



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

Annual Giving Update

MARCH 2009

Thank you for making a difference



Astrid Engels

You've seen her picture. Now learn the story behind the smile.

You may recognise Astrid Engels as one of the student faces of last year's University Fund Annual Appeal. This year, Astrid shares the inspiring story of how a generous scholarship changed her life.

Many of Astrid Engels' school friends were confused by her desire to pursue a university education. Originally from Belgium, Astrid moved to New Zealand at the age of nine and to Australia at the age of 13. Her early experiences of different cultures instilled in her the desire to travel and learn. Growing up in rural Shepparton, she found many of her high school friends did not share this goal. "At the school I went to in Shepparton, many of my friends didn't really see university as an available option," the University of Melbourne science student said. "I always wanted to go, but some of them tried to persuade me otherwise because they didn't want me to leave."

In order to complete the VCE subjects necessary to qualify for university, Astrid was forced to travel to different high schools in rural Victoria each week. She also worked two jobs throughout Year 12 to save to support herself as a student. But as graduation approached, she feared she would not be able to afford to pursue her goal. "I'd like to think that the moment you achieve your ENTER score everything is downhill from there," she said.

"But once you get to university, you need to be able to afford to survive."

Had she not received a Melbourne Access Scholarship, Astrid may not be living and studying at the University of Melbourne today. She is in her second year of a new Melbourne Model Bachelor of Science, and is considering majoring in psychology. Astrid said her scholarship had allowed her to live and embrace university life. "Money enabled me to pursue my dream, an education, and that's something no one can put a price on," she said. "When I graduate, instead of having a huge debt above my head, I can breathe and tackle the world head on."

For the last two years, the University's highest priority has been to build the Future Generation Scholarship Fund, and income from this endowment has been used to support the Melbourne Access Scholarship program for students such as Astrid.

To find out more about supporting students through scholarship endowments please contact the Advancement Office on:
+61 3 8344 1751 or
alumni-office@unimelb.edu.au

The University of Melbourne's 20th Anniversary Annual Appeal is launching in May. We look forward to your continued support. Turn overleaf to see the impact your donations are having now.

Snapshot of Giving 2008

Message from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Global Relations) (Acting)

The value of cash giving to the University overall increased 24% on 2007 to a total of more than \$14million. This included increases in major gifts, in Wills and bequests, and in our University Fund Annual Appeal.

The following pages provide you with details about the results of last year's Annual Appeal and the impact those funds are already having across the University – for students, faculties, research, libraries and cultural collections.

We also had a record year for expanding our program for our alumni and other supporters. As well as our previous programs, the number of alumni and exclusive donor functions on campus expanded, and alumni events were held for the first time in many years in regional Victorian centres such as Ballarat, interstate in Perth, and abroad in cities including Jakarta, Toronto, and Washington DC.

An ongoing effort to reconnect with our supporters has now increased our active email database to 60,000. More than 13,000 alumni completed our Alumni Preferences Survey, which will allow us to improve the kinds of services we offer, and tailor our communications to the needs and interests of individual supporters.

Few would attempt to predict whether the worst of the global crisis is now over, or whether there is more to come. But wherever I go and whoever I see, I continue to be moved by the depth of passion people feel for higher education, by their reserves of good will for the University, and by their continued kindness and generosity, even in the most difficult times. To all our supporters my heartfelt thanks for your continuing support.

Professor Warren Bebbington
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Global Relations) (Acting)

The University Fund 2008

The University Fund Annual Appeal remains the cornerstone of philanthropic support at the University of Melbourne. Through the Fund, as well as through the provision of major gifts and bequests, alumni and friends are helping to enable the University to make distinctive contributions to society and to ensure we attract the best and brightest students regardless of their circumstances.

In line with the value of cash giving to the University overall which increased 24% on 2007, the University Fund Annual Appeal continued to grow thanks to our ever increasing and committed donor support. 2008 saw the launch of the University's first telephone campaign, which happened to overlap with the worst two weeks of the Wall Street meltdown, yet resulted in our generous alumni and friends pledging more than \$230,000. More than one third of those called responded to our enthusiastic student callers with a gift. Patterns of giving, it seems, do not always shadow movements in the sharemarket.

The overall giving total for 2008 of \$902,469 exceeded 2007, however a growing proportion of our donors (66%) preferred to give to University-wide priorities such as scholarships and research rather than to specific faculties or areas.

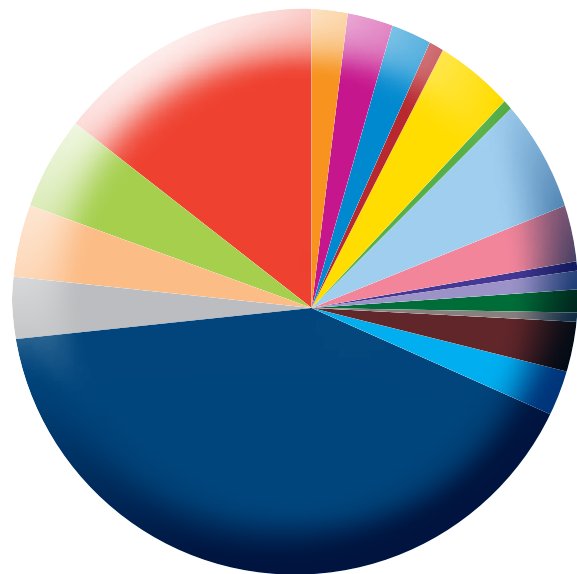
2008 University Fund Allocations

Gifts to the University Fund are allocated according to the wishes of our donors. Students, faculties, research, libraries and cultural collections all benefited from the generosity of our alumni and friends in 2008.

Architecture, Building & Planning	\$17,570.00
Arts	\$24,686.48
Economics & Commerce	\$20,297.50
Education	\$6,903.33
Engineering	\$39,747.61
Land and Environment	\$5,520.00
Law	\$58,131.00
Medicine, Dentistry & Health Sciences	\$29,871.08
Medley Hall (residential college)	\$5,000.00
Music	\$8,594.17
Science	\$13,816.78
Veterinary Science	\$4,325.00
Victorian College of the Arts	\$27,545.00

University-wide:

Financial Aid	\$26,187.00
Highest Priorities (Future Generation Scholarships Fund)	\$374,694.00
Library & Cultural Collections	\$29,711.30
Research	\$35,628.00
Scholarships & Bursaries	\$45,927.00
Other: US Foundation	\$128,314.00
Total:	\$902,469.00



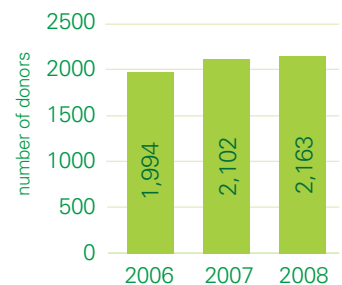
Annual Appeal donor giving trends

The graphs below show how both participation and donations are increasing from alumni and friends. This philanthropic support is helping to enable the University of Melbourne to provide opportunities for future generations.

Annual Fund donations 2006–2008



Annual Fund donors 2006–2008



Thank you to everyone who supported the University in 2008. For more stories on the impact of your giving and the full honour rolls of all our generous donors, please visit the online version of this year's Report to Donors at www.unimelb.edu.au/alumni/giving/report.html

Donors give aspiring international law scholar a boost to success



Sienna presenting her legal argument in Melbourne Law School's moot courtroom in front of fellow Jessup Moot team members, David Heaton, Seamus Coleman, and Sonja Zivak (L-R).

Like many students studying at the University of Melbourne, Sienna Merope has worked hard to attend law school. A record of financial need, only partly offset by part-time work and government support, along with a history of excellent academic results, made Sienna an ideal candidate for financial assistance. In 2008 she was awarded a Melbourne Law School Scholarship, made possible by donations directed to the Law School through the University Fund Annual Appeal.

Sienna notes that, without financial assistance, she has no spare income and no capacity to engage in many of the beneficial opportunities that the University offers. "Scholarships and financial aid allow me to take the time – in which I would otherwise need to be working at a paid job – to volunteer with the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre; or pursue educational activities such as the Jessup Moot, a prestigious public international law mock trial competition. It also means that I can attend interstate conferences and undertake subjects that have costs attached to them such as a recent international law subject in Geneva."

Financial assistance is vital to ensure that students gain access to higher education and to the opportunities which come along with university life. Scholarships make the difference between managing to get by and being able to participate in activities that complement and enrich students' academic interests. Expressing his gratitude for the generous donor support provided through the University Fund Annual Appeal, the Deputy Dean of Melbourne Law School, Associate Professor Simon Evans, said that, "Our goal is to attract the finest students from the broadest possible range of cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds. We can only achieve that if we limit the financial burden on our students through scholarships and financial support. Annual Appeal funds are helping us do just that."

By Cassie May

Helping forgotten treasures to sparkle once more

A historic collection of paintings that lay deteriorating under the home of a great Melbourne artist for decades will be transformed back to their former glory.

This is largely thanks to donors who have directed their University Fund Annual Appeal contribution to supporting the University's cultural collections. Seven of the 20 early life studies, painted by the late Marion Jones in the early 1900s, have already been beautifully restored by students for future preservation and enjoyment.

University painting conservator Cushla Hill, from the Centre for Cultural Materials Conservation, had her heart set on restoring the fragile artworks for many years. Some of the paintings were donated to the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA) in 1977 by the artist's nephew, Rex Jones. In 2003 the VCA received the balance of the collection, by way of a bequest in Mr Jones' Will.

Last year, the restoration of these paintings was finally able to go ahead, thanks to funds raised in the University Fund Annual Appeal. Ms Hill and VCA Curator Meredith Turnbull received a grant to buy new restoration materials, including custom-made canvas stretchers. Students treated seven of the fragile artworks under Ms Hill's guidance.

"Conservation materials are very expensive – each new stretcher cost \$200, which could have prohibited the project going ahead," Ms Hill said.

The project involved supervised students examining and testing the damaged works, before developing treatment proposals to stabilise them. Master of Cultural Materials Conservation student Benita Dass-Grasse, one of the students working on the collection, said the project had been an excellent opportunity for hands-on experience.

"I think to begin with, we were all quite daunted but also excited to put a lot of the theory we had learned into practice," she said. Benita treated a painting that was particularly badly



Master of Cultural Materials Conservation student Benita Dass-Grasse working on the collection

damaged and distorted, due to being rolled up in poor storage for many decades. A thick layer of white deposition covered the entire painting surface. "This obscured the image of the portrait quite badly," she said. "But after cleaning, flattening and re-stretching the work, it was dramatically improved."

The newly-transformed paintings will be returned to the VCA for display, research and safe-keeping. Ms Hill said they were important historical documents that would inform students about early 20th century Australian art practice and teaching methods.

"Having restored these paintings, with the University's ongoing conservation principles, they may now last several centuries, rather than languishing in a box and deteriorating further," she said. "As a collection, I think they can only get more significant."

By Fiona Willan



Issued by the Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Global Relations) (Acting), March 2009

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this report. If any error or omission has occurred, please notify the Advancement Office.

For more information about:

Supporting the University of Melbourne

Advancement Office
The University of Melbourne
Level 3, 45 Barry Street
Carlton 3053
AUSTRALIA

Postal address:
Advancement Office
The University of Melbourne
Victoria 3010
AUSTRALIA

Email:
alumni-office@unimelb.edu.au
Tel: +61 3 8344 1751
Fax: +61 3 9348 0013
Web:
www.unimelb.edu.au/alumni

For specific enquiries about:

The Annual Appeal

Annual Giving Coordinator
Advancement Office
l.moore@unimelb.edu.au
+61 3 8344 1756
Web: www.unimelb.edu.au/alumni/giving/unifund.html

The Bequest Program & Heritage Society

Bequest Manager
Advancement Office
s.girling-butcher@unimelb.edu.au
+61 3 8344 1056
Web: www.unimelb.edu.au/alumni/giving/bequests/

Sharing Donor Stories

Giving back to their special place

It was a harmonious beginning to a relationship that would span a lifetime and many musical scores. But it wasn't love at first sight for Des and Ruth Bright when they met in 1948 through the University of Melbourne Choral Society (MUCS) – they were both focused on their academic studies and singing.



Dr Ruth Bright, AM, (BMus (1953), DMus (2002)) with her husband, Dr Desmond Bright (BE(Mech) (1947), BA (1949), PhD Eng (1954))

Dr Ruth Bright, AM, (BMus (1953), DMus (2002)) – then Ruth Ockenden – was a music student who had come to Australia from the UK. She joined the choir on her first day at university. The friendly engineering student/choir secretary who welcomed her was the man who later became her husband. "There was nothing at all romantic about our first meeting," Ruth said. "It was a 'How do you do?'"

When romance blossomed two years later, they spent lunch breaks together listening to records in the University library. "We were both broke, so we'd take our lunch up there and listen to music," Dr Desmond Bright (BE(Mech) (1947), BA (1949), PhD Eng (1954)) said. "It doesn't sound very romantic, but it was fun."

As the backdrop to the beginning of their lifelong romance, the University still holds a significant place in the Brights' lives. More than 50 years on, they maintain close ties with Melbourne by contributing to the University through its Annual Appeal; donating funds to the library, cultural collections and research in recent years; and through the Heritage Society, for people who have pledged to remember the University in their Wills. Des said they financially support the

University because it holds a special place in their hearts, as the place they first met. "We also support it because we think it is a splendid university and because it was our studies that started us off on extended and successful careers," he said.

As avid readers with an endless thirst for knowledge, it made sense to the Brights to donate funds towards the library and research. "We ourselves use books a tremendous amount," Des said. "Our children laugh at us because they say no meal at our house is complete without a pile of reference and other books on the table as a result of conversation on this and that."

They also believe it is important to assist the University's research projects. The University itself taught them the value of seeking new knowledge through research. "The University planted in both of us the belief that we must always have the courage to seek new knowledge and new ideas, and break new ground," Ruth said. By donating to the University Fund Annual Appeal, the Brights are among those who have helped the University continue to work at its highest standard and remain at the forefront of research, teaching and learning.

By Fiona Willan

