The Lumen masthead is derived from the University of Adelaide motto “Sub Cruce Lumen” meaning ‘light under the [Southern] Cross’.

Today, almost 140 years since our establishment, the University of Adelaide community is united in its quest for discovery and the light of new knowledge.

The University of Adelaide Alumni Magazine
www.adelaide.edu.au/lumen

Message from the Vice-Chancellor

Welcome to this edition of Lumen which celebrates our 140th anniversary. Founded on 6 November 1874, the University of Adelaide is Australia’s third-oldest university. The University was created to reflect the unique character of South Australia itself, and in this edition we showcase that heritage and the impact we have had on the life of our state, our nation and beyond through the efforts and endeavours of our alumni.

We also hear from alumni voices—from such people as former Australian Antarctic Arts Fellow Meredith Hooper, and Managing Director and Chief Brewer of Coopers Brewery, Dr Tim Cooper, recently appointed Chairperson of our new Alumni Council.

From the outset, the generosity of philanthropic supporters strengthened the University. The stories of the generosity of our earliest benefactors are inspiring, as are those who are making a difference to the lives of our students and our research and teaching efforts today.

As alumni and friends of the University, I hope you enjoy reading this anniversary edition.

Professor Warren Bebbington
Vice-Chancellor and President
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WARNING: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are warned that this publication may contain images of deceased persons.

As part of the University’s commitment to sustainable practices we encourage you to receive Lumen online.
To join our online mailing list please email alumni@adelaide.edu.au

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Left: Sir Walter Watson Hughes statue unveiling, 1906

Front cover image: Medical graduates 1891 including Laura Fowler neé Hope, the University’s first female medical graduate
Celebrating 140 years
University founders deliver on a grand vision
The University’s first Vice-Chancellor, Augustus Short’s background as a diligent parish priest and respected Oxford don made him appreciate the importance of a well-rounded education.

From the time of his arrival in Adelaide in December 1847 as the newly minted bishop of a vast area that included South Australia and the whole of Western Australia, he was determined to ensure that education in all its forms contributed to the spiritual and social life of the developing colony.

Dr Short was focused not only on the pastoral care of his community, but on the development of the South Australian community as a whole.

He knew from his own experience the opportunities that a good education could provide, and he used his leading position in society in a strategic way to strive for the noble objective of education for all.

Within 18 months of his arrival he had laid the foundation stone of St Peter’s College, and within 20 years the possibility of a University was being seriously debated.

Dr Short was a strong believer that education would be vital in forging a common identity and culture in South Australian society – and a university was essential to help deliver that vision.

He gathered a formidable band of allies comprising church and state leaders to work on what was an extraordinarily ambitious proposal for such a thinly-populated colony.

It is hardly surprising that the new University of Adelaide’s first Commencement Ceremony saw the conferral of degrees on more than 70 colonists who were already graduates of English, Scottish, Irish and European universities. Together they formed the Senate, and they were the University’s first alumni.

The task of establishing the University was supported by the State and the generosity of Sir Walter Watson Hughes and Sir Thomas Elder who each gave the astonishing sum of £20,000—many millions of dollars today—to the new institution.

From the outset there were also hundreds, and in time thousands, of citizens of the colony who voluntarily supported the University with their time, money, and their reputations.

The University claimed a staff of international distinction, providing a first-class education that would see Adelaide graduates counted among the best in the world.

Even today the University can count five of the 15 Australian winners of the Nobel Prize among its alumni, and is consistently ranked among the top one per cent of universities worldwide.

From such humble beginnings, the recent graduations in 2014 have seen the number of our alumni swell to more than 150,000.

Today Adelaide graduates are living and working all over the world and—in the case of our famous graduate Andy Thomas—even in space.

In this issue of Lumen we look at just a few of the remarkable individuals, past and present, who have made the University of Adelaide what it is today. We also reflect on the unique value that philanthropy has brought and continues to bring to the University.

For more information on some of the key individuals and events in the University’s history go to our Interactive Timeline at www.adelaide.edu.au/about/history/timeline

Far left: Dr Augustus Short
Left: Mitchell Building, 1900
The ambitions of the University of Adelaide’s founders were nothing if not grand. With a population scarcely a quarter of New South Wales or Victoria, the University’s first Commencement Ceremony in 1876 had a distinctly international flavour. It included the admission of more than 70 graduates of overseas universities who were awarded courtesy degrees ad eundem gradum. This distinguished company formed the first Senate of the University, and served as an inspiration to the best and brightest of the developing colony to seek a higher education.

These were the years of firsts: the first graduates in all the disciplines, the first endowed scholarships, the first Australian university to admit women to degrees, and the appointment of internationally recognised academics, among them a future Nobel prize winner, to a staff of international distinction. In spite of the small numbers, with fewer than a dozen graduates in the early years, the University enjoyed the unstinting support of the local community. The future was assured thanks to some extraordinary gifts from people such as Sir Walter Watson Hughes, Sir Thomas Elder, John Howard Angas, Robert Barr Smith, and many others.

Building a sporting heritage

In 1896 the Sports Association was established by the University’s first sporting clubs—boating, tennis and lacrosse. Nobel Prize winner Sir William Henry Bragg was instrumental in setting up the Lacrosse club in 1889 and was the association’s third Life Member in 1909. Today, Adelaide University Sport has 36 affiliated sporting clubs with a further three awaiting formal affiliation. This will make it the largest university sports association in Australia.

“...To this gentleman we owe the existence of the University. If it had not been for his munificence we should have no Chancellor and no pageant and no degrees. His generosity has wonderfully stimulated the progress of higher education in the colony...”

South Australian Register, 1885, speaking about Sir Walter Watson Hughes

Generosity and vision of our early benefactors

The founding of the University of Adelaide in 1874—just the third university in Australia—was made possible by a gift of £20,000 by Sir Walter Watson Hughes. It was an enormous amount at the time and is equivalent to more than $21 million today.

Sir Walter’s contribution is today marked by the Hughes Building and two sculptures of Hughes—a marble bust in the Bonython Hall foyer and, most notably, a classical bronze sculpture in front of the Mitchell Building by Francis John Williamson (1833–1920).

Also renowned for his philanthropy was Sir Thomas Elder, a wealthy businessman and pastoralist who left £65,000 to the University upon his death in 1897, including £20,000 which was devoted to music.

The University of Adelaide was the largest beneficiary of Elder’s estate, enabling the building of Elder Hall opened in 1900, the establishment of the Elder Conservatorium of Music and Elder Professorship of Music. An initial gift of £20,000 in 1874 was used to endow Chairs of Mathematics and Natural Science. Other generous gifts included £9,000 from Sir Thomas and Robert Barr Smith towards the establishment of the University’s library.
The University of Adelaide was firmly on the path to becoming a world-class institution.

Australia’s first female Science graduate

During the University’s 1885 Commencement Ceremony, Edith Emily Dornwell made history as the first Bachelor of Science graduate and first female graduate. It was a landmark achievement with Adelaide only the second university after London to grant degrees to women. Edith’s academic record was undeniably impressive—she was placed in the first class and consistently performed ahead of her mainly male counterparts. Chancellor Samuel Way expressed enormous pride in her achievements during his Commemoration Day speech:

“"In your distinguished undergraduate career, and in the manner in which you have taken that degree, you have not merely done honour to the University, but you have vindicated the right of your sex to compete, and to compete on equal terms, with other undergraduates for the honours and distinctions of the University.""

Samuel Way speaking about Edith Emily Dornwell

Milestones and achievements

1874 Dr Augustus Short, Bishop of Adelaide, elected Vice-Chancellor

1876 Bachelor of Arts (BA) is the first recognised degree. A Latin lecture on 28 March 1876 marks the first official lecture

1881 The University is the first in Australia, and only the second in the world, to admit women to academic courses nearly 40 years before Oxford

1882 The first University in Australia to receive royal ascent to grant degrees in Science

1883 Roseworthy Agricultural College founded

1884 First University in Australia to establish a Chair of Music

1885 The Faculty of Medicine established

1891 Laura Fowler is the first female graduate in Medicine and Surgery

1895 Adelaide University Union founded

1896 William Henry Bragg, Elder Professor of Mathematics and Experimental Physics, takes the first X-ray images in South Australia and the first in Australia to use X-ray for medical purposes

1897 The Elder Conservatorium of Music is the first music school of its type in Australia

1899 Library named Barr Smith Library Collection
The international status of the University of Adelaide continued to build during the early 1900s. In its 50th year in 1924, more than 100 degrees were conferred for the first time. They joined a graduate community of some 1,450 people, many of whom had gone on to positions of leadership locally, nationally and internationally. The distinguished graduate list included Sir Douglas Mawson, who led the world’s first scientifically oriented exploration of Antarctica, while in 1915 William and Lawrence Bragg jointly won the first of five Nobel prizes awarded to the University’s alumni.

The physical character of the campus was also changing. Generous gifts resulted in many new buildings, including the newly completed Elder Hall, the Darling Building (in honour of Sir John Darling, Chair of BHP), and the Physics Building, gifted by the State Government for the University’s Golden Jubilee. Peter Waite’s bequest of his Urrbrae estate—handed over to the University in 1923—was a gift of unprecedented magnitude and marked the creation of one of Australia’s most celebrated agricultural science research and teaching centres.

Pioneer of women’s and children’s health

Helen Mayo was a remarkable woman in a professional and academic world heavily dominated by men. She graduated from medicine in 1902 with distinction, becoming the University of Adelaide’s second female medical graduate. With her friend, social worker Harriet Stirling, she established her first clinic for mothers and babies in 1909 which later grew into the Mothers and Babies Health Association in 1927, serving the whole State. Dr Mayo was elected to the University Council in 1914, serving until 1960. She died in 1967.

Various places bear her name in recognition of her enormous and varied contribution, including the original University Mayo Refectory in Union House, rooms at St Ann’s, Helen Mayo House for new mothers with mental health problems at the Women’s and Children’s Hospital, and the federal electorate of Mayo in the Adelaide Hills.

Today, the University’s Robinson Research Institute continues the tradition of groundbreaking work in this area. The Institute comprises internationally renowned researchers in human reproduction, pregnancy and child health with a focus on the early stages of life to improve the health and wellbeing of children and families across generations, in Australia and around the world.

First female Doctor of Music

Music was part of Ruby Davy’s life from an early age. She began teaching the subject at just 13 in her mother’s Salisbury School of Music and graduated from the Elder Conservatorium of Music in 1907. She was a regular performer and also taught from a studio at Allan’s Music Shop in Rundle Street. In 1913, at the age of 30, Ruby began her Doctorate of Music, studying violin, flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, French horn, trumpet, trombone, kettle drums and other instruments of percussion. She graduated as Australia’s first female Doctor of Music in 1918 and went on to open a music school in Melbourne. Ruby died in 1949 and left £300 to the University to provide a scholarship which survives today as the Dr Ruby Davy Prize for Composition.

Icons of sporting achievement

In 1910, the Governor of South Australia Sir Day Bosanquet, opened the University’s first sporting grounds and facilities. The University Oval, grandstand pavilion and boat shed are icons of sporting achievement of the past century which were used by many of the University’s greatest sportsmen and women. Thirteen benefactors donated £100 each to pay for the new pavilion, while a generous contribution of £750 from Robert Barr Smith led to the construction of the boat shed.

From the start of her career, Dr Mayo had advocated the need for educating new mothers in looking after their babies.
A formidable father-and-son team

University of Adelaide mathematics and physics lecturer William Henry Bragg and his son Lawrence (William Lawrence) are recognised as one of the most scientifically brilliant teams in history. They were jointly awarded a Nobel Prize for Physics in 1915 for their discovery and experimentation of X-ray crystallography. Their discovery was so significant that 100 years on it still affects many aspects of our lives from determining the structure of DNA and proteins, to developing new drugs and chemicals. The Braggs are still the only father-and-son combination to win a prestigious Nobel Prize.

The University and the Great War

By November 1918 the War had claimed the lives of 63 staff, students and graduates with many more injured among a total of almost 500 who served in some capacity. The University archives contain a fascinating set of records relating to their military service, including several hundred letters from the families of serving staff, students and graduates.

www.adelaide.edu.au/records/archives

Milestones and achievements

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<td>Elder Hall opens</td>
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<td>1905</td>
<td>First “Prosh” procession organised by the Adelaide University Union which involved a parade and stunts organised to raise funds for charity</td>
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<td>1908</td>
<td>Blues Awards established for outstanding sporting achievement</td>
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<td>1911–1914</td>
<td>Sir Douglas Mawson’s epic journey of exploration to Antarctica</td>
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<td>1915</td>
<td>William Henry Bragg and his son Lawrence jointly awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics</td>
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<td>1919</td>
<td>Faculty of Dentistry established</td>
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<td>1920</td>
<td>Sir Douglas Mawson appointed Professor</td>
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<td>1920</td>
<td>Graduates Association of the University of Adelaide founded</td>
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<td>1923</td>
<td>Thorburn Brailsford Robertson produced the first insulin in Australia in the University of Adelaide’s Darling Building</td>
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<tr>
<td>1924</td>
<td>Waite Agricultural Research Institute established</td>
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<td>1924</td>
<td>University Golden Jubilee</td>
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1930s -1940s
Delivering growth in times of adversity

The making of a legal pioneer

Dame Roma Mitchell was destined to become one of Australia’s most accomplished lawyers the day she set foot on the University of Adelaide campus. She excelled in her law studies, completing her course in four years instead of five and graduating in 1934 with the David Murray Scholarship Award for the most brilliant student. She began her search for justice during her university days, helping to form the Women’s Law Students’ Society after being barred from joining the existing society. It was the start of a 60-year relationship with the University which continued when she returned as a lecturer in family law, and through her appointments as a member of the Council and as Chancellor from 1983 to 1990. She was the first woman to hold the post of chancellor at an Australian university and only resigned after taking up her appointment as Governor of South Australia in 1991. Dame Roma was a founding member of the University of Adelaide Graduates Union and in 1985 was awarded the degree of Doctor of the University for her distinguished service.

By 1947, more than 25 per cent of the University’s students were ex-service men and women.

As the 1930s began, Australia, like much of the western world, was in the grip of the Great Depression. Its economic success rested largely on vital commodities such as wool and wheat which were especially hard hit by the drop in international demand. Yet in spite of these global challenges, the University continued to grow and prosper. The Waite Agricultural Research Institute emerged as the pre-eminent place for agricultural research in Australia, positioning the nation well to respond to changes in primary production. As society changed, the University offered progressive new courses in economics, social welfare, teacher training and many other disciplines. The community also benefitted in many other ways, such as through the establishment of the Footlights Club and the University of Adelaide Theatre Guild, which continues to this day as an enterprising and award-winning company.

The 1940s began with the University again depleted by the absence of staff and students on active service. Many of those who remained, especially in the scientific disciplines, were seconded to military authorities.

Breakthroughs in world health

The 1940s produced two of the University of Adelaide’s most distinguished medical graduates. Professor Frank Fenner completed his Doctor of Medicine in 1942 and pioneered studies into how common virus infections spread through the body. He played a major role in the introduction of myxoma virus to combat Australia’s rabbit plagues. Pioneering researcher Dr Basil Hetzel, who completed his postgraduate degree in 1949, made a difference to the lives of millions with his discovery that iodine deficiency was the cause of severe brain damage among Papua New Guinean highlanders. Global prevention of this problem became his life’s work, leading to salt iodisation programs in about 90 countries and the protection of millions of children.

A life in music

Dr Miriam Hyde was one of Australia’s foremost pianists and composers during the 20th century, a distinguished career that began after she graduated from the University of Adelaide in 1931 with a Bachelor of Music. Winning the Elder Overseas Scholarship to London’s Royal College of Music, she studied piano and composition before returning to live in Sydney. She returned to Adelaide and taught piano and musical perception at the Elder Conservatorium for a short while and in 1975 was appointed Patron of the Music Teachers’ Association of South Australia.

Dr Hyde was a prolific composer of music and lyrics who wrote over 150 instrumental and vocal works in an early 20th-century pastoral style and was an acclaimed international concert pianist and music educator. Demonstrating her commitment to supporting musical education, Dr Hyde established the Miriam Hyde Award for the Music Teachers’ Association of South Australia, and donated royalties from her autobiography to support the Elder Overseas Scholarship fund.
A man for all seasons

Max Harris, poet, editor and publisher, has generally been regarded as the founding father of Australian modernism in the arts. By the time he commenced studies in economics and arts at the University in 1939, he was already recognised as a poet and intellectual. Between 1941 and 1945 he edited the avant-garde journal Angry Penguins which aimed to promote the international influences of surrealism and modernism into the Australian artistic scene. Mr Harris also played a central role in establishing Penguin and Sun Books paperback imprints in Australia and became, through his Mary Martin Bookshop, one of the best known booksellers in Australia. He was also a senior newspaper columnist and a well-known arts critic on radio and television.

Building bridges

The University Footbridge linking the playing fields and the North Terrace campus is a permanent reminder of the huge generosity of the Waite family. Peter Waite left his magnificent Urrbrae estate to the University in 1914 for an agricultural institute and his daughters Eva and Lily Waite continued the tradition by helping to fund the bridge, which they formally opened in May 1937 with Governor Sir Winston Dugan.

Lasting legacy in books

The generosity of the Barr Smith family is remembered every time someone steps into the University’s library. Robert Barr Smith served as a member of the University Council for 19 years and during his lifetime his donations exceeded £20,000, which included £9,000 to improve the library. Further donations followed. The foundation stone of Barr Smith Library was laid by Mary Isobel Barr Smith in September 1930, and two years later the Barr Smith Reading Room was completed at a final cost of almost £35,000 from funds donated by Tom Elder Barr Smith. He later bequeathed a further £10,000 to buy books, and ongoing interest earned from the donations continues to fund more purchases to this day. The Latin inscribed frieze below the gilded ceiling of the Reading Room commemorates the major donations of Robert Barr Smith and his family.

Milestones and achievements

- 1927–1938: Construction of the Lady Symon and George Murray buildings, cloisters and refectory
- 1930: The Graduates Association and University Union amalgamate allowing graduates use of the union buildings and facilities
- 1932: The student newspaper On Dit is first published
- 1932: Adelaide University Rugby Club formed
- 1933: Constance Eardley hired as curator of the Adelaide and Waite Institute herbaria
- 1933–1936: Bonython Hall built following a bequest by Sir John Langdon Bonython
- 1936: Australia’s first Diploma in Oenology established at Roseworthy Agricultural College
- 1938: The University of Adelaide Theatre Guild is formed
- 1941: Award-winning children’s author Colin Thiele graduates with a Bachelor of Arts and Diploma of Teaching
- 1945: Penicillin pioneer Lord Howard Florey wins the Nobel Prize for physiology and medicine
- 1947: Staff Association established
- 1947: Construction of Medical School South commenced
- 1948: The Observatory building completed
1950s

Boom times as North Terrace reaches capacity

The 1950s signalled a period of sustained expansion unlike anything the University had previously known. New buildings were commissioned in North Terrace and Waite, and the long process of modernisation began. The Colombo Plan saw hundreds, and ultimately thousands, of students from across South East Asia enrich the fabric of Australian society. In the case of the University of Adelaide, strong links were forged with the Asian region that continue to this day.

By the end of the 1950s, the North Terrace campus had reached capacity and planning began for the establishment of a second campus which eventually resulted in the founding of Flinders University in the south of the city.

The University’s long-standing anthropological research into Australia’s Indigenous peoples gained national and international attention through the work of controversial linguist Ted Strehlow and a succeeding generation of scholars.

A legacy in sculpture

As a sculptor, painter and writer, John Dowie made an extraordinary contribution to the arts in Australia, especially in South Australia, in a career that spanned a remarkable 80 years. His first studies in art were in the mid-1920s at the South Australian School of Art. Then he studied architecture at the University of Adelaide from 1936 to 1940 while working as a draughtsman and studying at night at the School of Art. The outbreak of World War II abruptly stalled Mr Dowie’s career and he served in Palestine, New Guinea and Tobruk. But it also marked a turning point. In 1954, he was commissioned to carve a stone sculpture of a returned soldier for Michelmore’s War Memorial Chapel at Roseworthy Agricultural College, and in 1957 he created another sculpture for Michelmore’s Ross Smith Memorial Pavilion at Adelaide Airport. These two high-profile sculptures marked a watershed in his career, and he received an unbroken chain of public and private commissions which continued until only years before his death. Many of his more than 50 public sculptures are truly iconic South Australian art.

A legacy in sculpture

Left: John Dowie carving The Soldier (photo from Tracy Lock-Weir’s book John Dowie: A Life in the Round (Wakefield Press))

Double honour for distinguished historian

Professor Hugh Stretton is one of the most respected Australian intellectuals of our time. A graduate of the universities of Melbourne and Oxford, where he held a Rhodes Scholarship, he was appointed Professor of the University of Adelaide’s Department of History in 1954. He presided over the department’s rapid expansion in the 1950s and 1960s, and shaped its teaching and research focus by appointing historians of international stature, as well as supporting younger scholars. As a result, it became widely recognised as one of the most lively and productive schools in the nation.

In 1968 Professor Stretton stepped down from the position to devote more time to writing and turned to the study of economics in retirement. He went on to hold the position of Visiting Research Fellow with the University’s Department of Economics. After 35 years of service Professor Stretton formally retired from the University in 1989. Because of his exceptional and meritorious service, the University broke with tradition and awarded him two honours—the title of Emeritus Professor of History and Doctor of the University (honoris causa).

Today, the establishment of the Stretton Centre will build upon the foundational work of Hugh Stretton and has been made possible by a grant from the Suburban Jobs Program of the Australian Government and involves a partnership between the City of Playford, the Australian Workplace Innovation and Social Research Centre (WiSeR) at the University of Adelaide and the South Australian Government through Renewal SA.

Once established, the Stretton Centre will be a regional hub for integrated industry, workforce and urban development, addressing challenges and pursuing opportunities through research, collaboration and innovation.

Dowie’s Soldier sculpture at the Memorial Chapel at Roseworthy campus is in need of restoration work. To support this Roseworthy Old Collegians Association initiative, please contact Dick Turnbull at roca@alumni.adelaide.edu.au

Professor Hugh Stretton

1956 Medical graduates ball
Malaysian child health pioneer

Dr Samuel C.E. Abraham graduated in medicine from the University of Adelaide in 1959 and went on to become one of Asia’s most highly respected medical practitioners and a founder of paediatric practice in Malaysia. Arriving in Australia as a Colombo Plan scholar in the 1950s, Dr Abraham first studied science at the University of Tasmania before taking up medicine at Adelaide. He was a resident at Lincoln College where he was integral in bridging the gap between Australian and Asian students, partly through his good humour. A committed social activist, Dr Abraham worked for the Malaysian Government medical service for 30 years and was dedicated to improving services to the poor and children with physical and mental disabilities. During his 40-year-plus career, his reputation as a compassionate advocate for underprivileged Malaysian children stretched from Asia to Britain and Australia.

1951
Staff Club opened

1951
Inception of the Malaysian Colombo Plan

1952
Graduates Association reconstituted as the Adelaide University Graduates Union

1952
Lincoln and Aquinas colleges open

1958
Opening of Union Hall

1955
Victor Allen Edgeloe, University historian, promoted to Registrar, remaining until 1973

Malaysian child health pioneer

Dr Samuel C.E. Abraham graduated in medicine from the University of Adelaide in 1959 and went on to become one of Asia’s most highly respected medical practitioners and a founder of paediatric practice in Malaysia. Arriving in Australia as a Colombo Plan scholar in the 1950s, Dr Abraham first studied science at the University of Tasmania before taking up medicine at Adelaide. He was a resident at Lincoln College where he was integral in bridging the gap between Australian and Asian students, partly through his good humour. A committed social activist, Dr Abraham worked for the Malaysian Government medical service for 30 years and was dedicated to improving services to the poor and children with physical and mental disabilities. During his 40-year-plus career, his reputation as a compassionate advocate for underprivileged Malaysian children stretched from Asia to Britain and Australia.
Meredith Hooper
Emerging from the shadows of war

Former Australian Antarctic Arts Fellow Meredith Hooper is a leading writer, lecturer and broadcaster who was recently named Australian of the Year in the UK. A Visiting Fellow at Wolfson College, Cambridge, Ms Hooper graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Adelaide in 1961.

“We, late 1950s University of Adelaide students, were war babies. The radio delivering nightly battle bulletins. Around us as we grew, inserts of new kinds of people—displaced persons, ‘foreign’ teachers at school grappling with unfamiliar English, ‘Europeans’ who showed us descendants of northern latitudes’ emigrants how Adelaide was a Mediterranean climate. Olives dropping from trees in the Parklands could be eaten rather than stamped on. Icecream turned into a revelation.

As teenagers we lived under the fear of the Bomb. Would we even have a future? But we got to 17. Espresso coffee, exotically drunk at little tables in the City Arcade. And for those who—by definition in our home city—went to The University of Adelaide in leafy North Terrace, the good fortune of lecturers from other worlds.


We students worked hard. That wasn’t at issue. Holidays spent earning.

For most of my girls’ school contemporaries leaving school meant some minimal job and early marriage. Almost unquestioned. But The University of Adelaide gave me—ignorant even of its existence—the Overseas Scholarship in Arts and Economics. Someone read it out loud from the newspaper one summer midnight as we waited by the Advertiser offices for our finals results. The History Department appointed me tutor. Seven months of happy academic career then on board the P&O Oriana with one and a half suitcases, a trunk, and the companionship of 18 young scholarship-holding Australians from every state heading for UK universities.

I’d never been away from home for more than two weeks. It mattered not a jot. Four weeks at sea and I’d climbed up the world. 21 years old. The adventure of England. Oxford. New friends to make. My only contact a family we’d sent food parcels to in the war. A desperately crowded landscape. I thought if I took five big strides I’d be out the other side. Conventional, tight, still war-caught but—in 1961—beginning to sprout shoots.

My mother, as I left, grieved: you’ll marry an Englishman. I did. No longer available for a University post. Married, my tutors offered me a role as their researcher. I had been elected the only woman in my year out of 20 to a Nuffield College Studentship. Won the Beit Prize, the Walter Frewin Lord Prize: But.

I went to the US with my husband. Discovered I liked writing books for a wide audience; and never stopped. Still passionately an historian, but writing about science, technology, aviation, space, Egyptology, Australia; fiction, non fiction; lecturing, broadcasting. Whatever fitted my reality: three children, ever busier husband, committed London life, time in Australia. As opportunity allowed, visiting scholarships, board memberships bedding in.

Until my second great chance: an invitation to Antarctica as a writer with the Australian Antarctic Division. To uncover, instant, unexpected, a passionate commitment to that massive continent clasping the bottom of the world. And go back, and back, to work and research. To spend real time.

Then, and ever since, with as many means as I can: to share my sense of and belief in this critically important one-tenth of Earth’s land surface. Antarctica.

By Meredith Hooper
South Australia has long been known as the Festival State—a proud label that is largely due to the efforts of John Bishop, the Elder Professor of Music at the University of Adelaide for nearly 20 years. Professor Bishop made a series of important contributions to music and the arts in Australia and one of these came late in his life when he helped establish the Adelaide Festival of Arts, which included performances in Union Hall. He was the Festival’s first Artistic Director and its success triggered a great period for the arts at the University with the involvement of students and staff in many national and international premiere performances, and the establishment of the first electronic music studio in Australia.

Union Hall was also the scene of much controversy over the premiere production of Patrick White’s Ham Funeral, produced by the University of Adelaide Theatre Guild following its rejection by the Governors of the Festival of Arts.

A passionate belief in justice

Fay Gale was a pioneer in many respects. Her passion for social justice and equality of opportunity was inspirational. Her research into Indigenous issues opened up new areas of thought and research, the influence of which is still being felt 50 years on. She was the first honours graduate in geography from the University of Adelaide, the first woman to hold a chair at the University, and its only female professor for 10 years. Professor Gale’s 1960 thesis studied assimilation and its impact on Aboriginal Australians. This work has been influential in current debates about Aboriginal issues including the stolen generations, native title and health care for mothers and babies. It became an anthropology text in numerous universities and was influential in the move towards citizenship and land rights for Indigenous people. It also helped lead to the introduction in South Australia of the nation’s first anti-discrimination Act.

Massive bequest aids agricultural research

Pastoralist John Stanley Davies spent his working life improving strains of beef cattle—a passion that has directly benefitted the University of Adelaide. He never married and on his death in 1968 he bequeathed most of his estate to the University and part to Prince Alfred College. He asked that the trustees carry on farming on his properties—Munduney at Spalding and Moralana Station north of Hawker—for 20 years and to promote research into cattle and beef production.

His bequest was one of the most significant in the University’s long history. A $50-million endowment was made possible through the sale of the properties in 1989 and another generous bequest from John Andrew Tennant Mortlock who left his Martindale Farm to the University. The money is being used for the largest expansion of University-based research into animal and crop health and production in Australian history.
Benham legacy boosts English literature

Major works of English literature have been added to the University library thanks to the generosity of Edward Warner Benham, a lawyer and part-time lecturer in property law from 1910–1938. In 1969, Mr Benham left a William Blake watercolour, a reproduction of Progress of Poesy worth almost $200,000, to purchase works in English literature, British history and the law of property, private international law and British legal history.

The endowment has enabled significant purchases in English literature, notably relating to William Blake, and also helped the library develop a fine collection in British history.

Campus at capacity

By the middle of the decade, the University community exceeded 8,000 students and staff, and in 1965 the number of graduates exceeded 1,000 for the first time. The North Terrace campus reached capacity in 1966, and the decision was made to separate the University of Adelaide at Bedford Park and establish it as the independent Flinders University.
Francis Wong
Colombo Plan proves a turning point

An architect, educator and institution builder, University of Adelaide graduate Francis Wong is one of many success stories to emerge from the Colombo Plan, an initiative started in the early 1950s to assist developing countries.

The father of Senator Penny Wong—Australia’s first Chinese-Australian woman to be elected a Labor MP—he gained a Bachelor of Architecture (Hons) from Adelaide in 1967.

Having grown up in poverty as the son of a widowed servant in the household of an English colonial family, Francis Wong’s future prospects were limited. But winning a Colombo Plan scholarship was a turning point, and he left the colonial context of his native British North Borneo to arrive in a rapidly modernising Australia of the 1960s.

Mr Wong has fond recollections of his time at the University of Adelaide, and believes that the staff were not only helpful but genuinely cared for the needs of the students. He recalls his training in Building Science under the pioneering Derrick Kendrick and the focus on environmental concerns which continues to define his attitude to architecture. He also recalls his close relationship with his Honours supervisor Albert Gillissen, who introduced him to the latest prefabrication techniques for his project on industrialised building systems.

Mr Wong became the epitome of the professional free-thinker, an agent of modernisation that the program had sought to produce. Returning to the new state of Sabah in independent Malaysia in 1967, he joined a generation of Australian-trained students who were not only responsible for the mobilisation and institutionalisation of the profession in Asia, but they helped shape the modernisation of the new society.

As an architect, Mr Wong has dedicated a substantial part of his life consulting for local authorities on important legislation, and also helped establish the Sabah chapter of the Malaysian Institute of Architects (PAM), serving as its Founding Chairman. He was also instrumental in establishing various educational institutions to support the new generation of professionals. In his design thesis at the University of Adelaide he observed that “the gap between the man with a degree from overseas on the design board and the unskilled personnel is getting wider and wider”.

He continued to work towards reducing this gap in architectural education through various initiatives and as Dean of Studies at the Sabah Institute of Art after his retirement from architectural practice.

“The influence of my university professors towards the value of education has come one full circle. It is now my turn to prepare the younger generation for globalisation. Without my professional training in Australia, I would not have achieved as much as a citizen of my country.”

Francis Wong, 1966 (National Archives of Australia A1501/1, A6778/2)

Seeking alumni support

Mr Wong was interviewed recently in Sabah in the context of current research by Dr Peter Scriver and Dr Amit Srivastava of the School of Architecture and Built Environment that is exploring the role of Australian-trained architects in the development of the modern architectural profession in South and South-East Asia.

The project hopes to gain a better understanding of the impact of our alumni in the region in areas such as built works, architectural education and the propagation of professional networks. Any alumni who can assist should contact Dr Peter Scriver (peter.scriver@adelaide.edu.au) or Dr Amit Srivastava (amit.srivastava@adelaide.edu.au)
1970s

Academic activists lead reform

The social and political climate of the late 1960s and early 1970s saw transformations across society, and many universities were in the forefront of this movement. Academics were among the leaders of anti-war protests and the landscape on campus was almost as tumultuous.

There were diverging views as some academics pursued interdisciplinary research and teaching in some areas, while others stuck steadfastly to traditional models. Social issues such as racism and poverty were also increasingly reflected in university programs, especially in the humanities and social sciences.

Pioneering community radio

In the late sixties and early seventies, a wide range of groups were urging governments to open up Australia’s tightly controlled broadcast airwaves to different voices and uses. It was the energy and persuasive power of a group at the University of Adelaide who were committed to broadening community access to education—plus an anonymous $100,000 bequest to the University—which eventually broke through. The University was granted the first public radio licence in Australia with the station hitting the airwaves on 28 June 1972. It was known as Radio 5UV until 2002 when it moved to 101.5FM and became Radio Adelaide. The award-winning station is a shining example of the University looking outward and embracing community involvement. Accessible to community members from all backgrounds, it provides high quality training facilities in an inclusive environment that promotes diversity and a global perspective. Radio Adelaide is much more than a campus station—it has a high-power metropolitan licence, now on Digital Radio, streaming online and on 101.5fm—equivalent to all commercial and ABC stations, and is a true icon of Adelaide cultural and community life.

Centre supports Indigenous music

The Centre for Aboriginal Studies in Music (CASM) had its early beginnings in the University in 1971 and grew to become a specialist Australian Indigenous music centre of importance. By the late 1970s it was attracting Indigenous students from around the country and went on to mentor many breakthrough Aboriginal musicians and bands. Today CASM is located within the Elder Conservatorium of Music and remains a unique Indigenous educational and cultural centre.
Operation bridge-hang

It was a Prosh Day prank to beat all Prosh Day pranks—and it was a great demonstration of the ingenuity of University of Adelaide engineering students. At a 30-year class reunion in 2003, engineering graduate David Gray told the story of how, in 1971, his fellow students suspended an FJ Holden under the University Footbridge.

"Under cover of the early hours of one Friday morning, a group of volunteers pushed the FJ Holden under the bridge next to the water on the southern bank of the Torrens," said David. "The car was lifted using beams and lifting gear attached to a small hand-operated crane located on the footbridge.

"The crane, with car attached, was then pushed out to the centre of the bridge. The car was firmly secured to the bridge using a large chain. The crane and volunteers then quickly disappeared into the night and were never found."

The prank is still part of student folklore.

Roseworthy library gift salutes a war victim

The death of a young soldier in World War I continues to be remembered at Roseworthy campus library through the generosity of his brother Eric Goyne Stephens. Mr Stephens, a Bachelor of Science graduate in 1912, made initial donations in 1975 and 1976 to purchase reference works for the college library in memory of his brother Cyril Forster Stephens, who was a gold medallist at Roseworthy Agricultural College in 1913. In his will, Mr Stephens made a further significant bequest to the college, which is being used to further extend the research collections of the library, with investments from the bequests returning an annual income for further purchases. Today there is material within the library that has been incorporated into the Cyril Forster Stephens and Eric Goyne Stephens Memorial Library and the gifts have been commemorated by a plaque.
Dr Tim Cooper, AM, is the Managing Director and Chief Brewer of Coopers Brewery. Before entering the family business he practised hospital medicine in cardiology in the UK. Dr Cooper graduated from Adelaide with a Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery in 1980 and a Master of Business Administration in 1998.

I undertook medical studies (MBBS) from 1974 to 1979. In those days we studied science in our first year, including chemistry, biology, physics and psychology, and traversed all over the main campus. In second and third year our focus turned to medical sciences, including anatomy, physiology, biochemistry and microbiology, and increasingly we were located across Frome Road. From fourth year we started pathology, medicine and surgery, and began to spend time in the Royal Adelaide and Queen Elizabeth hospitals.

Most students at Adelaide were studying for the professions, either medicine, law, engineering, dentistry or architecture. The other courses were arts, science and economics. The courses offered seemed straightforward and logical, and the campus was an intriguing place for a young student. New construction was occurring, with the addition of the Hughes Building and Plaza.

Furthermore, the Union House was completed in 1975, with modern facilities for student and staff refectories, club rooms and the ‘Uni’ bar. I spent many happy hours in the Uni bar, particularly on quieter days, and it was a meeting place to communicate with students from the other faculties. In later years, the Barr Smith became a more familiar haunt, but the Uni bar was always popular on a Friday night.

I was indifferent at sports at university, dabbling in golf and rifle-shooting, but I became interested in student politics. My introduction was in 1975 when a group of us became curious as to why some of our Union dues were going (via the Student Association) to the Labor Party. We requisitioned a referendum to challenge this, but we lost by a small margin of 48% to 52%. I subsequently became Secretary of the Student Association before being encouraged to focus on my studies in my latter clinical years.

I enjoyed my time at the University immensely, as it was a time of personal freedom and intellectual stimulus. Through the relatively small campus and the union facilities, I felt a sense of closeness with the other faculties, making friendships which have lasted. I returned to the University in the 1990s, graduating with an MBA in 1998.

I am pleased that nine current and former directors of Coopers have studied at the University, although my father Bill describes himself as the original ‘Uni dropout’! On my mother’s side, four generations studied medicine at Adelaide, including my grandfather and his father, my uncle and my sister. My wife Barbara (arts), and daughters Louise (law and psychology) and Sarah (design studies) are more recent graduates.

Leading our Alumni Council

Dr Cooper is set to strengthen his connection with the University of Adelaide as the inaugural Chair of the new Alumni Council. The Alumni Council is an advisory group that aims to foster networks between alumni and to support the strategic direction of the University.

The Council comprises six elected members, representing each of the five faculties and the campuses of Waite and Roseworthy and 14 appointed members, each appointed by the University Council. Five international alumni, from Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and the United Kingdom, also sit on the Alumni Council. A full list of Alumni Council members can be found on our website.

For more information on the Alumni Council, please visit www.alumni.adelaide.edu.au/alumnicouncil
1980s

A new era of commercialisation

The early 1980s were a time of financial stringency. The failure of university funding to keep pace with growth meant that many difficult and sometimes unpopular decisions had to be made. It led to the introduction of the national Higher Education Contribution Scheme fee which was hotly debated across the University.

For the first time the University ventured into commercialisation and knowledge transfer through Luminis, a company created to realise commercial opportunities from University activities and intellectual property. At the same time the growing impact of research and development, and competition for research funds, saw the development of a more entrepreneurial approach to many aspects of the University’s operations.

The Dawkins reforms of the late 1980s presented an immense challenge, with the introduction of the Unified National System of higher education, the drive towards mass education, and the creation of new comprehensive universities. By the end of the decade, the University was poised to act.

A commitment to Indigenous education

Building on the success of CASM, the University developed Aboriginal access schemes and Indigenous programs throughout the 1980s. In 1986, Sonny Flynn became the first University of Adelaide Indigenous undergraduate student to complete his Bachelor of Arts and in the same year, the unique music studies developed for Indigenous students by CASM were formalised as a Certificate course and the first certificate award ceremony took place at the University.

This was followed in 1987 by the appointment of the University’s first Aboriginal Liaison Officer to recruit more Indigenous students to tertiary study. Since then, the University has demonstrated a long-term commitment to promote, encourage and support Aboriginal education and employment and has actively promoted an understanding of Indigenous issues, culture and history in its programs and courses. The creation of many different scholarships available to Indigenous students has provided much needed financial support, coupled with guidance and mentoring through the establishment of a dedicated Centre for Aboriginal Education—Wirltu Yarlu—in 1996.

Making of a future Prime Minister

Former Prime Minister Julia Gillard credits her time at the University of Adelaide as fuelling her passion for politics. She studied Law and Arts from 1979 to 1981 and became President of Adelaide University Union and a student representative on the Adelaide University Council. Later she moved to Melbourne to continue her involvement in student politics at a national level and to complete her degree at the University of Melbourne. First elected to the House of Representatives at the 1998 federal election, Ms Gillard became Deputy Prime Minister in 2007, also serving as Minister for Education, Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations and Minister for Social Inclusion. She was Australia’s first female Prime Minister from 2010 to 2013. Ms Gillard has joined the University in an honorary position as Professor in Politics.

From law to the stage

Shaun Micallef is one of Australia’s most successful entertainers—and he honed his comic skills while studying law at the University of Adelaide. His talents include writing, producing and performing on stage, in movies and on television, and he has starred in popular programs such as SeaChange and Full Frontal. Mr Micallef graduated with a Bachelor of Laws in 1984. Reflecting on his time at Adelaide, Mr Micallef said:

"It was there I joined the Footlights Club and participated in comedy revues in Union Hall and the Little Theatre. I learned how to write sketches and how to perform for an audience—skills I rely on to make my living some 20 years later. That's the wonderful thing about this place—you get so much more out of it than just the degree."
Celebrating a century of female academia

In 1985, the University celebrated a milestone in the education of women in Australia with the opening of the Research Centre for Women’s Studies. The year was significant because it marked the centenary of Edith Emily Dornwell’s graduation from Adelaide—the first female graduate in Australia and only the second in the world. It was only fitting that another distinguished female academic, Professor Susan Magarey, was appointed as the Centre’s inaugural Director.

She held the position until 2002 and is now an Adjunct-Professor in History. Professor Magarey has degrees in English Literature and History from the University of Adelaide and the Australian National University and is the author of two monographs: the prize-winning biography of Catherine Helen Spence, *Unbridling the Tongues of Women* (1985) and *Passions of the First-Wave Feminists* (2001). She is the founder of the Magarey Medal for Biography and a member of the Board of the History Trust of South Australia.

Sprigg bequest aids Aboriginal education

Geologist and explorer Reg Sprigg was a pioneer of outback Australia and a founder of South Australia’s oil and gas industry. It was during his many field trips that he gained a deep respect for Australia’s Indigenous population. The Reg Sprigg Aboriginal Education Assistance Fund was established in 1988 from monies raised through the sale of a gift of shares Dr Sprigg left to the University.

The bursary provides financial assistance to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Foundation and University Preparatory Program, and supports undergraduate students studying part-time or full-time at the University. Dr Sprigg completed his Bachelor of Science in Zoology and an honours degree in Geology at the University in 1941.
Rhodes Scholar Susan Coles, a career officer with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, was recently appointed Australia’s new High Commissioner to Mauritius, the Seychelles, Madagascar and the Comores Islands. She graduated from the University of Adelaide with a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws (Hons) in 1989.

"I spent the first year living at Lincoln College, which was an excellent way to launch into University life. At Law school I met a great group of friends and by the end of first term we did a camping trip on ‘the Ghan’ up to Uluru. It was a real bonding experience, and those friendships have lasted until today. I spent a lot of time down in the law library — two floors below ground among the leather-bound law reports — and I worked part-time at the Uni Bar and Bistro. With a combined degree, my Arts tutorials were a favourite. A course on the history of ideas, taught by the legendary Hugh Stretton, made a huge impact. I took another inspiring course in Arts, ‘Women in Politics’, with Dr Carol Bacchi, and became involved in student politics on the Students Association, then spent a year as Union President.

I have some great memories of those times — running elections, campaigning on student issues and learning about academic leadership on the University Council. At the time, Adelaide was the only university offering undergraduate law in South Australia. It was also the natural choice, following in my older sister Jenny’s footsteps. There was a nine-year age gap between us and as a child, attending her very formal graduation ceremony in the imposing Bonython Hall made a huge impression.

My study of the history of ideas and politics opened up a world of awareness on the importance of social justice, fairness and responsibility in leadership. Intellectually, the combination of politics and law sparked interests which I was able to explore studying international, EU and human rights law later on at Oxford. Presenting arguments to University Council for enhanced security for women on campus and improved access to campus child care, shaped my commitment to the importance of empowerment of girls and young women through education and career choices.

It sounds clichéd but winning a Rhodes scholarship was a dream come true, again following in the footsteps of my sister Jenny, who was the first South Australian female Rhodes scholar nine years ahead of me. Immediately after completing the Oxford Bachelor of Civil Law, I spent six months teaching back at Adelaide Law School before I was lured away by what I hoped would be my dream job with the UN. But when I met some Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) lawyers there in Kuala Lumpur, and learned I could practise International law for Australia, my course was set.

So began five years in the DFAT legal office in Canberra and then my first posting to one of the UN headquarters in Vienna where I spent a lot of time negotiating a legal inspections regime against nuclear testing. After Vienna I moved into regional trade diplomacy in APEC with a posting to Singapore.

My most recent appointment to my first Head of Mission posting was a great honour, and I am delighted to have arrived in the beautiful Indian Ocean Island nation of Mauritius. I have welcomed the recent revival of an Australian Alumni network here and am engaged in setting up new networks in two of the other countries I cover, the Seychelles and Madagascar.

It has been fantastic to meet the local Australian community here and see the quiet contribution Australians are making across law, policing, and correctional services toward ensuring improved maritime security in the Indian Ocean neighbourhood.

By Susan Coles"
The early 1990s was a time of intensive preparation for the University’s merger with Roseworthy Agricultural College and the SA College of Advanced Education. The relationship with Roseworthy dated back to its foundation in 1883 when it was Australia’s first agricultural college, while the merger with SACAE saw new disciplines of drama and dance included in an expanded Elder Conservatorium to become a Faculty of Performing Arts. The University successfully lobbied to be included in the Group of Eight research intensive universities on the grounds of its exceptional record, routinely ranking first or second both nationally and regionally in terms of competitive research income per capita.

Dr Andy Thomas

Professor of Mathematical Physics Paul Davies won the 1995 Templeton Prize for progress in religion, the world’s largest prize for intellectual endeavour. Little did Davies know that he was continuing a dialogue between science and religion that the University’s founding father, Augustus Short, had already addressed publicly as early as 1876.

Passion for politics

Natasha Stott Despoja is among a distinguished group of graduates from the University of Adelaide who have carved successful political careers in Canberra. Graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in 1991, Natasha went on to become the youngest woman at that time to enter the Australian Parliament after being elected as a Senator for South Australia at the age of 26. She was the longest serving Democrat Senator in the party’s history before leaving in 2008 after almost 13 years. In 2011, she was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for her service to the Australian Parliament, education and as a role model for women.

For the past six years Ms Stott Despoja has funded an undergraduate scholarship to support a financially disadvantaged female student of academic merit to study humanities full-time and in 2013 she was appointed Australia’s Ambassador for Women and Girls by the Federal Government.

Helping those in need

The Cowan Grant Trust was established by Marnie Cowan and her son Bob in 1994 to help University students experiencing financial hardship. The Cowan family’s longstanding connection with the University of Adelaide spans three generations—starting with Bob’s father, Bill Cowan, who was the University of Adelaide librarian for 31 years from 1933 to 1964. The Cowan Trust supports Music students through the Marnie Cowan Elder Conservatorium of Music Scholarship, postgraduate students through the Bill Cowan Barr Smith Library Fellowship and has also provided up to six scholarships per year for rural students living at the Roseworthy campus.

In 2014, the trust is also supporting travel grants to encourage financially disadvantaged students to undertake an overseas study experience for one semester.

From left: Bob and his wife Gayle Cowan (front) with Cowan Grant recipients

Working side-by-side

In 1992 the University, the State Government and the CSIRO formally agreed to support more than $80 million of new developments at the Waite campus in the 1990s to create a research and education precinct with the largest concentration of expertise in the southern hemisphere in agricultural and natural resource sciences. Scientists from the University and partner organisations were located together in buildings based on their research interests to further enhance collaborations. The new Plant Research Centre, with its futuristic glasshouses, was opened in 1995 as part of the redevelopment.

Passion for politics

Natasha Stott Despoja AM

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In 1995, Professor Paul Davies AM received the prestigious Templeton Prize for his contribution to the dialogue between science and religion.

New wine science laboratory

Members of the Hickinbotham family took a personal interest when the University’s wine science teaching was transferred to the Waite campus in the 90s. They donated funds towards the building of a new state-of-the-art science laboratory at the Waite which was opened in 1998 and named the Hickinbotham Roseworthy Wine Science Laboratory. The building honours Alan Robb Hickinbotham, one of the founders of the winemaking course back in 1936, and his grandson Stephen Hickinbotham, a promising young winemaker who was killed in a plane crash at just 30. It also honours the long tradition of wine education at Roseworthy Agricultural College.

Milestones and achievements

1991 Roseworthy Agricultural College becomes part of the University of Adelaide
1992 Establishment of the Women’s Studies Department
1992 Co-location agreement at the Waite between the University, South Australian Government and CSIRO
1993 The first Adelaide Big Day Out held at the University of Adelaide’s North Terrace campus
1993 Former graduate Ong Teng Cheong became the fifth president of Singapore and the first directly elected
1996 Former graduate Andy Thomas became the first Australian-born NASA astronaut to travel into space
1996 Wirltu Yarlu established as a dedicated centre for Aboriginal education
1998 Departments of Chemical and Mechanical Engineering, and local company Fuel & Combustion Technology win contract to design the flame technology for the Sydney 2000 Olympic torch and the fuel and burner system for the Olympic Cauldron
1998–1999 Yvonne Clark is the first Aboriginal student awarded a Master’s degree in Psychology
Dr Ines Atmosukarto is an internationally recognised scientist who has won numerous awards for research into finding new treatments for cancer and infectious diseases. Now the CEO of medical technology company Lipotek, Dr Atmosukarto graduated from Adelaide with a Bachelor of Science degree with First Class Honours in Biochemistry in 1995 and a PhD in 2002.

It is hard to believe that more than two decades have passed since that late February 1992 day when our Garuda flight landed in Adelaide. I still remember how I felt so privileged to be one of the high school graduates to receive a prestigious World Bank-funded scholarship—a program spearheaded by the then Indonesian Minister of Research and Technology aimed to enable approximately 120 students to undertake studies overseas before returning home to take up positions in key R&D organisations and strategic government-owned enterprises.

The experience that an overseas student had in Adelaide in the ‘90s was, I suspect, rather different to what students may have these days. Coming from a crowded city such as Jakarta, the sense of space was most welcome. I immediately decided to take up residence at Aquinas College, a decision I feel made it easier to adjust to life in Australia. It forced me to practice my English and introduced me to Aussie staples—Tim Tams, AFL and cricket—and made me feel part of a community.

From those days I have fond memories of sitting on the grass near the River Torrens book in hand, strolling through the Botanical Gardens, Saturday mornings at the Central markets and day trips to Hahndorf and the Barossa.

I had enrolled in a science degree and had my heart set on studying biomedical related subjects which were, at the time, not offered back home. Three years went rapidly and I met my husband who was training to be a commercial airline pilot. I was inspired by young lecturers such as Professor Peter Rathjen of the Department of Biochemistry and decided that biomedical research was my passion. My first hurdle was to complete an Honours degree at the end of which I was pleased to receive the Brian and Heather Foster award. I frantically applied for a number of scholarships to continue post graduate studies and had to decide between offers made from Adelaide, Melbourne or Canberra. I had fallen in love with Adelaide and decided I liked the lifestyle and what the University had to offer.

Those next four years were busy ones. We were married and had our daughter by the end of my third year. Juggling motherhood and a PhD thesis was surely a memorable experience.

As life has it, it is during those tough times that I forged lifetime friendships and built a professional network. The education I received in Adelaide shaped the rest of my life. Upon returning to Indonesia, I set up and built a research group at the Indonesian Institute of Science and was very fortunate to be the first Indonesian recipient of an international UNESCO-L’Oreal Fellowship for women in science which took me to the USA. This received a lot of interest nationally and served as a stepping stone for the establishment of funding programs to encourage science education and scientific research by women in Indonesia.

It was with great joy that we celebrated the 10th anniversary of these programs last year and it was humbling to meet with the various recipients, most of whom could remember a lot of the interviews I had done to promote science as a fulfilling career. Science has taken me back to Australia where I now run a small biotechnology company and it is hard to believe I am about to see my daughter make her own way in life.

By Dr Ines Atmosukarto

Dr Atmosukarto with family at her PhD graduation
Unprecedented growth marked the first decade of the 21st century. In the face of declining public funding for higher education, the University of Adelaide embarked on an ambitious program of expansion across the disciplines. As a result, student numbers have doubled and the University has emerged as one of the largest non-government organisations in South Australia. A $400-million capital plan saw massive investments in the physical and natural sciences, and the development of world-leading research across many disciplines, including photonics and advanced sensing, biotechnology and biological sciences. The overseas focus has been a major success, with international students now comprising more than a quarter of all enrolments.

In May 2014, the University announced its largest ever capital works project, with a new $206-million Medical and Nursing School to be built in the West End of the Adelaide CBD. This will bring the number of University of Adelaide researchers in the new SA Health and Biomedical Precinct to nearly 1100, giving it by far the largest research presence.

More Nobel Prizes
The University’s long history of groundbreaking research and scholarship of international significance is highlighted by our five Nobel Laureates. Two of them are recent winners – Professor John M Coetzee was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 2003 and two years later J Robin Warren and his Western Australian colleague Barry Marshall were awarded the Nobel Prize in Medicine.

Professor Coetzee is a South African essayist, novelist and critic who is regarded as one of the greatest living writers. He also has the distinction of being one of only two people to win the Booker Prize twice. Emeritus Professor Warren and Professor Marshall made world news with their discovery of the bacterium Helicobacter pylori and its role in gastritis and peptic ulcer disease.

In 2012 the University’s Medical School opened the new Robin Warren Clinical Skills Laboratory, a $2.5-million facility where students can practise and learn the fundamentals of medical consulting and nursing.

First vet school opens
With its state-of-the-art facilities for teaching, research and animal care, the Veterinary Health Centre was the first of its kind in the State and among the best in the world when it opened in 2010. The new centre is part of a $37 million investment for the School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences. It contains integrated teaching and research spaces, as well as a Companion Animal Health Centre which is open to the public. Facilities include a diagnostic pathology laboratory, intensive care, ultrasound, radiology, surgical theatres and other specialist facilities. In 2013, the Equine Health and Performance Centre was opened at Roseworthy campus, bringing together a wide range of equine specialist services for the first time in SA.

Earthquake support
Students from the University of Canterbury in earthquake-affected Christchurch arrived in Adelaide in March 2011 to study at the University of Adelaide. The University offered around 200 first- and second-year students from Canterbury the chance to undertake their first semester studies at Adelaide to assist Canterbury in its recovery program. Many students stayed in the homes of alumni and staff who helped them to settle into life in Adelaide.
Milestones and achievements

2003  Completion of Plant Genomics Building at the Waite to house the $32-million Australian Centre for Plant Functional Genomics

2006  Bachelor of Engineering (Mining) launched to help remedy the nation’s serious shortage of mining engineers

2008  Social media is embraced to connect with students, alumni and the community

2010  $26-million super greenhouse facility, The Plant Accelerator, opened at the Waite

2010  Former Law/Arts student Julia Gillard becomes Australia’s first female Prime Minister

2011  Opening of Hub Central, a revolutionary three-level $42 million learning hub for students

2010  PhD graduate Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam is elected the 7th President of the Republic of Singapore

2013  The University announces a $50-million investment for research into animal and crop health and production, including an expansion of the Waite campus

2013  New $6-million Dental Simulation Clinic opens

Research tribute to the Braggs

In 2013, the University opened the $100-million science and research building, The Braggs, named after two of its greatest alumni, 1915 Nobel Laureates William Henry Bragg and his son William Lawrence Bragg. The building houses the University’s world-leading Institute for Photonics and Advanced Sensing (IPAS) and other learning and research facilities. The more than 10,000 square metres of research and teaching facilities include specialised laboratories and a 420-seat lecture theatre.

Helping disadvantaged students and the Barr Smith Library

The Vice-Chancellor’s Scholarships Fund was introduced in 2002 to help outstanding but disadvantaged students gain a start at the University of Adelaide each year. The fund was made possible through generous donations from University alumni and other members of the public. A total of 32 scholarships have been awarded, with each student supported for up to four years of their undergraduate program. In celebration of the University’s 140th anniversary and reflecting Augustus Short’s founding vision, in 2014 the scholarships were renamed the Augustus Short Scholarships.

The Barr Smith Library Appeal was also launched in 2002 and has raised over $1 million with 14,500 titles added to the collections. The generous response from our donors is growing each year, making a real difference to learning and research.
Rebecca Richards made history in 2010 when she became Australia’s first Indigenous Rhodes Scholar. The Young Australian of the Year in the UK is a passionate leader in the Indigenous community. She graduated from Adelaide with a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Anthropology in 2011 and is now back at the University doing her PhD.

My fondest memories of my time studying at the University of Adelaide are definitely of the friendships formed with other students, especially at Wirltu Yarlu. It was great to just hang out with other students, especially in the Indigenous common rooms at Yaltiya Purruna and Wirltu Yarlu.

The support, encouragement and belief in my achievement that I received from students and staff at Wirltu Yarlu kept me going in the tough times and ensured that I had some light moments of relief even when assignments and exams loomed large. As an undergraduate and during my Honours year, I spent many hours each week in Wirltu Yarlu, both to utilise the excellent study facilities and to have a secure base of cultural recognition and support. This fostered my identity and served to strengthen my ability to work with confidence within academia and the wider university environment.

During my undergraduate studies I completed an Indigenous cadetship at the National Museum of Australia. I was then hired full-time as an Indigenous Project Officer in 2011. I undertook research duties on Aboriginal bark paintings while at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History in Washington DC.

I became the first Indigenous Australian recipient of the Rhodes scholarship, successfully completed a Master of Philosophy in Material Anthropology and Museum Ethnography at the University of Oxford in 2013. I have also been awarded the Gladys Elphick Award and Rotary Paul Harris Fellow (Sapphire Pin) in 2011, the Young South Australian of the Year Award and SA Young Achiever of the Year Award in 2012, and Young Australian of the Year in the UK in 2013.

The genuine inclusion of Indigenous students, the encouragement of cultural awareness amongst academic staff and the University’s participation in programs such as NAIDOC celebrations have all been significant achievements which have seen Adelaide become a more inclusive and welcoming place where Aboriginal students are more likely to achieve success. The University of Adelaide has made a great difference in my life. The support gained from having an organisation that understands Indigenous struggles and issues, recognises the importance and value of our cultural beliefs and practices, and provides a venue where students can feel supremely comfortable in the midst of the often overwhelming university environment is immeasurable.

I look forward to the time when advocacy and support ensures that Indigenous people are represented in the same percentage in the University as in the general population and to a time when our culture and people are at the forefront of decision-making.

By Rebecca Richards

Rebecca Richards
Photo by John Montesi
For well over a century students have been benefiting from the generosity of two of South Australia’s early pastoralists and philanthropists, John Howard Angas and Sir Thomas Elder. The University’s first donated scholarship was received in 1878 from Mr Angas and his Angas Engineering Scholarship continues to provide students with essential support. Ashleigh Trainor is one of the most recent recipients, graduating with a Bachelor of Engineering (Mechanical) with First Class Honours in 2013.

Now a graduate engineer with Santos, Ashleigh says the scholarship was invaluable to her studies, helping her pay for textbooks and technical software resources. “Without the scholarship I would not have been able to afford my living expenses whilst studying and would have had to spend less time on my studies in lieu of part-time work,” she says.

Ashleigh, who received the R J Jennings Memorial Prize for Mechanical Engineering Honours Project, hopes to expand her knowledge within mechanical engineering fields and eventually become a lead engineer for a technical group either in Australia or overseas.

Another recipient of our early benefactor’s generosity is Robert Macfarlane who is facing a world of exciting opportunities for his singing career in Europe thanks in part to the Elder Overseas Scholarship. This was established in 1883 by twin charitable donations from Sir Thomas Elder to the University of Adelaide and the Royal College of Music, London.

“The scholarship was absolutely instrumental in assisting me with my next development as a singer,” says Robert. “On a purely financial level, it meant that I had a significant amount of the costs of my first year of studies at the Hochschule für Musik Leipzig covered.”

The scholarship also enabled Robert to enter the Mendelssohn School in Leipzig, without having to audition, so that he could undertake a year of intensive voice study.

Violinist Simone Slattery is another winner of the Elder Overseas Scholarship and recently returned to the university to undertake PhD studies.

She graduated with a Bachelor of Music with First Class Honours from the Elder Conservatorium of Music and says receiving the scholarship made a huge impact on her development as a professional musician.

“With the financial support of the scholarship I was able to spend a year living in the USA, taking part in summer schools and training programs, undertaking residencies and receiving lessons,” she says. “It was during this time and as a result of these experiences that I feel I made the leap from student to professional musician.”

Enduring support from our first benefactors

Left: Ashleigh Trainor
Right: Robert Macfarlane
Far right: Simone Slattery
When Everard Terence Hearn died in 1979, he left a generous bequest to the University of Adelaide to fund a scholarship in medicine for financially disadvantaged students.

Mother-of-three Amy Burgess and Nathan Ying Lei Lin are both recent winners of the ET and MM Hearn Scholarship and are realising their dreams of becoming doctors.

Having previously worked full-time to support her family, Amy’s return to University to study medicine had a major impact on her finances.

“There is no way I would have been able to make it through a six-year degree without this assistance—I wish I could thank the Hearn family for their incredible generosity and they could see the difference they have made to my family.”

Like Amy, the scholarship has also given Nathan the resources he needs to study for his Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery.

“It means I can afford to work fewer hours and purchase clinical tools and resources that make my studies much more efficient,” he says. “Now, I can focus my time and energy on things other than money; my family, my studies in areas of interest, and new opportunities and commitments.”

Bequests have underpinned the success of the University of Adelaide since its foundation in 1874. Many donations, including some from those early years, are still having an impact today.

Hughes Bequest Society

With an endowment of £20,000 in 1872, Sir Walter Watson Hughes helped establish the University of Adelaide and his legacy is recognised today by the Hughes Bequest Society. Through the society the University shows those who leave a bequest to the University during their lifetime, how much we appreciate their generosity.

“Knowing about the existence of such gifts gives the University the opportunity to say thank you now for your most generous support which may contribute to groundbreaking research and will help prepare our students to become the educated citizens of tomorrow.”

Sue Fox, Planned Giving Officer.

For information please contact Sue Fox on +61 8 8313 3234 or email susan.fox@adelaide.edu.au

www.alumni.adelaide.edu.au/hughes

Bequest turns dreams into reality

Below: Amy Burgess, Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery
The tragedy of losing five children to cystic fibrosis fuelled Jean Dunlop’s lifetime commitment to support research into childhood disease prevention.

Jean and husband Hugh discovered they were carriers of the fatal disease with the diagnosis of their first child Helen. She died at just two years of age along with newborn twins Hugh and Jean, 11-year-old David, and Joanne, aged 23.

When Joanne was in the later stages of the disease, she suggested they open a second-hand shop to raise money for research. For more than 20 years Jean continued to run the shop and in 1992 was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for service to the Cystic Fibrosis Association.

“She was a strong, determined person,” says Gloria Kirk, Jean’s niece. “You would never have known that she had suffered those tragedies – she was always laughing and happy.”

And she kept giving. The year before she died Jean saw a TV news item about the work of the first Florey Fellow, Dr Annette Osei-Kumah, who was undertaking research into improving the health of pregnant asthmatic women.

It struck a chord with Jean as an important area of research that would benefit pregnant mothers and their babies. She decided that her legacy should be directed towards the Florey Medical Research Foundation.

In 2012, her bequest directly benefited postdoctoral researcher Dr Kathleen Pishas who is researching therapeutic treatments for Ewing sarcoma—a very rare, solid bone cancer that disproportionately affects the young.

“It’s so aggressive, patients have to go through 42 weeks of chemotherapy, with up to seven different drugs, followed by surgery and sometimes radiation,” says Kathleen.

“I don’t see what I do as a job, I see it as a cause—my aim is to leave my footprint and know that I had a purpose. We can only make little footsteps but with the generosity of the community we can really make leaps and strides.”

Professor David Callen, Director of the Centre for Personalised Cancer Medicine, says they are grateful for bequests and donations that allow them to keep researchers like Kathleen on board.

“We are the only group in Australia researching Ewing sarcoma and we live or die on grants, but the rarer cancers don’t have a high profile when it comes to funding,” he says.

As a result of the Fellowship, Kathleen will continue her postdoctoral research into Ewing sarcoma at an overseas posting later this year.

A lifetime of service to charity

Please help us to continue our work

A gift or bequest, no matter how large or small, is an effective way of advancing medical research—a gift that creates something of everlasting significance and importance. The Florey Medical Research Foundation welcomes gifts and bequests of all sizes and these may be directed to a specific area of research.

For bequests:
Contact the University of Adelaide’s Planned Giving Officer Sue Fox on +61 8 8313 3234, email susan.fox@adelaide.edu.au or visit www.alumni.adelaide.edu.au/bequests

For gifts:
Contact the Florey Medical Research Foundation on +61 8 8313 3995 or visit www.florey.adelaide.edu.au

“We can only make little footsteps but with the generosity of the community we can really make leaps and strides.”

Left: Jean Dunlop

Postdoctoral researcher, Dr Kathleen Pishas
Every student and member of staff has a story to tell of their time at University and with our alumni living and working all over the world, these stories are as rich and varied as our University’s 140 year history.

As part of our 140th anniversary celebrations we’re inviting you, our alumni to share your memories of your time at the University of Adelaide.

We invite you to tell us how the University has touched your life, share photos of your days on campus and let us know what you are doing now.

You can submit your story and photographs at: www.adelaide.edu.au/anniversary/get-involved/
If you’d rather tell your story by post or email, you can send it to us here:

Lumen
C/- University Engagement
Level 2, 230 North Terrace
THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE
Email: alumni@adelaide.edu.au

Clockwise from right:
Alumni in Beijing for a University of Adelaide cocktail reception
Graduates from 1962 celebrate their Golden Jubilee Guests at Urrbrae House for a dinner celebrating the 100th anniversary of Peter Waite’s gift to the University of Adelaide
MMBS alumni gather to celebrate the 20th anniversary of their graduation
Participants from Malaysia, Singapore and Australia tee off at the 2014 Alumni Golf Tournament

Celebrating our 140th anniversary

Several activities have already been held this year, bringing our alumni together to mark our 140th birthday. We also have a number of events planned for the second half of the year including the continuation of the inaugural lecture series, interstate and overseas alumni events, and activities to commemorate the University’s Foundation Day on 6 November.

To find out more about our 140th anniversary events go to: www.adelaide.edu.au/anniversary/get-involved/
The transforming power of generosity

The University’s long history of philanthropic support from alumni, friends and staff has enhanced the university experience of thousands of students.

Extending back to our earliest founding days, the generosity of benefactors has strengthened the University by expanding our campuses and facilities, increasing the capacity of our libraries, supporting pursuit of excellence in teaching and funding advances in research.

Our donors, like our students, come from many backgrounds, and their motivation for giving is shaped by their experiences and by witnessing the University’s tremendous impact on the world it serves.

“On a daily basis I am reminded of the outstanding talent we have around us at the University of Adelaide,” says Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor Warren Bebbington. “Our staff and students are the lifeblood of this University and donations go directly towards supporting their important work.” Scholarships are among the most consistently donor-supported areas over the past 140 years.

In 2013, our Appeals raised over $250,000 in donations, with over $140,000 given for scholarships for students in need of financial support. Not only do these scholarships instil confidence in young students who may have missed out on university, they motivate them to achieve their best.

Funds raised in last year’s University Appeal have enabled an additional four first-year students to commence studies, with the weight of their financial burden eased by a scholarship.

Medical student George Koutouzis says the scholarship he has received will contribute to his accommodation and living expenses, while Axl Galvez aims to reduce his part-time work to prioritise his engineering studies. Aspiring lawyer Courtney Chow is looking forward to focusing on her legal work, while Maria Hull, an 18-year-old Bachelor of Teaching/Bachelor of Mathematical and Computer Science student, wants to become a teacher.

Maria was a child under the Guardianship of the Minister from the age of 12 and moved between 11 different placements, six schools and from New South Wales to South Australia. “This scholarship is an unexpected godsend to me as it will assist with the costs of study, supplies and everyday expenses, while also allowing me to focus on my community involvement,” she says.
With donor support, the University can also continue to make a difference in critical areas of research.

The work of one researcher, Dr Morgan Newman in the School of Molecular and Biomedical Life Sciences, was made possible through the generosity of the Carthew Family Charity Fund. Dr Newman uses zebrafish as a genetic model to study Alzheimer’s disease and dementia, research which will potentially help with therapies and perhaps even a cure. The Carthew Family donation enabled her to continue her research while waiting for funding.

“Donations such as these support young investigators who are struggling to stay in science because they may be waiting for a fellowship to be funded,” says David Adelson, Professor of Genetics, Head of School of Molecular and Biomedical Life Sciences.

The University has also benefited from those who want to help preserve and maintain the University’s beautiful historic structures, such as the Barr Smith Library and Elder Hall, while others are keen to invest in new projects for innovative learning, teaching and research facilities.

“As we strive to recapture the University’s founding vision, donations will transform our great institution and build on its already formidable reputation in teaching, learning and research,” says Professor Bebbington.

To find out more about the 2014 University of Adelaide Appeal, or to make a donation, phone +61 8 8313 5800 or visit www.alumni.adelaide.edu.au/university_appeal

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<th>Annual Appeals 2013 (as of 24 April 2014)</th>
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More than 500 people gave to the University of Adelaide Appeal in 2013. If you were among these generous donors, please take a moment to look for your name on our acknowledgement web page at www.alumni.adelaide.edu.au/donors
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