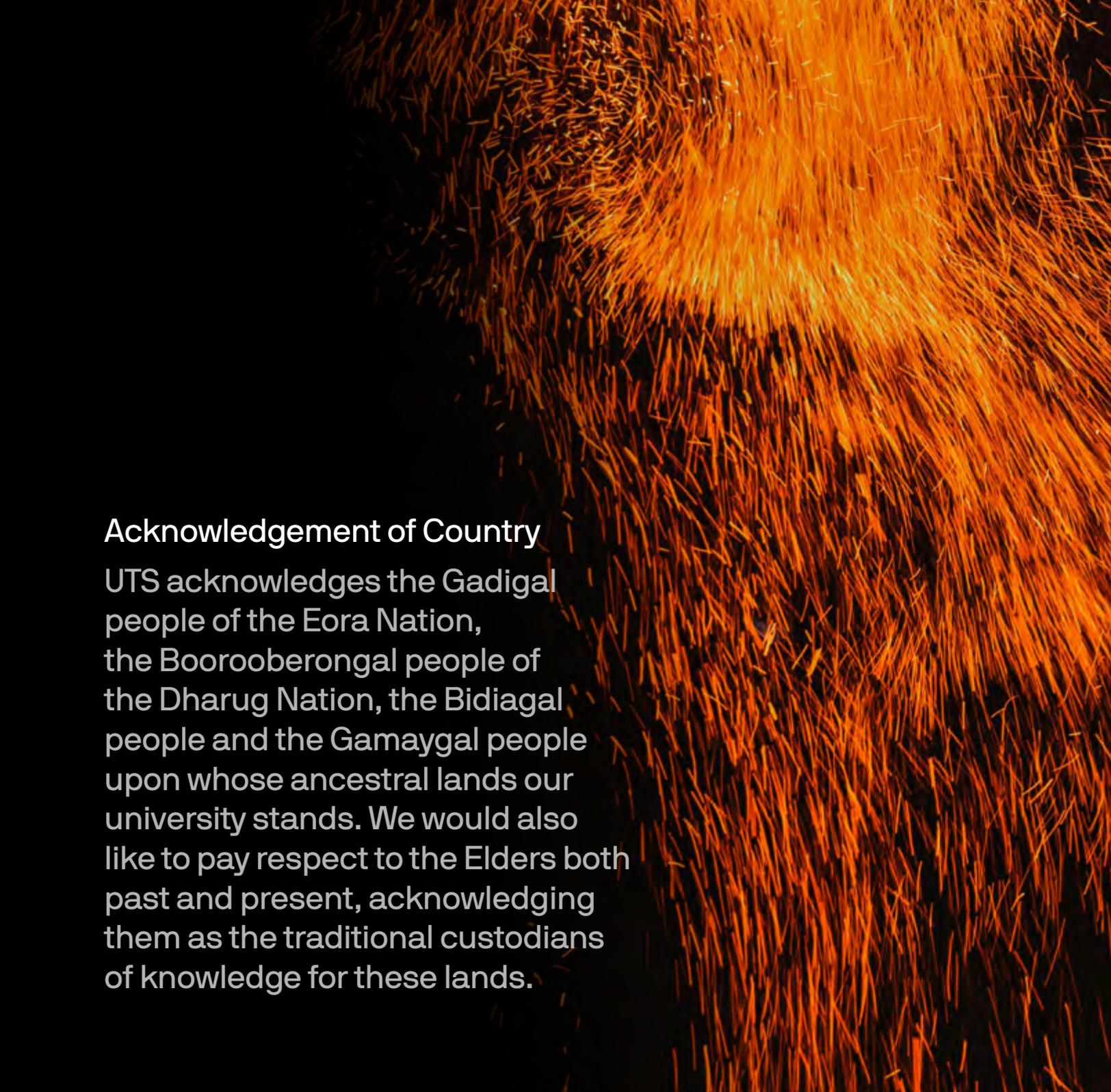


The background of the entire page is a vibrant blue and purple gradient. Overlaid on this are several large, semi-transparent blue circles and squares. A prominent white square is positioned above the main title, and a smaller red square is positioned to its right, partially overlapping the word "CONNECTED".

CONNECTED THROUGH PURPOSE

Philanthropic
Impact Report 2025



Acknowledgement of Country

UTS acknowledges the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation, the Boorooberongal people of the Dharug Nation, the Bidiagal people and the Gamaygal people upon whose ancestral lands our university stands. We would also like to pay respect to the Elders both past and present, acknowledging them as the traditional custodians of knowledge for these lands.

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Your generosity in 2025

Your continued support has enabled hundreds of students to complete their education and funded research programs and projects that help communities to thrive.



718 donors
collectively gave a total of
\$11,267,357

to UTS students, research and programs.



105 donors
255 gifts
\$4,730,988

in support of research programs
and initiatives.



70 donors
171 gifts
\$5,181,883

in support of community programs
and initiatives.



208
UTS staff
donated
\$488,124

across 19 different causes
supporting scholarships,
student support and
other programs.



568 donors
gave **\$1,354,487**

towards scholarships and prizes
supporting students in their study at UTS.

Thank you

Welcome

Message from the Vice-Chancellor and President Professor Andrew Parfitt



UTS has earned its reputation as one of the world's leading young universities, pairing excellence in teaching and research with a collaborative, impact-driven research approach and a deep commitment to social justice and inclusion.

As a valued member of our donor community, you are central to this mission.

UTS's impact is built through partnerships – with donors, alumni, industry and government. Your shared vision in the power of education, research and partnerships to transform lives, and confidence in UTS to shape a better future, enables UTS to advance with purpose and ambition.

The 2025 Donor Impact Report showcases a selection of the many philanthropy highlights from 2025. Milestones made possible through our shared purpose and commitment to enabling student success, advancing

research translation and innovation, and applying real-world solutions to address our communities' most complex challenges.

Thank you for all you make possible through UTS this year and always.

I look forward to continuing our work together as we move forward with resilience and agility to positively shape a changing world.

Professor Andrew Parfitt
Vice-Chancellor and President
University of Technology Sydney





Thank you

Message from the Pro Vice-Chancellor Advancement and Alumni

Rebecca Hazell



At UTS, we are connected through purpose. A shared belief that access, equity and excellence in education, and impact-driven research, can create a better tomorrow. In 2025, we saw just how transformative this commitment can be. For our students, our researchers and our communities.

These pages are a celebration of what's possible when purpose meets opportunity. A showcase of how your extraordinary generosity, trust and commitment is enabling greater access to education and academic success for our students, supporting UTS researchers to pursue life-changing discoveries and strengthening the communities we serve.

Whether you choose to support students through scholarships or pursue your passions through a UTS program or research initiative, your gift helps create momentum, open doors and accelerate impact where it matters most.

Thank you for your continued belief in the power of our global UTS community to shape the future.

Every contribution is deeply valued and will continue to expand what we can achieve together through UTS in the years ahead.

We hope these stories inspire you as much as they do us. We're grateful for your continued support and look forward to where your vision for impact takes UTS next.

Rebecca Hazell
Pro Vice-Chancellor
Advancement & Alumni
University of Technology Sydney



Where potential meets opportunity

Philanthropic generosity can remove barriers to success for students from low SES backgrounds.

For students from low socioeconomic status (SES) backgrounds, financial pressures can be the difference between staying enrolled at university or dropping out. Donor support can help students go beyond the limits of circumstance.

The current cost-of-living crisis is more than just a newspaper headline. In Australia, an increasing number of students, particularly those from low SES backgrounds, are facing impossible choices around university study.

Some are priced out of higher education entirely, while others are being forced to choose between essentials like food, rent and tuition. For many, reducing

course loads, deferring study or dropping out are the only opportunities for relief.

“We know that one in two university students report financial stress affecting their studies, and low SES students are twice as likely to consider deferring or dropping out due to financial pressure,” says UTS Pro-Vice Chancellor (Social Justice and Inclusion) Amy Persson.

“Financial stress, not academic ability, is now one of the leading drivers of attrition.”

Philanthropy has a critical role to play in helping students to overcome these challenges, by providing tuition and

“Higher education remains one of the strongest levers for social mobility, economic security, and health and wellbeing, but without intervention, inequality reproduces itself.”

Amy Persson, UTS Pro-Vice Chancellor
(Social Justice and Inclusion)



To learn more about how scholarships can ignite potential for low SES students, watch Sione's story here.

living expenses support that can help them manage the demands of work and study. By filling gaps that government and university funding programs can't always reach, philanthropy can be a key enabler of student success.

At UTS, one example is the Curtis Foundation Humanitarian Scholarship, which supports undergraduate students from refugee and asylum seeker backgrounds during their degree. These students are often at increased risk of financial stress but tend to be ineligible for government support.

“Students from refugee and asylum seeker backgrounds have immense potential. The scholarship is about meeting their potential with opportunity,” says the Curtis Foundation's Anna Curtis, who supports the scholarship alongside her husband John.

At the Centre for Social Justice and Inclusion, the recently released UTS Pathways Plan also maps out a series of opportunities to support students from low SES backgrounds. Chief among these is the U@Uni Academy, which connects students in years 11 and 12 from low SES postcodes to university preparedness programs and alternative pathways to entry.

In 2025, UTS announced the first-ever U@Uni Equity Scholarships, funded by the Crookes Family Foundation, which will provide tuition and living expenses for two Academy graduates to complete an undergraduate degree at UTS.

“A lot of people don't get the opportunity to go to university. How do you find a way to break that cycle? That's what we wanted to do,” says Annabel Crookes, who leads the family-run foundation along with her parents Lynne and Richard Crookes.

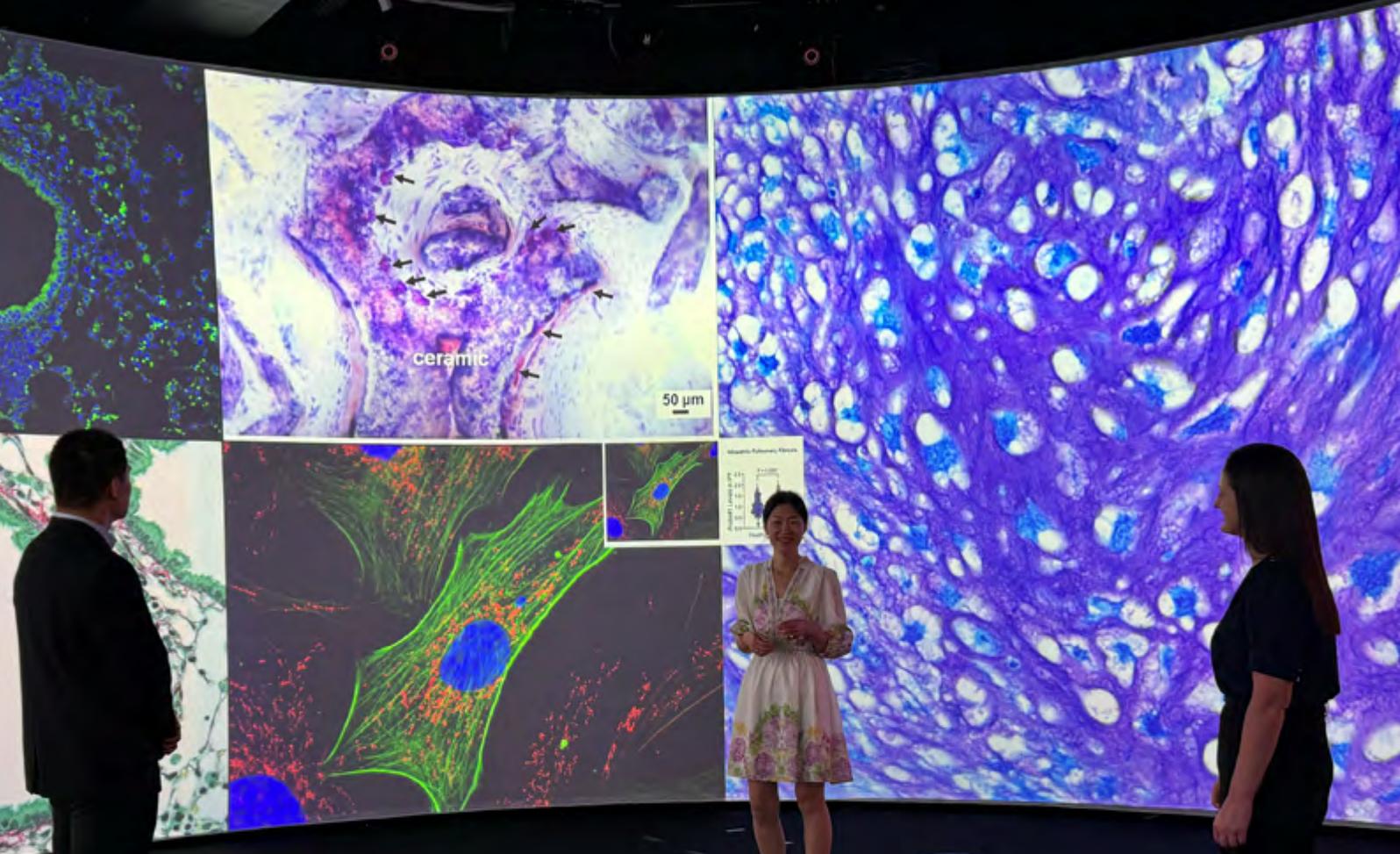
Programs like the Curtis Foundation Humanitarian Scholarship and U@Uni Equity Scholarships are linked to higher rates of retention and completion. Data from UTS shows that the success rate for low SES students is now 12% higher than the national average.

But these philanthropic initiatives do more than keep students on track to graduate. They also support them to reduce their paid work hours and engage more deeply with their studies, as well as with extracurricular activities like internships, leadership opportunities and mentoring programs. In turn, this can improve students' employment prospects after university.

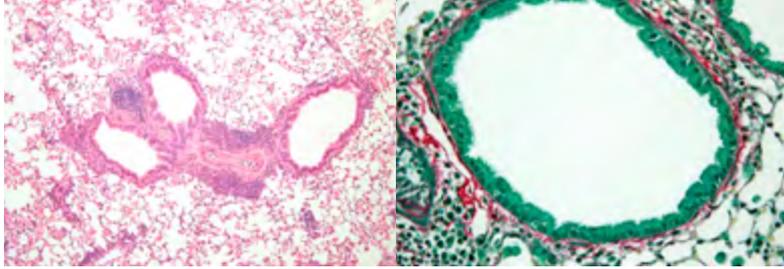
“Higher education remains one of the strongest levers for social mobility, economic security, and health and wellbeing, but without intervention, inequality reproduces itself,” Amy says.

By levelling the playing field, philanthropic giving broadens access to education in ways that benefit everyone. At UTS, diversity, including of socioeconomic perspectives, enriches the learning experience and teaches all students to consider and learn from different world views.

But these benefits can only be realised by laying the foundations for a more equitable higher education system. In the face of the current cost-of-living crisis, continued donor support is more important than ever to ensure that no student is left behind.



**Bold ideas shaping
innovation in health**



Asthma lung (left), asthma airway (right) and normal lung (below).

The most significant medical breakthroughs often begin with years of quiet dedication and a belief that there must be a better way.



Dr Chantal Donovan

Across UTS, exceptional researchers are pursuing bold scientific shifts in how we diagnose, treat and even cure some of the world's most debilitating diseases.

Three UTS researchers have received the Al & Val Rosenstrauss Fellowship, joining a prestigious cohort of recipients, each awarded the \$1 million fellowship.

These fellowships, generously supported by the Rebecca L. Cooper Medical Research Foundation, support rising stars of Australian medical research. But their work is more than research. It is a symbol of hope for hundreds of millions of people worldwide.

Al & Val Rosenstrauss Fellows in the UTS Data Arena, looking at microscopic images of their research.

Rethinking asthma from the inside out

2026 Al & Val Rosenstrauss Fellow Dr Chantal Donovan is a respiratory pharmacologist investigating asthma through a completely new pathway: the gut.

“Everyone knows someone with asthma. It affects 1 in 9 Australians and 260 million people worldwide. People think it’s a minor illness, but people with asthma live in fear every day,” Dr Donovan says.

“My work has revealed key communication networks between the gut and the lungs, but whether we can harness this knowledge to treat, reverse or even prevent asthma is still being explored.”

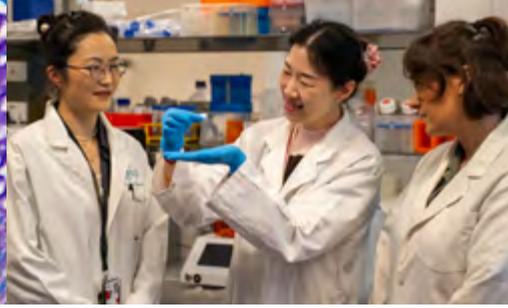
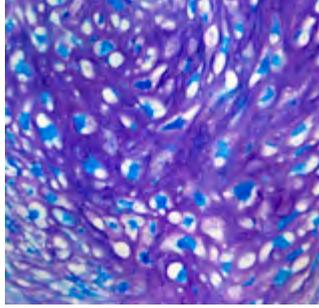
Dr Donovan is using innovative molecular techniques to study specialised fatty-acid receptors found in the gut, lungs and immune cells.

“If we can understand this gut–lung pathway, it may help us develop new treatments for severe asthma, protect babies born with small lungs and reduce lifelong, daily dependence on medication,” she says.

“Support from the Foundation gives me time and space to think outside the box to bring us closer to a future where people with asthma can live without fear of a life-threatening attack. It also allows me to mentor the next generation of passionate lung researchers in this field.

“I’m incredibly grateful for the Foundation’s support.”

A lab-grown cartilage pellet derived from bone marrow stem cells (left), Dr Jiao Jiao Li with her colleagues in the lab (right).



Dr Jiao Jiao Li

Giving people back the freedom to move

Another UTS researcher working to transform patient outcomes for a common disease is 2025 Al & Val Rosenstrauss Fellow, Dr Jiao Jiao Li.

As a biomedical engineer, Dr Li has a goal that is simple but ambitious: help people stay mobile, healthy and pain-free as they age by turning to the body's own stem cells to produce natural healing molecules that reduce inflammation and stimulate repair.

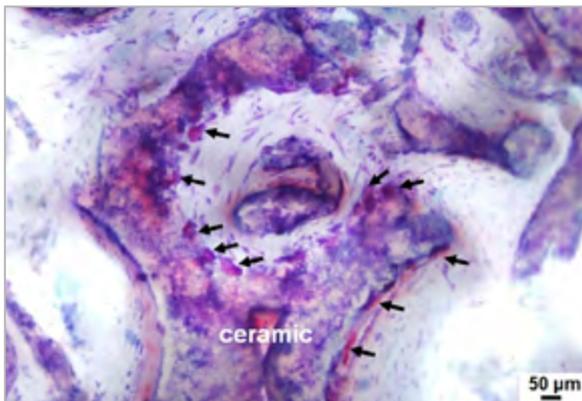
"Around 600 million people globally have painful joints due to osteoarthritis, preventing them from simple activities like walking or even getting out of bed. Current treatments mainly focus on managing symptoms rather than fixing the underlying problem," Dr Li says.

"My research is turning stem cells into 'bio-factories' that produce powerful healing signals, acting like molecular text messages that encourage cells to repair diseased and damaged tissues. I am also working on biomaterial solutions to precisely deliver treatments into damaged joints."

With support from her fellowship, Dr Li is pioneering new approaches in stem cell biology, materials science, nanotechnology, biofabrication and AI, working towards her vision of an integrated treatment pathway.

"The Al & Val Rosenstrauss Fellowship came at a crucial time in my career. It gives me stability, freedom and the ability to lead a team to carry this work forward, giving patients hope that better treatments are on their way to slow, stop or even reverse joint damage," she says.

Specialised bone cells working at the edge of the ceramic implant, helping new bones grow.

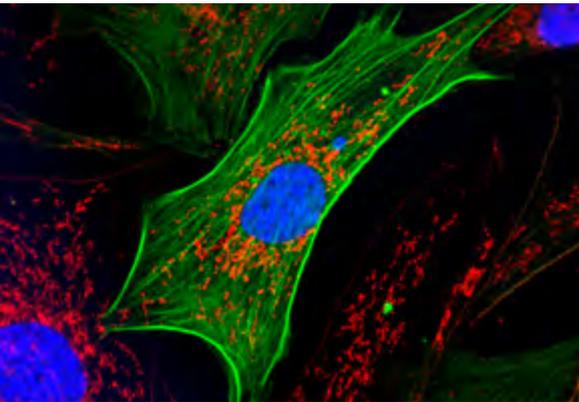


Dr Li has a goal that is simple but ambitious: help people stay mobile, healthy and pain-free as they age.



Dr Gang Liu

A microscopic image showing lung repair cells called fibroblasts (green) changing into scar-forming cells called myofibroblasts (red). Too many myofibroblasts can lead to lung scarring in IPF.



Restoring hope for people with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis

Dr Gang Liu was also awarded an AI & Val Rosenstraus Fellowship in 2025. He uses advanced molecular tools and AI to understand more about one of the world's most devastating lung conditions.

Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF) causes progressive, irreversible scarring of the lungs that leaves patients struggling to breathe. Current treatments do not cure the disease; once diagnosed, most people survive only 2–5 years.

“I lost a close relative to IPF during my PhD and through my research I meet many people suffering from this disease. It makes me realise that behind every statistic is a person who deserves better options,” Dr Liu says.

Dr Liu has already discovered certain proteins and enzymes may play a major role in how fibrosis develops, opening the door to completely new kinds of therapies.

“Support for research accelerates discovery. It gives me time to build collaborations and develop better ways to investigate and treat this disease. Thanks to the Foundation’s support, I hope to pave the way for more effective, life-extending treatments for IPF and offer hope to people and families who urgently need it,” he says.

The gift of time

For patients with IPF, time is everything. And for researchers, time and support is what’s needed for bold ideas to develop.

The Rebecca L. Cooper Medical Research Foundation believes that long-term impact comes from investing in people with vision. Foundation Director Professor Graeme Polglase says backing talent at critical career moments has become the organisation’s defining focus.

“The Foundation realised that within the field of research grants, there is a significant lack of support for people, so that’s where we focus our attention,” he says.

“We’re hoping to nurture the next generation of early- and mid-career researchers and help them connect and establish collaborations.”

Pairing the Foundation’s visionary philanthropic support with UTS’s collaborative research environment is delivering results. The AI and Val Rosenstraus fellows and their cross-disciplinary teams are advancing the next generation of prevention, treatment and patient care to redefine what’s possible in health.

Thank you to the Rebecca L. Cooper Medical Research Foundation for investing in the future of medical research.

“We’re hoping to nurture the next generation of early- and mid-career researchers and help them connect and establish collaborations.”

Professor Graeme Polglase, Rebecca L. Cooper Medical Research Foundation Director



Watch the three AI & Val Rosenstraus fellows' research in action here.

Art among us



Cherine Fahd, *study for the water carrier* (Plinth Piece series), 2014. UTS Art Collection, donated through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program, 2025.

Total number of cultural gifts

we received as donations within the collection

240

Elisabeth Cummings, *Pilbara Landscape*, 2005. UTS Art Collection, donated through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program, 2020.



Cultural gifts are showcasing the power of art at UTS and beyond.

Donated works influence learning, teaching and research and shape the rhythms of campus and community life.

At UTS, art isn't something that lives behind glass. It's woven into the intellectual and civic life of the university, shaping how we think, learn and engage with the world.

This distinctive creative environment is made possible through the generosity of donors who have entrusted UTS with cultural works of lasting significance.

Their gifts do more than build a collection. They sustain a living public resource that contributes to Australia's cultural life, advances research, and sparks critical and creative thinking across our campuses and beyond.

Robert Klippel, *No. 710 (Windmill)*, 1988. UTS Art Collection, gift of Neil Balnaves AO through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program, 2021. Photo credit: Jacquie Manning.

How art inspires life at UTS

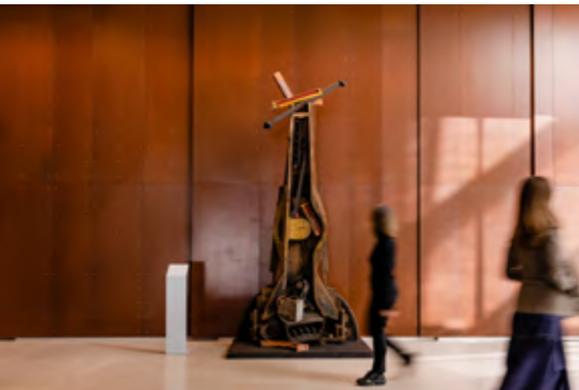
Philanthropy plays a critical role in enabling the sustained impact of cultural gifts at UTS. Through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program and other giving pathways, donors gift significant artworks to the University's collection.

This collection is constantly circulating and evolving. Embedded across teaching spaces, public corridors and shared areas, artworks are deliberately situated within the rhythms of campus life where they invite reflection, dialogue and cultural exchange.

Each piece is carefully conserved and meaningfully integrated into teaching and research.

"We like to think of the UTS campus as a gallery in itself," says Curator and Manager of the UTS Gallery & Art Collection, Stella McDonald.

"Art is embedded in everyday life here, creating opportunities for students and staff to encounter diverse perspectives and engage with the wider social world."





Students viewing Tracey Moffatt's *Up in the Sky* (1997) in the UTS Business School. Photo credit: Jacquie Manning.

Creativity that transforms

For students in particular, such everyday art encounters do more than just inspire a sense of wonder. Exhibitions and research-led programming sculpt the learning experience in fields as diverse as science, engineering and the creative industries, connecting students with expressions of creativity that can transform their world view.

These include some of Australia's most significant artworks, such as Tracey Moffatt's powerful photographic series *Up In The Sky* (1997), a cinematic narrative of race, class and violence told across 25 photographic 'frames'. UTS held several prints from the series for decades until an anonymous donor completed the full suite.

Now on long-term display in the UTS Business School, *Up In The Sky* offers students and the broader UTS

community an experience previously reserved for the most prestigious art collections in the world, including the Tate, London and the Museum of Modern Art, New York.

The UTS collection also houses pieces that help students to visualise their own artistic aspirations. Acclaimed photographic artist Cherine Fahd, an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Design and Society, recently donated works from her personal archive. It was an act that resonated with many.

"Cherine's gift has been displayed through exhibitions that place her work alongside that of former students, creating a visible lineage of learning and artistic growth that speaks powerfully to students considering their own futures," Stella says.

Meeyn Meerreeng (*Country at Night*) (2017) by Hayley Millar Baker was generously donated to the UTS National First Nations College Collection in 2022. Photo credit: Jessica Maurer.



“When a donor entrusts UTS with a work of art, it’s an act of profound generosity. It places the work into long-term custodianship, so it can be cared for, shared, and continue to speak to future generations.”

Stella McDonald, UTS Gallery and
Art Collection Curator and Manager

A gift that leaves a lasting imprint

Beyond the impacts to university life, cultural giving also amplifies UTS’s position as a custodian of Australia’s cultural heritage. A role that is supported by philanthropic generosity.

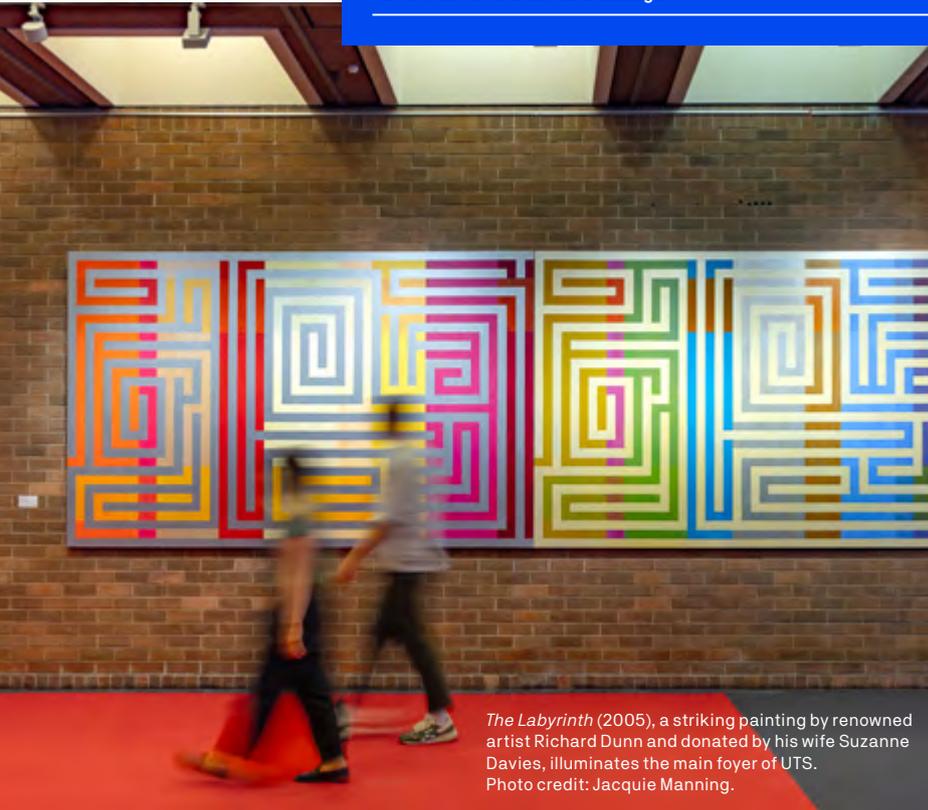
By contributing art to university spaces, donors make works of national and international importance accessible to the broader public, inspiring conversations about art and culture that will continue for years to come.

“When a donor entrusts UTS with a work of art, it’s an act of profound generosity. It places the work into long-term custodianship so it can be cared for, shared and continue to speak to future generations,” says Stella.

Thank you to our cultural gifts donors for your belief in the power of art to nurture understanding, curiosity and connection, now and into the future.



Explore the UTS art collection and gallery.



The Labyrinth (2005), a striking painting by renowned artist Richard Dunn and donated by his wife Suzanne Davies, illuminates the main foyer of UTS.
Photo credit: Jacquie Manning.



From left: Associate Professor Emma Camp with UTS PhD candidates Kathryn Cobleigh and Hadley England. The trio study coral resilience in labs like this Coral Room at UTS as part of their work with the Future Reefs Program.

Safeguarding the future of coral reefs

Coral reefs are among the world's most extraordinary ecosystems, and there are none more iconic than the Great Barrier Reef. But as oceans warm, the Reef's future is being tested like never before.



Associate Professor Emma Camp

In 2025, the Great Barrier Reef experienced its sixth mass coral bleaching event in just nine years and the second in consecutive years. In this new reality, protecting reefs is not only about conservation. It's about fast, practical adaptation to climate change and the partnerships that make it possible.

Rolex powering world-leading climate solutions

With support from the Rolex Perpetual Planet Initiative, UTS Associate Professor Emma Camp is pioneering science-led approaches to reef restoration and resilience through the Coral Nurture Program. She and

her team are delivering measurable improvements in reef health and biodiversity by developing the tools to safeguard coral ecosystems into the future.

The Program was established in 2018 as a groundbreaking partnership between tourism operators, Traditional Owners and scientists. It empowers local tourism operators to accelerate coral propagation while enabling research teams to generate the evidence needed to innovate reef management.



“I’m deeply grateful for both the practical support and the global platform helping to garner heightened attention and accelerate impact. Together, we’re delivering real hope for the future of coral reef management. Partnerships like Rolex are critical to creating evidence and innovations that we can bring to the world.”

Associate Professor Emma Camp
Team Leader, Future Reefs Program
Faculty of Science, Climate Change Cluster
Rolex Laureate

Rolex’s support has been transformative for the Coral Nurture Program, uniting the people, resources and partnerships needed to turn world-leading reef science into restoration at scale.

Partnerships built for impact

The Coral Nurture Program is built for impact, grounded in a simple but powerful idea that reef restoration is most effective when it’s done in partnership with the people who know the reef best and rely on it daily.

The program engages with Traditional Owners, including the Yirrganydji Sea Rangers (Dawul Wuru Corporation) and Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation, and nine tourism operators in reef management education and activities.

In less than eight years, the program has aided coral cover and diversity at 30 high-value reef sites across the Whitsundays, Cairns and Port Douglas. It has also led to the development of effective, low-cost tools that are now being used for proactive reef management worldwide.

The Coral Nurture Program has received global recognition from the United Nations Environment Programme and the International Union for Conservation of Nature and has been named an Official Actor for the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, alongside a Society for Ecological Restoration Regional Award in 2023.



A legacy for future generations

A program with this impact is rarely possible without long-term, catalytic support. Rolex's support is fuelling innovation that is reshaping our understanding of what reef restoration can achieve.

Reef resilience is about more than restoring what has been lost. It's about building the science, partnerships and practical tools that give coral reefs their best chance to remain vibrant, vital and thriving in a changing climate.

Associate Professor Emma Camp and the Coral Nurture Program are poised to continue advancing restoration science and resilience-building efforts across the Great Barrier Reef and abroad.

The program aims to establish new community-research partnerships, strengthening global capacity to protect coral ecosystems and the livelihoods they support.

Coral Nurture Program achievements

133,000+

corals planted, spanning 119 coral species.

80%+

survival rates after 3-6 months and 75% after 9 months.

150+

coral species out planted or grown in nurseries.

17+

academic papers published in 5 years.

11

diverse partnerships with Traditional Owner groups and tourism operators.

2,000

hours of planting activity over 339 week.

1 billion

people worldwide, including some of the most vulnerable communities, whose wellbeing is sustained by reef ecosystems.



Paying forward, giving back

How an act of generosity is accelerating student excellence



Professor David Eager

Distinguished engineer Professor David Eager has had a remarkable career. Now, with a singular gift, he's paving the way forward for the future generation.

UTS Professor David Eager became acquainted with risk at a young age. The son of a production engineer, he spent his spare time tinkering in the garage or exploring the bushland behind his childhood home.

"I had my own saw and hammer and all these dangerous tools that Dad let me build things with," says David, a UTS graduate and a Professor of Risk Management and Injury Prevention and of Mechanical and Mechatronic Engineering.

"In the bush, I'd dam the creek, catch water dragons and climb waterfalls and trees that you could fall off."

David's belief in the importance of risk-taking sits at the foundation of his career. As one of Australia's leading playground engineers, he's helped thousands of kids become more resilient and physically capable by engaging with play-based risk.

But playground visitors aren't the only young lives David is shaping. The

benefactor of the new Professor David Eager Medal in Engineering, he's encouraging UTS students to take a different kind of risk: to push themselves beyond their comfort zones in pursuit of engineering excellence.

The Professor David Eager Medal in Engineering is a \$50,000 gift that recognises outstanding academic achievement in mechanical and mechatronic engineering. Every year, one undergraduate student will receive a medal and a \$5,000 prize.

For David, who has nurtured hundreds of engineering students over more than 30 years at UTS, the medal embodies what it means to be a teacher shaping the next generation. It's also a reflection of the enduring support he received during his own UTS student days.

Now, he's paying it forward.

"It's what academics and teachers do every day of their lives. We give to younger people; we share our knowledge and wisdom with them," he says.

"The medal is an incentive for students to strive to achieve. Competition is good. Some people say we shouldn't push our kids too much, but you don't grow unless you take a risk and move outside your comfort zone."

With his gift, David has joined an inspiring UTS staff giving community. By supporting student excellence through philanthropy, he and hundreds of his colleagues are opening doors to opportunity that make a real difference to students, both now and into the future.

Establishing the prize is something of a full-circle moment. As a UTS Engineering graduate and a long-term staff member, David is an example of how UTS can become the launching pad for a truly remarkable career.

Now, he's giving back through the institution that means so much to him.

"I owe so much to UTS. It has been so good to me," he says.

"It has made me what I am."

GIFT PROFILE

Gift name: **Professor David Eager Medal in Engineering**

Purpose: **Recognises outstanding academic achievement in mechanical and mechatronic engineering.**



“The medal is an incentive for students to strive to achieve. Competition is good. Some people say we shouldn’t push our kids too much, but you don’t grow unless you take a risk and move outside your comfort zone.”

David Eager, UTS Professor

The Professor David Eager Medal in Engineering will promote excellence among mechanical and mechatronic engineering students.

To design, with Love

Interior designer Michael Love is giving with his heart.

After a long career as one of Australia's best known interior designers, Michael Love is gifting a global perspective to the next generation of design students.

Australian interior designer Michael Love was a teenager the first time he travelled to Europe. When he stepped off the boat that transported him from Sydney to Naples ("in those days, we went by ship," he says), his world turned upside down.

"Prior to that trip, I had a fairly isolated, typical upbringing here in Sydney," Michael recalls.

GIFT PROFILE

Gift name: **Michael Love Bequest**

Purpose: **Enables talented design students to travel abroad.**

"I just couldn't believe that this world existed in the way it did and how fabulous and inspiring it was."

The legacy of that first voyage and the travel that Michael has done in the intervening years sits at the heart of what has been an incredible career. For the last five decades, he has been one of Australia's best-known interior designers, working with clients and leading architects to create some of Sydney's most beautiful interior spaces.

Now, he has made the remarkable decision to share his love of creativity and travel via a gift in his will to the UTS Faculty of Design and Society. Michael's gift will enable talented design students to travel abroad and seek design inspiration from across the world. This is particularly important in a country like Australia, where students often miss out on the cross-pollination of ideas and creativity that can come from proximity to other design cultures.

"Travel has been so important in my life, and I hope that it would be important to the students who receive this support," Michael says.

According to Professor James Bennett, Dean of the Faculty of Design and Society, gifts like Michael's offer far more than a plane ticket for young people seeking adventure.

"UTS believes international experiences make our students more creative, more curious and more compelling as future global citizens, employees and leaders," James says.

"We are incredibly proud to have donors like Michael who make these opportunities within reach of more of our diverse student body."

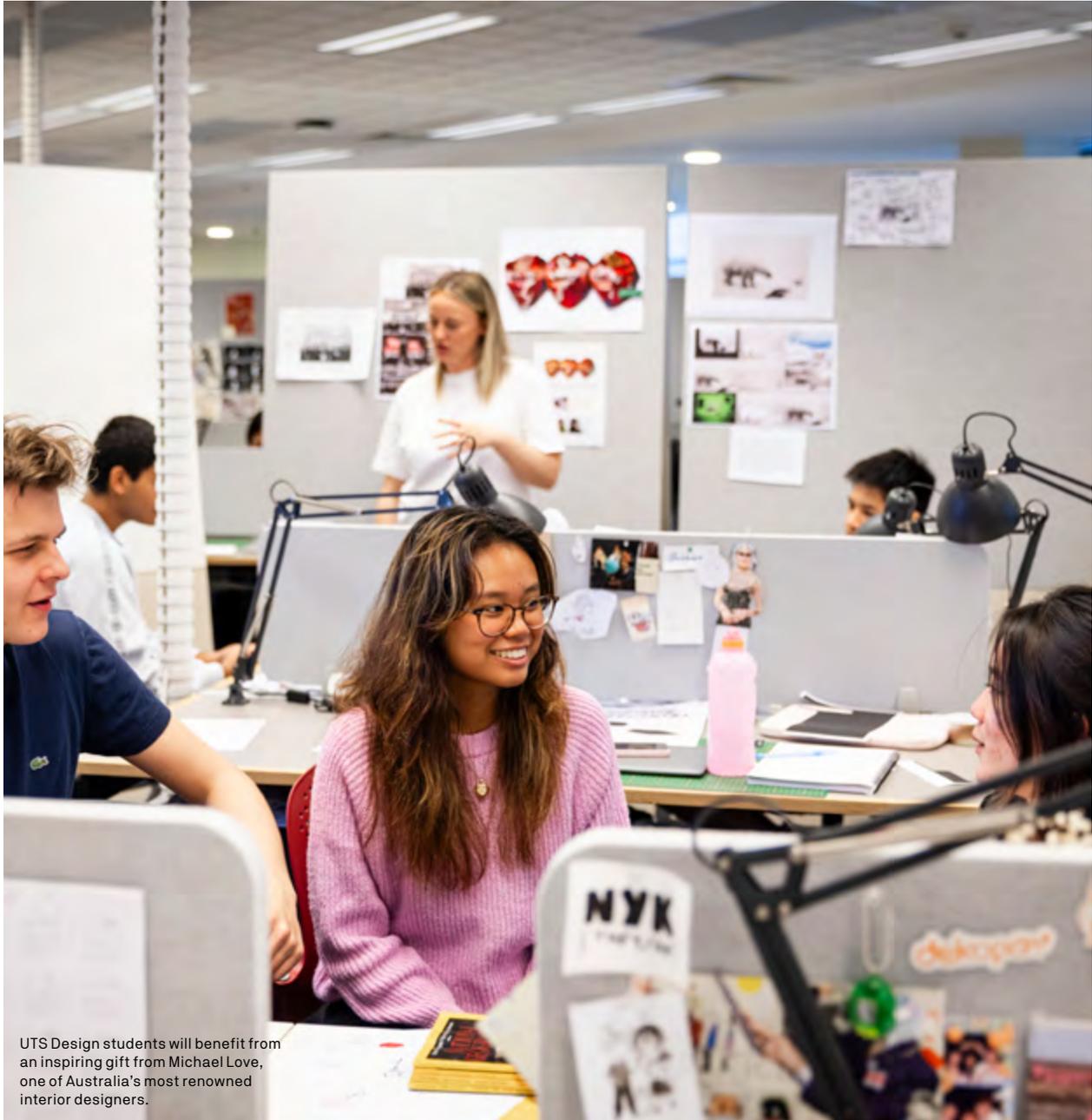
For Michael, the sentiment is far simpler. He has enjoyed a long and storied career doing what he loves most. Now, as an elder statesman of the profession, he has the opportunity to pay it forward to future generations.

"I think you give with your heart," Michael says.

"If what I'm giving can inspire a student the way it inspired me for my whole life, that will be thanks indeed."

"If what I'm giving can inspire a student the way it inspired me for my whole life, that will be thanks indeed."

Michael Love, Interior Designer



UTS Design students will benefit from an inspiring gift from Michael Love, one of Australia's most renowned interior designers.



Dr Anne Summers AO



Jess Hill



Dr Summers and Ms Hill speaking at the UTS Business School panel discussion "A future without patriarchal violence" in September 2025.

Breaking the cycle together

Preventing domestic and gender-based violence.

At UTS, two of Australia's leading advocates in domestic and gender-based violence prevention are transforming outcomes for victim-survivors, enabled by philanthropic support.

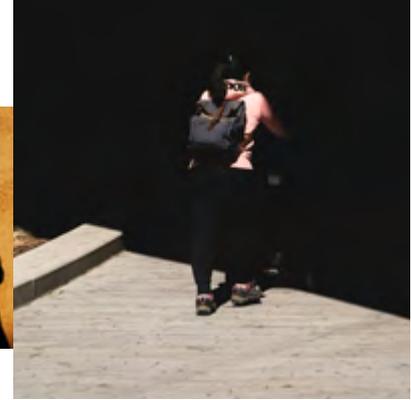
Australia is facing a national emergency in domestic and gendered-based violence. Despite sustained attention and reform efforts, the prevalence of violence against women and children has not significantly declined.

Philanthropic support has enabled UTS to bring in two research leaders to tackle this critical issue. Professor Anne Summers AO and Industry Professor Jess Hill are among Australia's preeminent voices in the field of domestic and family violence.

Collectively, their work has been amplifying the extent and consequences of these often-hidden forms of violence, which negatively impact women and children, communities and the economy.

“This work reflects our focus on impactful, evidence-based research that informs policy, shaped practice and delivers meaningful change for our community.”

Professor Sara Denize, UTS Business School Interim Dean



GIFT PROFILE

Gift name: **Research Fellowships & Program Funding**

Purpose: **Supports Dr Summers and Ms Hill in their research to prevent domestic and gendered-based violence.**

Through the production and strategic communication of evidence, Dr Summers and Ms Hill are driving crucial policy and practice change.

“This is about the dignity of individual women, but it’s also about what this violence costs us as a community when we stand by and let women face these devastating consequences alone,” Dr Summers says.

Dr Summers is Professor of Domestic and Family Violence at the UTS Business School and one of Australia’s leading women’s rights advocates. She has produced two groundbreaking research reports that reveal the true scale of domestic violence in Australia and its impact on women’s employment, education and income.

Her final report, a plan for a new longitudinal study on how to better to understand and therefore prevent domestic violence, was published earlier in March.

Ms Hill is an award-winning investigative journalist and author who joined UTS in 2024 as Industry Professor. Working across the UTS Business School and the Centre for Social Justice and Inclusion,

she is advancing under-utilised strategies for preventing gendered violence, with research focused on safer parenting order decisions in family violence cases.

But Dr Summers and Ms Hill aren’t working alone.

Dr Summers has been supported by the Paul Ramsay Foundation (PRF) and the Snow Foundation. Ms Hill’s work is enabled by a fellowship co-funded by the Wilson Foundation.

This philanthropic support is an impact multiplier, enabling innovative research and building capacity for advocacy, education and reform that aims to break the cycle of violence for future generations.

“Philanthropy makes this work possible, but more importantly, it allows us to stay focused on impact and accountability rather than short-term cycles,” Ms Hill says.

And the time for action is now: data released in 2021-22 showed that more than one in four women have experienced family and domestic violence since the age of 15. Together,

UTS and its philanthropic patrons are building the foundations for a safer world.

Says PRF CEO Professor Kristy Muir:

“The long-term impacts of domestic and family violence are well documented. Dedicated research is essential to ensure these impacts are fully understood and translated into meaningful policy and practice change. PRF is proud to invest strongly in family stability, including supporting UTS and Dr Summers in advancing this important work.”

Professor Sara Denize, Interim Dean of the UTS Business School, adds: “UTS is deeply committed to research that confronts society’s most urgent challenges, including the prevention of domestic and gendered-based violence. This work reflects our focus on impactful, evidence-based research that informs policy, shapes practice and delivers meaningful change for our community.”



NSW Health Indigenous Genetic Counselling Scholarship recipient Elizabeth Brown (left) engaging in a clinical stimulation with her peer.

Unravelling the mysteries of inherited health risk

**A new scholarship is
strengthening pathways
into genetic counselling for
Indigenous students.**

GIFT PROFILE

Gift name: **NSW Health Indigenous Genetic Counselling Scholarship**

Purpose: **Supports an Indigenous health professional to pursue the UTS Master of Genetic Counselling.**

A partnership with NSW Health is poised to expand the Indigenous genetic counselling workforce and increase community access to culturally safe care.

Genetic counselling is a small but growing branch of allied health that helps people unravel their inherited health risks. It's a critical piece of the personalised medicine puzzle, but for Indigenous communities, it's often out of reach.

A shortage of Indigenous genetic counsellors means that entire communities risk missing out on the genetic protections that could transform their health, as well as an opportunity to enrich the stories of their families and ancestors that genetic counselling can reveal.

In the UTS Graduate School of Health (GSH), change is afoot. Supported by NSW Health, GSH launched the inaugural NSW Health Indigenous Genetic Counselling Scholarship this year. Valued at \$102,350 over two years, the scholarship will support



“The impact of one graduate is never just on a small number of people. I think the outcomes will be profound.”

Tim Croft, UTS Professor of Practice

an Indigenous health professional to pursue the UTS Master of Genetic Counselling.

The scholarship has been designed as a critical enabler of Indigenous postgraduate education. The funds will help recipients meet the often-prohibitive cost of postgraduate university education, while the degree's largely online curriculum makes it more accessible to students from regional and remote areas.

“Indigenous genetic counsellors make up less than 1% of the profession,” says Dr Lucinda Freeman, Head of Discipline, Genetic Counselling at UTS.

“Through this scholarship, we hope to increase Indigenous participation in genetic counselling and broaden access to culturally safe care for Indigenous people and communities.”

This initiative is the latest in a long line of UTS philanthropic partnerships designed to support Indigenous excellence and close the gap on educational and health outcomes.

“It's really important to attract people from Indigenous backgrounds into the workforce. We need more diversity in health.” Reflects Tim Croft, a proud Gurindji, Malgnin and Mudpurra man and a Professor of Practice at GSH who helped established this scholarship alongside Lucinda.

“We're grateful for NSW Health's support in bringing this important initiative to life.”

The first scholarship recipient, Elizabeth Brown, began her studies this year. She will join a cohort of UTS graduates who are raising the profile of genetic counselling among Indigenous communities, thereby enabling greater numbers of Indigenous people to explore the genetic histories that shape their wellbeing.

“The scholarship itself will be a catalyst for changing community at different levels,” Tim says.

“The impact of one graduate is never just on a small number of people. I think the outcomes will be profound.”

UTS Humanitarian Scholarship recipient **Mohammad Sakhvidi** is paying hope forward to those following in his footsteps.

“It gave me hope in life.”

For Mohammad Sakhvidi, a civil engineering UTS graduate, the UTS Humanitarian Scholarship became both a launchpad to success and an opportunity to give back.

A gifted student with a will of steel, Mohammad was only 16 years old when he fled Iran by boat, landing in immigration detention on Christmas Island. After his release, and even before he enrolled to finish high school in Australia, he knew what he wanted to do next.

“I wanted to go to university and I always knew that if you really want something, you have to work hard for it, speak it into existence and show it through your actions and the universe will manifest it for you, even when the path seems out of reach,” he says.

But as a young man in a new country, thousands of miles away from his loved ones, making that dream a reality wasn't something Mohammad could do on his own. It wasn't until he applied for the UTS Humanitarian Scholarship that the pieces began to fall into place.

The scholarship covers tuition and other fees for successful asylum seeker

and refugee students. To date, it has supported 36 students to complete a university qualification, but back then, Mohammad was among the first.

He enrolled in a Bachelor of Engineering and threw himself into the joys of learning. Through the scholarship's mentorship program, he was also introduced to business professional Brad Chan, a UTS graduate and ambassador, who gave him not only academic and professional advice but became his family in Australia.

“It gave me hope in life,” Mohammad says of the scholarship. “If I wasn't going to university, I didn't have any Plan Bs.”

Today, Mohammad is paying that hope forward to countless others. After a few years spent working as a civil engineer, he founded TQN Personnel, a social enterprise that helps humanitarian entrants to Australia find work in the construction sector.

He's also a donor to the Humanitarian Scholarship and provides mentoring support to other students who are following in his footsteps. For Mohammad, who donated half of his first-ever Australian paycheck back to

GIFT PROFILE

Gift name: **Humanitarian Scholarship**

Purpose: **Supports undergraduate asylum seeker and refugee students.**

UTS, being able to help others who have travelled similar journeys is a full-circle moment.

“The ripple effect of giving is like a butterfly effect. You do something little and it creates a beautiful universe,” he says.

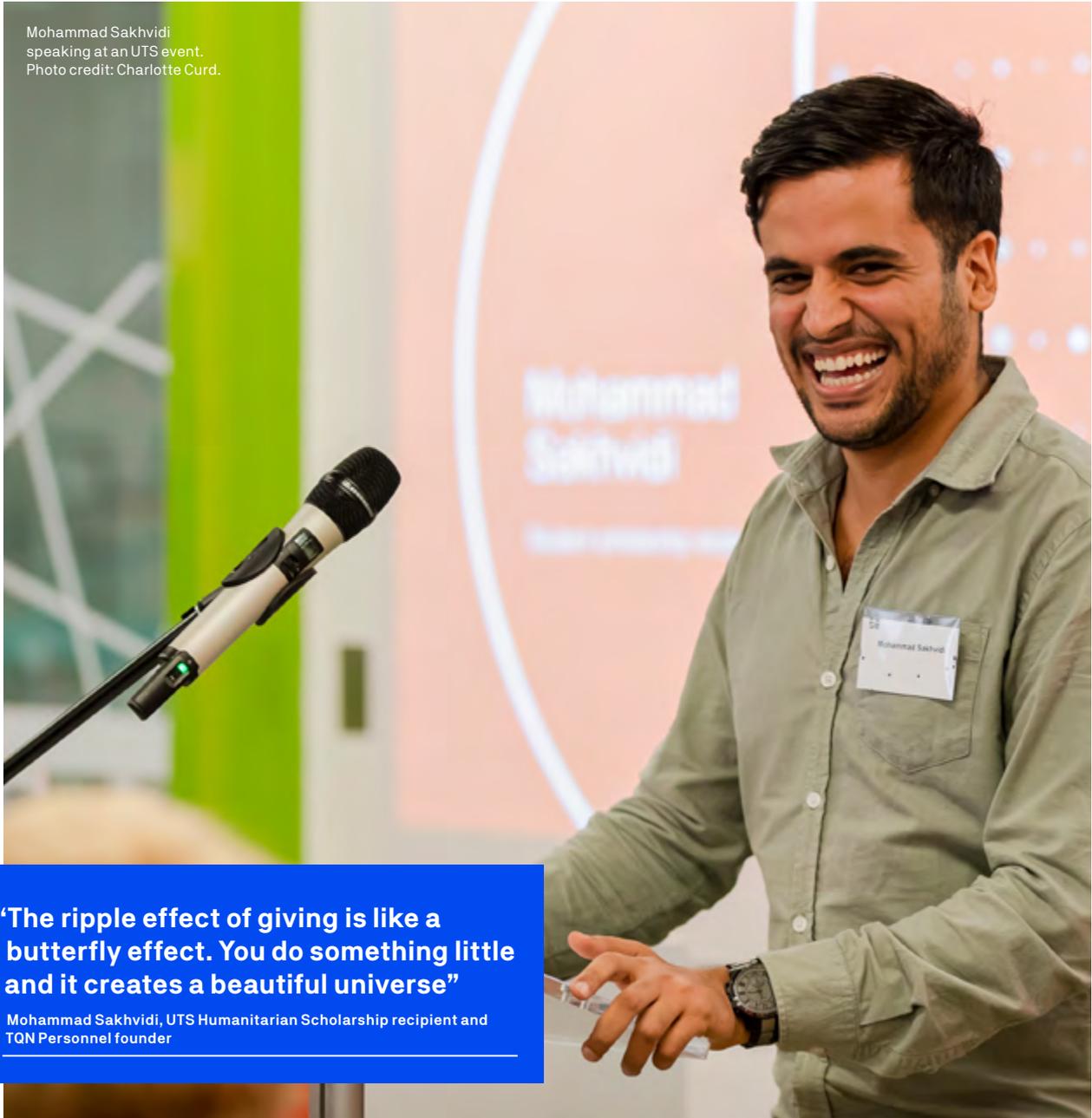
And this is only the beginning: Mohammad's goal now is to continue increasing the depth of his giving to UTS and to encourage others to give, too. As he sees it, helping others is not just a kindness but a responsibility.

“There's a Persian poet named Rumi and he says, ‘Humans are not a drop in the ocean, we're an entire ocean in a drop,’” Mohammad says.

“We're all connected. We should be able to support each other.”

The support and generosity of our alumni community is instrumental in transforming lives, providing financial assistance and inspiring hope and opportunities for future generations.

Mohammad Sakhvidi
speaking at an UTS event.
Photo credit: Charlotte Curd.



“The ripple effect of giving is like a butterfly effect. You do something little and it creates a beautiful universe”

Mohammad Sakhvidi, UTS Humanitarian Scholarship recipient and TQN Personnel founder

Thrive is a collaboration between UTS,
Western Sydney University and the
NSW Department of Education.



Thrive Launch

**“Thrive is showing us how the system can
better support students to reach Year 12
and succeed beyond it.”**

Professor Sally Cripps, UTS Human Technology Institute Director

There's a mathematical formula for finishing school well.
The Thrive initiative is deciphering it.

A sense of belonging helps students Thrive at school

With the support of the Paul Ramsay Foundation, a world-first research program that spans social and data science is charting a path to better education outcomes.

Of all the variables that determine how well young people finish school, there's one that may be more powerful than the rest. It's not academic achievement, socioeconomic status or supportive parenting (although these are important too).

It's a sense of belonging.

This is the latest finding from the Thrive initiative, a multi-institutional research collaboration that includes the UTS Human Technology Institute, which is leading Thrive's AI and data science efforts. Thrive's goal is to support young people to finish school well, not just to complete Year 12, but to emerge with skills and knowledge, a sense of wellbeing and the capacity to be an active member of the community.

The Thrive program's ambitions are being realised through the application of world-first mathematical, computer science and statistical machine learning approaches. Drawing on a wealth of government, school and lived experience data, Thrive's social and data scientists are working together with schools and families to untangle the complex causal relationships that impact on education outcomes.

GIFT PROFILE

Gift name: **Thrive: Finishing School Well**

Purpose: **Supports research to identify what students of all backgrounds need to finish high school well.**

To date, the UTS team has graphed the array of factors that contribute to finishing school well. It's here that "sense of belonging" first emerged as a central influence in the student journey.

"Attainment of Year 12 is critical. It's a key driver of a young person's future opportunities," says Professor Sally Cripps, a leader in Bayesian machine learning and AI who heads the UTS Thrive team.

"What's exciting is that the maths has enabled us to uncover the importance of a sense of belonging as a driver of Year 12 attainment. Thrive is showing us how the system can better support students to reach Year 12 and succeed beyond it."

The Thrive program is very much of its time. Only a few short years ago, the computing power, algorithmic development and mathematical modelling that underpin it were little more than a pipe dream, Professor Cripps says. By harnessing these

technologies, the Thrive team hope to share their research with schools across Australia, enabling them to provide more targeted and meaningful support to their students.

Thrive is a powerful example of research in action that offers real potential to transform young lives. Supported by the Paul Ramsay Foundation (PRF), Thrive also embodies the remarkable power of philanthropy to support innovation and help young people walk the path to a brighter future.

According to Professor Cripps, more traditional funding bodies are often hesitant to take a chance on such pioneering projects. Without PRF's support, Thrive may never have seen the light of day.

"At PRF, we believe strongly that all children should have what they need to do well, and the Thrive program has shown that a critical component of that is a sense of belonging," says Alex Martin, Chief of Staff at the Paul Ramsay Foundation.

"We know that the factors influencing a young person's educational journey are complex and varied, and often sit outside the school gate. Thrive has shown that with the right support, every young person can achieve their potential."

At UTS, technology and the law are colliding to create a more just future.

Justice for all? It might just be a download away

A collaboration between UTS Law, tech company Neota Logic, and supported by law firm Wotton Kearney, is opening the door to justice for people and communities across Australia.

If you've ever worried about the potential of AI to drive inequality, turn your attention to the UTS Faculty of Law. By harnessing the power of technology, UTS Law students are increasing access to justice for people facing disadvantage.

This impact is the result of the Law Tech Challenge, an extracurricular opportunity that has been part of the UTS Law's highly respected Brennan Justice and Leadership Program since 2016. Delivered in partnership with software company Neota Logic, it challenges participants to develop AI web applications that deliver socially just outcomes. The Challenge is made possible through the philanthropic support of Wotton Kearney, with thanks to Allens for their support from 2016 to 2024.

During the Challenge, Law students work in teams of five supported by Neota Logic's software and Wotton Kearney's mentoring and guidance to solve real-world problems for a select not-for-profit organisation.

The results are nothing short of remarkable. Through the Challenge, students have built apps to help financial abuse survivors find work (Arise Foundation), connect people with community legal services (Western Sydney Community Legal Centre) and spread the word on international humanitarian law (International Committee of the Red Cross), to name a few.

"The Challenge is a bit of magic. It throws together students, not-for-profits and Neota's software with the legal expertise of Wotton Kearney, and hey presto! A few months later we have apps that are truly enacting social justice. It helps people, and just quietly, it's fun!" says Dr Sacha Molitorisz, who directs the Challenge at UTS Law.

Despite being an extracurricular activity (students don't receive course credit for participating), the Law Tech Challenge is extremely popular among participants of the Brennan program, which seeks to strengthen students' justice consciousness, idealism and sense of service. The Challenge reflects their innate desire to use the law as a force for good, and it also prepares them for what the UTS Law teaching team calls a 'tech-rich future' where new technologies will continue to reshape the legal sector.

This belief of using the law and technology as agents of community engagement and social change is shared not only by the UTS students but by Neota Logic and Wotton Kearney as well. It's why Wotton Kearney has committed to funding the program over the next three years.

As well as providing many hours of pro bono mentorship, expertise and legal advice for the Challenge, Wotton Kearney is making a \$45,000 USD donation. This will allow Neota Logic to supply software



“The Challenge is a bit of magic ... we have apps that are truly enacting social justice.”

Dr Sacha Molitorisz, UTS Law Senior Lecturer.

Team Arise: The winners of the 2024 Law Tech Challenge. Photo credit: Andy Roberts.

GIFT PROFILE

Gift name: **Law Tech Challenge**

Purpose: **Challenges UTS Law students to develop AI web applications that deliver socially just outcomes.**

and professional app developers to work alongside future Law Tech Challenge participants, helping them transform their big ideas into justice-centred solutions.

“Wotton Kearney is delighted to become the new philanthropic partner for the UTS Law Tech Challenge,” says Heidi Anderson, Partner at Wotton Kearney.

“We are excited to collaborate with the next generation of change makers to create practical tools that respond to community needs and inspire a new generation to see social justice as part of their professional purpose.”

How a young researcher is keeping the past, and a language, alive.

Speaking up for culture and community

As the recipient of the Ern MacDonald On-Country Fellowship, Anaiwan researcher Dr Callum Clayton-Dixon is reclaiming his ancestral language from the archives and reconnecting it with Country, culture, and community.

The On-Country Fellowship supports Indigenous self-determination and community-based research practice. The first of its kind at an Australian university, it has enabled postdoctoral UTS researcher Dr Callum Clayton-Dixon to pursue an ambitious program of work: to revive the traditional Anaiwan language while living, researching and learning on Country.

Like many Indigenous languages, Anaiwan experienced a devastating decline in the aftermath of colonisation. Callum's doctoral thesis, *Uyitika – Reclaiming Our High-Country Lingo*, completed in 2025, represents the first comprehensive reconstruction of the Anaiwan language and provides a foundation for community-based language revival efforts. His next project, *Kyūna Wangana, Kyūna Uyina – Understanding Country*,

Speaking Country' will focus on mapping, deciphering and re-learning of traditional place names across southern New England.

"Through this process, we will not only recover words and grammatical features but also rekindle the deep connections between language, place, story and tradition," Dr Clayton-Dixon says.

Dr Clayton-Dixon's research has helped inform both community language workshops and the language programs rolled out in local schools, along with the development of language teaching resources. It has also supported work to revive the Anaiwan skinship system and Anaiwan song, as well as the reintroduction of traditional land management practices like cultural burning.

Named in memory of Ern MacDonald, known labour relations advocate, the On-Country Fellowship exemplifies UTS's commitment to Indigenous excellence and reflects the aspirations of the newly launched UTS Indigenous Education and Research Strategy 2025–2030. The Fellowship is delivered

GIFT PROFILE

Gift name: **Ern MacDonald On-Country Fellowship**

Purpose: **Supports Indigenous self-determination and community-based research practice.**

through the university's Jumbunna Institute for Indigenous Education and Research, which provides researchers with wraparound support, including legal advice, networking connections and peer review.

This remarkable Fellowship is made possible by the generous support of the MacDonald Family, who are long-time philanthropic supporters of young people, and the Dusseldorp Forum, a family foundation focused on improving education, health and social outcomes for young people and families across Australia.

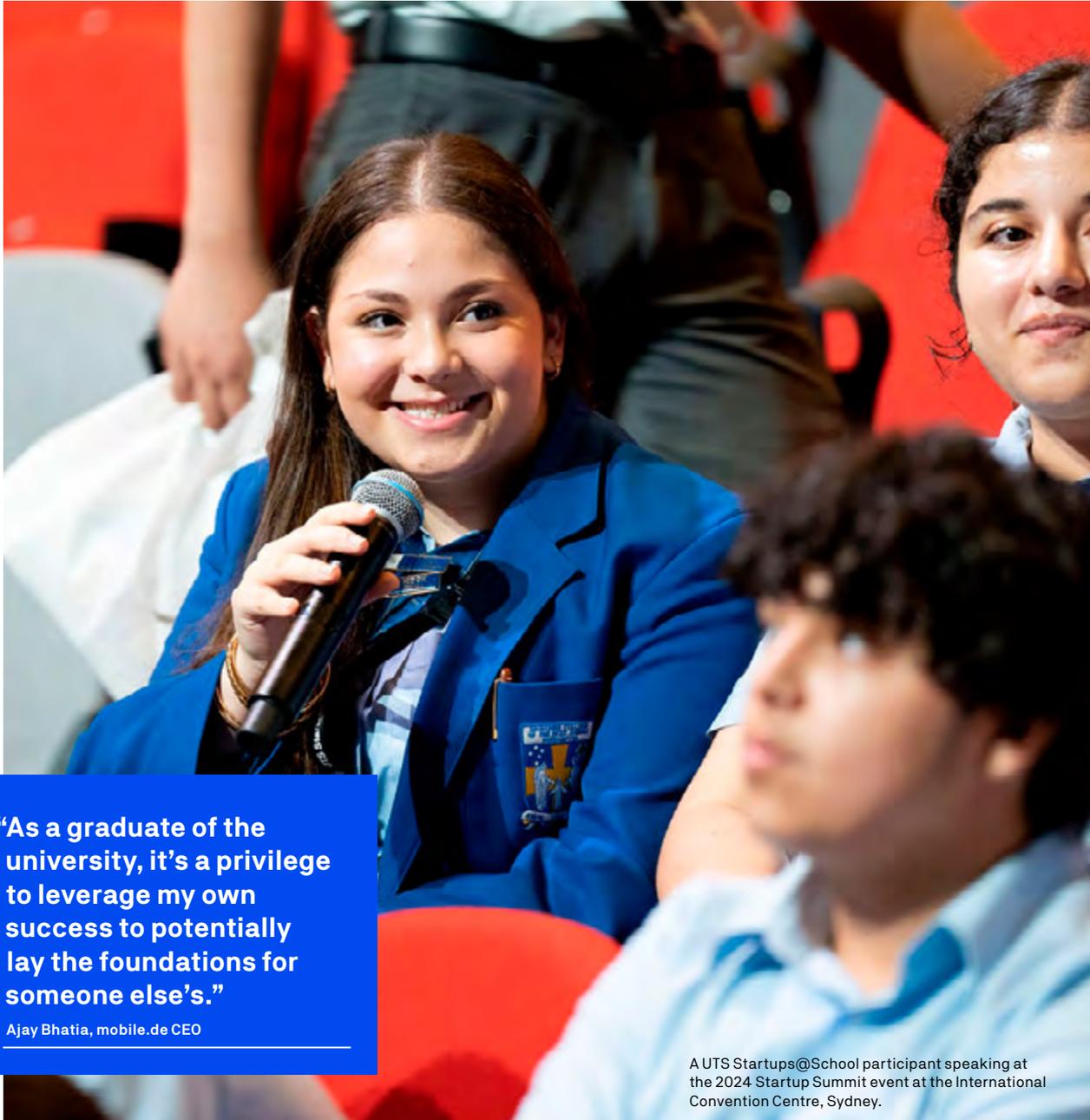
UTS plans to grow the On-Country Fellowship model with support from philanthropic partners who share the University's commitment to supporting Indigenous excellence, says Professor Robynne Quiggin AO, Pro Vice-Chancellor for Indigenous Leadership and Engagement at UTS:

"We aspire to support more On-Country Fellowships, building a network of talented young Indigenous researchers who are driving meaningful change in partnership with their communities."

“We will not only recover words and grammatical features but also rekindle the deep connections between language, place, story and tradition.”

Dr Callum Clayton-Dixon, Ern MacDonald
On-Country Fellowship recipient and Anaiwan
researcher

Dr Callum Clayton-Dixon speaking
at the 2022 NSW Aboriginal
Languages Gathering.



“As a graduate of the university, it’s a privilege to leverage my own success to potentially lay the foundations for someone else’s.”

Ajay Bhatia, mobile.de CEO

A UTS Startups@School participant speaking at the 2024 Startup Summit event at the International Convention Centre, Sydney.

Transforming Australian entrepreneurship with a single gift

Two UTS alumni unlocked millions in funding and limitless potential by donating to UTS Startups.

When UTS graduates Samuel Hordern and Ajay Bhatia gave a combined \$125,000 to UTS Startups, they had no idea their gift would go on to transform the future of entrepreneurship education in Australia.

But that's exactly what it did.

In the four years since, their donation of \$125,000 has unlocked \$1.85 million in additional funding and built one of Australia's largest school entrepreneurship programs, providing tens of thousands of students across Australia with entrepreneurship inspiration and education.

Empowering the next generation

Called UTS Startups @ School, this singular education experience is designed to get students in years 9 and 10 thinking about technology-enabled entrepreneurship at a crucial time when career choices are being made.

Since 2021, UTS Startups @ School has reached over 25,000 high school students. And it comes not a moment too soon: in a global landscape where

technology is driving rapid change, today's students will likely enter a world of work that looks vastly different to that of the last few decades.

The goal of UTS Startups @ School is to prepare students to think beyond traditional employment pathways and to create their own way of working using the opportunities technology provides today.

From philanthropic gift to an education movement

The early stages of UTS Startups @ School were focused on in-school visits led by founders from UTS Startups, one of Australia's most vibrant entrepreneurship communities. The impact and momentum of the program quickly led to \$500,000 in NSW Government funding to expand the program's reach.

The program has gone on to secure an additional \$1 million in NSW Government funding. This will support the development of a new, NESAs-approved Year 11 entrepreneurship subject that will be delivered to 100 schools in 2026.

GIFT PROFILE

Gift name: **Startups @ School Experience**

Purpose: **Provides educational experience on technology-enabled entrepreneurship to Year 9 and 10 students.**

Laying the foundations for future success

The vision of UTS alumni, Samuel Hordern and Ajay Bhatia, was the catalyst for a paradigm shift in entrepreneurship education.

"If you're giving a gift to get a program off the ground, supporting an organisation with entrepreneurship experience like UTS makes sense," says Ajay Bhatia, CEO of mobile.de, Germany's largest vehicle market.

"As a graduate of the university, it's a privilege to leverage my own success to potentially lay the foundations for someone else's."

The gap between Narika Johnson's cultural and classroom experiences inspired her education journey.

Celebrating Indigenous excellence with a unique scholarship

The inaugural recipient of the Robyn Kemmis Indigenous Student Scholarship, Narikah is embracing the powerful role that education plays in promoting equity, understanding and community.

Narikah Johnson's own experience at school was the catalyst for her teaching career.

"I come from an era where, in schools, we're taught that Captain Cook found Australia," says Narikah, a recent UTS Education graduate.

"Learning that and understanding my cultural background and my identity displaced my understanding of who I am as an Aboriginal person. That's what pushed me to go to uni and become a teacher."

At UTS, Narikah became the first-ever recipient of the Robyn Kemmis Indigenous Scholarship, which supports Indigenous women to pursue a tertiary qualification. Now, she's ensuring that other Indigenous kids hear the true

stories of their culture and feel a sense of belonging at school.

"One Koori kid came up to me and she said, 'You're Aboriginal, hey?' She was so happy. She had the biggest smile on her face, and she started pointing out all the Koori kids to me." Narikah says.

"To see that impact for kids I didn't know, I just felt it in my spirit and my soul and thought yeah, this career is for me."

Creating pathways for the next generation of Indigenous excellence is the golden thread that connects Narikah with the Robyn Kemmis Indigenous Scholarship and more than 100 women activists, educators and community members who banded together to make the scholarship a reality.

The scholarship was created through an outpouring of community support honouring the life and work of Robyn Kemmis, former UTS Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Administration, after her untimely passing in 2016. Funded primarily by women, for Indigenous

women, with minimal restrictions and an annual living stipend included, it was thoughtfully crafted to maximise flexibility and impact.

"When I got the phone call from UTS telling me that I received the scholarship, I was over the moon," Narikah says.

"A lot of scholarships aren't catered to women, or there's an age cap, or it's for a specialty [study area]. There aren't a lot of scholarships like this."

The impact of these sorts of awards can be felt across the university, says Pro Vice-Chancellor for Indigenous Leadership and Engagement, Robynne Quiggin, AO.

"We are continually building UTS's ability to attract, celebrate and support Indigenous students like Narikah and their multiple contributions to education, research and culture on campus. Donations and community engagement amplify this work and provide an additional layer of support to students."

GIFT PROFILE

Gift name: **Robyn Kemmis
Scholarship**

Purpose: **Supports an Indigenous
female student to study
at UTS.**



UTS Education Graduate Narikah Johnson with
Christine Vella, Learning Development Lecturer
at the Jumbunna Institute for Indigenous
Education and Research.



A decorative graphic consisting of two overlapping squares: a red one in the foreground and a white one behind it, positioned to the left of the main text.

Thank you

Thank you to our donors for believing in UTS's vision for a better tomorrow, and for all you make possible.

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