sector specialist managers. The team is supported by an external consultant adviser.

Given the perpetual nature of the University’s donated funds, ICM seeks to generate an optimal risk-adjusted total return through the employment of a structured long-term investment philosophy based around strategic asset allocation targets.

**LONG-TERM ENDOWMENT FUNDS PERFORMANCE IN 2010**

Long-term endowment funds generally consist of bequests and endowments. The year witnessed a consolidation in equity markets across the world, as developed economies experienced a return to economic growth and expansion. Following the 2009 rebound, the MSCI World (ex-Australia) Accumulation Index (hedged) closed the year 13.1% higher and the Australian equity market ended 2010 up by 1.6 percent. The return on the University’s long-term funds was above the relevant NSW Treasury Corporation Hour-Glass Facility over the one-, two- and three-year periods.

If you would like a copy of ICM’s 2010 investment report please email donor.relations@sydney.edu.au.

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**Notes:**

- The University's performance returns are after underlying external manager fees and equivalent NSW Treasury Corporation administration fees, and inclusive of franking credits.
- The NSW Treasury Corporation manages the Hour-Glass long-term growth facility, and is comparable to the University’s long-term funds in nature. The facility’s returns are after fees.
- Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance.
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