Thank You
The generosity of our friends and alumni is profound for our culture at Monash.

Whether it is in the form of scholarships to help Monash students, a contribution to our cutting-edge research or support for our community projects, each of you has played an invaluable role in this University’s continual transformation.

While I am unable to thank each of you individually, I hope the stories chosen for this edition of Thank You demonstrate the great many ways your contributions are helping to shape lives at Monash.

The five individuals on the cover of this edition represent the breadth of impact your contributions have made over the past year.

Students Than Lwin Aung, Cheyenne Travis and James Meadowcroft have all benefited enormously from your support, gaining access to the wonderful educational opportunities that Monash provides. You can learn more about how scholarships advance our students’ personal and professional aspirations throughout this edition.

Representing our world-class research, Professor Susan Davis is featured in our ‘Women Impacting Women’ article, which showcases the remarkable advances Monash is making in women’s health.

And Cathrine Harboe-Ree’s ‘Giving More than Service’ story demonstrates the deep and lasting connections so many of our donors have to Monash.

These and other stories show our University has many reasons to celebrate. Your contributions are more significant than ever, helping to pioneer advances in education, research and innovation that will create impact for years to come.

Thank you.

Professor Margaret Gardner AO
President and Vice-Chancellor
Monash University
The Prato experience gave me the chance to immerse myself in another culture and learn international perspectives on design. This international outlook has been invaluable.

JAMES MEADOWCROFT
In 2017, The Woolmark Company Prato Study Scholarships allowed recipients James Meadowcroft and Sarah Fraser to gain unique ‘rural to runway’ perspectives on the international textile industry – in particular the apparel wool market. James and Sarah were able to gain invaluable insights into advanced farming industries, textile processing and manufacturing technologies, and the latest thinking in marketing, design and fashion.

As part of their scholarship program, James and Sarah visited wool producers in rural Victoria, and premium textile manufacturers and related historical museums in Italy, and studied at the Monash University campus in Prato, Italy.

For James, a Bachelor of Communication Design student, his time in Prato gave him new insights into how national identity and culture can shape and sustain a brand. “The way Woolmark invests in consumer education and brand recognisability to increase the value of a raw product is excellent,” he says. “Seeing the production process at the absolute highest level and talking with passionate producers and creatives in textile design was particularly inspiring. The work I was shown also acts as a great source of personal inspiration and has been a significant influence on my design outcomes. Learning more about how a premium, international brand is created, marketed and maintained was very relevant to my own professional role.”

Growing up in rural Victoria, Sarah suspects she was always destined for a career in the wool industry. When she was two years old, her parents diversified their farming business with an innovative wool insulation product. Sarah became the advertising face of Fraserfil Pty Ltd, which was certified by Woolmark.

Fast forward 22 years and Sarah is the lucky recipient of The Woolmark Company Prato Study Scholarship. “Looking back now, I have to wonder if my whirlwind of a career modelling for wool products was by chance,” Sarah says. “Regardless of destiny or not, my personal devotion to Australian wool, coupled with the theory of wool trade I am studying, has started a new life chapter and one I am thrilled and excited to embark on.”

Sarah focused her scholarship on the global textile trade, which aligned with her Master of Diplomacy and Trade curriculum. The academic unit she undertook empowers students to become future generators of sustainable economic, social and environmental value for business and society.

“With the help of the scholarship, I have been able to further strengthen my specific interest in sustainability and trade through the lens of the Australian and Italian wool industries,” Sarah says. “The opportunities and activities were fascinating and inspiring, not only on a professional and scholastic level, but personally as well. I was able to witness the entire production process, from paddock to end product (garment). This was a turning point in my studies and transformed theory into a tangible and working reality.”

To say this has been uplifting is quite the understatement. I have been fulfilled and inspired by all the people I have had the pleasure to meet on this journey.

SARAH FRASER
GROWING INDIGENOUS GRADUATES

Derek the Dingo has hurt his leg and needs medical attention. Excited primary school children cluster around the soft toy as presenters from Monash University’s Hands on Health program show them how to bandage Derek’s injury.

Elsewhere, at a Dandenong secondary school, Year 9 students remove the organs from a plastic torso to identify and examine them.

Meanwhile, at Monash University’s Clayton campus, a comprehensive peer mentoring program that supports current Indigenous health science students is underway.

These activities are part of a unique health education program, Growing Indigenous Graduates, that begins at primary school and carries through to graduation and into professional practice. This grassroots program works closely with Indigenous communities to create interest in careers in health care and to expand Indigenous representation in the sector.

Cheyenne Travis is one medical student benefiting from additional peer support, study skills, practical experience and engagement with senior mentors on clinical case presentations.

“I chose medicine because it gives me the opportunity to make an amazing difference in people’s lives,” Cheyenne says. “Taking part in the program provided me with a fantastic way of practising clinical skills and linking it to Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander culture.”

By addressing the specific educational needs of Indigenous students, the program has successfully increased access to tertiary education, supporting Monash graduates such as Glenn Miliken to transition into the workforce.

Now a physiotherapist, Glenn has completed an internship with the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation, and mentors other Indigenous university students across Victoria.

“Monash University started me on my journey to where I am now: happily working as a Grade 1 physiotherapist at St Vincent’s Hospital Melbourne,” Glenn says. “I’m now gaining new skills and chasing my dreams to make them a reality.”

Monash Indigenous students and programs are widely supported by our donors and we would particularly like to acknowledge the Danks Trust, Helen Macpherson Smith Trust, Evans5Fund, Atlas D’Aloisio Foundation, Collier Charitable Fund and Michael Kingston who are supporting the Growing Indigenous Graduates Program.

Program director Professor Karen Adams says the program is a great example of practical philanthropy:

“Beyond the financial support donors generously provide, we have also found their strategic advice and professional expertise invaluable.”

Above
Monash University’s Hands on Health program shows students how to bandage Derek the Dingo’s leg.
I chose medicine because it gives me the opportunity to make an amazing difference in people’s lives. Taking part in the program provided a fantastic way of practising clinical skills and linking it to Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander culture.

CHEYENNE TRAVIS
The couple eventually bought a plot of land in Carrum Downs and started a poultry farm. Despite having only a primary school education, Dante could build and fix just about anything. He was a born problem-solver, with all the makings of an engineer, had he been given the opportunity.

Elsa took to Australia with gusto. She was a woman ahead of her time, finishing secondary school, becoming a teacher and putting their three daughters and son through university. She taught her children that education was the one thing that nobody could take from them. Three of their children went through Monash, as well as their four grandchildren, cementing the family’s connection with the University.

To honour Elsa’s appreciation of education and Dante’s unfulfilled potential as an engineer, their daughter Flavia and son-in-law Kit (both Monash alumni) established the Elsa and Dante Cicuttini Scholarship, which provides financial assistance to engineering students from a low socioeconomic background.

“The scholarship gives us the chance to share the advantage that Monash has bestowed on us. It’s nice to be able to give in a way that recognises Mum and Dad and reminds us of them. It honours the opportunity that Australia gave them,” Flavia says.

Dante Cicuttini never forgot where he came from. He lived a typical migrant experience: never quite settled, always yearning for his home country, and even potting more than 700 red geraniums on his Victorian property to remind him of Italy.

Dante and his wife Elsa grew up in villages in northern Italy two kilometres apart, but it was not until they had separately traversed several oceans to Australia in the 1950s that they met.

Like many migrants leaving Europe, which was enduring mass unemployment in the aftermath of World War II, Dante and Elsa arrived with nothing more than a suitcase, the clothes on their backs and trepidation about the arid land that lay before them.

It would have been hard for them to believe that 60 years later their story would be honoured at one of the world’s leading universities.

Dante’s first home in Australia was the migrant camp Bonegilla, in northern Victoria, where 300,000 mostly non-English-speaking migrants were housed, trained and fed infamously inedible mutton.

In 2018, aspiring engineer Than Lwin Aung commenced his studies at Monash University as the Elsa and Dante Cicuttini Scholar. The son of migrants from Myanmar, Than joins the University as one of many students whose access to a Monash education has been made possible by philanthropic donations.
Few people can understand a university’s immeasurable value to the community more deeply than long-serving staff, who often reveal the depth of their commitment through generous, inspiring gifts when they move on.

After contributing an extraordinary 15 years as Monash University’s Chief Librarian, Cathrine Harboe-Ree’s legacy continues in pride of place on the Matheson Library’s shelves.

“When I retired as Chief Librarian I wanted to express my gratitude to Monash by donating something to the library,” Cathrine says. “After exploring several possibilities, I settled on rare materials that would otherwise not have been acquired due to their cost and that future generations of scholars would benefit from.

“Stephen Herrin, the rare books librarian, and I were especially keen to choose something music-related and beautiful enough to be both exhibited and useful as a scholastic resource. I was delighted when we located the charming, huge Choir Psalter leaf, circa 1500, because it is now one of the earliest items in the Rare Books Collection, as well as being a finely illuminated manuscript, and therefore very suitable for promoting the library’s wonderful collections.

“Stephen also suggested Pierre-Marie François de Pagès’ Voyages autour du monde et vers les deux pôles par terre et par mer, Paris: Moutard, 1782, because of its links to my own research interests, which relate to Southern Ocean exploration, whaling and sealing. So perhaps that donation is more indulgent on my part!

“It has been my privilege to work for Monash University for the past 15 years. I had the great fortune to work with the wonderful library staff through a period of unprecedented change in which we increased the value of the library to the University during its own wider pursuit of excellence.”

Cathrine’s gift to the Monash University Matheson Library is an inspiring example of the commitment that our academic and professional staff show to the University.

In 2017, staff donations generously supported a wide range of projects and programs across Monash, including Achieving Potential Scholarships, the Monash Elite Student Performers Grants in Sport and the Monash Music Archive, as well as a breadth of research projects. Gifts from staff are particularly important as they show our supporters that our institution has a deep culture of philanthropy and giving.

On behalf of the University, a sincere thank you to all our staff donors.
INVESTING IN A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Your contribution to research that empowers communities can change the world for good. In 2016, Monash University signed a landmark university commitment to the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a set of 17 global goals to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all by the year 2030.

When moving towards any significant goal, it is not only important to focus on the task at hand, but also to reflect on how well we are progressing. In partnership with the Sustainable Development Solutions Network Australia/Pacific and the National Sustainable Development Council, Monash is tracking Australia’s progress towards achieving the SDGs in a project supported by the Lord Mayor’s Charitable Foundation.

It is thanks to the generosity of donors such as these that we are able to invest in the greatest challenges that face our world today and tomorrow.

Target: Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning
At a time of drastically changing weather patterns, rising sea levels, and increasing incidence and intensity of extreme weather events – hurricanes, cyclones, floods and drought – Monash University is demonstrating its commitment to addressing climate change through ClimateWorks Australia. Since its establishment in 2009 through a partnership between The Myer Foundation and Monash, philanthropic support from The Ian Potter Foundation, Equity Trustees on behalf of the Robert Hicks Foundation and the Lord Mayor’s Charitable Foundation has been key to ClimateWorks achieving its mission of catalysing Australia’s transition to a prosperous, zero net emissions future. Strong action on climate change is critical to the achievement of many SDGs and ClimateWorks has a wonderful supporter who is matching dollar for dollar any new philanthropic funding received for climate action. Monash is aspiring to become Australia’s first university that is 100 per cent powered by renewable and clean energy.

Target: Reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births
Ninety-nine per cent of maternal deaths happen in developing countries, with women living in rural areas and poorer communities being the most vulnerable. To drive down the global maternal mortality rate, Monash University has developed an inhalable form of oxytocin, which prevents postpartum haemorrhage – the single biggest cause of death during childbirth. In its traditional form, as an injection, oxytocin requires refrigeration and a skilled medical professional to administer it – significant challenges in a developing country. Successfully passing the first in-human trials, inhalable oxytocin has the potential to save thousands of lives thanks to a partnership with GSK and the philanthropic support of the McCall MacBain Foundation, the Planet Wheeler Foundation, Andrew Cummins, Grand Challenges Canada and others.

Target: Increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship
The Port Phillip Prison Homework Club focuses on culture, not incarceration, and possibilities, not limitations. It is a meaningful example of the UN’s mission to pay attention to the needs of disadvantaged and marginalised populations. A consortium program coordinated by the Castan Centre for Human Rights Law at Monash University, the Homework Club provides a pro-social learning space for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men. The program draws on the skills of volunteer student mentors (many of whom are Indigenous themselves) from a range of disciplines including criminal justice, social science, education and law. The program helps incarcerated Indigenous men to consider their future and build a sense of hope and self-confidence in their reintegration into their communities, families and lives post-release. The Homework Club relies on the generosity of our student volunteers and is philanthropically funded in part by the Bennelong Foundation and RE Ross Trust.
Target: Combat communicable diseases
Sometimes the solution to a problem starts with the problem itself. Monash University’s World Mosquito Program is working with the Aedes aegypti mosquito to help stop the transmission of life-threatening mosquito-borne viruses. The program has successfully transferred safe and natural bacteria called Wolbachia into mosquitoes, which then breed with wild mosquitoes. Over time, the majority of mosquitoes carry Wolbachia, which reduces their ability to transmit viruses that cause illnesses such as Zika, dengue and chikungunya. The World Mosquito Program is now close to reaching two million people across 12 countries and aims to expand to protect many more communities around the world over the coming years. This work is made possible thanks to several generous supporters, including the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Wellcome Trust, the Tahija Foundation, the International Community Foundation – Candeo Fund, the Gillespie Family Foundation, the Rotary Foundation and local clubs, as well as Australian, US, New Zealand, UK and Brazilian government agencies.

Target: Access to information and communications technology
Many women in rural areas of Bangladesh work as farmers, minding crops and cattle while their husbands work in the city. To help these women in their daily work, Monash University, Oxfam and local Bangladeshi organisations have partnered to build a communications portal that provides real-time information for rural farmers. It gives women using smartphones timely access to comprehensive and accurate information on everything from weather warnings and disaster recovery, to tips on agriculture and other socially and economically empowering skills.

Target: Eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls
Monash Gender, Peace and Security is a group of researchers focused on the gendered politics of armed conflict and the search for peace. The team is shaping public debate and policy by focusing on issues that include protecting and advocating for women’s rights during crises, encouraging women’s participation in peace processes and preventing gender-based violence in conflict. In partnership with Oxfam Australia in Sri Lanka, one research project examines rural women’s participation patterns in agricultural livelihoods and includes an analysis of how different forms of violence can hinder economic empowerment.

WATER FOR LIFE
Professor Rebekah Brown
Imagine a world where everyone, irrespective of background or circumstance, had access to clean drinking water. Professor Rebekah Brown is working to realise this vision, transforming water infrastructure, water management and sanitation practices in poor communities.

Combining insights from sociology and water engineering, Rebekah understands the social and institutional changes required to achieve a transition to liveable, resilient and sustainable cities, in both developed and developing countries.

The work that Rebekah is leading evaluates the impact that clean water has on communities, including improved health outcomes, increased food production and employment. Among the program’s anticipated benefits is that access to clean water and toilets will lead to real improvement in the quality of life for women and girls, and enhanced personal safety.

Rebekah’s work supports the UN’s Sustainable Development Goal 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation, which has as its target “by 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all”.

Currently 2.3 billion people lack basic sanitation and more than one billion of those are living in slums. The Wellcome Trust awarded $14 million to an international consortium led by Rebekah on behalf of Monash University for a five-year research project that is advancing human health and wellbeing in such settlements by transforming water infrastructure, water management and sanitation practices. Working across 24 slums in Fiji and Indonesia, the project is enabling communities to recycle their own wastewater, harvest rainwater, create green space for food cultivation, restore natural waterways and reduce vulnerability to flooding and climate change.
David arrived in Melbourne from China as a young musician of modest means seeking new opportunities. A talented violinist, he became the grateful recipient of a music scholarship. It was a gift that laid the foundations for his career as a musician – and a gift he has never forgotten. In 2017, in gratitude for the help that he received as a young man, David and his wife Angela, also a talented musician, established the David Li Music Award for undergraduate students and the East Meets West Music Scholarship for postgraduate students in the Sir Zelman Cowen School of Music.

These scholarships recognise and foster outstanding classical musicianship and Australian and international musical collaboration. Their intent is to develop cross-cultural understanding and awareness and ensure talented music students and composers can fully develop their professional and personal skills under the tutelage of some of Australia’s leading musicians and teachers.

The inaugural recipient of the David Li Music Award is 18-year-old Lara Mladjen, who has built up a CV many senior musicians would envy. The daughter of ballroom dancers who migrated to Australia after the Bosnian War, Lara started as a Suzuki method violin student when she was five and rapidly added accolade after accolade to her bow. Her achievements today include being a member of the Melbourne String Ensemble and the Australian New Goldberg and Australian Youth Orchestras, winner of numerous eisteddfod awards and a seasoned performer at iconic concert venues in Australia and internationally. Lara will use her David Li Music Award to study for her Bachelor of Music (Classical Violin).

“I feel honoured to be the recipient of the David Li Music Award. This award allows me to immerse myself in an array of programs and opportunities – which will bolster my performance abilities and contribute to my own narrative as a musician. I am excited to grasp solo, chamber and orchestral performance opportunities, and utilise the incredible facilities and expertise of the inspiring mentors and teachers.”

LARA MLADJEN

“I’m very pleased to support the Sir Zelman Cowen School of Music as I feel I am contributing to something very worthwhile.”

DAVID LI
THANK YOU 2017 PHILANTHROPY HIGHLIGHTS

The inaugural Jeanne Pratt Musical Theatre Artists in Residence commence their tenure in the Centre for Theatre and Performance. The residency supports two talented artists each year to work with musical theatre students to write and produce a new and unique piece of Australian musical theatre.

Inaugural Hong Kong Alumni Scholar Kristy Lin arrives in Melbourne to commence her Bachelor of Laws. This scholarship is supported by a group of Monash graduates based in Hong Kong.

Former Deputy Chancellor and Professor of Economics, Emeritus Professor the Honourable Joe Isaac AO establishes the Joe and Golda Isaac Scholarship in the Monash Business School.

BrainPark™ – The David W. Turner Research Centre is established through a cornerstone donation from The David Winston Turner Endowment Fund. This will expand Monash University’s work developing evidence-based treatments for compulsive behaviours, including obsessive compulsive disorder and addiction. BrainPark™ is due for completion in spring 2018.

Monash announces a $3.7 million bequest from the estate of Francine McNiff, a Monash alumna who spent the first decade of her career as a lecturer in Criminal Law at Monash. Francine’s legacy endows a Chair in Criminal Jurisprudence and a Scholarship Fund supporting postgraduate scholarships in the study of criminology.

The Jreissati Family Laboratory for Diabetes Translational Research and The Meydan Family Foundation Diabetes Complications Research Hub are established to form Australia’s only dedicated Department of Diabetes, located at The Alfred hospital.

Past players and supporters of the Monash Blues Football Club celebrate their devotion to the ‘Ashes’ with a successful fundraising appeal.

Matheson Society members attend their annual lunch and enjoy an address by Emeritus Professor Graeme Davison AO, who shares colourful stories unearthed during research for his book University Unlimited: The Monash Story, which he co-authored with Kate Murphy.

Equity Trustees announces Monash as one of its three national philanthropy partners. This relationship will strengthen community health and wellbeing by supporting medical research projects, including improving health outcomes for children and those suffering with cancer, heart disease and depression, through the Monash Partners network.
Monash and CollinStar Capital sign a multi-million-dollar agreement to establish the CollinStar Lab. This lab, in the Faculty of Information Technology, will research and develop blockchain and cryptocurrency technologies and will collaborate with researchers at Hong Kong Polytechnic University.

Monash students and staff participate in the Melbourne Marathon to raise money for scholarships to support asylum seekers. Donors to the asylum seeker scholarship fund allow Monash to offer two additional scholarships in 2018.

The Global Leaders’ Network US alumni members on the east coast lead a campaign to raise funds for the Achieving Potential Scholarship program. Their generosity has resulted in significant matched funding and raised more than $100,000 for deserving students.

The Scanlon Foundation’s Mapping Social Cohesion report, led by Monash University’s Professor Andrew Markus, celebrates a decade of longitudinal study into Australia’s changing opinions on immigration and related social issues.

Donors, alumni and other friends of Monash attended the Richard Larkins Oration, delivered by Dr Michael Kirby AC CMG, and the Monash Fellows and Distinguished Alumni Awards ceremony, at which several of our donors were recognised for the impact they deliver.

Donors and their guests join students at a performance of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra in the Robert Blackwood Hall.

Monash alumnus Beau Kuok Khoon Chen makes a significant philanthropic commitment to establish the prestigious KC Kuok Scholarship, which supports disadvantaged students from Hong Kong and elsewhere in Asia to study at Monash.

Metal Manufactures Ltd increase their commitment to the Australian Regenerative Medicine Institute (ARMI) by five years to further research into the treatment of multiple sclerosis. ARMI is a world leader in regenerative medicine and stem cell research, and focuses on finding solutions to enable prevention, halt and reverse damage to vital organs due to disease, injury or genetic conditions.

The Scanlon Foundation’s Mapping Social Cohesion report, led by Monash University’s Professor Andrew Markus, celebrates a decade of longitudinal study into Australia’s changing opinions on immigration and related social issues.

TOTAL FUNDS RAISED

$46,912,000

4764 DONORS

$8,148,187

BEQUESTS RECEIVED
WOMEN IMPACTING WOMEN

In 2017, philanthropic grants and donations provided $36.2 million to support more than 250 Monash University research projects, with topics as diverse as advanced cancer treatments, Alzheimer’s disease, reproduction in little penguins, food security, deep brain stimulation, and memory and ageing in communities.

While the range of topics is broad, the underlying intention of all Monash research is to challenge and change the status quo – to identify and investigate ways to improve the human condition and circumstance.

The following women are leading the way in research and practice that will directly and positively impact the lives of other women. The support of donors allows Monash to take risks and push the boundaries of our research so together we can effect change and deliver impact.

SAVING MOTHERS AND BABIES

Dr Kirsten Palmer developed a passion for research during her biomedical science degree. As a medical student she met an incredible set of mentors and many amazing women, setting her on a career path in women’s health.

“We are still very limited in our knowledge about many aspects relating to normal pregnancy, but also its complications,” Kirsten says. “If we can make advances in understanding the common problems, such as premature labour, pre-eclampsia and fetal growth restriction, this has the ability to improve outcomes for millions of women and babies around the globe. Also, we are constantly gaining greater insight into the impact that our life as a fetus has on our health for the remainder of our lives. For these reasons, it is such an important, exciting and fulfilling area of medicine in which to work and undertake research.”

Kirsten is a research fellow at Monash University and an obstetrician with Monash Health. She is specialising in maternal–fetal medicine involving the care of women with highly complex pregnancies. Her research seeks to improve the detection and treatment of conditions such as pre-eclampsia and fetal growth restriction, which are major causes of maternal and perinatal loss.

Kirsten’s research was supported in 2016-17 by the David L Healy Research Fellowship. A trailblazer in IVF and a passionate advocate for women’s health and reproductive rights, the late Professor David Healy was a distinguished Monash alumnus. The prestigious David L Healy Research Fellowship was established by the Healy family to honour David’s contributions to the fields of obstetrics and gynaecology. Kirsten worked with David when he was head of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, so it meant a great deal to her when she received the fellowship.

One aspect of Kirsten’s research is seeking to translate a new treatment for fetal growth restriction, developed within The Ritchie Centre, that could be the first antenatal treatment capable of improving outcomes for affected babies and their families. This research is being made possible through the invaluable support she has received from the Lynne Quayle Charitable Trust Fund.

Philanthropic support is vital, particularly for women’s health, where it directly supports clinicians to undertake research. The support I have received from donors has enabled me to drive my research forward to fulfill my passion for improving obstetric medicine.

— DR KIRSTEN PALMER
In 2005, Susan became the first chair of Women’s Health at Monash and went on to establish the Monash University Women’s Health Research Program in 2005, with the support of her colleague Professor Robin Bell. Together they have established a collaborative, multidisciplinary team and a leading international women’s health centre.

The team has conducted large, national studies including the Bupa Health Foundation study, spanning 10 years, which followed nearly 1700 women from their diagnosis of breast cancer and reported on multiple aspects of health and wellbeing after breast cancer.

Most recently, Susan and her team have focused on the physical and psychological health of Australian women. The dearth of studies focusing on younger women led Susan and her team to establish the Grollo Ruzzene Foundation Younger Women’s Health Study, for which they have recruited 7000 women aged 18 to 39 years.

My most important research contributions have come from large, community-based studies that have reported on the experiences of women. These studies tell women’s stories and reveal the gaps in care that need to be prioritised. Now, with the generous support of the Grollo Ruzzene Foundation, we will tell the story of younger Australian women.

Professor Susan Davis

IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE FOR YOUNG WOMEN

Having started out as a medical student at Monash, Professor Susan Davis is now director of the Monash University Women’s Health Research Program and head of the specialist Women’s Health Clinic for women with complex disease at Alfred Health.

Susan’s research has advanced understanding of the role of hormones in treating menopause symptoms. Her landmark research in the field of androgens in women has led to a paradigm shift in clinical practice.

In 1989, Susan co-founded the Jean Hailes Foundation in memory of Jean Hailes, a medical practitioner and pioneer in women’s health whose career has been marked by a lifelong interest in advancing the health of women, particularly those suffering the effects of ageing and menopause.

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Professor Susan Davis
ADVANCING WOMEN IN SCIENCE

Associate Professor Kate Hoy is passionate about communicating science to the public, not only her own research but also the importance and impact of science in general.

An emerging leader in clinical research, Kate is a dedicated advocate for women who wish to pursue academic and professional careers in science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine (STEMM). She mentored in the Global STEM Alliance 1000 Girls, 1000 Futures program. And she has initiated, and maintains, the Women in BrainStim database, aimed at addressing gender imbalances at international brain stimulation conferences.

In her acceptance speech as the 2017 Telstra Business Women’s Award (Public Sector and Academia) winner, Kate spoke about the need for women in senior academic careers, particularly in STEMM. “We face many complex questions in science and diversity of thought is a significant advantage that we simply cannot afford to miss out on.”

Kate’s current research focus has grown out of her clinical training experience as a clinical neuropsychologist. Her experience largely involved conducting cognitive assessments of patients with psychiatric and neurological illnesses.

The philanthropic funding that I have received is vital for my research, it has allowed me to undertake a world-first clinical trial for the treatment of Alzheimer’s. This type of generous support allows researchers to pursue truly innovative ideas.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR KATE HOY

During this time she became increasingly frustrated with the lack of effective treatments available for patients dealing with the devastating consequences of dementia.

It was this experience that inspired the direction of Kate’s research career. She now conducts a series of projects investigating novel treatment approaches to dementia.

In 2016, dementia became the leading cause of death among Australian women. Today, 55 per cent of the estimated 425,000 Australians living with dementia are women.
FEMALE ENGINEERS PAYING IT FORWARD

Any woman who has made her way through the male-dominated world of engineering has undoubtedly negotiated a few tricky curves. In solidarity, a group of engineering alumnae, who began their journey at Monash University, have made a personal commitment to the Female Leaders Alumni Monash Engineering Scholarship (FLAMES). Not only will they provide financial support to a female student, they will also offer guidance and encouragement through mentoring, ensuring her the best possible opportunity for success.

Speaking at the scholarship launch with the Dean of the Engineering Faculty, Professor Elizabeth Croft, the alumnae hope to inspire a young woman to explore the many places engineering might lead. “It's lovely that this group of uni friends has now reached the stage of life where we can offer this form of support to someone just getting started,” says Rebecca Davis, group executive for Australia and New Zealand markets at Quantum.

FLAMES will support a recipient throughout her course. “The scholarship will improve motivation and make it less likely that the student will drop out early, ultimately increasing the number of female engineers in the workforce,” explains Gabrielle Henry, manager – technical services at the Essential Services Commission. “It sends a message of support to women who make bold decisions in their studies,” adds Marni Oaten, director of corporate responsibility at WorleyParsons. “And they, in turn, will serve as successful role models for the next generation.”

The power of mentoring should not be underestimated. “Mentors support you, but also challenge you,” says Sonja Ruddock, chief of staff to the CIO at Bupa Australia and New Zealand. “They give you the benefit of their experience, and wisdom, years before you can acquire it yourself.” Such candid interactions with successful women will be invaluable to a FLAMES recipient. Megan Wheatley, manager, communications and external affairs at Servion Australia, confides: “I'm quite happy to share my mistakes so that someone else can learn from them too!”

Additionally, Nadia Odorico, patent attorney and principal of an intellectual property company, sees the scholarship’s potential for “imparting workplace attitude, encouraging good work culture and cultivating leadership.”

“Given that we have a number of excellent mentors available to a recipient, my hope is that the right chemistry can be achieved to create a valuable foundation relationship,” adds Kate Borg, domain area manager at Cross Yarra Partnership.

A common motivation to give back is simply wanting female engineers to have a smoother path than they themselves had. “I'd like to make sure they don't experience the same lack of acceptance, or come to question their confidence in this industry,” Kate says. Likewise, Agnieszka Szczepanik, managing director of Felix Financial Consulting, is “deeply committed to bringing a more equal environment to all in the workforce”. As a working mother, she particularly hopes to keep women in jobs after having children.

Success will be that the scholarship is ongoing, and that we have helped launch the career of a special person within the industry.

KATE BORG
FIGHTING THE EPIDEMIC OF THE CENTURY

A mere 30 years ago, not making your 50th birthday was common for someone with type 1 diabetes.

Now, research discoveries and better treatments developed over the past two decades mean that Australians with diabetes typically live to 70 – still 10 years shy of the average life expectancy. But although the outlook for patients is brighter, the number of people living with both type 1 and type 2 diabetes in Australia has exploded to 1.7 million in what has become the biggest health epidemic of the century.

Tackling this challenge is Monash University’s new Department of Diabetes, established in 2017 with the generous support of the Jreissati and Meydan families. Head of Department, Professor Mark Cooper AO, explains that type 1 diabetes is now a condition that can be controlled – but not yet the associated complications of heart, kidney and eye disease.

He also points out that before the discovery of insulin nearly a century ago, diabetes was almost always fatal, so the science has come a long way.

Mark and his group are now working to try to determine why glucose damages the heart, kidneys and eyes. This is a crucial step towards developing new treatments and drugs to either prevent, slow or reverse the biggest burden of diabetes – its complications.

The research group – long considered one of the world’s best – has made great progress over the years, including their discovery 20 years ago that a particular blood-pressure-lowering drug could reduce kidney disease by 30 per cent.

Mark is confident there are more discoveries in the pipeline, although there are funding frustrations: “We have about six prototype drugs that are ready for clinical trials, but they are stuck in limbo because research organisations won’t support taking them to the next stage,” Mark says.

“So this is why philanthropy is absolutely critical to us moving at the rapid pace we need to.”

The Department of Diabetes has already proven itself to be a highly productive environment for more than 60 scientists and researchers to exchange ideas and innovate, with its labs considered the best for diabetes in Australia, if not the world.

**DISCOVERIES IN DIABETES**

- **1921** Insulin is discovered
- **1922** First person with diabetes is treated with insulin
- **1949** Dr Joseph Bornstein is first person to measure insulin and confirm concept of two types of diabetes
- **1968** Professor Joseph Bornstein (appointed Monash University’s first Professor of Biochemistry) announces the world-first discovery of a test to differentiate type 1 from type 2 diabetes
- **1980s** Professor Mark Cooper AO discovers enzymes that decrease the amount of protein in the urine of people with diabetes, which slows or prevents progression to diabetic kidney disease
Donors like the Meydan and Jreissati families enable us to do the work. We can’t do it without them. Their support allows us to be internationally competitive in attracting the funding and talent to make discoveries that have an impact for patients and for the community.

EMERITUS PROFESSOR PAUL ZIMMET AO

1990s
Professors Ian Mackay, Merrill Rowley and Paul Zimmet AO develop the anti-GAD blood test to distinguish type 1 diabetes, which is now used worldwide

2000
Professor Paul Zimmet AO and his team conduct Australia’s first national study of diabetes and obesity

2017
The Monash Department of Diabetes is established. The Department will lead the way in the new generation of diabetes research, advancing understanding of complications of the disease with a view to continually improving health outcomes for patients

Above
Professor Paul Zimmet AO (left) and Professor Mark Cooper AO are among researchers at Monash advancing the science and treatment of diabetes.
Since its inception in 1958, Monash University has espoused Sir John Monash’s mantra, and the Monash Art Ensemble (MAE) is a fine example of how the arts and culture can lead the way in delivering enormous benefit to the community.

The MAE was founded in 2012 with generous philanthropic seed funding from The Vizard Foundation. The Vizard family’s vision and preparedness to take a risk was instrumental in developing a kernel of an idea into what is now a world-class entity.

“We’re fairly hands-on as a family … we often come into a project at the start, where others won’t, and like to see things through to the end,” says Associate Professor Andrew Vizard, chair of The Vizard Foundation.

The MAE gives students a life-changing opportunity to learn, perform and record alongside some of the world’s best jazz musicians including trombonist George Lewis and the legendary pianist Carla Bley. It also offers a chance to take Australia’s unique brand of music to the wider community, both locally and overseas.

“We are really strong on supporting, developing and encouraging Australian artists, not only for Australia’s sake, but also because they’ve got something to offer the whole world,” Andrew says.

The Vizards’ transformational support of the MAE program over six years has funded every composition and recording the ensemble has produced. In recognition of the importance of community, the family particularly wanted to give voice to the music of Australia’s first people because it speaks to our land and its timeless human history.

The work Nylipidgi is now one of the ensemble’s proudest achievements. It is a musical collaboration with brothers David Yipinyi Wilfred and Daniel Ngukurr Boy Wilfred from the Wagilak clan of south-east Arnhem Land in the Northern Territory. Executive Director of the MAE, Professor Paul Grabowsky AO, composed the piece after working with the Wagilak clan for more than a decade. The work blends a big band sound with deeply emotional music that evokes thousands of years of human experience.

While Paul is the artistic driver of the MAE, he bestows full credit to the Vizards, with whom he shares a longstanding relationship, having collaborated with Steve Vizard on many projects, including the 1990s TV comedy series Fast Forward.

“Without the support of The Vizard Foundation, the Monash Art Ensemble would never have started in the first place. Their vision and role have been second to none.”

PROFESSOR PAUL GRABOWSKY AO
TRIBUTE TO A FATHER

Eugene Twining was my father. He was a well-liked and diligent man with a keen eye for detail. Being an accountant, he was very good with money. When my dad passed away, he left me some shares, which I am giving to the Monash Department of Fine Art as a bequest.

Growing up in Black Rock, Victoria, I first became interested in art as a teenager. I started making and selling leather belts, bags and wallets to my friends and family. I moved on to ceramics in Year 10 and had a very encouraging teacher. I just loved throwing clay on the wheel and developing my hand building skills. It made me want to pursue art.

Instead of finishing my HSC, I took a program in art and design at Monash, which I loved for its versatility, even though it was very demanding and intense. It was a true introduction to the broad spectrum of art making, and set me on the path to tertiary education in art and a career as a teacher and artist.

I did relief teaching all around the Geelong area, which gave me the flexibility to work on my own art projects from my home studio in Jan Juc. Living near the ocean is a big source of inspiration for my work, as were painters such as Jackson Pollock and Mark Rothko, and Lucie Rie, whose fantastic ceramics are based on balance and proportion.

It has been a hard slog to get to this point, and many people have encouraged me along the way – my teachers, other artists, my dad and especially my mum, who had a knack for colour matching.

Now it’s my turn to do the same – I want disadvantaged students to know that there’s someone out there who cares.

To quote a phrase: “nothing succeeds like success”. I hope that my dad’s gift will encourage success in the next students who find love in art.

ANTONY TWINING

Antony Twining responded to Monash University’s inaugural bequest appeal in 2017 as a tribute to his father. If you are interested in creating a legacy of your own, please contact our Planned Giving team on 03 9903 4395 or at giving@monash.edu.
INDIGENOUS INTERNSHIP TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Madelaine King’s interest in and commitment to human rights stems from her experiences as a medical student, a young woman, an Indigenous Australian and from living in a rural community.

In 2017, Madelaine was humbled to be given the opportunity to undertake the Bennelong Foundation Indigenous Internship to the United Nations with the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva. Despite arriving in Geneva with “one of the biggest cases of impostor syndrome you’ve ever seen”, Madelaine thrived at the Australian mission and says: “I now have a greater insight into the inner workings of the UN, international and human rights law, and the political side of international diplomacy. I feel incredibly privileged to have had the opportunity to deepen my knowledge of human rights at the highest level of international advocacy and diplomacy and to have connected with so many inspiring, progressive and like-minded individuals.”

After her internship, Madelaine spent a couple of months volunteering as a medic in one of the refugee camps in Eastern Europe and then returned home to work on a domestic violence study with the Monash School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine.

Madelaine is now in her final year of medicine, currently on placement in the neonatal intensive care unit at the Royal Women’s Hospital, and has commenced her Master of Public Health.
JK ELLIS SCHOLARSHIP
Established by former Monash Chancellor Dr Jerry Ellis AO and his wife Anne, the JK Ellis Scholarship has supported outstanding engineering students since 2007.

For 2012 recipient Michael Parkes, the scholarship allowed him to undertake part of his Electrical and Computer Engineering degree in Israel. Since graduating in Melbourne, Michael has returned to Israel as a physical design engineer for Apple.

Michael says it was the semester he spent at the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology that led to his job offer at Apple in its Israeli R&D centre.

Michael says that receiving the JK Ellis Scholarship was inspirational, not least because he had an opportunity to meet with Dr Ellis. “I recall discussing with Dr Ellis how electronics technology has a pivotal role to play in meeting some of the great challenges of today’s world. He felt that its ability to empower individuals with knowledge and tools is one of its key strengths. I’m still very much at the beginning of my career, but I know I’ll always be restlessly striving to grow my positive impact.”

“I have welcomed the chance to study in Israel and work at the cutting edge of electronics technology, while also living in a place of great cultural and personal significance.”

MICHAEL PARKES
THE HUMANITY FOUNDATION
GLOBAL INTERNSHIPS

The Humanity Foundation Global Internships provide Monash University students with firsthand experience of the catastrophic and lasting effects of genocide through study tours. The internships help deepen students’ understanding of the complex issues related to Holocaust and genocide memory, conflict and post-conflict resolution and trying to achieve inter-religious understanding.

Since the program’s inception, students have interned at the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect in New York, the Documentation Centre of Cambodia in Phnom Penh, and at Majdanek, a former concentration camp in Lublin, Poland.

Rebecca Calleja, who interned at the National Commission for the Fight Against Genocide in Rwanda in 2017, reflects on the profound effect this experience had on her, personally and professionally.

“I witnessed firsthand the debates that unfold in a post-conflict/development environment and was able to better understand the motivations behind complex decisions. By doing an international internship, I was able to listen to voices and perspectives that I don’t get exposed to in Australia, which was a precious learning opportunity. This has been particularly pertinent to me upon returning to Australia, where the preconceptions that people around me have about African people, Africa and its development have been starkly in contrast with what I experienced. The innovation, wisdom and values of equality and respect that the Rwandan people demonstrated were unlike what I have experienced anywhere else and are truly underappreciated by the world. I have therefore understood the importance of challenging stereotypes and I am acutely aware of the privileged position I am in now, having had the opportunity to live in Africa. I am very grateful for donors’ willingness to give students like myself the chance to participate in global programs that enable us to interact with different cultures and different people, particularly those who are less fortunate yet hold valuable wisdom about the nature of humanity and life. Going forward, I will advocate with even more fervour for the voices of under-represented and marginalised people around the world, in the spirit of the lessons I have learned about fighting against genocide and social injustice in general. I will also urge others to take up opportunities where they can to interrogate their assumptions and challenge stereotypes.”

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REBECCA CALLEJA

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Above
Rebecca Calleja interned at the National Commission for the Fight Against Genocide in Rwanda.
MONASH DONOR HONOUR ROLL

As a donor to Monash University you are driving change.

In 2017, close to 5000 donors contributed nearly $47 million to transform lives by making education accessible, enabling outstanding research and enriching communities locally and internationally.

At Monash, we are honoured to be the vehicle for the change you want to see in the world.

Thank you for what you are doing to change lives.

THANK YOU.
monash.edu/honour-roll
THANK YOU.
WITH YOUR SUPPORT
WE CHANGED IT.