

# Thanks!

The newsletter for Monash University's donors and volunteers  
Edition 2, 2009



**Philanthropy feels great!**

**In this edition:  
find out why alumni Jerry Lee  
and Ann Peers give back**



**MONASH** University

**Monash+**

Philanthropy. A bold adventure.

# Thanks! from the Vice-Chancellor

Since assuming my role at Monash University in July 2009, I have been privileged to meet many of the University's generous supporters. Listening to their reasons for giving to Monash, through philanthropy and volunteering, has been a powerful experience. Your involvement helps change lives, through education and research. **Thanks!**

Over the past few months I have been sharing my vision for Monash University with donors, volunteers, alumni, students and staff. The aim is that we become **the outstanding university** in our region of the world. By developing our strategic focus and building on our passions we will transform into a "new type of Australian university"; a university that:

- contributes to Victorian and national priorities from an international perspective
- achieves the greatest possible impact from our research and education, and
- actively pursues partnerships with government, industry and the community at the local, national and international levels

As committed volunteers and donors, your role is central to Monash achieving this vision. You play an important part in consolidating our leadership in education and research; through your gifts of time, advice and expertise and your financial support of scholarships and bursaries for students, our research and our facilities.

In this edition of **Thanks!** you will read about the extraordinary philanthropy of the late Dr Richard Pratt who has been an unwavering supporter of the University. Other donors also share their personal stories of what motivates them to give to Monash – it certainly makes for interesting reading.

Our dedicated volunteers bring so much to Monash – enthusiasm, ideas, networks and experience.

**Thanks!** profiles the stories and inspirations of key volunteers David Evans, Peter Rogers, Clive Weeks and George Pappas.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue of **Thanks!**

Thank you for your continuing support of Monash University.

**Professor Ed Byrne AO**  
Vice-Chancellor and President  
Monash University



# Remembering a visionary

Plenary Group and the family of the late James Cox – a founding director of the company – have established the James Cox PhD Scholarship in Architecture at Monash University.

The scholarship has been created to honour the businessman who had a huge influence on the visual landscape of Melbourne.

“The Monash scholarship was a perfect fit – the new architecture school looks to the future,” said Mr John O’Rourke, founding principal of Plenary Group. “Jim was never one to rest on his laurels. Our endowment will support some of our brightest design talent in researching Melbourne urban environment issues, but with a capacity to test international best practice.

“Jim had such a lasting impact on the personal and professional lives of so many of our people that we wanted to remember him with something more than a plaque.” Plenary Group has given more than \$600,000 to endow the scholarship.


“The PhD scholarship is an extraordinarily exciting and generous memorial that honours a man who made a huge contribution

to improving Melbourne’s urban environment,” said Professor John Redmond, Dean, Faculty of Art & Design.

“It’s a very important scholarship for Monash and our new Architecture program. More importantly, it complements our vision of research which advances what the discipline offers – the exciting, the cutting edge and the practical – and recognises that architecture is fundamental to our cities and to our identity as a society.”

Known to his many friends and colleagues as Jim, James Cox enjoyed a rich career spanning 30 years in property development and construction before he established Plenary Group.

“Seeing real outcomes emerge from future scholarship recipients will be a real fillip to our staff and I’m sure for Jim’s family,” said Mr O’Rourke.



Southern Cross Station – a public private partnership spearheaded by the late James (Jim) Cox.  
Photo courtesy: AssetCo Management Pty Ltd.

# Alumni giving back

For Ann Peers (BA 1971, DipEd 1972), a first-time donor to Monash, the University's 50th anniversary was a personal reminder about what she had gained since enrolling in Monash herself 40 years ago.

Watching her son Tyson thrive through the Vice-Chancellor's *Ancora Imparo* Program led her to donate to the alumni appeal. The retired secondary teacher realised she wanted to give back and help foster learning in young people.

"Distinguished community leaders, with Co-ordinator Leanne Gunnulson and the amazing Professor David Copolov, inspired these talented young people from across all faculties. The students enjoyed an exchange of ideas and were presented with a diverse range of leadership skills for today's challenges," said Ann.

"They worked together with a strong sense of purpose and pride in their university. Any program that could inspire a group like that every year is well worth supporting."

In June, alumni were invited to support Monash students through the University's first ever email appeal. Alumni could choose to support one of 11 priority student initiatives (see page 5) or an area of their personal interest. The response was overwhelming.

Jerry Lee (BEc 1980, LLB 1983), a lawyer, chose to support the Faculty of Law's Lawrie McCredie Student Support Program because he clearly remembers being inspired by his professor.

A return donor to Monash, Jerry was a student of Lawrie McCredie CBE AM in the early 1980s. Lawrie served the Monash Law School as a teacher, mentor, administrator, friend and colleague to thousands of students.

"I am certain that anybody who knows or has had contact with Lawrie would want to support this program. He is a terrific guy who looked after the undergrads. On top of that, he was a great lecturer. I don't think anybody will ever forget him," said Jerry.

**"I've seen so many wonderful, capable kids choose Monash for the opportunities it offers... it's time to give back."**

**Ann Peers**

## The Lawrie McCredie Student Support Program – Faculty of Law

For more than 30 years from 1966 to 1999, Lawrie McCredie CBE AM served the Faculty of Law at Monash University as a teacher, mentor, administrator, friend and colleague to hundreds of staff and thousands of law students.

The Lawrie McCredie Student Support Program honours and continues his work through much needed and important initiatives, designed to assist Monash Law students by enhancing their student experience, building community and helping to develop leadership, communication and other highly valued skills.

The program's main elements are: leadership development, the acknowledgement of excellence, community engagement and service, peer-to-peer and alumni mentoring, pastoral care, counselling, and careers advice.

To donate to the Lawrie McCredie Student Support Program visit: [www.monash.edu/giving/student-support/law](http://www.monash.edu/giving/student-support/law)

## The Vice-Chancellor's *Ancora Imparo* Student Leadership Program

The *Ancora Imparo* Program helps passionate and idealistic students prepare for future leadership roles by giving them the skills to serve and bring about constructive change in society.

Students learn about the visionary and inspirational principles that guide current leaders and have guided leaders in the past.

Forty first year students are chosen each year from across all faculties and Monash's Australian campuses. The students participate in a three-day residential program before first semester of their second year starts. During the year they also attend monthly seminars, which include talks from prominent Monash alumni and other leaders.

To support the *Ancora Imparo* Program visit: [www.monash.edu/giving/student-support/ancora-imparo](http://www.monash.edu/giving/student-support/ancora-imparo)



Monash alumni and donors  
Jerry Lee and Ann Peers

## Helping students to lead, achieve and succeed

Student support is one of the key priorities of the [Monash+](#) campaign. A selection of high priority student support initiatives – one from each faculty, plus the *Ancora Imparo* program – were the focus of the recent appeals to alumni and staff. You can read about the Faculty of Law's initiative and the *Ancora Imparo* Program on page 4.

Two faculties selected bursary programs for disadvantaged students as their highest priority: the Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences Scholars Bursary and the Faculty of Information Technology Student Equity Bursary.

The Faculty of Engineering selected the Engineering Leadership Program, an initiative that gives outstanding students additional leadership, communication and industry skills.

With research as an integral focus across Monash, it's not surprising that the faculties of Science, and Business and Economics sought additional support for two important scholarship programs for higher degree by research students: the Faculty of Science Dean's Postgraduate Research Scholarship and the

Donald Cochrane Postgraduate Research Scholarship (Faculty of Business and Economics).

Scholarships, bursaries and other support for students were the focus of the priority programs in the other faculties:

- Donor support for the Faculty of Education's Student Support in Honours Program will provide generous scholarships to students completing an Honours year.
- The Faculty of Arts Scholarships, Bursaries and Prizes Program is a broad initiative for undergraduate and postgraduate students across the faculty.
- The Dean's Student Support Program in the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences includes scholarships plus support for students undertaking practice rounds.
- The Faculty of Art & Design's focus was Undergraduate International Travel Scholarships and Bursaries to help more students complete a unit at the University's centre in Prato, Italy.

To read more about these initiatives, or to make a donation, visit: [www.monash.edu.au/giving/student-support](http://www.monash.edu.au/giving/student-support)

# VISY CARES LINK CENTRE



“I have always felt an obligation to give back to the country which I regard as the best in the world”

Dr Richard Pratt (quoted in ‘Top Decoration for Third richest Man’, *Illawarra Mercury*, 8 June 1998).

Fairfaxphotos.com

Dr Richard Pratt outside the Visy Cares Link Centre in 2003. Photo: John Woudstra/Fairfax Photos.

## Dr Richard Pratt: an inspiring philanthropist

The Monash University community is immensely thankful to the late Dr Richard Pratt (HonDEng 1990), a great Australian.

Monash University Vice-Chancellor Professor Ed Byrne said that Dr Pratt had been a transformational supporter of Monash. “Richard Pratt has set a new standard, demonstrating the importance of philanthropy to higher education in Australia.”

“His support for the Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisation was exceptionally important for the Centre and the University. His philanthropic investment gave momentum to the Centre’s activities and his actions undoubtedly inspired many others.”

“The forward-thinking philanthropy of Dr Richard Pratt and the Pratt Foundation continues to have an impact across Monash University and on the lives of students, alumni, staff and the community,” said Professor Byrne.

Through the Pratt Foundation, Dr Pratt has given generously to the University for more than a decade.

One of the Pratt Foundation’s earliest donations to Monash was in 1996 when it funded a series of scholarships in the Faculty of Engineering.

Since then Dr Pratt, his family and the Pratt Foundation have been leading donors to positions, projects and centres across Monash University. In particular, they have been active supporters of the Faculty of Arts through the Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisation (ACJC) and the School of Music – Conservatorium/Performing Arts Centre, and the Faculty of Law’s Monash-Oakleigh Legal Service.

After providing significant seed funding for the Centre, the Pratt Foundation later endowed a key leadership position. The Pratt Foundation Research Chair in Jewish Civilisation is now held by Professor Andrew Markus, an eminent and highly respected Australian academic.

The Foundation has also supported a number of other projects and conferences at the ACJC. For example, the philanthropy of the Pratt Foundation, along with Lee Liberman, enabled Monash University to become the first Australasian university to provide access to the Visual History Archive of the USC Shoah Foundation Institute for Visual History and Education. The Archive is a very powerful tool for research and education. It is a collection of nearly 52,000 video testimonies of Holocaust survivors and other witnesses, in 32 languages and from 56 countries.

### A legal gift

While a student at Monash Law School, Dr Pratt's daughter Fiona Geminder undertook a practical unit at Monash-Oakleigh Legal Service. The Legal Service is one of two operated by Monash Law School in conjunction with Victorian Legal Aid and local municipalities. The community legal services give Monash students the opportunity to be involved in 'hands on' legal practice, providing pro bono advice to members of the public, under the supervision of volunteer lawyers.

Many Monash law students find their work within the services to be very inspiring. Ms Geminder found this time to be life-changing:

"The experience has been sometimes challenging and extremely rewarding and I would not have swapped any of my time doing the Professional Practice subject for the world," Ms Geminder said, in *Reflections on Professional Practice* in 2006.

After her graduation in 2006 Ms Geminder championed a major donation from the Pratt Foundation to the Monash-Oakleigh Legal Service.

### Support for the arts

The Pratt Foundation is very supportive of the visual and performing arts in Australia and its involvement with Monash University has echoed this interest.

In 2002, the Foundation provided \$1 million to the Performing Arts Centre (School of Music – Conservatorium). This donation had a broad impact – creating music scholarships, fostering theatre collaborations and other initiatives, and enabling the Centre to buy a Steinway piano and additional instruments.

### Advancing health care research

The Foundation has given more than \$2 million to Monash, over six years, towards mental health research. An initiative of Heloise Waislitz, Dr and Mrs Pratt's daughter and Chair of the Pratt Foundation, the donation supported the work of Professor Bruce Tonge (MBBS 1970) and his colleagues in the School of Psychology, Psychiatry and Psychological Medicine. The research looked at the assessment and treatment of psychosis in adolescents.

This major project extended the Foundation's long history of support for medical research at Monash. In fact, the Foundation was one of the earliest major supporters of Monash Institute for Reproduction and Development (under founding director Professor David de Kretser AC (MD 1969, HonLLD 2006)), now Monash Institute for Medical Research.

#### Fact file:

##### Dr Richard Pratt (1934 – 2009)

- Established the Pratt Foundation, with his wife Jeanne Pratt, in 1978
- Monash University honorary Doctor of Engineering, awarded 1990
- Donor to numerous Monash initiatives
- Member, Monash University Campaign Committee
- Parent of Monash alumni Anthony Pratt (BEc(Hons)1982) and Fiona Geminder (BA 1985, LLB 2006)



Dr Richard Pratt (right) after receiving his honorary Monash University Doctor of Engineering in 1990. Dr Pratt is pictured with the then Dean of Engineering Professor Peter Darvall (left) and then Chancellor Sir George Lush (centre). Photo: Monash University Archives IN712.

**"I was brought up to be a giver not a taker ... When we were little I gave a little and now that we're bigger I give more..."**

**Dr Richard Pratt** (quoted from an ABC Radio interview, 22 December 2005).

# Engineering global leaders

## An enthusiastic volunteer

Dr Peter Rogers (BE 1967, PhD 1974) is determined to encourage other Monash alumni, who are on the cusp of retirement, to get involved with the University once again.

The Monash University volunteer, alumnus and donor says: "I was in the first intake of students to Monash in 1961 and I can still remember the opening ceremony! A lot of us have done well and are in a position to get involved by opening doors which can lead to relationship building for the University, vacation opportunities and mentoring for students, and of course, donations or pledges."

"For me there was a long period when I didn't have a direct involvement with Monash but I always felt affection for it."

Peter started volunteering with the University after meeting a former Monash Vice-Chancellor and Chair of the Engineering Foundation.

"Through an alumni event I met Peter Darvall and he asked me to get involved. It was the right time for me. By this stage in my life and career I had the capacity and the interest."

Now Chair of the Engineering Foundation, Peter is full of enthusiasm for the Faculty of Engineering Leadership Program. Since 2007 the program has enabled high-achieving students to learn about

### Fact file:

#### Dr Peter Rogers – volunteer, alumnus and donor

- Chair, Engineering Foundation, Monash University
- Day job: Managing Director, International Consultants Centre
- Monash degrees: Bachelor of Engineering (Chemical) (1967) and PhD in Psychology (1974)

themselves and about how to become leaders in the wider world. The program is now Peter's top fundraising priority.

"Monash has given, and continues to give, its students a very unique international and cross disciplinary experience," he says. "Monash Engineering programs are designed to prepare the engineering leaders of the future."

Peters draws great satisfaction from volunteering because he says it completes a circle:

"Volunteering is about fitting the pieces together – using my experience and my international contacts and bringing connections to the University and in turn, bringing good graduates and students to the corporate sector. We need each other."

"A lot of us have done well and are in a position to get involved by opening doors..."



Peter Rogers with engineering students

“We all have something to give.”

Clive Weeks

### A generous supporter

Gratitude for the opportunities afforded to him as a young student from the country has led Clive Weeks (BE 1969, MEng 1972) to support Monash University.

When Clive retired in January this year, he gave generously to the Faculty of Engineering’s Leadership Program.

A member of the Engineering Foundation, Clive has also agreed to give an annual amount to fund a country student’s participation in the program each year.

“The leadership program has the ability to differentiate Monash Engineering from other courses. It brings skills to engineering students that they would not necessarily obtain – skills such as an understanding of leadership, marketing, negotiation skills and the ‘softer’ people skills. It’s very competitive out there and anything that gives students an edge will stand them in good stead. I really believe in the leadership program,” says Clive.

“It seems there has been a decrease in engineers that become CEOs and senior managers. The leadership program is one way we can help bring engineers to the forefront again.”

A former Chairman, CEO and Director of engineering firm GHD Pty Ltd, Clive says: “As I approached retirement I felt I wanted to help Monash because Monash had helped me a lot in terms of my education. I came to Monash from the country (Elmore, northern Victoria) with an engineering diploma and completed an engineering degree in 1969 and then a Masters of Engineering in 1972. I was on a Commonwealth Scholarship which were offered to good, not necessarily brilliant, students. The opportunities I had then were part of my motivation for giving now.”

Eighteen months after finishing his studies, Clive joined GHD Pty Ltd and remained with the company for 37 years. “I was fortunate to have a strong career with them,” says Clive.

During this time he “reconnected with Monash Engineering when my second son, Marcus, studied civil engineering and by giving a few guest lectures”.

He was named Monash’s Civil Engineering Alumnus of the Year in 2004. Two years later he joined the Engineering Foundation and has been a member during the establishment of the leadership program. His focus is now on working with the other Engineering Foundation board members to fundraise.

“Everyone can help in some way. We all have something to give.”



Clive Weeks

#### Fact file:

##### Mr Clive Weeks – volunteer, alumnus and donor

- Member, Engineering Foundation, Monash University
- Retired Chairman, CEO and Director of GHD Pty Ltd
- Monash degrees: Bachelor of Engineering (Civil) (1969) and Master of Engineering Science (Civil) (1972)

#### Your role in shaping the future of engineering

To donate towards the Engineering Leadership Program visit: [www.monash.edu/giving/leadership](http://www.monash.edu/giving/leadership)  
To read more about the program visit: [www.eng.monash.edu/current-students/merit/leadership/](http://www.eng.monash.edu/current-students/merit/leadership/)

# Researcher moved to give to students

In April, Monash University ran its first ever staff philanthropy appeal inviting donations towards priority student support initiatives (see page 5) or an area of personal interest. Students across Monash will benefit from the generosity of staff, who responded very positively to the campaign.

Reading a story about Michael, a Monash student who overcame adversity to earn a bursary, propelled Caroline Gargett to give.

The senior researcher at Monash Institute of Medical Research chose to support the Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences Scholars Bursary.

"I could see that the bursary obviously meant a huge amount to Michael (who grew up as a ward of the state). His level of gratitude was so huge," said Dr Gargett. "The bursary would have given him more time to focus on his education." In an email which formed part of the appeal, Michael said receiving the bursary "lifted a burden", enabled him to focus on study and made him feel "valued and empowered".

Motivated by her experiences as an academic and as the mother of three sons who attended Monash – one of whom faced significant hurdles to get there – Dr Gargett feels strongly that education should be accessible to everyone.

"It's a pleasure to see students who have overcome disadvantage succeed."

"As a staff member, it is a privilege to teach highly motivated students. To assist them materially through the bursary is like icing on the cake because you can see that it encourages students who are already very committed."

## Your role in helping students achieve their full potential

You can support the Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences Scholars Bursary and other priority student support initiatives by visiting: [www.monash.edu/giving/student-support](http://www.monash.edu/giving/student-support)

Monash staff members can continue to donate to the University's student support initiatives and other areas of interest through payroll deduction or credit card by following the links from [www.monash.edu/giving/staff-philanthropy](http://www.monash.edu/giving/staff-philanthropy)

Monash staff member and donor Caroline Gargett. Photo courtesy of NHMRC.



# Elated to be giving!

A strong belief that each generation should make the world a better place for the next is the motivation behind Brian Frary's promised bequest to Monash University.

Brian will bequeath funding for two scholarships in the Faculty of Science in memory of his late parents who could not pursue tertiary study.

A scholarship in Botany will honour his green-thumb father, Benjamin, while the Mathematical Sciences scholarship will be in memory of his mother, Ivy, an arithmetic whiz.

"My mother won a secondary school scholarship to further her education. But being the eldest of six, she was expected to leave school at 14 to help support her siblings, so further study was not an option," Brian says. His father faced a similar scenario and also left school at a young age.

Brian says: "The scholarships will allow these students to reach their full potential, and in that way they will be able to improve society".

Another of his reasons for giving to Monash is his passion for science. He says Australia must develop a strong talent pool of scientists who can then help solve global problems.

"The world's population is increasing exponentially. We're going to have a hell of a lot of problems. The only way you're going to get out of that is through science and logical thought. In Australia, we keep digging stuff out of the ground without adding value, but that's going to end. We've got to live off our brains after that."

## An affinity with Monash

Brian grew up as an only child in Essex, UK, and migrated to Australia for work in 1979. His parents had passed away some years previously. He soon became acquainted with Monash University's Matheson Library, often dropping by to conduct research relating to his role with scientific instrument firm Varian-Techtron. Being naturally curious about science, he was also fascinated by the intriguing "grating ruling machine" at the neighbouring CSIRO.

Brian's link to Monash began because of research and curiosity. It's fitting he will have an impact on innovation in science well into the future, through the scholarships.



Brian Frary: honouring his parents through scholarships in Botany and Maths.

## Your role in science education

To donate to scholarships and bursaries for students in the Faculty of Science visit: [www.monash.edu/giving/sciencescholars](http://www.monash.edu/giving/sciencescholars)  
Alternatively, you can support the Dean of Science's Postgraduate Research Scholarship by going to:  
[www.monash.edu/giving/sciencedean](http://www.monash.edu/giving/sciencedean)

For more information about leaving a bequest to Monash University in your will, please contact John Kearsey on 03 9903 4616.

# Honouring Victor Smorgon

The late Victor Smorgon AC was a foundation supporter of Monash University's Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisation. He endowed a chair named in honour of his wife Loti Smorgon AO.

Of Mr Smorgon, the *Australian Jewish News* wrote he "set the example himself, making the Smorgon name a byword for philanthropy, not only in the Jewish community ... but across the wider Australian community".

Announcing Professor Leah Garrett as the appointee to the Loti Smorgon Research Chair in Contemporary Jewish Life and Culture, the then Vice-Chancellor Richard Larkins paid tribute to the Smorgons: "Monash University has been very fortunate to secure such an accomplished appointee as Professor Garrett. This has been entirely due to the vision and philanthropic spirit of Loti and Victor Smorgon."

A new position at Epworth HealthCare has been named to honour Mr Smorgon's philanthropy – the Victor Smorgon Chair of Rehabilitation at Monash University. This chair has also been supported by medical technology company Medtronic.

Victor Smorgon's philanthropy will undoubtedly continue through the Victor Smorgon Charitable Trust and the work of his family.

"I followed the example of my father and my grandfather," he told *Australia Post's Priority* magazine in February 2008. "All of my children and my grandchildren, they were all brought up like that and they do the same thing. They don't all contribute to the same fields but they're all involved in giving and helping in some way. It makes for a full life."



Peter Churcher, *Loti and Victor*, 2003  
Oil on canvas, Donated by the artist, Peter Mac Art Collection  
Reproduced with permission courtesy of the artist and Australian Galleries.



Left to right: Former Chancellor Jerry Ellis with Victor Smorgon AC and Loti Smorgon AO, taken in 2006 at an event to thank the Smorgons for their philanthropy.

# New Indigenous bursary

A donation from Infosys Australia has established a new Information Technology bursary.

The staff of Infosys (a business consulting and IT services company) helped select Monash University as the recipient of the bursary which is for a student from an Indigenous background.

Funded through the Infosys Corporate Social Responsibility Program, which seeks to support the education of, and enhance the life chances of disadvantaged Australians, the bursary will be available for 2010.

Infosys employees reviewed submissions from various educational institutions and found Monash to be particularly responsive, informative and supportive of their vision.

Infosys Australia Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Jackie Korhonen (pictured) said the bursary was a first for the company: "Through this program, we hope to provide some financial support to encourage the efforts of an Indigenous student who is interested in pursuing a career in the IT industry."

"We have a number of educational partnerships in Australia, but this fund, aimed at supporting Indigenous scholars, is breaking new ground for us," she said. "We wish the successful recipient all the best and hope that our support will ease some of the difficulty of tertiary study."

The Infosys Australia Indigenous Scholars Bursary will be awarded to an undergraduate or postgraduate student. The money will be able to be used for fees and living expenses.



## Your role helping Information Technology students

You can support scholarships and bursaries in the Faculty of Information Technology by visiting:  
[www.monash.edu/giving/ITbursary](http://www.monash.edu/giving/ITbursary)

## Updates

### MUMA construction commences

Work has started on the new location of Monash University Museum of Art | MUMA. MUMA will move from the Monash University Clayton campus to be within the Art and Design precinct of the Caulfield campus. The new museum is scheduled to open in 2010.

The new location has been made possible by the generous philanthropic support of the Ian Potter Foundation, the Helen Macpherson Smith Trust and The Sidney Myer Fund.

### The Cochranes congratulate 2009 scholarship recipients

Dr Fiona Cochrane (MBBS(Hons) 1980) and Dr Andrew Cochrane recently attended a ceremony to award the prestigious Donald Cochrane Postgraduate Research Scholarships for 2009.

The recipients are: Gang Chen from the Centre for Health Economics; Julia Polak from the Department of Econometrics and Business Statistics; and Christina Wai Wong-Lim from the Department of Accounting and Finance.

The Cochranes established the prestigious scholarship to honour their late father Emeritus Professor Donald Cochrane CBE (HonDEc 1982), the founding Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Politics (now Business and Economics) at Monash University.

# Celebrating volunteer George Pappas

Alumnus George Pappas (BEC(Hons) 1968) has been honoured for his relationship building, support of alumni events and strategic advice for Monash University.

Mr Pappas received the 2009 Distinguished Alumni Service Award for his commitment to Monash, in particular to the faculties of Business and Economics, and Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences. He is a member of the Advisory Boards of both faculties and Vice-Chair of the Monash University Medical Foundation Board.

In the award nomination, Professor Leon Piterman AM (MEdSt 1990) wrote: "George Pappas' leadership and commitment ... has been outstanding. He has devoted scores of hours cultivating vital external relations, including donor relations, to the Faculty (of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences) and generously supported alumni events ... in addition to providing invaluable strategic guidance and wisdom to both Boards".

Currently Chairman of the Committee for Melbourne, Mr Pappas generously shares his advice and expertise with Monash; knowledge gained during his international career in business consulting.

In accepting his award, Mr Pappas said he felt privileged to work alongside talented staff. "I visited the zebrafish facility in the Australian Regenerative Medicine Institute the other day, and my eyes popped! I get a big buzz out of being involved with it. Hopefully that buzz stimulates some ideas from me and members of the two Advisory Boards," he said.

He sees the award as a gesture of thanks to all Monash volunteers.

"I'm very honoured to accept the award. I regard this as an award for the large number of people who do great things for the University. I feel that I am a representative of the many alumni who go out of their way to give something back to the University that has given them so much."

Mr Pappas believes that it is important for Monash alumni to become involved with the University.

"I think it's incumbent on us to give back ... Some people do this by endowing chairs, or funding scholarships, or helping to raise money for buildings. Others do it by contributing their expertise, their knowledge and their time," he said.

"Whatever way you do it, I think it's most important that you give back to Monash University."



George Pappas and his wife, Jillian Pappas (BEC 1968), who also volunteers her time to the education sector.

**"George has been a constant and valuable contributor to the Monash University community across a broad spectrum."**

**Professor Leon Piterman AM**

## 2009 Distinguished Alumni Awards

Read about George Pappas and the other distinguished alumni honoured by Monash University in 2009 at [www.monash.edu.au/alumni/awards](http://www.monash.edu.au/alumni/awards)

# The circle of giving

Some 20 years ago, when Lehan Ramsay was struggling to live and work in Japan, someone she knew sent her \$1,000. Knowing she had a safety net really helped her to get through the tough period.

Now a PhD student in the Faculty of Art & Design at Monash University, Lehan has been inspired by the memory of this sense of safety. She has donated that same amount of money – \$1,000 – as a bursary for an up-and-coming final year Visual Arts student. The bursary has been awarded to Palistha Kakshapati, who is from Nepal.

Lehan also felt motivated to give as she feels a sense of obligation because she did not have to pay fees when she was an undergraduate student in Australia.

“When my grandmother died, she left me a gift and that has enabled me to give something away,” says Lehan.

“The generosity of giving always means you gain so much more than you lose. When someone gave me \$1,000 they made me feel that I could change the world ... I hope Palistha becomes successful so she can give in the future.”



## Your role in supporting creativity

To donate to scholarships and bursaries for students in the Faculty of Art & Design go to: [www.monash.edu/giving/artdlesscholars](http://www.monash.edu/giving/artdlesscholars)



## Yes, I want to support Monash University.

To make a donation, please complete this form and forward it to Donor, Alumni and Community Relations, Monash University, PO Box 197, Caulfield East VIC 3145 Australia or confidential fax + 61 3 9903 4885. Alternatively, you can donate online at: [www.monash.edu/giving](http://www.monash.edu/giving)

Yes, I would like to support Monash University by making a donation today of:

\$1,000     \$500     \$250     \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to direct my gift to:

Research                                       Teaching and learning                                       Building projects  
 Student scholarships and bursaries     Monash Libraries                                       The University's area of greatest need

The Faculty of \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Personal details**     Ms     Mr     Mrs     Miss     Dr     Other \_\_\_\_\_

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# Recruiting new talent

Monash University has named David Evans (BEC 1989) as the first Vice Chair of the **Monash+** Campaign Committee.

Recruited by **Monash+** Campaign Chair Trevor O'Hoy (BEC 1976), David is drawing on a large network of younger philanthropists and business leaders to help him.

He is encouraging influential business and philanthropic leaders to reconnect with Monash University through the Next Generation sub-committee.

"There's a bit of a changing of the guard. There are some really talented men and women coming through the business circles of Melbourne who have significant influence and ability to give. They are from philanthropic families, but they have a philanthropic outlook as well," said David.

"Getting these people engaged and involved is a really significant thing that's going to help the University. The younger people in the business community want and need to be involved."

David will also champion donor support for a new endowment – the Achieving Potential Fund. Donors will give deserving young people the opportunity to attend Monash by providing a significant number of new student scholarships and bursaries.

"I'm a big believer that people succeed because of environment and opportunity, not genetics. That, for me, is a real reason why I'm involved with Monash," said David, Managing Partner of investment advisers Evans & Partners.

"I love seeing young people get an opportunity they wouldn't otherwise get. I had the privilege of going to Monash and that did an enormous amount for me in my career. I'd like to see other people have that opportunity."



David Evans' first direct involvement with philanthropy at Monash University was the creation of the Ron Evans Cancer Research Fellowship at Monash Institute of Medical Research. The Fellowship honours his late father, prominent Melbourne businessman Ron Evans AM (MAdmin 1977), who passed away in 2007 from an aggressive form of bowel cancer.

## Your role supporting students or research

You can support scholarships and bursaries at Monash University by giving to the Achieving Potential Fund at [www.monash.edu/giving/potential](http://www.monash.edu/giving/potential)

Or to donate towards the Ron Evans Cancer Research Fellowship visit [www.monash.edu/giving/ronevans](http://www.monash.edu/giving/ronevans)

## About Thanks!

**Thanks!** is Monash University's newsletter to recognise donors and volunteers. It is published by Donor, Alumni and Community Relations, Office of the Vice-President (Advancement), Monash University.

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