From the Vice-Chancellor

Welcome back to Circular, the newsletter of the Adelaide Benefactors Circle.

Launched last year, the Adelaide Benefactors Circle marked a new era in the relationship between the University of Adelaide and its many supporters. This relationship has a long and proud history, with many generous benefactors supporting the University since its inception more than 135 years ago. It is a relationship that is also taken very seriously by the University. Nothing is more important to us than maintaining the respect and trust of our donors, who want to know that their wishes are honoured.

Accountability and transparency have become the foundation stones of philanthropy at the University of Adelaide. Applying even more rigour to the stringent protocols we have in place for individual giving will ensure that the rights of donors, and the responsibilities of the University in respecting their wishes, remain our first priority.

Our new Giving Framework, due to be launched next year, will allow us to more accurately track donations throughout the University and will ensure they are being used in the spirit that they were given.

As a valued member of the Adelaide Benefactors Circle and the broader University community, I thank you for your commitment and support and look forward to further strengthening our long-term relationship with you.

JAMES A. McWHA
Vice-Chancellor and President

Boosting the scholarship flow

For SA Water, tomorrow’s innovators in the water industry are today’s high achieving students. That is why the water utility is so enthusiastic about supporting undergraduates at the University of Adelaide through their scholarships program.

After doubling the amount of scholarships offered at the University in 2009, SA Water’s support continues to grow in 2010 with 9 new scholarships in environmental studies. This brings the total number of current SA Water scholarships at the University of Adelaide to 33.

The existing scholarship program also covers a range of other fields including engineering, business, economics, commerce and accounting. The program also supports female and Indigenous students, as well as those in financial need.

SA Water Chief Executive Officer Anne Howe said SA Water was proud of the strong scholarship program it had established.

“The SA Water scholarship program has been developed to assist in ensuring that SA Water, the water industry and business in general are provided with high-achieving individuals,” Ms Howe said.

Civil & Structural Engineering student Jarrod Sedmak and Economics and Finance student Rachel Iasiello are among the many University of Adelaide students to benefit from SA Water scholarships.

PHOTO BY MATT TURNER, COURTESY OF THE ADVERTISER
Successful ABC dinner

Around 70 prominent supporters of the University of Adelaide attended the second annual Adelaide Benefactors Circle dinner, held at the National Wine Centre on Wednesday, 9 June.

The dinner is held each year to celebrate and honour the generosity of the University’s major donors who nurture the research, teaching, scholarships and community programs of the University.

Steven Butler, a recipient of the SA Water Undergraduate Scholarship in Business, spoke about how his scholarship and stint studying in the US had transformed his global career opportunities, leading to an offer from a leading US investment bank for Steven to join its graduate program.

“From a career and professional perspective, my time working in America has proven to be an invaluable experience,” he said.

University Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor James McWha, said the University was founded on philanthropy and owes much to the generous benefactors of the past whose names have become part of the University’s identity, such as Hughes, Bonython, Elder and Waite.

“This tradition of philanthropy thrives today, thanks to people like yourselves who recognise the important role they can play in supporting the broader community through the University.”
Generations of regional support

The Cowan family’s connection to the University of Adelaide spans more than just three generations: it also includes providing assistance to hundreds of students faced with the oft-daunting task of moving from regional areas to the city.

Bill Cowan was Barr Smith Librarian from 1936 to 1964: his son Bob graduated in Science (Forestry) in 1960, and Bob’s son Leigh graduated in Engineering in 1990. All three benefited from receiving valuable grants and scholarships and this was a major driver for Bill’s widow Marnie, and Bob, to establish a Trust Fund in 1994 to help regional students.

Since then the family’s philanthropic company Cowan Grant Pty Ltd, currently chaired by Bob in Mt. Gambier, has given more than $1.7 million to some 700 university students hailing from regional areas, the majority being University of Adelaide students.

“We have found first-hand that not only do the students receive a financial boost, but also an immeasurable boost of confidence,” Bob said. “It can show the student that someone believes in them, and that can be a very powerful motivator.”

For more information about giving to the University of Adelaide, please contact Development and Alumni on +61 8 8303 5800 or email development@adelaide.edu.au.

New foundation for healthy life

The University of Adelaide has launched a new Foundation to raise money and awareness for its internationally renowned Robinson Institute.

The Institute, which focuses on life giving research into the causes and cures of major diseases, as well as preventing illness across generations, will now be supported by funds raised through the Robinson Foundation.

The Foundation was launched on Saturday 13 February 2010 at a gala dinner at Government House in the presence of His Excellency Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce AC CSC RANR, Governor of South Australia. The dinner which was attended by more than 250 supporters of the Robinson Institute, saw the Governor and his wife, Mrs Liz Scarce, announced as joint Patrons of the Foundation.

To learn more about how you can support the research of the Robinson Institute, visit: www.robinsonfoundation.org.au

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Scholarship impact

The impact a Vice-Chancellor’s Scholarship can have is best described by its recipients.

And for 2010 recipients Peter Pham and Kathryn Grocke, the impact is very real.

Peter, who is from a non-English speaking family, with both his parents caring full-time for his seriously ill sister, has begun studying a double degree of a Bachelor of Engineering (Mechatronic) and Bachelor of Maths and Computer Science.

“This scholarship has helped me and my family significantly, and we are sincerely thankful for your generosity,” Peter said.

Kathryn Grocke has begun studying for a Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery. She comes from a farming family in rural South Australia who have been affected by ongoing drought and exceptional circumstance conditions.

“Receiving the Vice-Chancellor’s scholarship means I can worry less about finances and instead focus on my studies and embrace more of what university life and medicine has to offer,” Kathryn said.

Entirely funded by generous donations from alumni and the University community, scholarships resulting from the Vice-Chancellor’s Scholarships Appeal go towards outstanding students who experience financial and/or geographical disadvantage.

The scholarships are valued at $5000 per year for the program of study. Recipients are selected on academic merit and financial need, with at least one scholarship each year awarded to a student from a rural or remote area. From this year, up to 10 students will receive assistance thanks to the fund’s donations.

“This is a cause I am passionate about - both as the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Adelaide and as a previous scholarship recipient myself. I know first-hand the difference that a scholarship can make,” University Vice-Chancellor and President Professor James McWha said.

To make a tax-deductible donation to the 2011 Vice-Chancellor’s Scholarships Appeal or for more information, please contact the Development and Alumni office on +61 8 8303 5800 or email development@adelaide.edu.au

Get onLION!

Adelaide onLION is a professional networking site for University of Adelaide alumni, giving members the opportunity to connect with the University and fellow alumni within a safe and secure online environment.

It’s open to graduates, current and former staff, and current and former students, with all member information securely stored in an exclusive community.

Members will be able to stay in touch with the latest news, events and benefits for alumni, from podcasts and publications to special offers only for alumni.

For more information, visit: www.alumni.adelaide.edu.au/adelaideonlion

Development and Alumni
Level 1, 230 North Terrace
The University of Adelaide
SA 5005 Australia

Telephone +61 8 8303 5800
Facsimile +61 8 8303 5808
development@adelaide.edu.au
www.alumni.adelaide.edu.au