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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.

My deepest thanks

As I reflect on 2020, I'm overcome with gratitude for all UTS has accomplished in partnership with our community over the past year. It's with our deepest thanks that we present this report, which is a profound demonstration of the real and lasting impact we're making together.

From bushfires and floods to a worldwide pandemic, no one could have imagined the many difficulties we'd all face in 2020. And yet, in the most challenging of times, I was tremendously proud to witness the extraordinary spirit of generosity, kindness and resilience demonstrated by our community.

To all of you who supported UTS initiatives in 2020, thank you!

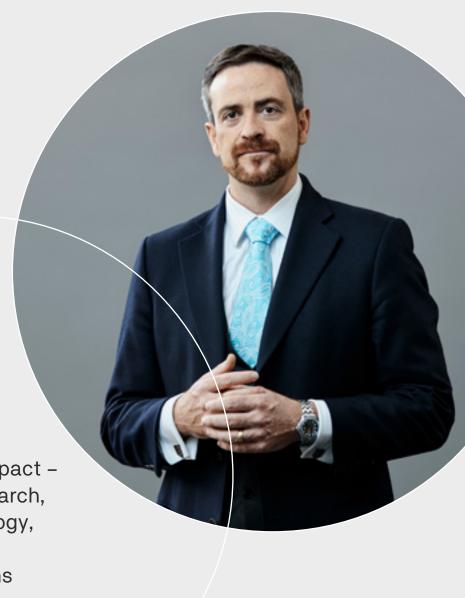
Every donation whether great or small, and every gift of time and expertise, plays a vital role in delivering public good - not just for those who walk through our doors, but for all of society. I'd like to acknowledge some new donations received in 2020 from the Nancy and Vic Allen Stroke Prevention Fund, the Schwartz Foundation and the Neilson Foundation, for their support of innovative UTS research. You continue to play a critical role in helping us find solutions that will improve lives, advance knowledge and transform society.

I would also like to acknowledge some new and renewed support from donors: the Miklos Family, the Oranges & Sardines Foundation, Ajay Bhatia, Arsen Tomsky, The Earley and Mosakowski Family, Wilson Asset Management, Peter and Sharon Ivany, and Zeke Solomon, The breadth and depth of the impact you are enabling is nothing short of inspiring.

The pandemic has taken a heavy toll on UTS and its community, and we are not yet through it. But, your incredible passion, drive and generosity gives me great confidence that we'll continue to work together to benefit our students. deliver research with impact, and bring about real and lasting change.

On behalf of everyone at UTS, please accept my sincerest thanks.

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."

Ihank

Your generosity has a powerful impact

Here's some of what we achieved together in 2020

In 2020, you helped transform students' lives....



695

Diversity Access Scholarships awarded to students facing financial hardship (16% increase from 2019)

In 2020, over 50% of your donations funded vital research...



\$4.5million+

given to groundbreaking research across 20 unique disciplines

In 2020, you championed Indigenous education...



\$1.84 million

donated towards Indigenous programs, including scholarships, research and the UTS Indigenous Residential College and Arts Centre



130+

scholarships awarded to Indigenous identifying students

In 2020, UTS staff gave more than ever before to support students and staff facing



769

emergency grants, rental subsidies and vouchers given to students struggling with the cost of living



\$1.6 million

was raised through the UTS Staff Giving Program

financial hardship...



24%

more UTS staff donated in 2020 than 2019



102%

more disadvantaged students assisted with laptops, software and digital access compared to 2019



In 2020, our community of generous supporters donated

\$9.44 million

towards UTS research, programs and scholarships

For the first time

UTS staff were also supported through the program



11

new refugee students awarded Humanitarian Scholarships covering their full undergraduate tuition costs



Helping children thrive

Academics from around the globe – including the UTS School of Mathematical and Physical Sciences – are using statistics to work out how to give children everywhere an equal chance to thrive.

UTS Professor Louise Ryan loves using the power of mathematics and statistics to find simple solutions to complicated real-world problems.

"I get a lot of satisfaction from translating complex questions into something quantifiable, then using the data to answer those questions," says Professor Ryan.

It was precisely this kind of expertise the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation needed for their Healthy Birth, Growth, and Development knowledge integration initiative (HBGDki), which aims to better understand the factors that prevent kids from thriving. As a part of this global initiative, in 2016 Professor Ryan and her team at UTS were given a \$1.26 million grant to analyse data from studies around the world, and develop evidence-based tools to identify effective strategies for intervention.

"The goal was to create a resource that would integrate lots of studies from many different interdisciplinary perspectives," explains Professor Ryan. "This data sharing platform would then provide a powerful framework to begin asking questions beyond the scope of any individual study – in this case,

interventions to support children in developing countries to grow and thrive."

Using data to improve children's health

Due to the burden of disease and malnutrition in low-income countries, every year a staggering 15 million premature babies are born, 150 million children have stunted growth, and 600 million children have impaired neurocognitive development – leaving entire generations far behind in reaching their potential¹.

Spearheaded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the HBGDki initiative aimed to address these three health issues by collating data from 170 studies, involving 11 million subjects across the world, while also drawing on expertise from diverse disciplines, including statistics, epidemiology, pharmacology and biology.

"Understanding the biological, social and environmental factors influencing poor growth in children – both negatively and positively – and the effect they can have on health and cognition in later life is essential to developing the most effective interventions," explains Professor Ryan.

As a part of this initiative, over 100 data scientists around the world were tasked with analysing data sets that would ultimately help develop nutritional, medical and even educational interventions. Professor Ryan and her team at the UTS School of Mathematical and Physical Sciences led the Sydney arm of this mission.

"We were really passionate about understanding what factors make children thrive, and identifying strategies that could help ensure the best outcome," says Professor Ryan. "Being able to find early markers of whether a child may have a health problem or intellectual impairment down the line is very powerful."

Leading change in not-for-profit

The Mark Lyons Scholarship recognises and supports future not-for-profit leaders. Generously funded by The Centre for Volunteering, it makes leadership and management skills accessible, strengthening the sector.

Sally Beesley spent a lot of time in hospital when she was in year eight. Due to a shortage of beds, she stayed on the baby's ward where she often helped the nurses – sparking a lifelong love of working with young children.

As the Education and Quality Manager at KU Children's Services, she now supports service directors and staff in providing quality education and care programs for pre-schoolers.

"Early education provides the foundations and instils a desire for lifelong learning from a young age," says Sally. "To be part of that is really quite special."

With a deep desire to make a greater impact in early education as a force for social good, Sally decided to develop her leadership skills through the Masters of Not-for-Profit and Social Enterprise Management program at UTS. Being awarded the generous Mark Lyons Not-for-Profit and Social Enterprise Management Scholarship was an unexpected bonus.

Strengthening a sector

To invest in the leadership and management capacities of the non-profit

sector, The Centre for Volunteering created the scholarship, in partnership with the UTS Business School. Honouring the late Mark Lyons, a pioneer in the study of the not-for-profit sector, the scholarship aims to strengthen organisations, promote the wellbeing of the community and overcome social disadvantage.

"Through this scholarship we want to support people in the sector and acknowledge their professionalism in the community," says Gemma Rygate, CEO of Centre for Volunteering.

As part of the scholarship students receive \$5,000 to help them overcome some of the common barriers that students face. For Sally, who is legally blind, the funds helped her access the course materials more easily.

"The team at UTS was already really good at supporting me. But thanks to the scholarship, I was able to get a new laptop with a larger screen that also reduces glare, which has made a huge difference in helping me complete my degree."

The scholarship also allowed Sally to focus on her research into universal access to

early childhood education. "It allowed me to get the research done and complete the degree in the time that I did. It has also helped me move towards the next level in my career."

Sally has already implemented a lot of the skills she developed throughout her degree.

"I drew on the strategic planning skills I learned when we went through a service restructure at the end of last year. I also learned a lot about the intricacies of not-for-profit services and how to design, deliver and assess social impact campaigns, which will be useful in the future."





Keeping truth and integrity alive in journalism

By providing students with \$5,000 and a unique opportunity to intern at a prestigious news outlet, the late Adele Horin is helping instil her own high ethical standards in a new generation of journalists.

With a last name that means 'truthful', perhaps investigative journalism was always on the cards for Amaani Siddeek. She is very interested in the human side of the craft and reporting on the stories that surround us every day.

"The stories that interest me the most are the ones that have a crossover between investigative and human interest," Amaani says. "They pertain so deeply to the psyche and the human experience. And I think journalism is just so in touch with the lived experiences of everyday people."

So when she heard about an opportunity to work full-time in The Guardian's newsroom through the Adele Horin Prize, she jumped at the chance.

A formative experience

In 2019, Amaani become the first recipient of the Adele Horin Prize, giving her the chance to experience a world-class newsroom environment and learn from the best in the industry.

Each year, the prestigious prize awards a successful student \$5,000 to fund an

immersive internship experience at a well-known news outlet. The prize was created in memory of Walkley award-winning investigative journalist Adele Horin and is made possible through the generosity of her loved ones.

And for budding journalists like Amaani, the opportunity is priceless.

"In unpaid internships you do the work of an employee without any of the benefits such as a nine-to-five structure or financial aid. As a young adult balancing university studies, extra-curricular activities and a personal life, this gets really difficult."

Through the prize, Amaani was able to experience the day-to-day running of a world-class newsroom and became part of the team – without the financial worries that might come with unpaid internships.

"My experience was phenomenal. I got to see what a well-oiled machine The Guardian is and how well they work together as a team. I feel like this opportunity, along with my degree, has equipped me with the skills and experience to go into the industry with confidence and a sense of security."

New perspectives

The internship has also left Amaani with a new sense of purpose – to engage Australians in real news that matters.

"Australia has such a complex social system and complex stories, yet our news is saturated with pop culture and celebrity gossip. So how do we produce news that's important and engaging about Australia, its involvement globally and about the minutiae of the communities that exist within us?"

With aspirations of working her way into investigative or documentary journalism, Amaani is keen to get her career started when she graduates at the end of 2021.

"Australia has such fertile ground for communication and I'm just really excited to be a part of that and to help showcase more stories out there."

New hope for debilitating conditions

UTS scientists are exploring potentially life-changing treatments for Multiple Sclerosis, respiratory illness and other medical conditions, thanks to the generous support of the Rebecca L Cooper Medical Research Foundation.

Founded in 1984, the Rebecca L Cooper Medical Research Foundation has strict criteria for assessing grant applications. Projects must have an innovative concept, with the potential to unlock new knowledge or treatment with significant impact on people's lives.

"As testament to its quality and breadth of research, UTS received three out of the 34 grants awarded by The Rebecca L Cooper Medical Research Foundation in 2020." says Leanne Arber, Executive Officer.

The Foundation has granted nearly \$500,000 to UTS since 2013, supporting research in areas including lung disease and neurological sciences. And these scientists are discovering hope in the smallest molecules.

A blueprint for respiratory research

Each year around three to five million people develop severe reactions to the influenza virus, and up to 650,000 die1.

People with chronic respiratory conditions such as asthma face a significantly higher risk of developing complications.

"It is estimated that by 2025 there will be an additional 165 million patients with chronic lung disease, all highly susceptible to infection," says Dr Kamal Dua, Senior Lecturer in the UTS Graduate School of Health.

Thanks to the support of the Foundation, Dr Dua is studying why a rise in microRNAs (relatively small biomolecules) makes the body more susceptible to infection.

"My aim is to not only reduce the prevalence and severity of the influenza virus infection, but also provide a blueprint for further medical research into other respiratory diseases."

New hope for MS patients

Multiple Sclerosis (MS) affects approximately 2.8 million people worldwide, with no known cure2. MS causes the immune system to attack cells, interrupting the flow of nerve impulses in the spinal cord and the brain. Symptoms can be varied and unpredictable, often leading to chronic pain and disability, and potentially death.

For the past decade, UTS Associate Professor Alessandro Castorina has been studying peptides in the body that protect neurons and support cells to prevent potential damage. Thanks to the Foundation, he's currently working on an exciting theory that could change the course of the disease.

"By treating an individual with these peptides, we think we can boost and protect supporting cells in the nervous system. We also hope to boost myelin generation, which can help reinstate depleted levels in MS patients significantly improving quality of life."

Associate Professor Castorina savs while a cure isn't here yet, new treatment can potentially delay the damage MS causes.





Inspiring generations of future designers

Garth Barnett's extraordinary legacy lives on through the achievements of the many UTS Design, Architecture and Building students who have won a prize or scholarship in his name.

When acclaimed interior designer Garth Barnett passed away in 2015, his friends established the Garth Barnett Scholarship Trust in his memory. Every year, the Trust grants six scholarships (valued between \$15,000 and \$24,000) to support UTS design students facing education disadvantage.

Additionally, the Garth Barnett Prize for Excellence in Design awards a \$20,000 first prize and two \$2,500 runner-up prizes for students with an exemplary portfolio of interior design work. In special instances, the runner-up prize money is increased substantially.

Since 2016, the Garth Barnett Trust has generously given over \$475,000 towards UTS scholarships and prizes – changing the lives of over 83 students like Claire and Michael.

Building confidence

Looking back on her time at UTS, Claire Perini says they were some of the happiest days of her life. But she admits that she was a nervous student at first. "I was 23 when I started at UTS," says Claire. "My nerves almost got the better of me in my first semester."

In 2016, Claire was awarded first runner-up after applying for the inaugural Garth Barnett Prize for Excellence in Design. "It was my first time ever receiving an award and winning helped build my confidence. I put the prize money towards my projects in my final semester, because I needed to have a really strong portfolio to present to employers when I finished my degree."

Empowering achievement

Michael Bennett's path to UTS was also unconventional. Despite already having a Bachelor of Music under his belt, and having finished high school more than a decade earlier, he was determined to follow his dream of becoming an architect by beginning his Bachelor of Design in Architecture.

He had been balancing work and study for two years when he discovered he and his wife had a baby on the way.

"When my son was born, we went from a
double income to a single income," says
Michael. "I was working as a musician,
but also as an architectural assistant
while studying in my third year."

Michael seized the opportunity to apply for the Garth Barnett Prize for Excellence in Design. He was awarded first runnerup and the judges increased his prize winnings to \$10,000. He and his wife both cried when they heard the news.

The prize allowed his family to move into a bigger home. But it was life-changing in more ways than one. "It was one of the main reasons I decided to continue with my Masters," he says. "It gave me more than just financial backing, it gave me confidence."

A community that cares

In 2020, UTS raised more than \$1.6 million dollars through the UTS Staff Giving Program, providing vital financial support to those who needed it most.

Despite the heavy toll of the pandemic on our community, the UTS Staff Giving Program raised more than ever before in 2020, with 24 per cent more staff donating than 2019. One of these staff donors was Lara Jacques, General Manager of the UTS Faculty of Science.

"Education is vitally important for what we do as a community," says Lara. "It's really nice to know that even a small donation that you're giving every fortnight is contributing to something so much bigger - and something more important and powerful than what any individual can achieve."

On a personal level, Lara understands better than most how much every dollar matters when you're working towards a degree. "When I was going through university as a mature aged student, I accessed scholarship support and I wouldn't have been able to continue without it." she explains, "Now that I am more established in my career, I really want to support as many students as I can - they are the reason we are here."

Every year, UTS's community of staff donors helps hundreds of students, but in response to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. 2020 was the first year that UTS staff were also supported through the program.

"The way our community came together to help each other through this very difficult time was inspiring," says Celia Hurley, Vice-President of UTS Advancement.

Empowering student success

For Jordan Cham, receiving a Diversity Access Scholarship in 2020 meant the difference between staying at university or dropping out of his double Bachelor of Business and IT degree. Since beginning his degree, he has worked daily in a fast food restaurant to make ends meet. Balancing his university commitments with work has been a challenge.

"I was so relieved when I found out I would be receiving the Diversity Access Scholarship," says Jordan. "People don't realise how expensive university is. There is no way I would have been able to afford my textbooks, food, and train fare from Campbelltown."

UTS staff donors played a vital role in supporting students through the COVID-19 pandemic, with their incredible generosity contributing to:

- 695 Diversity Access Scholarships for students facing financial hardship (16% increase from 2019)

- 102% more disadvantaged students assisted with laptops, software and digital access compared to 2019
- 769 emergency grants, rental subsidies and vouchers given to students struggling with the cost of living.

Behind each of these numbers are students like Jordan. "My parents grew up in Cambodia, and never had the opportunity to go to university. They taught me the importance of education, and I'm so proud of the fact that I got into UTS. I worked really hard to get here," he says.

"My own motivation is the main reason why I've managed to survive as long as I have at university. Mentally, the scholarship helped me a lot in this regard. When I first started university, I felt like I didn't belong here. But now I know that the university wants me to be here and to succeed. I do fit in and I am determined to make it through."





The ripple effect of empowering women

Growing up on a sheep property in rural NSW during the Depression, Laurie Cowled had aspirations to become a dancer, actor or artist. But opportunities for young girls were limited in the country and education was viewed as unnecessary.

She began her career in a bank as a typist but knew she could do any other job if she put her mind to it. When the bank invited women employed there to apply for equal opportunities in 1967, Laurie put herself forward and was one of just 30 women approved. For the rest of her career she carved out a successful path via a multitude of interesting jobs in the bank's international division.

Laurie then launched a second career – as a philanthropist. In 2010 Laurie established an annual scholarship specifically for an Indigenous woman. "I believe that education is the best way to close the gap," she says.

Larteasha Griffen, a Dunghutti woman from Kempsey in NSW, was the first scholarship recipient. Graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Communication (Journalism), Larteasha has since forged a successful career as a television producer and communications consultant.

Before receiving the scholarship, university life was bleak for Larteasha.

"I'd moved away from small town Kempsey ... I had no friends or family in the city so it was hard for me to resist the urge to move back home."

Receiving the scholarship was a game changer for the remainder of Larteasha's degree and it helped set the tone for life after graduation. "Scholarships make it possible for people like me, who grew up in a single, low-income household, to get an education and make a difference in their communities."

The flow-on effect of giving one woman a scholarship was an outcome Laurie predicted from the start. She has seen educated women become role models to their siblings, children and even their mothers. "Giving [a scholarship] to a woman is a very quick way of spreading education wider."

In addition to financing the scholarships, Laurie recently committed \$500,000 towards the construction of the UTS Indigenous Residential College – the first of its kind in Australia. More than a building, the College is a bold new approach to education. "The old model of higher education is to take Indigenous students out of their society into one not their own," explains Professor Michael McDaniel, UTS Pro Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous Leadership and Engagement). "Our concept, grounded in evidence, is to create a place of higher learning steeped in Indigenous values and boldly led by Indigenous academics."

The concept caught Laurie's attention immediately, particularly as it is based on bringing Indigenous and non-Indigenous students together. "Over time, the impact of bringing people together will be like throwing a pebble in a pond, [causing] positive ripples in all directions."

New donations in 2020

\$1,000,000 +

The Miklos Family
Oranges & Sardines Foundation

\$100,000 - \$999,999

Nancy and Vic Allen Stroke
Prevention Fund
Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney
Charles Warman Foundation
Garth Barnett Scholarship Trust
The Howland-Rose Foundation
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lain Watt

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Schwartz Foundation

Wilson Asset Management

\$50,000 - \$99,999

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Professor Attila Brungs

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Toby's Estate Coffee Roasters

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\$5,000 - \$24,999

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Continuing their support in 2020

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BioSceptre

The Blackmore Foundation

Blackmores Group

Bowen Therapists Federation of Australia

The Boyarsky Family Garry Browne AM Professor Attila Brungs

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