Your generous donations are helping our people to create new discoveries that will transform lives in Australia and overseas.

In the 2012 edition of the Sydney Annual, we find out what has inspired some of our donors to make a difference, and meet some of our people who have benefited from their support.

02 WELCOME
02 A message from the Chancellor
03 A message from the Vice-Chancellor
04 Fast facts about the University

06 DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS IN 2012
07 Personal chemistry
   Dorothy Lamberton has honoured her late husband by supporting scholarships for PhD students.
11 Volunteer rescues refugee language program
   Colin Williamson has singlehandedly ensured that a literacy program for refugees can survive and flourish.
13 10 ways an arts degree can change the world
   Professor Duncan Ivison highlights how arts and social sciences degrees can shape the future.
16 A sustainable future for our energy and water
   Michael Boyle and Robin Craig hope their engineering scholarship will lead to a sustainable solution to our energy and water issues.
18 “I have had experiences my parents could only dream of”
   Mimi Zou reflects on the invaluable support she has received through University of Sydney scholarships.
20 Supporting new thinking in nursing
   A chance meeting led David and Josephine Skellern to set up a scholarship that will deepen our understanding of nursing.

23 GIFT REPORT

24 HONOUR ROLL
24 Individuals
36 Organisations
43 Challis Bequest Society members
46 Bequests

48 FOUNDATIONS

49 INVESTMENT AND CAPITAL MANAGEMENT REPORT
A MESSAGE FROM THE CHANCELLOR

The University of Sydney is a truly exciting place at the forefront of research and teaching. As this year’s Sydney Annual demonstrates, it is a place of original thinking, academic excellence and inspiring staff and students who are committed to making a real difference to Australia and the world.

The generosity of our many donors and their commitment to our vision is tremendously heartening and encouraging. 2012 was a remarkable year when more than 10,400 individual donors helped us raise a record $80.3 million. The University is indeed extremely grateful for each and every contribution and is looking forward to the launch of our first ever institution-wide fundraising campaign later this year.

With continued support we are able to help more students achieve their potential, initiate exciting new interdisciplinary research projects in areas such as project leadership and sustainability, and address some of the world’s most pressing medical and health challenges.

I am honoured and privileged to become the University Chancellor. As a Sydney graduate with strong family links to the University, it gives me a great sense of pride and responsibility to be involved in its future. I look forward to working with the whole University community as we continue to build on our considerable successes.

Belinda Hutchinson AM
Chancellor
I never cease to be amazed and delighted by the generosity of our donors and benefactors. For the second consecutive year, Sydney has generated more philanthropic support than any other Australian higher education institution. More people than ever before have contributed to the University and we are indebted to every individual donor.

Your generosity is important in a number of ways. It underlines that you understand and share our vision for the University, whether in major collaborative interdisciplinary research projects or new teaching spaces for group learning, or by providing more undergraduate scholarships to help students of all backgrounds fully achieve their potential. We are looking forward to the launch of our first ever institution-wide fundraising campaign later this year.

As this edition of the Sydney Annual demonstrates, our donors are really making a difference. Funds provided in 2012 are providing more than 100 bursaries to support students in need. Nearly 1500 donors chose to provide additional support to many of the 500 undergraduate scholarships across the university.

Major gifts spearhead pioneering interdisciplinary research ventures such as the John Grill Centre for Project Leadership, the Henry Halloran Trust, which will focus on land management and urban development, and the Judith and David Coffey Life Lab to support research into sustainability and complex systems.

With your help, the University is taking major steps forward. Thank you for your continued support.

Dr Michael Spence
Vice-Chancellor and Principal
THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

#1

FOR STUDENT EXPERIENCE SINCE 2006, RATED BY NATIONAL UNION OF STUDENTS

13,300 ANIMALS: CANINES, CATS, HORSES, KOALAS AND MORE TREATED BY THE UNIVERSITY VETERINARY TEACHING HOSPITAL

$20M GIFT BY JOHN GRILL TO ESTABLISH THE FIRST CENTRE FOR PROJECT LEADERSHIP

$80M RAISED FROM MORE THAN 10,000 DONORS - 5511 BEING FIRST-TIME DONORS - MORE THAN ANY OTHER AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITY

EDUCATES 50,000 STUDENTS

INCLUDES 28 FOUNDATIONS

THE WORLD'S LARGEST EVER LEGO MODEL OF THE ROMAN COLOSSEUM AND ARCH OF CONSTANTINE ON VIEW IN THE NICHOLSON MUSEUM

THE FACULTY OF SCIENCE SECURED MORE THAN $12M IN ARC FUNDING TO SUPPORT 32 INSPIRING DISCOVERY PROJECTS

FORMER CHANCELLOR HER EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR MARIE BASHIR AC CVO ATTENDED AND SERVED AT THE UNIVERSITY FOR MORE THAN 50 YEARS

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INCLUDES 3 CROSS-DISCIPLINARY CENTRES
Faculties include 16 faculties.

Includes:
- 7500 staff
- 280,000 alumni worldwide
- 900 faculty of education and social work graduates in 2012

Employs:
- 7500 staff

Donors supported more than 720 students in need

Includes:
- 2 gold, 7 silver, and 6 bronze medals at London Olympics and Paralympics, including 55 Australia Day Honours recipients
- 300 soccer balls given to children in Cambodia in an effort to prevent heart disease through the 500Hearts project
- 1 fog harvesting system constructed in Peru to aid in drinking water collection for poverty-stricken families
- The Compass Program had 12,000 interactions with primary and high school students encouraging them to remain engaged in education
- 300 soccer balls given to children in Cambodia in an effort to prevent heart disease through the 500Hearts project
- 286 student exchange agreements, in more than 30 countries

75 percent of our academic fields were ranked well above world standards by excellence in research for Australia.

Dental students provided 4200 dental treatments to patients in rural NSW.
PERSONAL CHEMISTRY

Her scientist husband’s struggle to support himself as a student prompted Dorothy Lamberton to endow annual scholarships to promising chemistry PhD students. She found much in common with one grateful recipient, Amanda Scopelliti. Margaret Rice reports.

Dorothy Lamberton is the first to agree that her life has been enriched by the relationship with science she developed through the love of her late husband, John. Dorothy has reached that stage in life where she can sit back in her garden, enjoying the sun and a good book. She believes it is also time to give something back to the scientific world her husband was so passionate about.

In his honour, Dorothy established the John A Lamberton Research Scholarships. The scholarships have been awarded annually since 2005 to University of Sydney PhD students who are either working in an area of John’s interests – the chemistry of many classes of natural products, especially alkaloids, and developing a greater understanding of the relationships between chemical structure and biological activity – or researching the chemical understanding of brain function and malfunction.

In a typical year Dorothy supports six PhD students. “It just occurred to me as the best way to remember John [who passed away in 2002] and to honour him in my own way. John’s intellect was his outstanding feature and he was such an impassioned scholar. He just really loved to learn about the relationships between chemistry and natural phenomena,” Dorothy explains.

Making the scholarships available has created a tangible as well as symbolic connection to the University, and it’s something Dorothy treasures. “The Chemistry Department has been very generous in the past several years, inviting me to their prizes luncheons each year, and I’ve had the pleasure of meeting most of the current crop of ‘my’ students,” she says.
“Without John a whole area of chemistry would not exist and that’s amazing, absolutely amazing.”

AMANDA SCOPELLITI

Until recently, one of those she had not met was pharmacology PhD student Amanda Scopelliti, who is researching the regulation of glutamate, one of the major chemicals of the brain. “Glutamate disregulation is implicated in multiple neurological disorders such as Alzheimer’s disease, schizophrenia and epilepsy. I specifically look at glutamate transporters, which are the machinery responsible for regulating glutamate,” Amanda says. Her aim is to discover how these transporters are malfunctioning in many neurological disorders.

Dorothy and Amanda met for the first time at the Blackburn Building late last year. They found that they were both drawn to science through the influence of a loved one, in Amanda’s case her mother, a student at the University who sometimes brought Amanda along to nursing lectures when she was a small child.

The highlight of John’s career as a chemist was analysing the flora of Papua New Guinea in an era of Australian scientific discovery inspired by similar American successes in the Amazon. “It was a really golden era for John. They were particularly looking for alkaloids because they’re very biologically active compounds. It led to some beautiful chemistry, new classes of alkaloids, new ring structures,” Dorothy says.

As Amanda listens, her face lights up: “It’s huge to be able to discover something new and a class of alkaloids. Your name is in history, you’ve changed the world from that moment. He’s made a difference. Without him a whole area of chemistry would not exist and that’s amazing, absolutely amazing. That’s what every scientist really wants to achieve, to discover something new. It’s that Eureka moment.”

But science is about the search for knowledge, not the romantic fantasy
of big discoveries. “We just want to understand, that’s what it comes down to. A passion for science is a passion for understanding,” Amanda says. Her comment strikes a chord with Dorothy. “Amanda’s attitude is so similar to John’s. He was just craving to understand how things work, just to understand, because from understanding other practical benefits will arise. It was the passion that drove him to heroic feats of effort.

“When John was a young man completing his PhD, finances were very tight. He had to demonstrate all day to enormous classes and do his PhD work at night. The daylight hours were all taken with demonstrating in order to eat and pay rent, and he was living on baked beans. I thought, it shouldn’t be like that,” Dorothy said.

Dorothy met John after these lean times were over. “He had had a very happy experience at the University of Sydney for the three years that he was here on campus.

“But I heard that story and so I was envisaging the money just going directly to the students to help them in whatever way they find best. If it’s buying baked beans or whatever, well so be it, and dare I say, it has worked well. I understand what motivates and if I can help with the motivation, well that’s great. It’s to take the stress off the students,” she enthuses.

The scholarships run for the duration of a student’s PhD, and having one means Amanda can focus more effectively on her science. “I can now support myself going to conferences and workshops. So what Dorothy is providing for so many students actually helps our career path in a big way.

“A part-time job is near impossible during a PhD,” she says, adding that she has seen too many students burn out while they attempt to combine work and study. “That extra amount of funds for me every year provides a huge amount of difference. It’s changed my life. I will be eternally grateful to you Dorothy for providing that.” Dorothy says the appreciation from ‘her’ students gives her great joy. “My first three girls from pharmacology wrote me the most charming letters when they received the scholarship in 2005, spelling out to me that they had been running two part-time jobs in order to survive and that they were able to give these up, and it just brought me to tears, actually.”

“Amanda’s attitude is so similar to John’s. He was just craving to understand how things work, just to understand.”

DOROTHY LAMBERTON
“You get an opportunity to do something and you grab it and do it.”

COLIN WILLIAMSON
Colin Williamson’s generosity has ensured that a University language program to help refugees under threat of closure will survive and flourish. Jackie Chowns reports.

Each week Colin Williamson, a volunteer conversation-skills tutor, joins a group of students from Sri Lanka, Africa, China, Fiji and Afghanistan who gather at the University to take part in the program, which teaches literacy and creative writing, as well as English conversation and computer skills.

Some come regularly, others take part now and again. Among them are victims of torture and war, some of whom experience post-traumatic stress disorder.

The program has become a support network for the students, Colin says. Many of them have forged new friendships and gained a sense of belonging. Through his role as a volunteer conversation partner, Colin heard many of their stories of terror and suffering.

“The more you heard, the more disturbed you were. They had had a very hard life. Quite a lot of them had risked their lives to get here.”

Impetus for the program came from the Tampa crisis of 2001, when more than 400 mostly Afghan asylum seekers were picked up by a Norwegian cargo ship, which was refused entry into Australian waters.

Originally part of the Faculty of Education and Social Work, the program now operates out of the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies. The teachers and conversation partners are all volunteers. Director Lesley Carnus estimates about 600 people have taken part in the program.

In 2011–12, funding pressures made closure seem imminent. Colin was deeply affected. “The students wouldn’t have anywhere they could go and gather,” he explains.

“We were worried that the program was going to be axed. A small wage was paid to Lesley, a wonderful woman, to run the course, and we didn’t want her to finish up because her passion is what kept the course going.

“So I jumped in and said I would cover her salary, and it took away the problem of what the University was saying, that their budgets couldn’t afford it, because all of a sudden that was fixed. It ensured the program would be maintained and wouldn’t die off.

“You get an opportunity to do something and you grab it and do it,” he explains. Colin’s generosity ensured the program’s survival. It has since gone on to attract a further donation from the Pratt Foundation.

Before his retirement as a CEO of a travel company in 2006, Colin was instrumental in pursuing corporate donations to charities such as the Red Cross and the Salvation Army.

But he says to be personally involved with the Refugee Language Program is far more meaningful. “I feel very much a part of the program now because they have adopted me to a degree. It’s a sort of reverse adoption, which is a wonderful thing.

Colin’s commitment is such that he would join the class on Saturdays after attending one of his thrice-weekly dialysis treatment sessions for kidney disease.

Colin would arrive at the centre on most Saturdays carrying a few bunches of bananas in his arms. The banana habit started back when the price of the tropical fruit had risen after the floods in far north Queensland.

“Everyone always had one and also took some home,” says Lesley. “Colin is a very generous person.”

After joining in on conversations, Colin then takes part in the computer class to give individual support to students, helping some to get email addresses so they can communicate with relatives back home, and assisting others to use Skype. “It gave them a lot of satisfaction to be able to do that,” he says.
10 WAYS AN ARTS DEGREE CAN CHANGE THE WORLD

In an era of rapid change, core human values will shape the tide of technological innovation. The Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Professor Duncan Ivison, highlights 10 ways that arts and social sciences can change the world.

1. PASSIONATE PEOPLE MAKE GREAT LEADERS
Our graduates transform the world because they have been stimulated to follow their passions, and passionate people make great leaders.

Many of Australia’s leaders in politics, business and culture are Bachelor of Arts (BA) graduates. University of Sydney arts and social sciences students go on to help change the world through the character and wide-ranging skills they have developed in the course of their study with us.

Alumnus Cameron Clyne exemplifies this. His liberal arts background provided a broad platform for his rise to becoming CEO of the National Australia Bank.

So too does alumna and former chief newsreader at SBS Mary Kostakidis, having served as a member of institutions as crucial but varied as the Fred Hollows Foundation, the Sydney Theatre Company and the National Human Rights Consultation Committee.

2. UNDERSTANDING THE PAST TO SHAPE THE FUTURE
You can’t change the world without a deep understanding of the past. A BA gives you the opportunity to grapple with the big questions and challenges societies have faced across time and how they have dealt with them.

Our strong tradition of teaching history from ancient to modern times, as well as across different cultures and civilisations, means University of Sydney students have access to some of the leading teachers and researchers in the world, such as archaeology professor Roland Fletcher, whose groundbreaking Greater Angkor Project is establishing strong links between the demise of one of the largest, low-density cities of the pre-industrial world, and the situation that modern cities are finding themselves in today.
6. SUPPORTING FLEDGLING DEMOCRACIES
As democracy transforms the world, arts and social sciences students and researchers can help us understand the possibilities and challenges faced by democratic movements worldwide.

Our new Institute of Democracy and Human Rights is doing pioneering work on the future of democracy in the Asia Pacific, with Laureate Professor Pippa Norris (Government and International Relations) leading an international team that investigates what makes elections work (and what happens when they go wrong).
7. NEW CONCEPTS OF COMMUNITY
Finding new ways for deeply diverse and multicultural societies to live together peacefully will transform entire regions in our world.

Our students and researchers, working across a range of disciplines – including politics, philosophy, history, languages, media, literary studies, sociology, anthropology – are making fundamental contributions to developing new conceptions of social and political community, to enable such transformations to occur.

The University’s Centre for International Security Studies is one such collaborative group, where important research is undertaken by academics with a range of expertise, including international relations, politics, economics, energy and food security, and conflict prevention.

8. HARNESSING DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD
Social media and digital technology are transforming the way we communicate, and our media and digital cultures programs are training a new generation of social media thinkers and producers who will take our communications industries and practices to a new level.

Under this revolution, we will see major changes to how politics is conducted, the way health care is delivered and how we communicate with each other in really fundamental ways.

Among the research being undertaken is César Albarrán’s recent master’s dissertation which examined how the White House used social media during the US health-care reform debate. His current PhD explores how real-life spaces of interaction translate into digital realms, using online casinos as the focus.

9. MAKING ECONOMICS ABOUT PEOPLE, NOT NUMBERS
Our understanding of markets and human behaviour is being radically altered by the ongoing consequences of the global financial crisis. A richer, more complex picture of human behaviour will be required to better understand economic activity and to design and develop improved economic policy. Economics is being transformed through new engagements with psychology, sociology, political science, philosophy, history and the natural sciences. Our new School of Economics, led by renowned European economist Professor Colm Harmon, will help train a new generation of economists to take advantage of these new approaches and go on to become leaders in business and policy development.

10. CURIOSITY, CRITICAL THINKING, COMPASSION
The greatest transformations of all occur when our leaders and citizens remain open to new ideas and new approaches; in other words, when they retain a passion to keep learning. Arts and social sciences degrees cultivate a deep love of learning in students through the basic foundational skills they help develop – critical thinking, analytical skills, good communication skills, breadth of mind, curiosity about difference and otherness, and the ability to imagine yourself in someone else’s shoes. These are the kind of qualities required in our citizens if we are to have any hope of addressing the fundamental challenges of the future. And for this reason, above all, the BA is the degree of the 21st century.
Michael Boyle and Robin Craig hope that if others follow their lead in creating an engineering scholarship, then someone, somewhere will find a sustainable solution to our energy and water issues. Matthew Benns reports.

Civil engineer Michael Boyle says he is not so naive as to think that his donation to the University will change the world by itself. But he hopes that it will make a difference.

“We are optimists,” says Michael, who together with his wife Robin Craig has donated $500,000 through a family trust to support a PhD scholarship in engineering in perpetuity.

“We are just hoping that if lots of people do what we do then somebody, somewhere will come up with something significant to change the world,” he says.

The primary focus of their donation is to look at engineering solutions to provide sustainable power generation and water supply. “There is no turning back; you can’t suddenly take electricity off people, so we need to find a way to generate it in a more sustainable way,” explains Michael.

The Dean of Engineering, Professor Archie Johnston, says: “Their generosity will provide the support, in perpetuity, for research to make the breakthroughs that change the way our society lives.”

CLEAR AMBITIONS
After leaving school, Michael undertook a four-year Bachelor of Civil Engineering degree at the University before working on a number of major civil engineering projects around the country. “My intention was always to start my own company by the time I was 30 and I wanted to get as much experience as possible,” he said.
Working on the Darling Harbour redevelopment project in Sydney in 1988, he met University of Melbourne psychology graduate Robin Craig. They set off around the world together, working in Britain, before returning to marry, start a family and begin that business, Abergeldie.

“Mick and I found that we work quite well together and we shared quite a few roles within the company,” says Robin, who is now the sustainability and social responsibility manager for Abergeldie in Regents Park, Sydney.

Specialising in complex infrastructure projects, Abergeldie has grown into a mid-tier civil engineering company with a $100 million annual turnover. Among its projects was the replacement of the University’s footbridge over University Avenue. Michael explains that the company has always maintained a focus on giving something back to the community.

“The company set aside 0.1 percent of turnover to be given to charity. If you don’t make it a cost of business you just don’t do it.” The company sponsors the St Vincent de Paul food vans in Parramatta and Penrith, and its staff are on the monthly roster. Michael and Robin regularly help out too. “There is never any complaint,” says Robin. “They finish work here, go and make sandwiches and distribute them until midnight, and are back at work at seven the next morning.”

Michael adds: “I think that philosophy is why we have so few people leaving the company.”

The couple have four children – Minna, Sarah, Michael and Joseph. It is the family’s Private Ancillary Fund, the Jaramas Foundation (the name is derived from the parents’ and children’s initials), which has made the donation to the University.

“She was inspired during her time there by sociology and social policy professor Dr Bettina Cass, whose teachings have helped inform many of the socially responsible decisions the couple are making today. Michael was the first member of his family to go to university. Not wanting to burden his parents financially, he spent his spare time working to support himself. He hopes the recipients of his family’s scholarship will have a different experience.

“My time at university was mainly about getting my degree and supporting myself while I did it. I am hoping that the scholarship will give the recipient a bit more time to think than I had,” he says.

“Given the right support, I am fairly optimistic this next generation will come up with the solutions to the problems we face.”
Mimi Zou came to Australia from China as a six year old and went on to fulfil a family dream: a university education at Sydney. Now a lawyer, she is currently completing a doctorate in law at the University of Oxford. She reflects on her experiences and how a travelling scholarship from the University of Sydney supported her education.

I first learned of the University of Sydney as a young child growing up in China. My parents were Chinese students who migrated to Australia in the late 1980s to seek freedom and opportunities in a new country. I was separated from my parents at the age of three, and left in the care of my paternal grandmother in China. My grandmother looked after me for four years while my parents struggled to build their new lives, or more accurately, the lives of their children, nearly 8000km away from our hometown of Guangzhou. I did not see my parents for four years, and the only contact we had was weekly phone calls where I would sob to my mother about the strict disciplinary ways of my 'tiger grandmother'.

Like many other migrants, my mother’s engineering degree from a top Chinese university was not recognised in Australia at the time. One of the first jobs she took up in her new country was working for a contract cleaning company. One of her client sites was at the University of Sydney.
“The biggest impact of a University of Sydney education on my life has come from the incredibly talented people I met there and who I have learned so much from.”

MIMI ZOU

My mother instantly fell in love with the University's dreamy spires, cloisters, gargoyles and courtyards. This sandstone wonderland was a world away from the Communist China she grew up in. She sent me letters with the most beautiful photos of the campus, and I have still kept the letter she once wrote to me: “One day, my dear daughter, you will be studying at this university.”

During the first week of my arrival in Australia at the age of six, my mum took me and my newly born younger sister on my first visit to the University. I still remember being scolded by my mother when I accidentally stepped onto a part of the lawns in the Main Quad that was out of bounds.

Ten years later, I was very fortunate to receive a full scholarship to study economic and social sciences and law combined degrees at the University, fulfilling my mother’s dream.

A few years later, one of the proudest moments in my mother’s life was seeing me walk down the aisle of the Great Hall to receive a University Medal from the Chancellor Professor Marie Bashir at my graduation. She later told me that all she could think about at that moment was the day when I took my very first steps as a one year old.

INVALUABLE SUPPORT

Without the University’s financial support throughout and beyond my six years of studies, I genuinely believe I would not be where I am today. My various scholarships from the University meant that I did not require any financial support from my family for the entire period of my studies, and that I did not have a hefty debt at the end of my degrees.

Most importantly, the financial support enabled me to pursue a diversity of extracurricular activities and volunteer work that not only enriched my academic and personal development, but also allowed me to give something back to the University and the wider community.

I also had the opportunity to take part in a range of community service programs, from setting up a student community legal volunteering program to offering my time on a regular basis to work for a number of local youth services in south-west Sydney.

I have had experiences which my parents could only dream of, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for giving up everything, leaving their home country and sacrificing so much to give me a world of possibilities.

The biggest impact of a University of Sydney education on my life has come from the incredibly talented people I met there and who I have learned so much from: my professors and mentors, my peers, my friends and my students.

Many of my university friends are already making waves in the diverse careers they are pursuing. There is no doubt that our education at the University of Sydney has prepared us well to become the next global movers and shakers, like the generations of alumni before us.

MIMI ZOU

BEC SocSc 2006 (Hons) 2008, LLB (Hons) 2009

This is an adapted version of a speech written by Mimi Zou published in the University of Sydney UK Alumni Association newsletter in 2012.

MIMI’S UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY SCHOLARSHIPS

2003–8: full Outstanding Achievement Scholarship (granted by the University)

2007: Cheung Kong Endeavour Australia Scholarship (funded by the federal Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, and facilitated by the University of Sydney Scholarships Office) to undertake an exchange semester at Tsinghua University, Beijing

2010: Eleanor Sophia Wood Postgraduate Research Travelling Scholarship ($20,000 with $2000 airfares) to study the Master of Law (known as Bachelor of Civil Law) course at the University of Oxford
A chance meeting in London led David and Josephine Skellern to set up a scholarship that will benefit PhD students at Sydney Nursing School.

Michael Visontay reports.

In 2011 David and Josephine (Jo) Skellern were in the UK, visiting their grown-up children, when they received an unexpected invitation to a University of Sydney alumni dinner. “Tim Dolan [the university’s Director of Development] heard we were over there and invited us to a dinner at the House of Lords. It was a beautiful occasion,” says Jo.

During the dinner, Jo bumped into Professor Jill White, the Dean of Sydney Nursing School. The two had crossed paths years before when Jo was working for the University of Technology, Sydney, supervising nursing students during their hospital placements (Professor White was Dean of Nursing there for 10 years before moving to the University of Sydney).

“The chat with Jill got my mind thinking and some time later I approached the nursing school with some ideas for supporting nursing at Sydney. When we returned to Australia, we met with Jill and Daniel Martin [Development Officer at the Sydney medical and nursing schools], and settled on a scholarship as a useful way to contribute.”

“My background is in paediatrics and midwifery, and maternal and child health,” says Jo (GradDipNursEd ’79), who studied nursing at what was then Cumberland College of Health Sciences, which became part of the University in 1990. “Nurses’ work is of vital importance to society and I wanted to support postgraduate research. When it comes to caring for patients there needs to be a deeper pool of research to draw on.”
David, an academic and successful information and communications technology entrepreneur, adds: “Nursing students often have a different profile from many other students. They may not normally consider postgraduate research. They need flexible scholarships to encourage the best students to maintain family life around their research – support to help pay the mortgage, and time to raise children. They are still not getting a fabulous income, but we’ve chosen a level that will be enough to tip the balance for some.”

A little over 18 months later, in the middle of last year, David and Jo initiated a $700,000 gift to establish an endowment fund for the award of PhD nursing scholarships within Sydney Nursing School at the University of Sydney. Each Skellern Family PhD Scholarship will be awarded for a maximum of five years, and the first one will be awarded in the second semester of this year.

“Jill has such enthusiasm and brings a wonderful professionalism to nursing at both the undergraduate and postgraduate levels. She showed us that Sydney’s nursing research is right up there in the ERA [Excellence in Research Australia] rankings, so we feel very confident about the quality of research that will be done.”

“There are no constraints on our scholarship. I did not want to restrict the topic areas because you don’t know where the best students will come from.”

The Dean of Nursing, Professor Jill White, says: “The Skellern Scholarship will make it possible for nurses who are mid-career to undertake their PhD. Often, by the time the nurse has become an expert clinician and can see the research needs of the patients, they are also at a time of complex family and household arrangements, and taking the decrease in pay to be a student is simply not possible. The combination of the Skellern Scholarship and for example an APA [Australian Postgraduate Award] would provide a ‘living wage’ that would make study possible.

“The faculty is so grateful to Josephine and David. It is wonderful to find people who understand the importance of nursing research to positive patient outcomes and at the same time understand the complexity of the lives of the nurses who are best placed to do this research.”

Competition for external funding across faculties and disciplines is intense and this is one of the reasons Jo says nursing needs extra support. “There is no other obvious source of funding for nursing research, compared with areas such as science or medicine. When it comes to caring for patients there is not an easy source of hard evidence to draw on.”

Jo adds: “We do not expect a specific outcome, except to see that more decisions about promotion of health and management of illness are based on sound evidence. We did say we wanted a scholarship that would be ongoing. If you use pessimistic assumptions (about the endowment fund earnings), it will go for 30 years; if you use optimistic assumptions, it will be around forever!”

For David and Jo, the nursing scholarship is the latest of several gifts to Sydney in recent years. “We have been very lucky in business and decided to commit a significant sum to charity,” says David (BSc ’72, BE ’84, PhD ’85), a former Senior Lecturer in Electrical Engineering at the University of Sydney and later Professor and Head of the Department of Electronics at Macquarie University.
In 2000 he sold the technology business he had co-founded with a Macquarie colleague to American giant Cisco Systems. “Jo and I set up a foundation in 2003 to hold some of the proceeds of the sale, which also gave us time to work out how and when to give the money away. Under the government rules, you have to give away at least five percent of the funds each year.”

Right from the start, David wanted to support the university sector. “I was keen to help fund the sorts of things that unis find hard to do, to provide some support that insulates them a little from the vagaries of government funding. Even small sums can make a difference.”

Their first major gift was to Macquarie University, and three years ago they contributed to endowing a Chair for Engineering Innovation at the University of Sydney through the Warren Centre, which David has been involved with in various ways since its establishment. Before selling his company, David had worked for several years in the US, including visiting appointments at Hewlett Packard Labs and Stanford University. He has also had advisory roles at the University of California, Berkeley, and Santa Clara University. He is keen to foster more of the close working relationships between academia and industry that he enjoyed in the US.

**SETTING AN EXAMPLE**

While the nursing scholarship continues the Skellerns’ spirit of generosity, this gift is different in one important respect. Up until now, David and Josephine had made all their donations to various institutions in private, specifically asking to remain anonymous. “So this nursing donation process was quite a difficult decision for us,” David admits.

So why the change this time? “The University was keen to tell our story and we came to see that it’s good (for others) to see examples,” David explains. “We hope that if others are aware of donations from people they know, it might inspire them to give too.

“This is a way of giving something other than money. You don’t grow the culture of giving by being quiet, or by keeping private.”
2012 has been another significant year for fundraising at the University of Sydney. For the second successive year, we have generated more philanthropic support than any other Australian higher education institution. More than 10,400 individual donors raised $80.3 million, surpassing the record-breaking $79 million donated in 2011, while bequest and estate income exceeded $20 million for the third consecutive year.

The University of Sydney is at the forefront of major interdisciplinary research initiatives, having achieved exemplary results in the 2012 Excellence in Research for Australia evaluation. Several major leadership gifts have initiated new large-scale collaborations, which will shape the future scope and scale of research and education programs at the University of Sydney.

A $20 million gift from alumnus Mr John Grill is being used to establish the John Grill Centre for Project Leadership. The centre will bring the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies and the University of Sydney Business School together to work on the latest theoretical and scholarly developments in large-scale complex project management, while also engaging with key industry leaders. The Henry Halloran Trust was established from a $5 million gift by Warren Halloran, in honour of his father’s pioneering work introducing and implementing new concepts of town planning. The trust will encourage interdisciplinary and collaborative projects to address the most important challenges facing land management and urban development in Australia and overseas.

The University also received a $700,000 gift from David and Josephine Skellern to establish PhD nursing scholarships within Sydney Nursing School to support postgraduate research (see story on page 20).

Regardless of the dollar value, every gift makes a real difference in the lives of students. The funds raised in 2012 are providing more than 100 bursaries to support students in need. Nearly 1500 donors have chosen to provide additional support to many of the 500 undergraduate scholarships across the University.

The generosity of our donors enables us to create a community where individuals and their ideas can flourish. Our people have extraordinary potential and make significant contributions to understanding and solving some of the world’s most critical issues. Our philanthropic achievements in 2012 reveal that more and more people share our vision for the future. 2013 will be another big year for fundraising to ensure the University maintains and grows its place among the world’s leading comprehensive research and teaching universities. We look forward to the challenge.
The University of Sydney thanks the following alumni, friends, organisations and estates for their generous support during 2012. Each and every gift is sincerely appreciated.

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$1,000,000 – $9,999,999
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Judith Coffey
Warren Halloran
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* Divisions of the Sydney Medical School Foundation.
Investment and Capital Management (ICM) manages the University of Sydney’s investment portfolio, which comprises endowment capital, operating funds and commercial real estate investments. The pool of capital is divided among three investment portfolios: short-term, medium-term and long-term funds.

The long-term funds primarily consist of the University’s philanthropic capital. The highly experienced ICM team invests the funds in a selection of defensive, growth and alternative asset classes in line with an approved Strategic Asset Allocation framework. For the long-term funds portfolio, the framework is designed to generate returns that allow for yearly withdrawals of five percent while preserving the capital in real terms.

Investments in debt securities across the three portfolios are managed in-house. All other investment classes are managed externally by selected sector specialist managers. Both the long-term and medium-term investment portfolios were fully unitised in early 2012.

**LONG-TERM FUNDS PERFORMANCE IN 2012**

The investment environment improved markedly over the second half of 2012, with most asset classes posting solid returns for the year compared to 2011. The result was a strong positive annual return for the long-term funds of 13.5 percent.

As shown in the chart, the return on the University’s long-term funds was above the approved internal benchmark over all periods shown, and above the NSW Treasury Corporation Hour-Glass Long-term Growth Facility over the rolling three-year and rolling five-year periods.

If you would like a copy of ICM’s 2012 investment report, please email meghan.knox@sydney.edu.au

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**Notes:**

- The University’s returns are after underlying external manager 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 external manager fees, and have been grossed up to account for internal administration fees.
- Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance.