

UTS Donor Impact Report



2019



Together, we're changing lives, transforming communities and realising our vision to be a leading public university of technology recognised for our global impact.

Alina's life changed after receiving the prestigious Bachelor of Information Technology Co-operative Scholarship.

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Acknowledgement of Country

UTS acknowledges the Gadigal People of the Eora Nation and the Boorooberongal People of the Dharug Nation upon whose lands our campuses stand. We would also like to pay respect to Elders both past and present, acknowledging them as the custodians of knowledge for these lands.

With sincere thanks

As I look back on 2019, I'm inspired and tremendously proud to see how much UTS has achieved in partnership with our community of supporters. It's with our deepest thanks that we present this report, which demonstrates some of the ways you have enabled the university to make a positive impact in the world.

I firmly believe it is our sense of community and our passionate commitment to serving society that makes UTS such a wonderful place to work and study. We are a university dedicated to the public good and proud of it.

Once again, our generous supporters have played a crucial role in enabling us to achieve real-world impact – whether through research, cutting-edge technology, student scholarships or innovative programs that transform lives.

To everyone in our philanthropic community who supported UTS initiatives in 2019: thank you. Every donation whether great or small, and every gift of time and expertise, brings us closer to achieving our shared vision of delivering global impact.

In particular, I'd like to acknowledge the Boyarsky Family Trust, the Eden Foundation, the Stanford Australia Foundation, the Neilson Foundation and the Ian Potter Foundation – to name but some – for their support in driving socially impactful research at UTS.

I would also like to acknowledge the philanthropic support of donors such as Dr Chau Chak Wing, Laurie Cowled, the estate of the late William Robson Sinclair, construction group Salini Impregilo, Hansen Yuncken, Rob Coombe and the Rotary Club of Sydney Soukup Memorial Scholarship Foundation. Their generosity and belief in the transformative power of

education makes it possible for students to overcome barriers to attend university.

As UTS strives to find answers to society's most complex problems, we also welcome the opportunity to learn more about our donors' passions and priorities and how, together, we can bring about real and lasting change.

On behalf of UTS, thank you for choosing to be part of our growing community of supporters. We are enormously grateful for every gift and the remarkable difference you are helping us to make in the communities we serve.



Professor Attila Brungs
Vice-Chancellor and President

“Once again, our generous supporters have played a crucial role in enabling us to achieve real-world impact – whether through research, cutting-edge technology, student scholarships or innovative programs that transform lives.”



Thank you.

Your generosity has a powerful impact

With your support, we're transforming students' lives, supporting vital research and driving innovation. Here's some of what we've achieved together in 2019.



\$3m +
raised for groundbreaking global research

19
unique research projects funded by donors



595
Diversity Access Scholarships awarded

2168 +
consultations provided by the Financial Assistance Service



187
scholarships awarded to Indigenous identifying students

117
Indigenous high school students participated in the UTS Galuwa Experience



20
Humanitarian Scholarships for refugee students



115
disadvantaged students assisted with laptops, software and digital access



214
grocery vouchers provided

179
equity grants given to disadvantaged students struggling with the cost of living

56
rental subsidies granted



\$312k
raised by the Staff Giving Program



12.5%
increase in staff donors since 2018



535
emergency grants and vouchers issued

Building a legacy for tomorrow's engineers

By leaving a gift to UTS in his Will, the late Mr William Robson Sinclair is helping young engineers like Allissa overcome barriers to education.

Allissa Abrenica was 13 when her family moved to Australia from the Philippines. She juggled three part-time jobs during high school – waking up at 4am to deliver newspapers before school, packing bookshelves in the library after school and working in a laundry on weekends – and still managed to excel at her studies. But her hard work came at a cost.

“It’s sad to say, but looking back I didn’t enjoy high school. I was still adjusting to Australian culture, and I didn’t have time to make friends or do anything else apart from study,” says Allissa.

But Allissa was aiming high. She was determined to study a Bachelor of Civil Engineering at UTS – and hoped to secure scholarship support. “I didn’t want to burden my parents financially,” she says.

A life-changing scholarship

Allissa achieved her goal in 2012, becoming one of the first recipients of the prestigious WJ & LM Sinclair Scholarship.

Each year the scholarship awards up to \$100,000 over five years to one or two new engineering applicants facing educational barriers. The scholarship is made possible through the generosity of the late Mr William Robson Sinclair, and that of the extended Sinclair family, including the Donaldson and Kingston families.

For students like Allissa, the impact is life-changing. “It shaped how I see life now,” she says. “I was given a sense of financial security that I’d never had before. It was the first time I could prioritise experiences and opportunities, not just how much I will earn.”

And it was this philosophy that led her to pursue her passion after graduating in 2017 – a career as a Sustainability Consultant at WSP.

“I always knew I’d end up in an environmental or humanitarian field of engineering,” says Allissa. “I’m working really hard to reduce the

environmental impact of development, because I believe in creating a better world for future generations.”

Despite her many achievements, Allissa says she’s most proud of the way her world view has changed since receiving the scholarship. “I feel like I’ve experienced so many things, because of who I am,” she says. “I can be really proud of finishing my degree and being in a job I really love, but ultimately it’s all because of how I see things.”

And for that, she thanks the late Mr William Robson Sinclair.

“I’m always going to remember William Sinclair as someone who has helped me, and a lot of other people,” she says. “And I want the same thing. I want to pass on my knowledge, and be remembered as someone who helped.”



“I want to express my gratitude towards the late William Sinclair and his family. Their generosity has shaped who I am now and how I see things.”

Allissa Abrenica

Protecting the planet's invisible heroes

UTS scientists are discovering vital answers to the ocean's mysteries, thanks to funding from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation.

Marine microbes outnumber all other forms of ocean life, accounting for 98 per cent of the ocean's biomass. They play a crucial role in the earth's health, producing half the oxygen on the planet and removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. And yet there is still a lot we don't know about these important organisms.

That is why the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation established the Marine Microbiology Initiative, gifting over US\$250 million to world-leading marine scientists since 2004 – including a US\$3 million grant to UTS Professor Justin Seymour in 2013, and US\$1 million to UTS Professor Martina Doblin in 2018.

“Before they got involved, marine microbiology was still an emerging field and there wasn't a lot of research funding for it,” says Professor Seymour, leader of the Climate Change Cluster (C3) Ocean Microbes and Healthy Oceans Research Program. “Gordon and Betty Moore were looking for areas they could transform, and they've done that.”

The secret lives of microbes

“Every millilitre of water in the ocean contains over a million microbes, which is the equivalent of 100 million times the number of stars in the visible universe,” says Professor Seymour. “The ocean is really a microbe soup. They form the base of the food web, and perform the chemical cycling that ultimately influences how the ocean can control climate. If we really want to understand how they're affecting things at a large scale, we need to understand what affects them in their day to day life.”

With the support of the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, Professor Seymour and his team have made groundbreaking discoveries. “The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation encourages high risk research, which gives you more flexibility to try for 'blue sky' outcomes,” he says. “Their support allowed us to take the first steps into understanding microbes within their environment, which has opened up a lot of new questions. And the technology we developed for the project has interested scientists all over the world.”

Predicting an unknown future

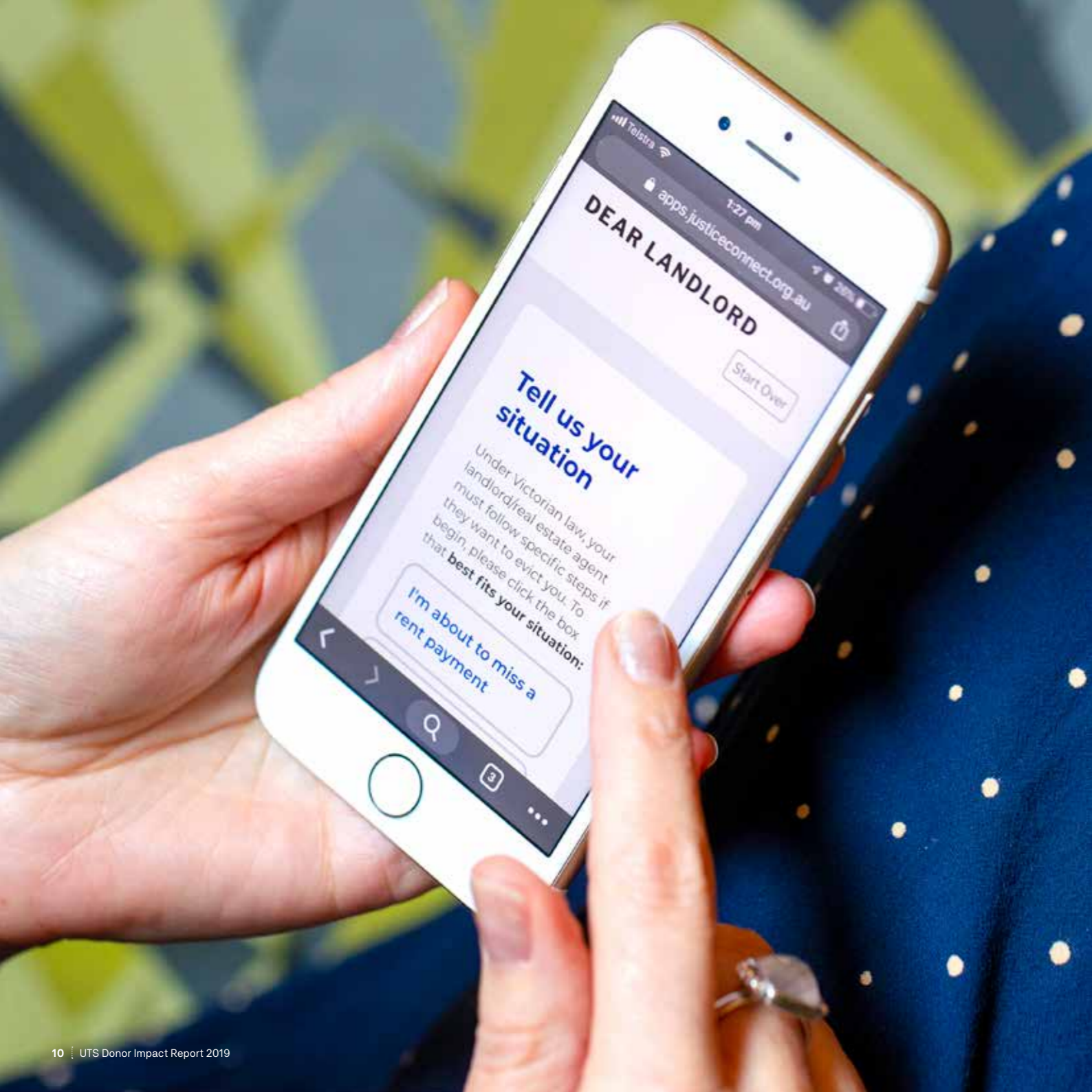
Professor Martina Doblin, leader of the C3 Productive Coasts Program, is also breaking new ground with her research. Supported by the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, she's collaborating with scientists in the US and UK to create a more accurate picture of the future ocean, by understanding how marine microbes may respond to changing conditions.

“The world will change in fundamental ways if we continue to increase our greenhouse gas emissions and if the ocean exceeds 1.5 °C warming,” explains Professor Doblin. “This research will help us predict what may happen to ocean life, so we'll have the opportunity to plan for it.”

Without the pioneering discoveries of earlier Marine Microbiology Initiative projects, research like Professor Doblin's wouldn't be possible. “When I think about science, I think about team work. It isn't just up to one individual – researchers need to come together,” she says. “The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation is one of the only philanthropic organisations that facilitates worldwide collaboration and encourages it.”



Professor Justin Seymour and Professor Martina Doblin from the UTS Climate Change Cluster (C3).



Innovating social justice

Thanks to the generosity of Neota Logic and leading law firm Allens, UTS Law students are combining talent and technology to make a difference in the not-for-profit sector.

In just three years, UTS Law students have created 15 unique apps for not-for-profit organisations – and all are still in use today. They are part of the Allens Neota Law Tech Challenge for Social Justice, where student teams work with Allens lawyers to design tech solutions for partner NGOs, using software generously donated by Neota Logic.

The program culminates in an annual showcase event, where teams compete for the top prize of Best Social Justice Application. But it's not just the winning apps that have made an impact.

"This challenge demonstrates that through partnerships, teamwork and collaboration, students can adapt technology to solve legal problems," says Beth Patterson, UTS Law Honorary Professional Fellow.

Preventing homelessness in Victoria

Dear Landlord tied for the top prize in 2018, celebrated for its innovative approach to helping renters in precarious situations. Designed for the not-for-profit Victorian legal organisation Justice Connect, the app provides information to tenants facing eviction, and helps them draft a letter to their landlord or real estate agent.

"The idea for Dear Landlord first came from our Women's Homelessness Prevention Project," says Katie Ho, Senior Project Lawyer, Homeless Law at Justice Connect. In Victoria, you only need to be two weeks behind in rent before your landlord can begin eviction proceedings. In fact, over 60 per cent of women Justice Connect has helped through the project have been evicted due to rental arrears.

"We often see people here who are already strapped for cash, living hand to mouth with kids and other financial responsibilities. Then something happens, like their car breaks down, or they receive an unexpected medical bill, and they're behind," says Katie.

Students worked with Justice Connect and Allens to research, design and implement a solution that would not only help these tenants better understand their legal rights, but help keep a roof over their heads. "Often, people don't realise they have options when they receive a notice of eviction. But there are some pretty simple steps people can take to avoid an eviction for rental arrears," says Katie. "Dear Landlord helps them take those steps, without feeling overwhelmed by legal jargon."

Empowering Indigenous organisations

Developed for the inaugural challenge in 2017, the Connection Hub app now plays a vital role in the recruitment of Indigenous sector talent through The Aurora Project.

"Because the sector is so under resourced, one of the biggest challenges for Indigenous sector organisations is recruiting the right people," says Kim Barlin, Internships Manager at The Aurora Foundation. Created using Neota Logic software, the Connection Hub is a simple tool that links Indigenous organisations with Aurora Project alumni, making it easier for Indigenous organisations to find candidates who are both experienced and passionate about working in the sector.

"It's very streamlined and easy to use – you basically just fill in the details and attach a job description," says Kim. "But I think the ripple effect is what will have the most impact on the bigger picture. Attracting good people to the Indigenous sector is worthy of note, because their hard work will be rolled over into the communities our organisations serve."

Supporting student success

Staff donors like Dr David Van Reyk are empowering students like Madison to achieve their university dreams.

After 19 years as a lecturer in the Faculty of Science, Dr David Van Reyk understands the importance of supporting students beyond the classroom.

“We can complain bitterly about students not turning up to lectures, but maybe they would participate more if most of their time wasn’t spent worrying about how they’re going to pay the next bill,” he says.

Dr Van Reyk is a passionate advocate for the UTS Staff Giving Program, which has helped countless students facing disadvantage not only achieve their dream of coming to university, but thrive while they’re here.

“I don’t hesitate to donate. It’s not a big amount of money, but if enough people do it, it becomes a big amount of money,” says Dr Van Reyk. “Plus, in supporting non-traditional students, you’re bringing people into your classroom, research or eventually even staff with new perspectives and stories which can only enrich the discipline.”

Fighting for a future

Four years ago, Madison Ritchie was preparing for her Year 12 exams when her life changed forever. “I woke up one day and noticed a lump on my pelvis,” she explains. “Within a week or two it tripled in size, and my health dramatically declined.”

At 17, Madison was diagnosed with a rare cancer called rhabdomyosarcoma. The tumour was stage 4, and inoperable. “The doctor said I had three months to live,” she says. “But I’m a bit of a stubborn person, so I was like ‘I’ll get back to you on that.’”

Thankfully, the treatment worked – and Madison is cancer-free today. But it did bring some life-long consequences. “It left me infertile, and permanently in menopause,” says Madison. It was difficult news to cope with, but it ultimately led Madison down a new path – studying to become a midwife. “Through my healing journey, I discovered the idea of empowering other women. Even though I might not be able to give birth, I felt strongly that this was my purpose.”

A new beginning

Last year, Madison moved from the Central Coast to begin a Bachelor of Nursing at UTS – her first step towards a career as a midwife. And although she’s successfully completed her first year, it hasn’t all been smooth sailing.

“It’s been hard,” explains Madison. “Moving to Sydney was expensive, and I still have ongoing doctors’ appointments, plus dealing with chronic fatigue and impaired cognitive function from my treatment. As much as I try to think I’m like everybody else, I do struggle with university so much more.”

That’s why she’s so grateful for the practical and financial support the UTS Staff Giving Program helps to provide. Staff donors give disadvantaged students access to subsidised student housing, course materials, scholarships, grants and much more. “It’s pulled me through this year entirely. I wouldn’t be living in Sydney without it,” says Madison. “It’s changed my life.”

“Thank you, a million times. I’m so excited to continue with my degree. I’m so excited for all of it. And no matter how long it takes, whatever may happen on my journey, I know I will get there.”

Madison Ritchie



Madison Ritchie with staff donor
Dr David Van Reyk.



“If we can play an active part in encouraging women to become future technology and business leaders, we can make a positive difference to the world.”

Richard White, WiseTech Founder and CEO

Left to right:
Alina Sherbakov,
Richard White
and Dr Julia Prior.

Nurturing the next generation of tech talent

Tech innovator Richard White is creating opportunities for future technologists, providing industry experience and financial support for students like Alina.

WiseTech Global CEO and Founder Richard White is committed to challenging the status quo. And for him, that begins by fostering a creative, honest and inclusive company culture.

“At WiseTech, we recruit people not just for their technology skills but their qualities as true innovators,” explains Richard.

WiseTech Global generously supports a number of UTS initiatives focused on bringing diverse talent into the sector – from the WiseTech Global Prizes to the Software Development Studio program and Bachelor of Information Technology Co-operative Scholarship.

“We’re focused on diversity in our hiring,” says Richard. “And we especially want to encourage young women to learn technology skills in school, and choose high-value careers in technology.”

Creating aspiration

When Alina Sherbakov began her Bachelor of Information Technology (IT) at UTS in 2016, she never dreamed that just two years later she’d be working as a Software Developer at WiseTech.

Alina’s life changed after receiving the

prestigious Bachelor of Information Technology Co-operative Scholarship, co-sponsored by UTS and industry leaders including WiseTech. Created to produce graduates with the potential to become Australian tech innovators, it provides up to \$49,000 and two industry placements to a number of high-achieving students studying IT each year.

“That scholarship is one of my proudest achievements so far,” says Alina. “Those placements accelerated my career.”

The financial support was also vital. Having only migrated to Australia at 14, Alina had no access to HECS. “It was a huge relief to me and my family,” says Alina.

But it wasn’t until she began her internship at WiseTech in 2017 that Alina realised her true passion for software development. “WiseTech taught me how to program by allowing me to experience real projects firsthand,” she says. “If it wasn’t for WiseTech, I might not have become a software developer.”

Technical skills, peer mentorship

UTS’s Software Development Studio subject, in which Alina worked with fellow students at WiseTech

to develop a brand-new program, provided additional opportunities.

“The best part was creating something from scratch,” says Alina. “It’s actually what I love most about technology. You only have each other’s talent and skills, and nothing else – except creativity and determination.”

Dr Julia Prior, who designed and leads the Software Development Studio program at UTS, says the course is designed to simulate professional experience. “Every team has an industry mentor,” she says. “But the students learn as much from each other, if not more, than they do from us – and they’ll go on to become each other’s industry networks and colleagues.”

And that’s true for Alina, who now works at WiseTech full time alongside many fellow UTS graduates – including CEO Richard White. “Students like Alina are our future, and if we support them by offering an environment that promotes bold ideas, dares people to challenge the status quo and innovate, with a focus on freedom and responsibility, then we are contributing to the betterment of us all by creating an intelligent, high-value workforce of the future,” says Richard.

Championing Indigenous achievement

Since receiving the prestigious Rotary Soukup Scholarship in 2016, Wiradjuri student Joel Cama has achieved amazing things.



Every year, the Rotary Soukup Scholarship awards a young Indigenous UTS student \$45,000 to help them succeed at university. Generously funded by George and Jenny Soukup, and administered by the Rotary Club of Sydney, the scholarship has a profound impact on the lives of scholars like Joel.

2015

Moved from Lithgow to study at UTS

After being accepted into a combined Bachelor of Sport and Exercise Management and International Studies, Joel became one of the first in his family to go to university.

“Moving from Lithgow to Sydney was a big wake-up call,” says Joel. “I thought I wouldn’t be able to afford to go away for International Studies, and considered dropping out.”

But Joel persisted. He received a Diversity Access Scholarship, to help with his living expenses, and started working part-time at UTS Activate.

2016

Received the Rotary Soukup Scholarship

When Joel found out he had received the Rotary Soukup Scholarship, he says it felt like a weight was off his shoulders.

Geoff and Gillean Wilbow, from the Soukup Scholarship Committee, say they’re passionate about the power of education to change lives. “When you give someone opportunities for education, you’re not only changing the life of that individual, you’re changing the life of the family – and ultimately, the community,” says Geoff.

According to Joel, the Wilbows provided tremendous support throughout the duration of the scholarship – and still do today. “It’s more than the money,” says Joel. “They make sure to build a relationship with you, and we meet up at least once a semester, sometimes more.”

2017

Managed the National Indigenous Games for UTS

With less financial stress, Joel was gifted more freedom to pursue his passions. “I gained a lot of confidence,” says Joel. “I felt comfortable to do a lot more work in helping build an Indigenous student community – and managing the games was a very important part of that.”

Not only did he step into the huge role of managing the National Indigenous Games, he also had the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to travel to Peru for a month with UTS’s Jumbunna Institute.

“It was a cultural exchange where we learned about Indigenous rights and international law,” explains Joel. “We were there for a month, and even spent a week with a community in the Amazon.”

2020

Offered a dream job with the NRL

In his last few weeks in Mexico, Joel applied for a job as a full-time Junior Production Assistant at the NRL – and was successful. He begins his new role in January 2020, and is planning to complete his final university subjects part time.

“If you said five years ago that I was going to do a double degree, go overseas, and get a job at the NRL – I would have laughed,” says Joel. “I’m really proud of myself.”

2019

Studied abroad for a year in Mexico City

As a part of his International Studies degree, Joel spent a year studying abroad in Mexico City.

“It was the best year of my life,” says Joel. “It was great to experience another culture and improve my Spanish.”

2018

Interned with the South Sydney Rabbitohs

As he continued to study, work and manage the UTS National Indigenous Games, Joel also completed a nine-month internship with the South Sydney Rabbitohs. It was a dream role for Joel, who has loved rugby all his life.

“I’ve been playing rugby league since I was five years old,” he says.

Empowering entrepreneurship

With generous support from the Eden Foundation, UTS has joined forces with Settlement Services International to accelerate refugee start-ups in Western Sydney.

Hedayat Osyan was forced to flee Afghanistan in 2009, after the Taliban attacked his village. He was only 17 and had no choice but to travel alone by boat to Australia. After being detained on Christmas Island, he was accepted as a refugee and given the opportunity to resettle in Sydney. But of course, starting from scratch in a new country isn't easy.

"I spoke zero English," Hedayat explains. "In Afghanistan, I'm from a minority group that isn't allowed to go to high school or university – there's a lot of discrimination and prejudice against our community. I had a very poor educational background and it was really challenging."

Overcoming obstacles

While working in construction to support himself, Hedayat persisted with English classes, went to high school and eventually university, completing a Bachelor of Politics and International Relations with Honours. He was preparing to begin his PhD when he learned about the exploitation of refugees and began a social enterprise.

"My friends asked me to provide a safe place for them, because I can speak English and have better networks," says Hedayat. "I started a tiling business as a place for them to work safely, while also providing informal English classes and mentoring during lunch breaks."

But starting a small business with no prior experience was challenging. "I was really struggling," admits Hedayat. Then a friend referred him to the Settlement Services International (SSI) Ignite® Small Business Start-Up program, which provided him with support for everything from setting up a website to organising a business license. "They became my mentors and main source of information," says Hedayat.

Igniting possibility

Hedayat is just one of over 500 people from refugee, asylum seeker and migrant backgrounds who have established small businesses through Ignite®. And now, thanks to a gift of more than \$500,000 from the Eden Foundation, UTS Business School has joined forces with SSI to co-deliver a three-year initiative: Ignite® Western Sydney.

Based in Marrickville, the new program aims to help at least 40 refugees establish new businesses through the successful Ignite® model, while also providing the expertise of the broader UTS community.

"At first glance refugees are the most unlikely entrepreneurs," says UTS Professor Jock Collins, who led the evaluation of the 2013 Ignite® pilot program. "However, through the Ignite® pilot program, SSI and UTS proved that refugees have great entrepreneurial potential. The program helped them build social networks and improve language skills as well as providing a way to overcome labour market barriers."

This is certainly true for Hedayat, who in just two years has employed 35 people, mentored 50 others, and is now adding more services and expanding his social enterprise to other cities.

With the generous support of the Eden Foundation and the combined expertise of UTS and SSI, Ignite® Western Sydney will continue to unlock the entrepreneurial potential of refugees like Hedayat, transforming lives and making a positive impact in communities.



"The Ignite® program is helping local entrepreneurs make big changes to society by providing opportunity to people who have been left behind."

Hedayat Osyan

Solving complex brain disorders

The Boyarsky Family Trust is helping the Centre for Neuroscience and Regenerative Medicine (CNRM) tackle some of the world's most serious health problems.

Until recently, devastating brain disorders like dementia and Parkinson's were considered unbeatable. Alzheimer's is currently the second-leading cause of death in Australia – and the leading cause of death for Australian women. Many of us know someone living with dementia, and diagnoses of Parkinson's, stroke, brain injury and motor neuron disease remain all too common.

But breakthrough CNRM research has changed this narrative forever, showing the extraordinary potential of new treatments for these disorders.

"I'm optimistic about science's ability to create a future where people are able to be successfully treated for Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's and dementia," says Professor Bryce Vissel, CNRM's Director.

Changing lives

The Boyarsky family is just one of thousands experiencing the impact of a disorder of the brain. As active

philanthropists, the family generously supports a number of charitable organisations around the world through the Boyarsky Family Trust. But with a loved one battling a degenerative brain disease, Vera Boyarsky and her son Andrew Boyarsky's belief in the CNRM's mission is personal.

"It became painfully clear to me that this area of research needs support in order to advance and improve the state of the people affected, and all those who care for them," says Vera. "It affects partners, families, communities and the whole of humanity."

Today, the Boyarsky's philanthropic support has not only greatly improved their own loved one's quality of life, but led to the exploration of new therapeutic strategies for Alzheimer's and Parkinson's.

"I have seen firsthand the incredible results that Professor Vissel and his amazing team have achieved," says

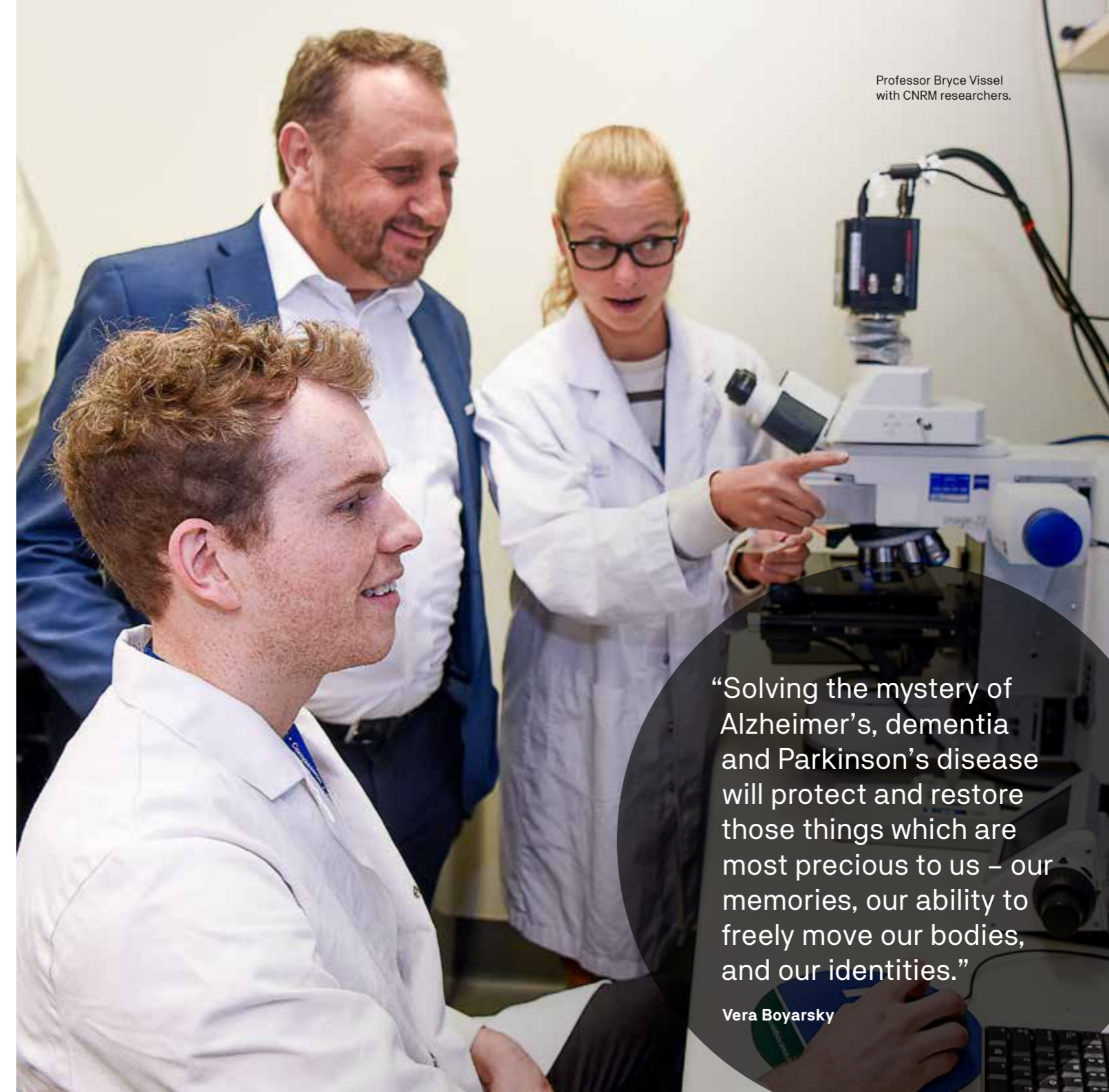
Vera. "We must make it possible for scientists who are so committed and so close to changing the world to continue their quest – not only for those who are already suffering, but for all of us looking to the future."

High-impact research

There is currently no cure for disorders of the brain – something CNRM is working hard to change. "In terms of brain diseases, the real question is: why don't we have cures? What's going wrong? And what do we need to fix that?" says Professor Vissel. "The Centre is about finding a new way forward, and the support of donors like the Boyarskys allows us to step outside the box and pursue new pathways that would otherwise be impossible."

But for Vera Boyarsky and her family, the impact of giving to CNRM is priceless. "What wouldn't we give for an extra moment with those we treasure most?" she says.

Professor Bryce Vissel with CNRM researchers.



"Solving the mystery of Alzheimer's, dementia and Parkinson's disease will protect and restore those things which are most precious to us – our memories, our ability to freely move our bodies, and our identities."

Vera Boyarsky

Alumni giving back

Every gift makes a difference

\$750k +
donated by alumni
since 2016

3357
alumni mentorships
offered since 2018

2831
internships offered by
alumni since 2018

2138
alumni offered to
volunteer in 2019



Diversity Access
Scholarship
recipient
Zachary Krahe.

A culture of giving

UTS alumni are changing lives – volunteering their time, offering job opportunities and generously donating to help students in need.

Zachary Krahe is proud to be the first in his family to go to university. But after moving from a small rural town in Victoria to study at UTS, the high cost of living came as a shock.

“It felt impossible. Some weeks I only had \$20 to live on, sometimes I would go hungry,” says Zachary. “In my first year I failed two subjects, so I was really stressed out. I didn’t think uni was for me.”

Things changed after a teacher recommended Zachary apply for a Diversity Access Scholarship. These scholarships are supported by UTS alumni and donors who are passionate about empowering students in need.

“I received \$1000, which doesn’t seem like much,” Zachary says. “But it was really impactful, because if you divide that over the weeks you’re studying, that \$20 I had before becomes \$40 or \$50, and life becomes more manageable. It was the first time I could actually focus on my studies without the stress of going hungry or not being able to pay rent.”

Making connections

Soon, Zachary began working at the Alumni Outreach Program – a team of students tasked with calling alumni, reconnecting with them and letting them know about the events and initiatives UTS has on offer.

“I absolutely loved it,” says Zachary. “It was an opportunity to absorb knowledge from alumni, and give back by raising money for other students in need.”

Before long, one alumnus even offered Zachary an internship over the phone. “We had a conversation for almost an hour, and we got along really well,” says Zachary. “He set me up in a project with his company, and has been a great mentor ever since.”

Two years later, Zachary is still working for the same company in a dream role as a full-time SQL and Reporting Analyst. He’s completing his Bachelor of Science in Information Technology (IT) part time.

“It’s actually really beneficial doing both at the same time. At university I learn the theory and fundamentals, and I have the opportunity to apply them practically in the workforce,” says Zachary.

Giving back

Without the support of the UTS alumni community, Zachary isn’t sure he would still be at university – let alone find success in his chosen industry.

“Because of their generosity, I actually had food to eat,” says Zachary. “But the phone calls I had with alumni were equally beneficial. They gave me the confidence, connections and opportunity to understand and enter the workforce.”

That’s why Zachary is now committed to giving back as much as he can. With a full-time job, he’s been able to pay for his mother to visit specialists to assist with her disability, as well as donating to a variety of charitable causes.

“It’s not much at this stage, but I’m hoping it can be more in the future,” says Zachary. “I know that even by helping a little, it makes a big impact. That’s something I’ve really noticed throughout my life. When someone seeks help and gets that help, later on they’re likely to also give back. It creates a cycle of giving.”

Smashing the glass ceiling

Richard Crookes Constructions is committed to bridging the building industry's gender gap, providing financial support, job experience and guidance to students like Emily.

Since marvelling at the Sea Cliff Bridge on a school trip in Year 11, Emily Crozier has dreamed of creating physical spaces for people to connect and come together.

"When most people look at buildings they see concrete, steel and glass. What I see is the people and passion that goes into each project," she says.

This led Emily to pursue a double Bachelor degree in Civil Engineering and Creative Intelligence and Innovation at UTS, where she ran the UTS Women in Engineering Equity and Outreach Program, and spoke with young women at schools across Sydney.

"I think for many years, engineering and building became unappealing to girls because of the view that it's all about maths and physics. But I always say that engineering and building is all about connecting with people, being interested in them, and showing empathy at the right time," says Emily.

Creating new pathways

After undertaking multiple engineering work placements in her final year of university, Emily discovered a love for the building industry. She applied for the 2018 Richard Crookes Constructions Merit Scholarship for Women, which awarded \$7000 and a paid work placement to one female student in the Faculty of Engineering and IT or Design, Architecture and Building.

"I became really interested in working for Richard Crookes Constructions after seeing how much amazing work they were doing around UTS - their ability to go above and beyond really stood out to me. Especially with the UTS Central building," says Emily.

To her delight, Emily was awarded the scholarship. "The money was a bonus, but the practical experience I got was invaluable," says Emily. "Plus, I was lucky to be placed into a team with a female project manager, female design manager and a

couple of female engineers. It was clear from the beginning that Richard Crookes Constructions not only supports women, but empowers women-strong teams."

Women leading the way

Emily joined the team in October 2018, and has been working there ever since. "When I graduated, I actually had a couple of different offers from other companies, but I knew I wouldn't have been as happy or content as I am now," she says. "Richard Crookes Constructions has allowed me to take really big steps in my career. They're all about giving people opportunities, and you're a part of a team who genuinely wants to support you."

Construction Manager Bill Stavrinou recognised Emily's talent immediately. "The first time I met Emily, I knew she'd be an asset to our team - and to the industry," he says. "We're passionate about providing opportunities for the next generation, and believe that a diverse and inclusive culture drives the best project outcomes."

Emily Crozier leading her team on site for Richard Crookes Constructions.



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We also thank the generous donors who prefer to remain anonymous.

Continuing their support in 2019

We sincerely thank the following donors who continue to make an impact through their generous gifts.

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The Carla Zampatti Foundation

Lastly, we thank and acknowledge all those who plan to leave a gift to UTS in their Will.

Denis Comber
Ms Laurie Cowled
Phillip Goldwin
Punit and Mala Kanwar
Monika Law
Vice-Chancellor Emeritus
Ross Milbourne AO
Chancellor Emeritus Vicki Sara AO and Dr Jacqueline Martin
Olivia Simons
Dr Amanda and Mr Brad White
Jacqui Wise

Together with those who prefer to remain anonymous, this group demonstrates a shared belief in the transformative power of education.



Professor Martina Doblin from the UTS Climate Change Cluster (C3) is breaking new ground with her research.



Left to right: UTS Vice-Chancellor and President Professor Attila Brungs, Dr Jacqueline Martin and former UTS Chancellor, Emeritus Professor Vicki Sara AO.

Creating a lasting impact

Looking to the future, former UTS Chancellor, Emeritus Professor Vicki Sara AO and her partner Dr Jacqueline Martin made a life-changing gift to UTS in their Will.

Their generous pledge will support PhD and postdoctoral scholarships, ensuring students from all walks of life can fulfil their ambitions and make a positive difference in the community, regardless of their financial circumstances.

Thanking our youngest philanthropist



At just nine years old, Loulou Amielh-Gibson has become the youngest philanthropist to support UTS, donating \$200 – her life savings – to the UTS Wanago Program.

Loulou decided to make the donation after hearing her mother, who works in the Faculty of Engineering and IT, discussing the innovative Wanago STEM program in a meeting.

In an email to UTS Advancement, Loulou wrote:

I just want to let you know that I fulfilled the donation of \$200 for Wanago.

The reason that I have done this is because when I am an adult my wanted job is to be an engineer and to inspire other women to follow their goals and for them to find engineering is not just for one gender.

*Sincerely,
Loulou*

The name Wanago was inspired by young people who ‘want a go’. The program aims to create a future where all Australian high school students have the teachers, resources, opportunities and support to pursue careers in STEM – regardless of their gender, culture or socioeconomic circumstances.

Loulou, who has ambitions to be a hydraulic engineer, says she wants to inspire other people to reach for their dreams. In a second email, she wrote:

I want to let others know that even if something is stopping you, you can always do something special.

For example I’m only 9 and I did a donation to a university.

And the feeling is great when it happens.

Thank you so much for your guidance through this!

*A million thanks,
Loulou*



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