

Lasting legacies



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY



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Welcome



Gifts in Wills are deeply entwined in the historical fabric of the University of Sydney. In fact, some of the University's first philanthropic gifts from the 1850s are still supporting students this very day.

Having been part of the University community for more than a decade, first as a student and now as a staff member, I've been able to witness the transformative change our supporters have enabled.

In our last philanthropic campaign, INSPIRED, a near quarter of the \$1 billion funds raised came from hundreds of donors who left a gift in their Will. Their generosity speaks to the collective desire and trust from the community to support our pursuit of excellence in both teaching and research.

Bequests at the University have gone on to establish a broad range of endeavours - from cancer research to art collections, student scholarships to archaeological ventures, and literary teachings to animal welfare. No matter the discipline or size, every gift is greatly valued for it holds the power to create new possibility.

Every day I get to meet people who are considering transforming their own passion into creating a legacy for others. I am continually in awe of the generosity of spirit and unwavering dedication of our donors to shape a better future for the coming generations.

In the pages that follow are stories of those who have, or are planning to, leave a gift in their Will. You'll find our legacy donors come from different generations and backgrounds, and varying life experiences and motivations. But despite how diverse they may appear; they do have a united commonality - and that's a vision to enable change and spark possibility.

As you immerse yourself in their stories, I hope they inspire you as much as they in turn inspire, and provide the opportunity for, our students and researchers to reach their fullest potential.

Alexandra Miller
Deputy Director of Development
Planned Giving

We recognise and pay respect to the Elders and communities – past, present and emerging – of the lands that the University of Sydney's campuses stand on.

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A history of legacy giving

From the beginning in 1850, the University of Sydney has been shaped by pioneers and philanthropists. In 1853, only a few months after the admission of the University's first student, Thomas Barker's endowed gift of £1000 generated enough interest to fund a student scholarship. The legacy of his generosity is still felt, with three scholarships in his name supporting current students in the fields of mathematics and statistics.

This support from the community is still vital today, with gifts in Wills continuing to play an important part in transforming

the lives of many by establishing a legacy of enduring impact. Some of our legacy donors choose to support research endeavours in specific areas, such as liver disease or feline health. Others choose to invest in the pursuit of knowledge by offering the opportunity of education to students from all backgrounds and disciplines.

These are just a handful of bequests throughout our history, and the visionary people behind them, that have carved a pathway of teaching and research excellence since 1850 and will continue to do so for decades to come.



John Henry Challis.
University of Sydney Archives
(G3 224 0654).

1880

John Henry Challis

John Henry Challis made many generous donations during his lifetime, but his bequest was transformative. His legacy gift funded the University's first professorships in law, medicine, veterinary science, biology, engineering, history, philosophy and English.

Gift area: Various

1919

Samuel McCaughey

Samuel McCaughey was a sheep grazer who left a legacy gift to be put towards general purposes, which was crucial during the Depression years of the 1930s.

Gift area: Unrestricted
(for general purposes)



Samuel McCaughey.
University of Sydney
Archives (G3 224 1897).

1876

Sophia Hovell

Sophia Hovell was the first woman to leave a gift in her Will to the University, establishing a lectureship in geology in memory of her husband, William Hilton Hovell.

Gift area: Geology



Engineering students in 1907. University of Sydney Archives
(G3 224 0003).

1940

Sir Hugh Denison

Sir Hugh Denison's legacy gift has made a profound impact to scientific research by supporting numerous scholarships and awards.

Gift area: Science research



View from Parramatta Road to the Quadrangle, 1870.
University of Sydney Archives (G3 224 0047).

1905

Sir Peter Nicol Russell

Through a gift in his Will, Sir Peter Nicol Russell helped establish several engineering scholarships.

Gift area: Engineering



A student playing a violin at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music.

2015

Dr Raymond Lewis Debus

As a former staff member, Dr Raymond Lewis Debus wanted to ensure his passion lived on by leaving a gift in his Will towards helping honours students or graduates to undertake research in the field of education.

Gift area: Education



Dr Raymond Lewis Debus.

1982

Francis George and Helena Melville Clark

Leaving gifts in their Wills, the Clark's helped to construct the Book Repository in Darlington.

Gift area: Literature

2003

George and Margaret Henderson

George and Margaret Henderson's bequest supports scholarships for students of the Sydney Conservatorium of Music.

Gift area: Music

1992

Jacqueline Diana Oscar Paul

Jacqueline Diana Oscar Paul's legacy gift established the JDO Paul Trust, which supports research into the causes and treatment of mental disorders.

Gift area: Medical research



Nancy Roma Paech.

2022

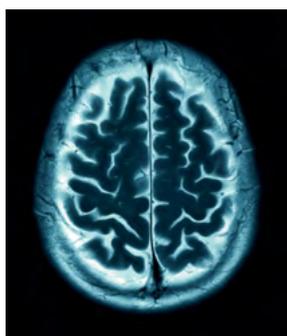
Jennie Mackenzie

Jennie Mackenzie's legacy lives through her gift in supporting early career researchers and the multidisciplinary Charles Perkins Centre.

Gift area: Medical research



Jenny Mackenzie.



An MRI scan of the human brain.

2011

Nancy Roma Paech

Nancy Roma Paech's legacy gift has established agriculture scholarships and an academic chair in range science in the University's Centre for Carbon, Water and Food.

Gift area: Agriculture

From farm to *philanthropy*

When Gaetano (Guy) Salvatore Boncardo's parents immigrated from Sicily in the early 1950s they were dreaming of a better life. Now Guy is making sure that dream is realised for future generations by providing the opportunity of a university education.

Words by Sophie Austin

Guy Boncardo's early interest in engineering was sparked by a visit from a contractor to the market garden where he lived with his parents. The Marayong property needed a dam and a proper drainage system.

"I loved seeing the bulldozer running around, digging and filling," he says. "The contractor was a civil engineering graduate from the University of Sydney."

The market garden was a vital source of income for Guy's parents, Sicilian migrants who grew up during the Great Depression before piecing together enough money to migrate to Australia. They quickly established themselves as market gardeners, and Guy spent the formative years of his childhood there, helping his parents to grow and sell produce to support their family.

Seeing the water from the dam transform the family property into a working farm that could sustain their livelihood instilled Guy with an affinity for water engineering that would serve as inspiration for his future career.

Guy describes his upbringing as "pretty closed" in the sense that his friendships were very restricted to people his parents knew from Italy or with fellow market gardeners from Greece, Malta or China, who had very similar backgrounds.

Attending a local school near where he lived, Guy says "at least half if not more of the students there were from migrant families, market gardens, poultry farms, like me. They had no expectation of going to university, their parents had no expectation of them going to university. So, most of them left in third form or fourth form and went and worked on their parent's farms."

"That was the expectation of me too," Guy says. "Because my parents didn't know any different. And I don't blame them for it because they had no background in professional education. They were barely able to finish primary school, because they had to assist their families in earning a living."

But the dream of becoming an engineer was strengthened through Guy's interests at school. Technical drawing, metalwork and industrial technology were all subjects that



Guy's parents, Adamo and Francesca Boncardo, with their grandchildren, Philip and Robert, on the market farm. Photo supplied.

he enjoyed and excelled in. To realise his dream, Guy set his sights on achieving in the top 5% of Higher School Certificate (HSC) results in order to qualify for a Commonwealth scholarship. “Essentially that was the difference between going and not going to university,” he says.

Now a Chartered Professional Engineer and Fellow of the Institution of Engineers Australia with over 47 years of experience, Guy has dedicated his professional life to planning, designing, and constructing major infrastructure for NSW’s water supply and wastewater systems.

He is using his experience and success to help future students by supporting equity scholarships and mentoring young engineering students at the University of Sydney and University of New South Wales (UNSW). It’s a contribution he understands the value of firsthand.

Guy still remembers the feeling of receiving a Commonwealth scholarship that would enable him to attend university and follow his interests in engineering.

“It opened my eyes to social disadvantage. And that hasn’t left me.”

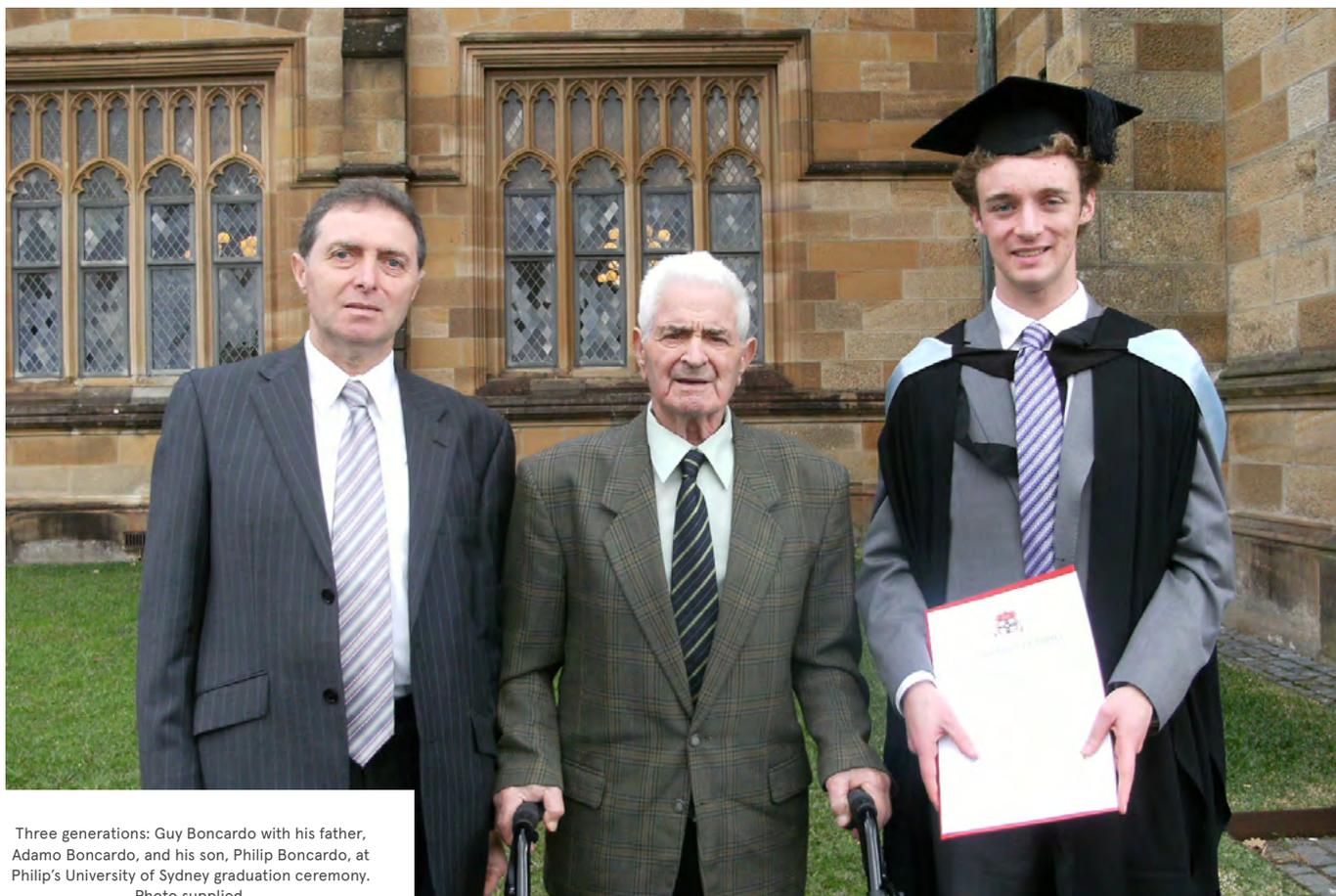
– Guy Boncardo

“They published a list in the Sydney Morning Herald. I think about 3000 names, in alphabetical order,” he recalls.

“Looking for mine was easy, because my last name starts with ‘B’, near the top. And then I saw my name... it was an incredible feeling.”

For Guy, a university education wasn’t just an opportunity to learn the valuable technical skills that would shape his professional life – it opened a whole new world to him.

“The mind broadens, you become less self-centred, and more understanding of the needs and the customs of others.”



Three generations: Guy Boncardo with his father, Adamo Boncardo, and his son, Philip Boncardo, at Philip's University of Sydney graduation ceremony. Photo supplied.

During his undergraduate degree, Guy was required to undertake compulsory studies in humanities. His lecturer was Dr K. Graham Pont (BA '58), a University of Sydney alumnus who taught at UNSW. Based in Mount Druitt, they worked on a research project that aimed to investigate the connection between poor town planning and social disadvantage.

It was the 1970s and at the time the area was far more isolated. "It was enlightening," he says. "It opened my eyes to social disadvantage. And that hasn't left me."

Guy's connection to the University of Sydney was further strengthened through his wife and sons' alumni connection, who are all graduates. His lecturer-turned-friend, Dr Pont even mentored his second son throughout his studies in French literature and philosophy.

Following the death of his father, in 2016 Guy endowed the Adamo and Francesca Boncardo Equity Scholarship in his parents' memory. The scholarship gives young people from

disadvantaged backgrounds the opportunity to access a university education at the University of Sydney and UNSW. It's the same cause he intends to further support with a gift in his Will.

"There are a lot of people out there who are still disadvantaged in a big way, who need assistance and hope to have the ability to be educated, to become professionals and contribute to society at a different level. And they shouldn't be denied that opportunity," he says.

"Equity scholarships essentially give disadvantaged students the opportunity to study at university. It's as simple as that. If I hadn't received that Commonwealth scholarship, I probably wouldn't have gone."

In 2020 Guy also formed the Boncardo Pancreatic Cancer Research Fellowship to progress vital research into the disease that had taken his mother's life. "Pancreatic cancer is very close to my heart because I've seen the effects of it," he says.

“Equity scholarships essentially give disadvantaged students the opportunity to study at university. It’s as simple as that. If I hadn’t received that Commonwealth scholarship, I probably wouldn’t have gone.”

— Guy Boncardo

“When it came to thinking about something I wanted to do to support this research, I came to the conclusion that it was best directed at the University of Sydney,” he says.

Guy’s hopes for his legacy are simple – he wants to be remembered for giving people from disadvantaged backgrounds the opportunity to access a tertiary education. Right now, there are eight students who are benefitting from his philanthropic support.

“That gives me enormous satisfaction, knowing that eight students have the opportunity now for a tertiary education without the financial stress on the families supporting it,” he says.

Strengthened by a gift in his Will, many more future students will benefit from Guy’s generosity - ensuring his support lasts far beyond his lifetime. 🌸



SUPPORTING FUTURE GENERATIONS OF STUDENTS

Gifts in Wills have helped to transform the lives of students through scholarships and bursaries. Your gift can support the dream of a student to not only to pursue their studies, but to focus on them fully.

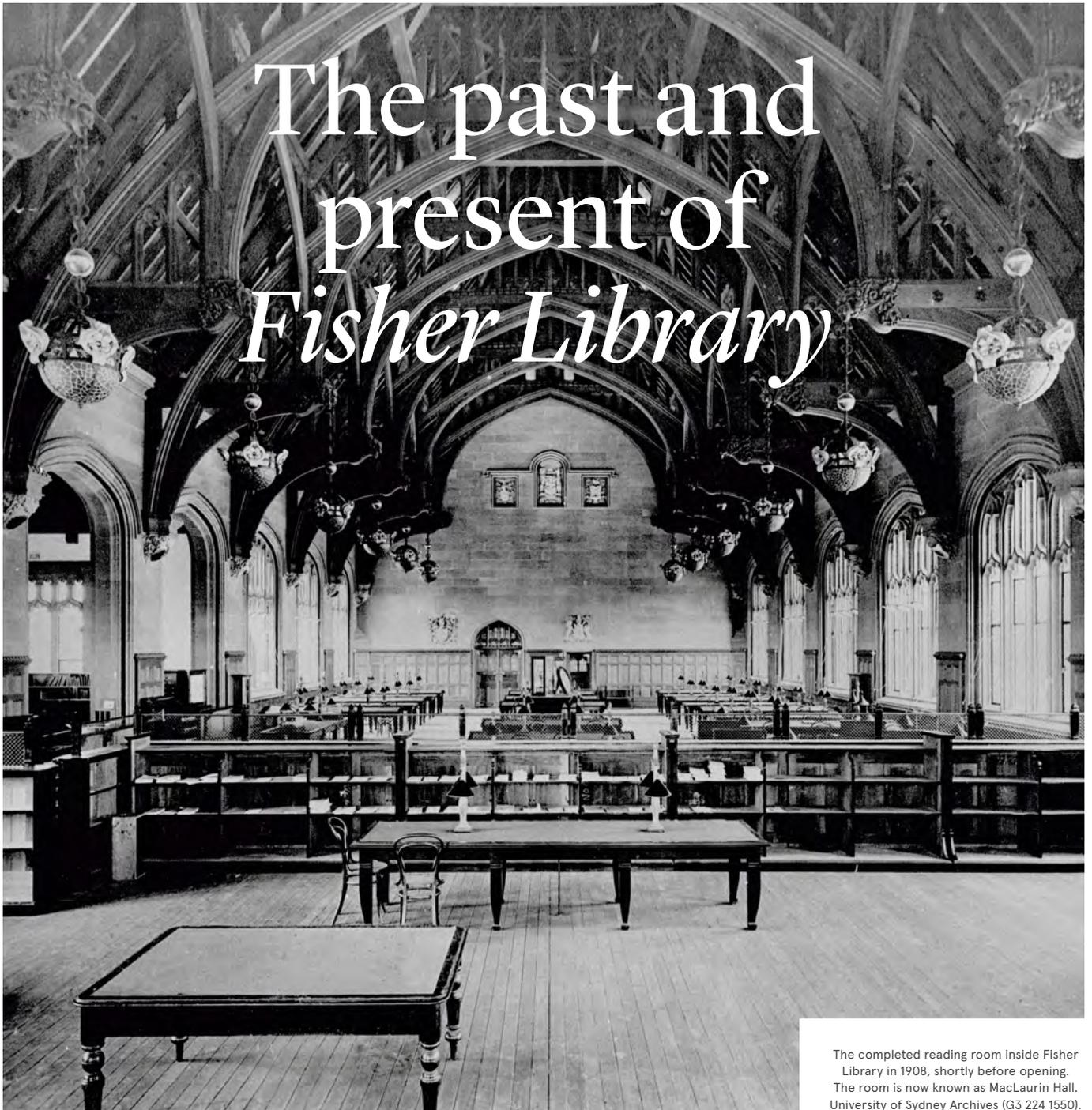
There are many ways you can support students from a diverse range of backgrounds in a particular area of study or research. A bursary fund can help numerous students receive immediate one-off support during times of financial stress, while undergraduate or postgraduate scholarships can assist in partially or fully funding a student’s studies and living expenses.

One of the most powerful student support gifts can be through an endowed scholarship, awarded in perpetuity, which can leave a permanent and endless legacy. Many of our supporters also choose to name a scholarship in memory of family or loved ones.

If you would like to discuss your vision to support the next generation of Sydney students, please contact the Planned Giving team on +61 2 8331 5071 or planned.giving@sydney.edu.au.



The past and present of *Fisher Library*



The completed reading room inside Fisher Library in 1908, shortly before opening. The room is now known as MacLaurin Hall. University of Sydney Archives (G5 224 1550).

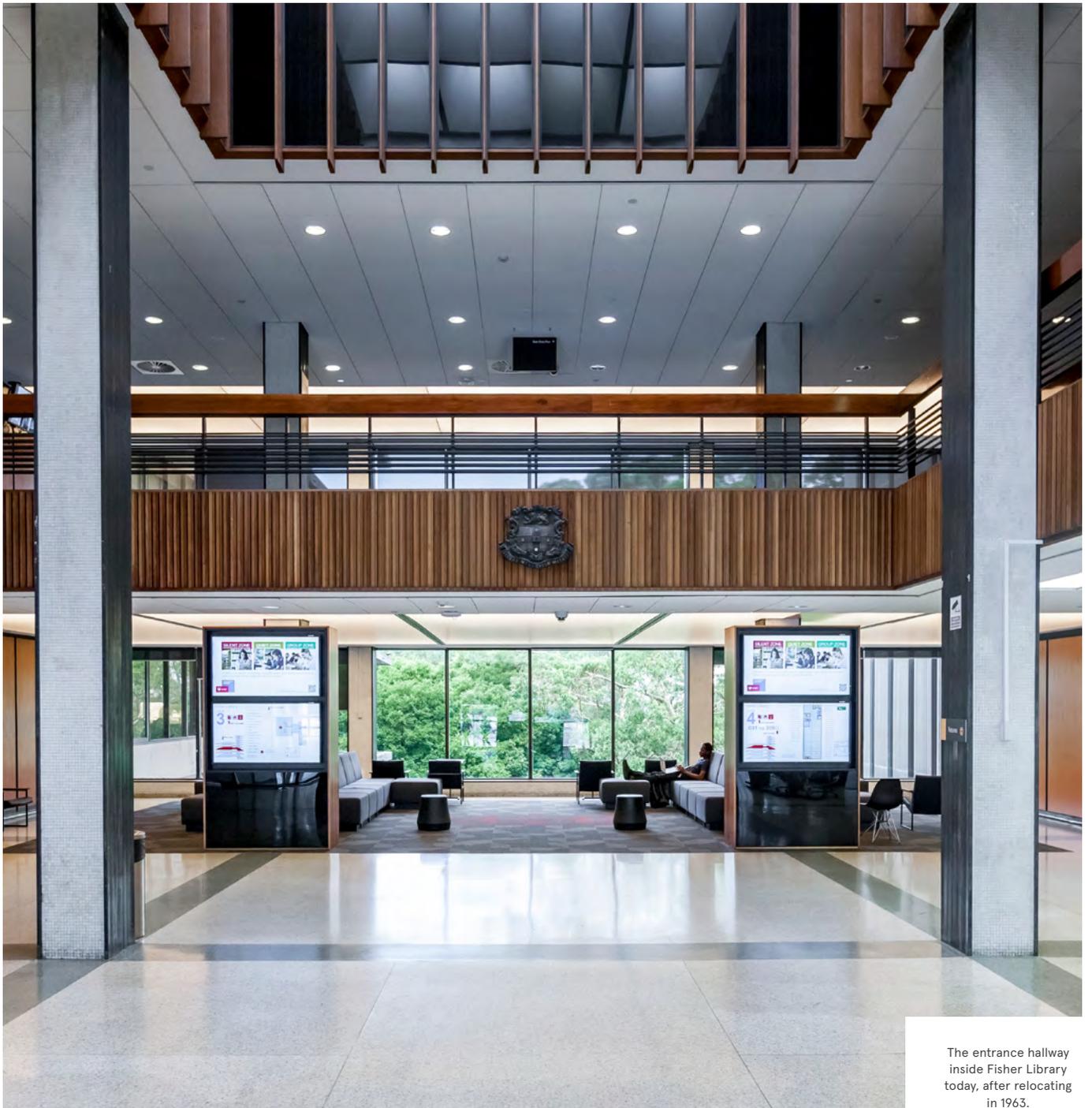
Then

In 1885 the University received £30,000 from the estate of the late Thomas Fisher to be used "in establishing and maintaining a library".

Fisher, a bootmaker and property investor who lived close by, regularly conversed with staff and students whilst strolling the University grounds. He frequented official University functions and would have heard the appeal in 1879 by the Chancellor, Sir William Manning, to fund "a library worthy of comparison with like edifices at Home".

Named in his honour, Fisher Library opened in 1909. Housed in the Quadrangle, the reading room was in the Gothic tradition with a magnificent cedar roof. The adjoining multi-tier book stack was of advanced design, including two electric book lifts.

With a growing book collection and student body, a new home for Fisher Library was needed. In 1963, Fisher Library moved to a new location on campus, with a purpose built five-storey undergraduate wing. The original Fisher Library is now known as MacLaurin Hall.



The entrance hallway inside Fisher Library today, after relocating in 1963.

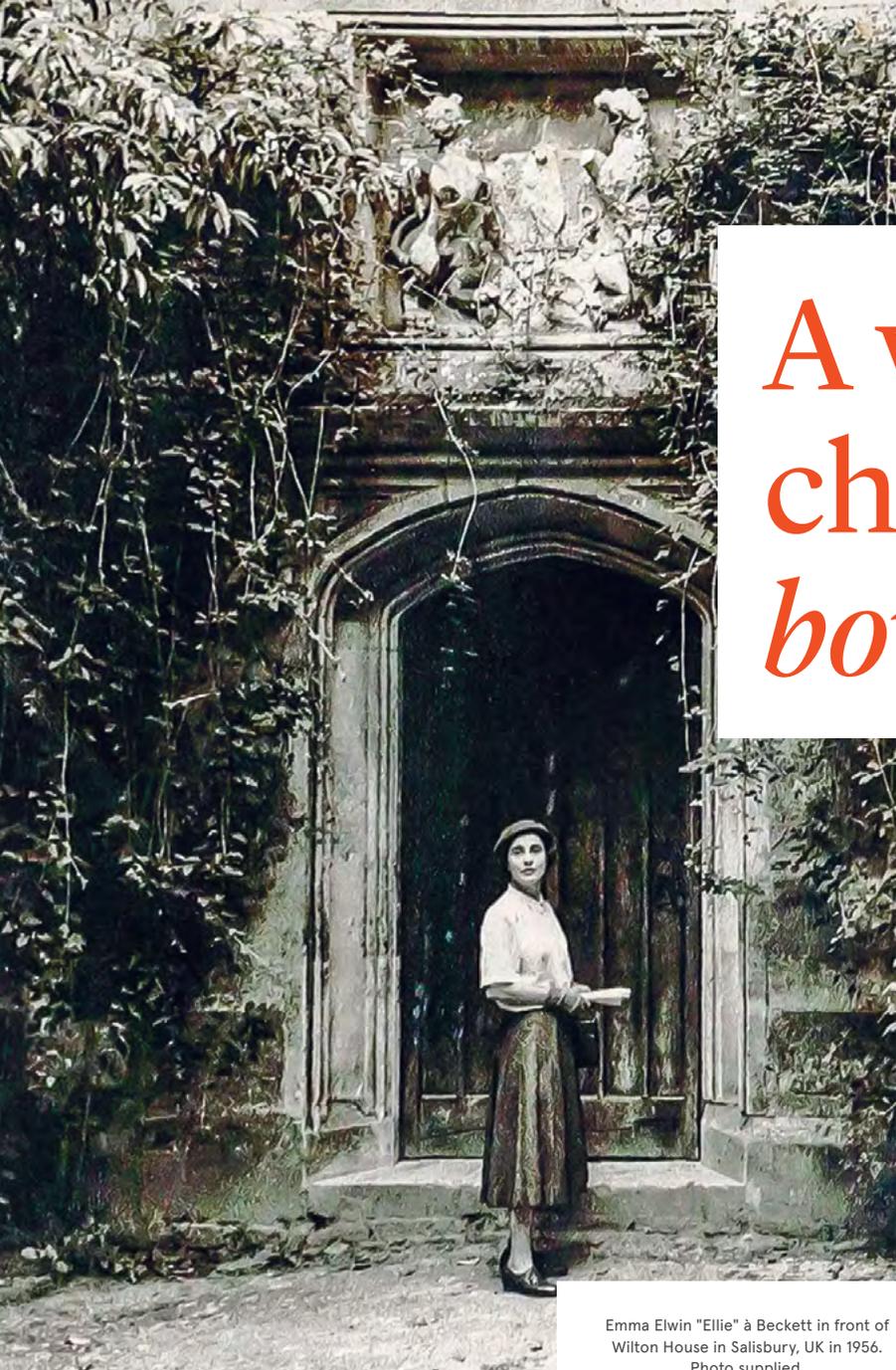
Now

Today Fisher Library spans over nine levels and is the University's largest library.

It's also the home to more than 170,000 curious, wonderful and historical literary treasures held under the Rare Books and Special Collections. The impressive collection includes a rare comic featuring the first appearance of Spider-Man, a first edition of Isaac Newton's *Principia Mathematica* once owned by Newton himself and Virginia Woolf's personal copy of the first edition of her debut novel, *The Voyage Out*, featuring inscriptions and edits by her hand.

The library has recently reopened the expansive rooftop terrace as part of a number of upgrades. The terrace which hasn't been accessible in more than 30 years, looks out to an incredible vista of both the campus and the cityscape. The refurbishment now provides a communal space for the University community to enjoy.

Nearly 140 years after leaving a generous gift in his Will, Fisher Library remains a testament to Thomas Fisher's vision.



A visionary change for *bowel cancer*

—
Words by Chloe Pryce

Emma Elwin "Ellie" à Beckett in front of
Wilton House in Salisbury, UK in 1956.
Photo supplied.

Ellie à Beckett left the majority of her estate as a gift in her Will to advance bowel cancer research in honour of her much-loved brother Martin, who died from the disease. Ten years on, researchers are edging closer to improved patient outcomes, with help from some surprising collaborators - your gut microbiome.

It's a fact that's hard to stomach: you are more bacteria than human. The approximately 39 trillion cells in these tiny organisms just outnumber the 30 trillion human ones in an adult body. Scientists are now beginning to understand how these billions of bacteria and other microbes, collectively known as the microbiome, work together to affect functions as diverse as digestion, heart function, mental health, and even the development – or treatment – of cancer.

Dr Erin Shanahan (BSc(Adv)(Hons) '07, PhD '14) has a personal stake in beating bowel cancer, also known as colorectal cancer: it has affected her family throughout her lifetime, with three grandparents and an aunt all having suffered through the disease. But it is her warmth and humour that shine through as she discusses her work on the microbiome, acknowledging it's "not necessarily dinner-time conversation."

"The surface area of the gut is absolutely enormous – flattened out, it could cover a studio apartment. This creates a massive area for microbes to grow in."

The organisms living in our guts are not innately harmful, but issues can arise when the hundreds of species become imbalanced. Our diet has an important role to play in managing these microbial hitchhikers: over time, the wrong diet can encourage a proliferation of species which impact surrounding gut cells, pushing them towards becoming cancerous.

As Dr Shanahan quips, "what we eat is what they eat! We already know some risk factors, like diets which are low in fibre and high in processed meats. But we don't understand why, if you put 100 people on that 'bad' diet, they won't all develop bowel cancer. And the answer to that might lie in the microbiome."

A microbiologist and à Beckett Fellow, Dr Shanahan conducts her research from the Charles Perkins Centre at the University of Sydney.



Emma Elwin "Ellie" à Beckett alongside her father, Arthur, and her brother, William Arthur Martin à Beckett, who died from bowel cancer. Photo supplied.

"Without Ellie's gift, I wouldn't be bringing my knowledge of microbiology to colorectal cancer – she has enabled me to apply my expertise to a new, emerging area."

– Dr Erin Shanahan

The fellowship was created when Emma Elwin "Ellie" à Beckett left a generous bequest to the University following her death in 2013 in honour of her much-loved brother Martin, who died from the disease. Named in memory of Ellie's brother, the William Arthur Martin à Beckett Cancer Research Trust has supported four Fellows and the establishment of a germ-free facility – a space completely free of microbes, critical for studying the relationship between the microbiome and disease.

With work spanning preclinical studies through to patient-led care interventions for bowel cancer, the à Beckett Fellows stand as an extraordinary monument both to Ellie's love for her brother, and to the profound impact of endowed giving.

Bowel cancer is the third most diagnosed in Australia, with 15,000 new cases every year. When Martin à Beckett died in 1986, the five-year survival rate for bowel cancer stood at 55 percent with treatment largely focused on surgery, and chemoradiation just beginning to gain traction.

Today the five-year survival rate is 70 percent due to an increase in colonoscopies and screening, and the growing number of treatment options, including more targeted therapies.

Using personalised nutrition to treat cancer is central to Dr Shanahan's two-pronged research. The first element of her study uses pre-clinical models and clinical data analysis to investigate what constitutes a healthy microbiome, including which dietary elements can encourage gut health, or affect tumour development.

Dr Shanahan hopes this knowledge will help patients lower their risk of bowel cancer. For example, following a colonoscopy where polyps are discovered, doctors in future might advise a patient on specific dietary changes or supplements that could reduce the chances of developing a tumour.

"If we can inform an individual that eating red meat is particularly risky for them based on their unique microbiome, that's more powerful than generic advice to eat a healthy, high-fibre diet."

But it's the second component of her work which Dr Shanahan seems most passionate about.

“In terms of a ‘breakthrough’, I’m really excited about my work in immunotherapy, and reactivating the immune system to try to target and kill cancer cells. Immunotherapy has been revolutionary in cancer treatment in recent years, and we’re interested in the emerging evidence that the gut microbiome has a role to play.”

The gut microbiome interacts with our immune system, and can stimulate the right types of immune responses to potentially eliminate a tumour – even one located nowhere near the gut.

However, many immunotherapy patients suffer prohibitive side effects, or are unresponsive to treatment.

Dr Shanahan is researching whether biological signatures in the microbiome can predict which patients are likely to respond positively to immunotherapy. Longer term, the aim is to help more patients become part of this responsive group, through diet and other interventions.

“Although we are still designing clinical trials, I feel there is a direct pathway to change ahead. One clinician I work with has already begun talking to her patients about what might be possible for them in future.”

For Dr Shanahan, the à Beckett Fellowship has provided the stability to build a comprehensive research program, in a field not traditionally associated with microbiology.

“Without Ellie’s gift, I wouldn’t be bringing my knowledge of microbiology to colorectal cancer – she has enabled me to apply my expertise to a new, emerging area.”

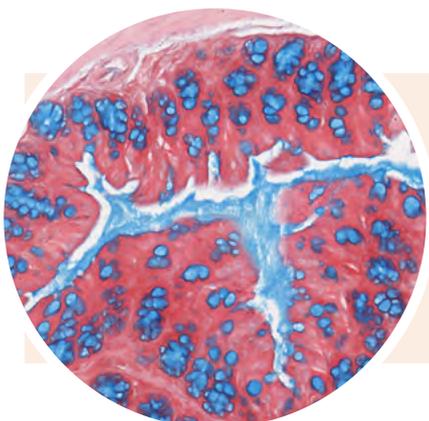
“It’s an incredibly generous thing to do,” says Dr Shanahan, beaming. “This gift will keep on giving, beyond its original scope. As researchers, we are always building on what has come before. The knowledge and ideas generated by the Fellowship will be informing studies, and helping patients, long after the money has been spent.” 🌸



Dr Erin Shanahan outside the lab where she investigates the microbiome’s role in bowel cancer.
Photography by Stefanie Zingsheim.

“This gift will keep on giving... The knowledge and ideas generated by the Fellowship will be informing studies, and helping patients, long after the money has been spent.”

– Dr Erin Shanahan



This image shows healthy bowel tissue which has been stained for visibility. The light pink is intestinal muscle, dark pink shows mucosa which lines the intestine, and the blue is goblet cells which produce protective mucous. If there is disruption to the protective mucous layer, the dark pink cells may become cancerous, eventually resulting in a bowel cancer.

My vision for the future

Our wonderful supporters often decide to leave a gift in their Will to an area they feel most passionate about. Every gift has the power to spark change in the lives of others for generations to come.



“My legacy gift will support research in

sustainable built environments. I was inspired to leave this gift because I feel that not enough is being done to address a growing problem. The way we design and build needs to adapt to a new reality in which a circular economy takes centre stage. I hope that my gift helps produce published research that results in groundbreaking and pivotal technology and inspires others to fund research in sustainability. Even if only a small percentage of research is eventually implemented, the ramifications can be huge.”

— Flavio Gerbolini Rivero



“After experiencing the wonderful support and care staff at the

University Veterinary Teaching Hospital Sydney provided to our late cat, Natasha, we decided to support feline research. As cat-lovers we wanted to do something to ensure that they can receive the highest quality treatment and care long into the future. We’ve had animals since we were married in 1971, and we can’t imagine life without them. We know our future gift will allow more feline companions to benefit from the Sydney School of Veterinary Science’s research, clinical support and care.”

— Max and Nizza Siano



“My wonderful experience at the University of

Sydney contributed to my personal life and career. I would like others, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds, to be able to receive an education similar to mine. The gift in my Will reflects my interests in politics, literature and law. A portion is for scholarships to assist students who cannot afford a university education and a larger amount has been left for research which is vital for achieving a better world. My bequest means that I am able to contribute to this.”

— John Homersham

—
Words by Caitlin Player

100 years apart: *The tale of two engineers*

There are many ways we can choose to remember the people we love, but for John Alan Gibson, his legacy was best celebrated by supporting the next generation of rural students to pursue engineering at Sydney.



Alan Gibson standing in the sheepyards in his hometown of Hay, located in western Riverina region of New South Wales. Photo supplied.

The J Alan Gibson Scholarship was established in 2021 by his daughter, the late Elizabeth Jamieson Gibson, left as a gift in her Will. The family says Elizabeth felt strongly about rural students having the opportunity to pursue higher education as a result of the opportunity that was awarded to her father.

As the son of a fifth-generation farming family in the western Riverina region of New South Wales, John Alan Gibson (known as Alan) was smart and ambitious, and dreamt of pursuing academic interests outside of farming. In 1923, when he was selected amongst his class at Hay High School as the recipient of a scholarship that would enable him to study engineering at the University of Sydney, it was a life-changing opportunity.

At the end of his studies he carried out a successful career as an engineer, grazier and lobbyist, and his education was a significant factor in his leadership and contribution to agricultural development over his lifetime.

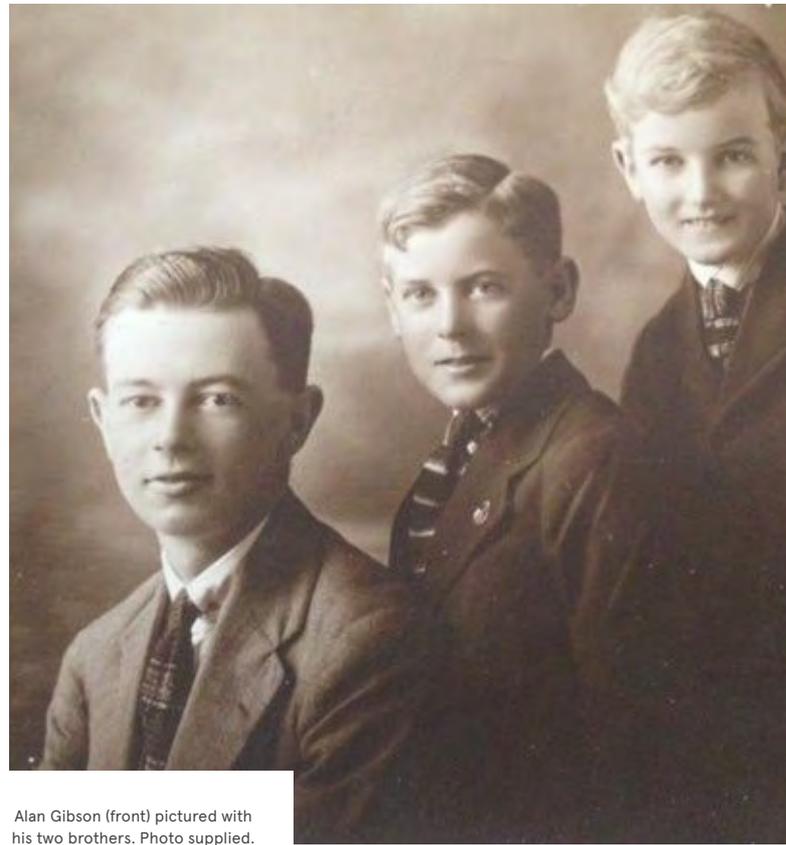
His daughter Elizabeth was aware that the opportunity he had to study at the University of Sydney, some 720km from Hay, had allowed her father to challenge himself academically and broaden his career options. It was the reason that she wanted to establish a scholarship in memory of him.

Elizabeth spoke extensively with her family about the vision she had for creating a legacy that would pay forward a similar opportunity. The J Alan Gibson Scholarship was established to provide financial support and encouragement to an ambitious rural student with the dream and drive to study engineering at Sydney.

When her vision became a reality and the J Alan Gibson Scholarship was awarded to commencing engineering undergraduate Charlie Hawthorne, the family were delighted.

“When we found out he was from the Riverina, I was really thrilled. There is a lot of similarity between the two” said Claire, the granddaughter of Alan.

Like Alan, Charlie comes from an established farming family in the western Riverina region. His hometown of Ardlethan is located approximately 500km from Sydney, with a population of approximately 400 people. Also like Alan, Charlie’s curious mind has



Alan Gibson (front) pictured with his two brothers. Photo supplied.

“It is a big jump to be able to support yourself in Sydney... so many rural students choose regional universities to stay closer to home.”

— Charlie Hawthorne

enabled him to excel in STEM subjects at school, leading him to enrol in the University’s double degree Bachelor of Engineering Honours and Bachelor of Commerce.

For rural students like Charlie and Alan, achieving the marks to access a top ranked university like the University of Sydney is just the first hurdle. Relocating to cities far from their homes without their support networks adds additional challenges.



Alan Gibson with his daughter Elizabeth Jamieson Gibson. Photo supplied.

Besides his sister, Charlie says he doesn't know of anyone else at the University of Sydney that comes from where they do in the western Riverina region. He says, the main barriers preventing rural students from attending a metropolitan university is living away from home and the cost.

"It is a big jump to be able to support yourself in Sydney. I also think if you're not used to that kind of lifestyle people tend to stay where they are comfortable, so many rural students choose regional universities to stay closer to home."

Without the financial pressure of high accommodation fees and living expenses, Charlie says he has been able to transition well, focusing more on his studies and expanding his networks by embracing all that college life has to offer.

"I have met and become close friends with people from all over Australia and the world. I play cricket and rugby for my college. It's been very fun."

After completing his flexible first year in engineering, Charlie has recently switched his stream from mechatronics to civil engineering, bringing his likeness to Alan even closer.

Charlie looks forward to semester breaks when he can go back home to help on the family property, but looking to his future, he says he likes having options.

"I feel like I've got lots of opportunity with doing the double degree of commerce and engineering and also having the option of coming home", he says. "I'll probably stay in Sydney at the end of my studies, but I don't think I will lose the connection to home. Whether that means returning to work on the farm 30 years down the track, it's not 100 percent clear now. I'm just seeing where it all takes me."

Though much has changed in the hundred years since John Alan Gibson first set foot on campus to study engineering in 1923, undertaking that daunting journey from rural New South Wales to Sydney feels much the same today for students like Charlie.

Alan's granddaughter, Claire, says the scholarship is a fitting reflection of Alan's life and Elizabeth's belief in education and opportunity. 🍀



J Alan Gibson Scholarship recipient, Charlie Hawthorne. Photo supplied.

Legacies in action

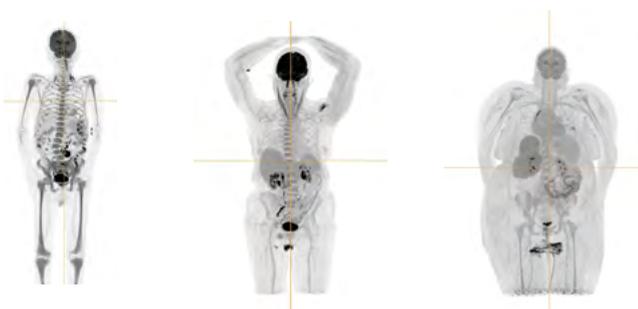
A snapshot of recent research, impact and advancements made possible by legacy gifts.

Providing unique insights into systemic diseases

A partnership between the University of Sydney, the National Imaging Facility (NIF), and the Northern Sydney Local Health District (NSLHD) has established the first open-access Total Body Positron Emission Tomography (PET) scanner for research studies in Australia. This facility, which is partially funded by the 1960s William Chapman bequest to support cancer research, is an extraordinary leap forward in medical imaging technology. With its ability to capture a comprehensive view of the entire body, total body PET offers unprecedented insights into the complexities of human physiology and disease progression. It will play an important role in better understanding cancer, infectious and chronic diseases, as well as evaluating novel personalised therapies for these diseases.



Biograph Quadra Vision Total Body PET.



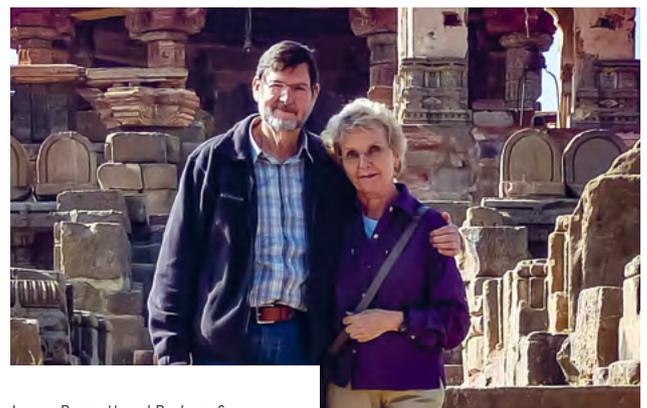
First total body patient scan.



'Trumpet in motion'.
Credit: Stefanie Zingsheim.

A musical approach to neurogenerative disease

Music can have a proud effect on our wellbeing, but could it also help those at risk of cognitive decline? Thanks to a generous gift by Barbara Spencer in honour of her late partner, Lance Bennett, the University, in collaboration with the Brain and Mind Centre and the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, is now exploring whether musical interventions could help slow the rate of cognitive decline to avoid dementia. As an alumnus, it was Lance's wish to leave a legacy to the University. Through the generosity of the Spencer-Bennett gift, we can better understand the onset of neurogenerative disease and explore solutions in the present, with the potential for long-lasting impacts in the future.



Lance Bennett and Barbara Spencer.

Inspiring Australian literature

The late John Rowe, who was an avid reader and book collector with a particular interest in Australian literature, established the John Rowe Lecturer in Australian Literature through a gift in his Will. Recently the University secured the great talent of Dr Meg Brayshaw for this position. Spanning topics from Australian women writers to climate fiction, Dr Brayshaw's research and teaching guides students into contemporary global conversations, granting them a deeper understanding of the diverse and vibrant body of Australian literary works. John's gift also included a vast collection of rare books, 600 of which were accepted into the University Library's Rare Books and Specials Collections.



John Rowe.



Dr Meg Brayshaw.



Professor Deborah Cheetham Fraillon.

A continued passion and love of teaching

The late Elizabeth Todd OAM was a graduate of the Sydney Conservatorium of Music and lecturer in singing from 1948 until her retirement as Senior Lecturer in 1985. Elizabeth's well renowned passion for music and love for teaching lives on through her legacy gift in the establishment of the Elizabeth Todd Chair of Vocal Studies at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. In early 2023 the University welcomed renowned First Nations soprano, musician, composer and educator Professor Deborah Cheetham Fraillon in this coveted position. Alongside nurturing the next generation of musicians, Professor Cheetham Fraillon's research will focus on the use of First Nations languages in classical music, particularly on her *Woven Song* series of chamber music.

Helping to care for our companions

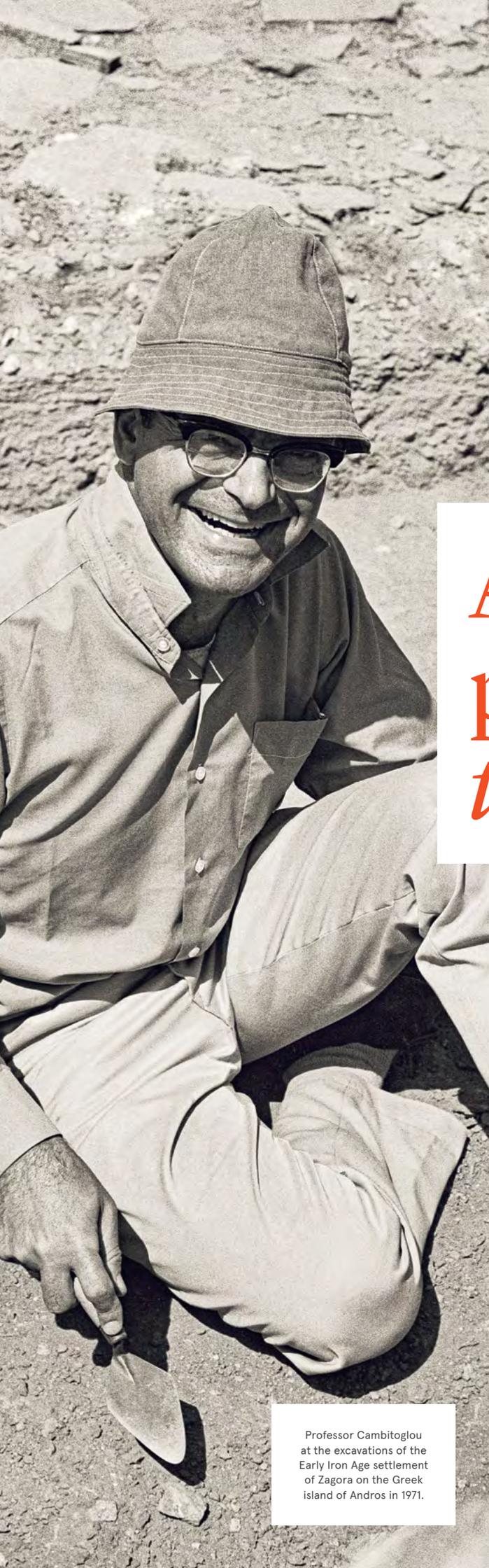
As a renowned veterinarian, academic, and mentor, it is impossible to know just how many people and animals benefited from Dr John Holt's work. With his wife, Mary, by his side, together they sought to improve animal welfare and raise up a new generation of veterinarians. Thanks to a generous gift by Mary in honour of her late husband, the Dr John Holt Scholarship for Animal Welfare was established. The Holt's joint passion is shared by current scholarship recipient Carolina Dominguez Anchondo, who is studying a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. Originally from Mexico and having lived in Lima, Peru, and then Dorado, Puerto Rico, her fascination for nature and desire to help others inspired her to pursue veterinary medicine. Mary plans to continue to support the Sydney School of Veterinary Science, and the legacy of her husband, through a gift in her Will.



Dr John Holt.



Carolina Dominguez Anchondo.



Professor Cambitoglou at the excavations of the Early Iron Age settlement of Zagora on the Greek island of Andros in 1971.

A passion for the glories of ancient Greece drove his desire to give more people a chance to also connect with them. Through his many generous lifetime gifts and a bequest, Professor Alexander Cambitoglou is now enriching the future.

A glorious past enriching *the future*

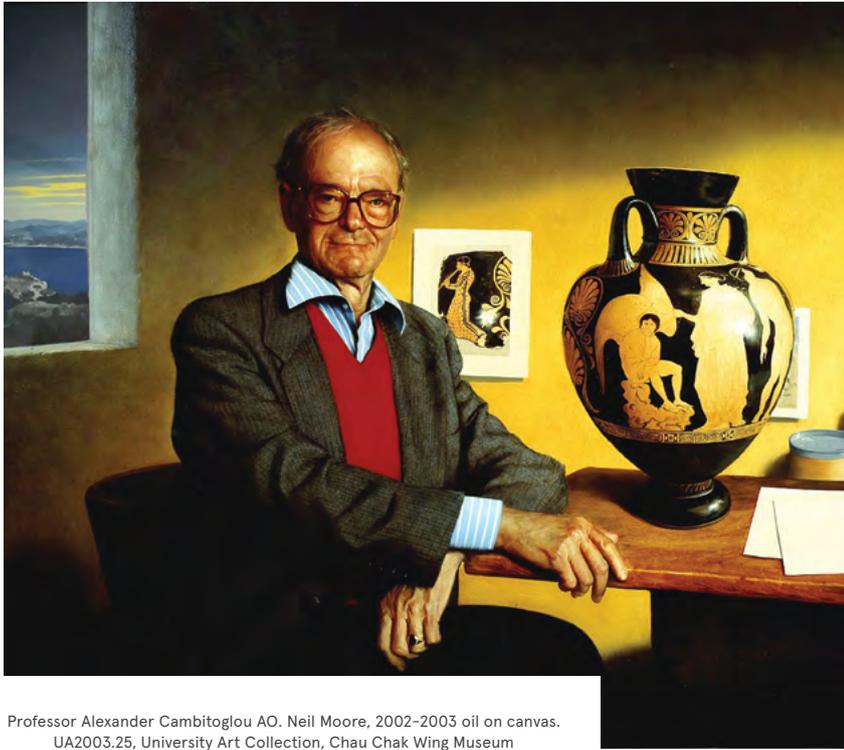
It is one of the most tragic and affecting moments from the epic stories of the Trojan wars: the death of Achilles.

It was preordained that for the Greeks to take Troy, their most brave, handsome, and indeed, invincible warrior, Achilles, would have to die. It seemed an impossible outcome until the god Apollo, played his hand.

As Paris, a prince of Troy, shot an arrow at Achilles, Apollo guided it towards the one spot on the body of Achilles where he was vulnerable to death: his heel.

Visitors to the University's Chau Chak Wing Museum can see a moment from that story – where the body of Achilles is carried off the field of battle by his cousin, Ajax – on a vase from the sixth century BCE, which is now forever linked with one of the University's most generous and transforming benefactors, Professor Alexander Cambitoglou (MA '89).

A meticulous man of rare intellect and determination, and always immaculately dressed, Professor Cambitoglou passed away in 2019 at the age of 97, though he lives on in the indelible experiences and opportunities he has created for so many through his gifts.



Professor Alexander Cambitoglou AO. Neil Moore, 2002-2003 oil on canvas. UA2003.25, University Art Collection, Chau Chak Wing Museum

“The institute is, and has been, a fantastic resource... But its greatest benefits come from how it puts people in contact with people”

— Dr Stavros Paspalas

—
Words by George Dodd
Photography by the University of Sydney

Born in Greece’s second-largest city, Thessaloniki, Professor Cambitoglou found such richness in the artistic and intellectual legacy of ancient Greece that he went into archaeology to learn and uncover more. Later, he also became a benefactor helping people access the objects and ideas that continue to influence our thinking to this day.

A fundamental insight that drove Professor Cambitoglou’s approach to giving was his belief that photographs can only convey so much. For true understanding, people, and particularly students, need real objects to touch, question and react to, and real experiences. This saw him create opportunities for people, like Dr Stavros Paspalas (BA ’86 MA ’91) to go on archaeological digs.

“It was the end of my second year at Sydney, in the break,” says Dr Paspalas. “Professor Cambitoglou asked me if I wanted to participate in his excavation at the site of Torone in Northern Greece. Of course, I said ‘yes’. That pretty much set me on my career trajectory.”

For the young archaeology student, this was the first of many times he’d get his hands dirty on digs with Professor Cambitoglou. Certainly, many of the University’s digs only

happened with Professor Cambitoglou’s support, and generations of archaeology students have him to thank for their formative University experiences.

As Dr Paspalas points out, a number went on to further research and some now teach internationally and in Australia. Professor Cambitoglou took his support of Australians wanting to explore Greek history a dramatic step further in 1980, by creating the Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens (AAIA). This is an organisational resource that has connections with 16 other foreign institutes in Athens, Greek universities, museums, libraries, and the Greek Ministry of Culture.

One-time Professor Cambitoglou student, Dr Paspalas, is now the Director of the Institute.

“The Institute is, and has been, a fantastic resource for Australians from around the country pursuing higher degrees and research,” he says. “But its greatest benefits come from how it puts people in contact with people.”

“There is no doubt that the AAIA has been a major contributing factor to the flourishing of Australian participation in Greek archaeology.”

As a young archaeologist, Professor Cambitoglou’s particular interest was in the Greek painted vases of southern Italy. In the 1950s, this prompted a rich exchange of letters with A. D. Trendall, the University’s Chair of Greek and Curator of the Nicholson Museum, an exchange which eventually led to Trendall making a job offer.

Professor Cambitoglou arrived in Sydney in 1961 to become a Senior Lecturer in Classical Archaeology, falling instantly in love with the city that would remain his home for the rest of his life.

Continuing his career at the University, Professor Cambitoglou himself became the Curator of the University’s Nicholson Museum, completely transforming the brash, barn-like space into an intimate environment where people could feel close to and really appreciate objects of great beauty and antiquity.

This prompted a surge in donations and bequests that allowed Professor Cambitoglou to enrich the collection by purchasing precious objects, including the marble busts of the Roman emperors, Claudius and Germanicus, that are now signature pieces of the Nicholson collection.

Over the years Professor Cambitoglou, an astute collector himself, donated a number of precious, historic and beautiful objects to the University. On his final visit to the Nicholson Museum in 2018, prior to the collection moving to the Chau Chak Wing Museum, he would have walked past at least some of them.

He was there for an evening in his honour for his many years of being a generous and thoughtful supporter.

Somewhat frail, but as always, sharp and immaculately turned out, he was surrounded by other museum supporters; people who knew and respected him, and a number more



Image above: Professor Cambitoglou at the unveiling of the Cambitoglou Amphora at the Nicholson Museum.

Image below: “The Cambitoglou Amphora”, black-figured neck Amphora depicting Ajax carrying the lifeless body of Archilles. Athens, 510BC, attributed to the Anitmenes Painter. NM2018.136, Nicholson Collection, Chau Chak Wing Museum.

who had their lives transformed by him. Obviously moved, he accepted the tribute of having the ancient Achilles vase named for him: the Cambitoglou Amphora.

It later emerged that on his passing, and in a final act of generosity, Professor Cambitoglou had left a generous bequest to the AAIA. This will help the Institute in its mission to ensure that future generations can explore the beauty, grandeur and insights of the classical Greek world that Professor Cambitoglou loved so much.

He has left an invincible legacy. 🍀



THE STORY OF THE CAMBITOGLOU AMPHORA

Called *Attic black figure* pottery, the method of its creation had been lost for centuries. It is now known the vases were made of highly refined clay with layers of even finer clay added during a complicated, three-phase firing process.

The Nicholson can only purchase objects using donated funds, and the Cambitoglou Amphora found a home in the Nicholson Collections thanks to two bequests. The first was from Professor Cambitoglou’s own Departmental Secretary of some years, Shirley Atkinson, who also left bequests for research into

microsurgery and otolaryngology as well as to the Chancellor’s Committee.

The larger share of the purchase was made thanks to a gift from Mary Tancred who had a long involvement with the Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens (AAIA). Mary had previously funded the purchase of the celebrated black-figured Antimenes Amphora, depicting one of the Labours of Herakles (called Hercules by the Romans). Coincidentally, this and the Cambitoglou Amphora were painted in the same workshop more than 25 centuries ago.

Quite the collection

Many of the intriguing artefacts and paintings on display at the Chau Chak Wing Museum have been gifted or purchased thanks to the generosity of our legacy donors. Here are a few treasures within our collections.



Power paintings

One of the largest legacy gifts ever given to the University was left in the Will of alumnus John Wardell Power in the 1960s. John was a doctor-turned-painter who became one of Australia's most important cubist artists. The University holds more than 1000 Power works, including the pictured *Femme à l'ombrelle*.

Image caption: JW Power, *Femme à l'ombrelle (Woman with parasol)* (1926), oil on canvas, 130.0 x 79.0 cm. PW1961.83.



Australian art

A generous donor to the University throughout his life, Neville Grace left an outstanding collection of 63 paintings by notable Australian artists in his Will in 2017. Neville studied Arts and Law at the University, graduating in 1951, and went on to develop an interest in post-impressionist Australian paintings in the early 1970s. His first impressionist purchase was Emanuel Phillips Fox's *Blossoms*, which was gifted as part of his bequest.

Image caption: Emanuel Phillips Fox, *Blossoms* (late 19th to early 20th century), oil on canvas, 45 x 37 cm. UA2018.61.



Russian icon

Roddy Meagher was a NSW Supreme Court judge and an avid art collector. On his passing in 2011, he bequeathed his collection of paintings, drawings, sculptures, carpets, ceramics, furniture and archaeological artefacts to the University, where he had studied and taught. He was a devout Catholic and his collection included 15 icons, including this 15th century example.

Image caption: Matteo di Giovanni, [*Madonna and Child with saints and angels*] (circa 1470), egg tempera and gold leaf on oak, 49.4 x 31.9 x 2.4 cm. UA2012.688.

TAKE A TOUR OF THE CHAU CHAK WING MUSEUM

Located in the heart of the University of Sydney, the Chau Chak Wing Museum was designed to bring together the University's three major collections, pieced together over more than 150 years. From ancient Rome, Greece and Egypt, to the art of First Nations people, and the works of leading contemporary artists, the Chau Chak Wing Museum is a centre of cultural and artistic excellence.

We invite you to join us on campus for a free tour of the Chau Chak Wing Museum for an enriching cultural experience. To register your interest, please contact the Planned Giving team on +61 2 8331 5071 or planned.giving@sydney.edu.au.



Leave a legacy to shape a *better future*

The breadth of disciplines and subject areas at the University is so vast that your legacy gift can be personalised to make a lasting impact in the area that is most important to you.

Every gift can create tremendous impact. Leaving a gift in your Will can take just a few simple steps:

1 Talk to us about your vision

We welcome you to get in touch so we can learn more about your vision for a legacy gift.

If you'd like to know more information about a specific area you wish to support or want to explore your options, we can speak with you over the phone, invite you on campus, or where possible arrange to visit you.

2 Create a legacy gift for the future

Our team can assist you or your solicitor in drafting suggested wording for your Will to help ensure it can be received as you intend, with the best possible long-term impact.

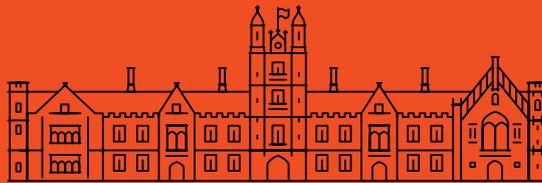
We always recommend you speak to your solicitor to ensure that the contents of your Will accurately reflect your intentions.

3 Share your wishes and intentions

If you do make the wonderful decision to include a gift in your Will, we would love to say thank you and acknowledge your generosity.

We understand that leaving a gift in your Will is no small action. Our team is here to support you as much, or as little, as you like in creating your legacy gift.

Please contact the Planned Giving team for any assistance on [+61 2 8331 5071](tel:+61283315071) or planned.giving@sydney.edu.au.



Our pledge to you

We are committed to developing a relationship of mutual trust and respect with all our donors. Our promise to you is that we will honour your intentions and as we pursue excellence in research and education. We respect:

- Your privacy
- Your decision to put loved ones first
- Your right to change your mind at any time
- Your wish to be acknowledged or remain anonymous

*Create your
legacy today*

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