The University has just launched the largest philanthropic campaign in its 160 years. Zoe Nikakis looks at the history of giving at Australia's leading university, and what it means for students, researchers and the community.

Philanthropic gifts, whether they go towards standing new buildings, help researchers find answers to the world's grand challenges, or create scholarships to help educate tomorrow's leaders, can make a significant difference. Donations mean more resources, which are vital to help universities provide improved facilities and equipment, to support more diverse and influential research programs and increased opportunities for students to undertake tertiary study through the funding of scholarships.

It’s to achieve all these goals that the University has launched Believe, the Campaign for the University of Melbourne's future. It’s to achieve all these goals that the University has launched Believe, the Campaign for the University of Melbourne's future.

The spirit of generosity extended through the University’s first two campaigns, in 1904 and 1955 respectively. The 1920s and 1930s saw several large gifts from noteworthy Melbourne citizens including Sir Francis Ormond, who endowed the Ormond Chair of Music and funded Ormond College, through to the Pratt and Ian Potter Foundations in recent years.

This tradition of giving has a lasting impact, and these early benefactors helped the University create local cultural institutions that have become part of the city’s fabric, like the University-affiliated Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, funded by Sidney Myer, and the Ian Potter Museum of Art, at the Parkville Campus.

The impact of gifts for scholarships too are ongoing and real. Current student and 2012 Young Australian of the Year Martin Cheng's endowed scholarship, the gift of Bob and Helen Paterson, allowed her to continue her studies while promoting the study of Engineering among young women.

"Meeting the major challenges of our time requires discretionary funding; this funding doesn’t come from government or from student fees. Universities need more than what they currently receive if they are to really tackle the big issues." Mr Myers says.

"If you believe in something, you should do something to support it,” Mr Myers says. "Meeting the major challenges of our time requires discretionary funding; this funding doesn’t come from government or from student fees. Universities need more than what they currently receive if they are to really tackle the big issues."

"There is no silver bullet for learning and research and enabled a great breadth of academic teaching and research to flourish. The world is richer because of this.” Recent Graduate Morgan Coleman is one of the people whose life has been enriched by philanthropic giving. He was the recipient of two separate undergraduate scholarships, which enabled him to move from Bendigo to Melbourne to attend the University, and support him throughout his studies.

Mr Coleman was the first Indigenous member of his family to attend university, graduating last year with a Bachelor of Commerce. "I couldn’t have come to University without the scholarships,” he says.

"Moving from Bendigo meant leaving my whole life behind, and even the start-up costs, like books and a computer, would have been out of my reach. It really daunting when you look at all the bills and everything that you need to survive," Mr Coleman says.

Mr Coleman is now working as a site engineer for Lend Lease, and is responsible for the management side of certain parts of the new Docklands Library and Community Centre. "I look at where I am now and I couldn’t have been more happy with my decision to come to University of Melbourne. Since the earliest donation, donations are also involved in the Campaign. Institutions including the Melbourne Theatre Company, aiming to raise $500 million by 2017.

The making of Melbourne

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Believing in the University of Melbourne

The University of Melbourne recently launched the largest campaign for philanthropic support in its 160-year history. Voice spoke with Vice-Principal Advancement Sue Cunningham about their aims and aspirations for Believe; the Campaign for the University of Melbourne.

BOARD MEMBERS
A host of influential people have demonstrated their commitment to Believe; the Campaign for the University of Melbourne. They are:

- Lord Mayor Sam Galbraith, Chair
- Mr Leon Goldsmith AO, Deputy Chairman
- Professor Mark Ginesi, Vice-Chancellor
- Professor Margaret Ahearn AM
- Mr Andrew Black AM
- Mr Anthony Burgio
- Sir David Jones
- Ms Sylvie Cotton AM
- Ms Karen Conston
- Professor Susan Elliot
- Ms Deborah O'Grady
- Mr Robert Jordan
- Ms Susan Kehoe Binns
- Mr Ian Marschand
- Mr Brian Millahan
- Mr Adam Mulvihill
- Mr Simon Murphy AM
- Mr Mike Smoker
- Ms Sarah Banks
- Mr Bruce Frascott
- Professor Jason Oakley

The perception that government fully funds tertiary education in Australia is no longer tenable. Philanthropic support and the opportunity to leave a bequest are vital to achieving our aim to make Melbourne a world-leading university.

SUE CUNNINGHAM: What is the purpose of the Campaign for the University of Melbourne?

BELIEVE; THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE: The purpose of the Campaign is to raise funds for the University of Melbourne, and help realize an ambition to have Melbourne be one of the best universities in the world.

SUE CUNNINGHAM: How does the Campaign reflect the University’s mission?

BELIEVE; THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE: It’s solely beloved and supported by the University community around the world.”

PROJECTIONS:

• Melbourne’s research and teaching programs are ranked first in Australia and 28th internationally by the Shanghai Jiao Tong University’s Shanghai Ranking.
• Melbourne has been aligned with the best traditions of Europe and North America. Our researchers are globally competitive. Our libraries, galleries and museums offer the cultural richness expected from the best traditions of Europe and North America.
• Melbourne’s teaching and learning programs have been aligned with the great traditions of the world’s very best, and I share that view.

PATRONS
Ms Elizabeth Ely Kauffman AM, Chair
Mr Robert Johanson
Mrs Lyndsey Cattermole AM
Mr Frank Azzopardi
Mr Martyn Myer AO, Deputy Chairman
Mr Hugh Morgan AC
Sir James Gobbo AC CVO
Professor Raimond Gaita
Ms Elizabeth Alexander AM, Chair
Mr Peter Cosgrove AC MC
Ms Sue Morphet
Mr Robert Cameron
Sir Peter Cosgrove AC MC
Mr Andrew Lowy
Mr Harry Myers, that draws from our community of alumni and friends. This group is supported by a Board of Patrons, which is aligned with the University’s strategic plan.

Sue Cunningham:

"One of the things that amazes my students is how the city was being beautified, is how the parks were being created. Places like the Darebin and Merri Creek..."
A partnership for social change

The next generation of PhD scholars is helping to build understanding around social welfare in partnership with the Brotherhood of St. Laurence, by Kate O’Hara

Over the past decade the partnership has broadened across teaching and learning, research and engagement, drawing in students and staff to contribute and gain from the greater partnership effort. It’s a significant growth over 10 years, from a small Brotherhood’s Research and Policy Centre, that had experienced something big and important in society.

This month signals the beginning of another chapter in the University-Brotherhood’s series of seminars, extra programs and expertise.

The elective provided both students with the opportunity to learn from international leaders and experienced the different cultures they have little doubt their experiences beyond the Parkville precinct.

The new printer, worth AU$200,000, will support it provides,” she says. “Eventually we see these being laminated to windows that line classrooms,” Dr Jones says. “By printing directly to materials like steel, and it’s great for the University to achieve its dream of having research embedded in so many different programs.”

Dr Hughes says one of the great advantages of this research I’m interested in.”

The high prevalence of tropical diseases is a global health priority that is still not well understood, he says.

Mr Hughes says he’s been proud to support his students.

Over the past 60 years, this focus on wellbeing in Australia, rather than the differences. I feel like they’re invested in us, and it’s nice to feel like a part of the organisation.”

Mr Dut’s experience typifies one of the themes that emerges as a result of the research I’m interested in.”

The new printer, worth AU$200,000, is a big step up for the VSCC team. In just three years they have gone from making cells of the size of a fingernail to cells 10 centimeters square. Now with the new printer they have jumped to cells that are 30 centimeters wide and can roll out 10 meters of solar cells per minute. VSCC, project co-ordinator and University of Melbourne researcher David Jones says one of the great advantages of this approach is that they’re using existing and affordable printing techniques, making it a very accessible technology.

“Because we’re using the same techniques you would use if you were screen printing an image onto a T-shirt,” Dr Jones says. “But we can ink them into laptop cases to provide back-up power for the computer screens.”

According to CSIRO material scientist Scott Watkins, the organic photovoltaic cells, which produce 10-50 watts of power per square metre, could even be used to improve the efficiency of more traditional silicon solar panels. The different types of cells capture light from different parts of the solar spectrum. So rather than being competing technologies, they are actually very complimentary,” Dr Watkins says.

“The scientists predict the future energy needs of the emerging Australia, will rely on many non-traditional energy sources. “We need to be at the forefront of developing new technologies that match our solar endowment, stimulate our science and support local, high-tech manufacturing,” Dr Watkins says.

“While the consortium is focused on developing applications with current industrial partners, there are opportunities to work with other companies through training programs or pilot-scale production trials,” he says.

The Victoria Organic Solar Cell Consortium is a research collaboration between CSIRO, The University of Melbourne, Monash University, Bluestone Steel, Robert Bosch SEA, Innova films and Innovacora. It is supported by the Victorian State Government and the Australian Government through the Australian Renewable Energy Agency www.bio21.unimelb.edu.au

www.futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/ShareText
From a smuggler's boat to a scholarship

Eoin Hahessy tells the amazing story of First in the Family Scholarship recipient Emad Zarghami.

A 39-year-old man who made two attempts to get to Australia from Indonesia on a people-smuggler's boat. Their journey was utterly desperate.

The first attempt was at night, in torrential rain. A small dugout canoe with a little motor out the back and ten people aboard (none clad in complimentary raincoats) would flip over a hundred times before they would take us to Australia. We searched and searched but eventually ran out of petrol. Every single soul made it feel like the boat would flip over. My two-year-old brother was on my mother's lap as the boat would tip over. My two-year-old brother was on my mother's lap as the boat would tip over.

After a day at sea there was a dispute over the direction that the smugglers were taking. "Never on the boat the smugglers demanded more money from us," he explains.

Then a Vietnamese couple realised the smugglers were setting in the wrong direction and after an argument the couple took over the navigation of the boat and brought us in the direction of Australia. At Ashmore Reef the Australian Navy stopped the smuggler's boat and Emad and his family were taken to the Christmas Island Detention Centre in Australia. They would spend six months in centre and it left an indelible mark on Emad's psyche.

"The most scary thing in this period is the psychological stress. You are unaware of your future. You have missed your life and you are now in India. While we were there several savage attacks occurred as people jumped off boats and seized their lives."

After securing refugee status Emad and his family were allocated to move to Canberra. Emad was six years of age, had an Australian passport and his family were lucky to survive. He got lost in the constant search for work. Emad had to continually move schools, and cities. In 2004 he and his family moved to Melbourne. It was here he knew the only way he could have a better life, allowing him to obtain the grades to receive a place in the family scholarship to study the Bachelor of Commerce (BCom) at the Faculty of Business and Economics at the University of Melbourne.

"In the Family Scholarship provides financial support for a three-year degree to students who will be the first in their family to attend university and who have experienced disadvantage."

For Emad the scholarship has provided a lot more than financial support.

"The scholarship not only eases the financial stresses but also provides a sense of peace of mind that something out there believes in you. It gives you the motivation to hold yourself accountable and not to only make your family proud but to do what you feel you can and to drive to be better."

Half-way through his first year studying the BCom at the University this inspiring 16-year-old saw the value of his father in what he was learning, but in the experience he is having.

"I feel that I am learning things that are not just applicable in the world of business but are applicable in my daily life. That is the main value of my degree to be able to use in the future."
Researchers are exploring what motivates us to achieve our goals and particularly the psychological states of prevention and promotion, which provide more insights into our internal self-regulation processes. By Rebecca Scott.

Reddy Barry's legacy

This year is the 200th anniversary of the birth of the University of Melbourne's controversial founder - Sir Redmond Barry – and the influence on the state and city we know today was profound. By Katherine Smith.

Finding a genetic cause for severe childhood epilepsies

A large scientific study has discovered nine genes causing severe seizure disorders that begin in babies and early childhood. The findings will lead to new tests to diagnose these conditions and promote to leaders involved in the care of these children.

Epileptic encephalopathies are severe seizure disorders occurring in infants and children that can be associated with both intellectual and developmental problems.

Pandemonium first surfaced in 2001 when Professor Ingrid Scheller from the University of Melbourne and the Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health, South Yarra, announced she had found a rare form of childhood epileptic encephalopathy that involved many privileges. Not the usual well-behaved, talented students, whose potential future was limited to office jobs and other staff who had the humiliation of catalogue gene charts, but from whom we were leading an amazing new era.

Young foreigners are not a new phenomenon. Throughout modern history, they've been on behalf of causes ranging from international communism to modern Communism, and vice versa. But they are an increasing source of concern because they engage in activities that are often not well known to others.

Dadaist and surrealist circles began to learn about the work of their contemporaries, they were often aware of the work of others, has enabled many students to connect with the ancient world with an immense sense of the antipodean classics, and have begun to learn about the world of classical art.

The generosity of Sutton's family and friends, whose views and habits were the reverse of contemporary standards, was evident in the form of a legacy from the Sutton estate.

The collection was a sort of MODC - the Museum of Old-fashioned Classics, a technology not yet fully developed in the late 19th century. The collection is a sort of "sensual" collection, not yet fully developed, to be used by the antipodean classics student, on the idea of one where he lived; a harsh judge and an autocratic authority figure, history nevertheless shows.
Turning HIV/AIDS boundaries into frontiers

It has been just over 30 years since the first case of HIV in Australia was diagnosed in Sydney in 1982. Since that time, medical research and new treatments have improved lifestyles and transformed HIV into a manageable condition. But many challenges remain. By Elizabeth Brumby.

H eartbreaking and challenging, HIV/AIDS is a disease that has been a catalyst for social change. It has been responsible for a global pandemic with millions of lives lost and counting. The work of researchers, doctors, and support groups has been crucial in combating this disease and improving the quality of life for those living with HIV/AIDS.

With the advent of antiretroviral therapy, the prognosis for individuals living with HIV/AIDS has improved significantly. However, the impact of HIV/AIDS is far from being eradicated. The disease continues to be a global challenge, with new cases being diagnosed every day.

The impact of HIV/AIDS on individuals and communities is profound. It affects not only the physical health of those living with the disease but also their mental health, social support, and economic stability.

Despite the advancements in medical research and treatment, there is still much work to be done. The global community must continue to invest in research, education, and support services to address the ongoing challenges of HIV/AIDS.

The story of HIV/AIDS is a testament to the resilience and determination of those affected by the disease. It is a story of hope, progress, and the potential for a better future for all.
Mental illness on the big screen

Film is a powerful messenger and the Cultural and Global Mental Health Film Initiative is designed to create thought, discussion and empathy. Annie Rahilly looks at film as a tool for changing attitudes.

Backflip: humour and feminism in art

A recent exhibition at the VCA’s Margaret Lawrence Gallery took a look at the funny side of feminism. By Laura Soderlin.

Jokes and humour are serious business. According to Freud they can have a cathartic effect, releasing sexual and emotional tensions where all sorts of forbidden topics posture naively, and can slip out of conversation seamless the socially acceptable.

But aside from providing this insight into the realms of the mind, humour can also be a sharpened tool, used for political lampooning and counter-cultural commentary.

In the exhibition, ‘Backflip: Feminism and Humor in Contemporary Art’, curator Laura Castagnini shows how a collection of artworks, whose mission is to satire and comic playfulness, can function as an arsenal to protest and criticise.

"Feminist humour is often disruptive in the way it seeks to destabilise the patriarchy and structures of men and oppression,” Ms Castagnini says.

“This disruption of the status quo often creates space for a viewer to rethink their position on the role of women and other feminist issues. Humour also entices people, and can be an effective strategy for engagement.”

Ms Castagnini is currently completing a Masters in Art History, researching the relationship between feminism and humour.

Creating this exhibition at the Margaret Lawrence Gallery at the Victorian College of the Arts has allowed her to use gallery space to allow her insights to materialise before an audience.

‘Humour is a technique used by feminist artists in a range of ways. Some artworks use humour to mock their oppressors and structures. Other artworks utilise the grotesque to disrupt ideas about femininity and social expectations.”

“Other artistic strategies include power and gender parody or parody the way women are represented in society,” said Ms Castagnini. “I’ve tried to represent a wide variety of strategies in the exhibition.”

‘Backflip’, by Hannah Rain is one of the audiovisual artworks on display. It is a performance piece with a young woman in a lash-fired body suit, with holes cut at the armpits and crotch. The artist has fixed delicate strands of hair all over her body. The artist dances and twirls elegantly, with hair streaming from her body.

“This is a throwback to the 1920s, hair amps,” says Ms Castagnini. “This exhibition reflects feminist issues that are still relevant and Rain’s work demonstrates that hair body is still an issue that comes up for women today.”

The artist, who has been working on the exhibition for the past year, utilises the deconstruction of cultural practices. In this case, the sexual/assumptions made for female body hair, beauty and femininity are challenged.

Ms McInnes says.

The punchline of this exhibition is one of subversive innovation, prompting the reader to re-evaluate the world around them. But with a little cheekiness.

Backflip was on show at the Margaret Lawrence Gallery through May. To find out what is currently showing go to: vca.unimelb.edu.au/exhibition.
After becoming the first Australian university to join prestigious international online course provider Coursera, the University of Melbourne has been spurred on by uptake of its suite of free subject offerings from people around the world over. By Gabrielle Murphy.

Satisfying unprecedented demand in the digital age

Before you set out on a day spent interacting with people, you need to have a mental map of how you will relate to them. You need to know how to connect with them in ways that will make them feel comfortable and respected. You need to be able to adapt your approach to different situations and to understand how others think and feel. This is the kind of problem-solving and decision-making that is essential in today’s fast-paced world.

By relating to people on a personal level, you can create a sense of trust and rapport that will help you to achieve your goals. You need to be able to communicate effectively with others, whether in person or online. This means being able to listen actively, to express your ideas clearly, and to build on the ideas of others.

In this rapidly changing world, it is essential to be able to adapt to new situations and to think creatively. You need to be able to learn quickly and to apply your knowledge to new contexts. This means being able to think critically and to make informed decisions.

By understanding the principles of effective communication, you can improve your ability to interact with others and to achieve your goals. This is essential in today’s interconnected world, where effective communication is key to success.
Students try to live below the poverty line

University of Melbourne students spent five days in May living below the poverty line to raise awareness of the hardships faced by those living in extreme poverty.

Sir Gustav Nossal and MUNI students are elevating health standards one vaccine at a time. By Liz Banks-Anderson.

O n the University’s 150th anniversary Emertus Professor Sir Gustav Nossal receives Australia’s highest national honour for contributions to global health through research, translation, a passion shared by the Melbourne University Humanitarian Initiative (MUNI) students recently engaged in an inspiring challenge to their highest potential in developing countries.

The Live Below the Line Challenge run by MUNI at the University last month, Sir Gustav discussed his commitment to translating research and medical knowledge to benefit those in need both locally and internationally.

“The University of Melbourne is a leader in health research translation and as such our students play a significant role in elevating health standards,” he says. “It is a process that has a direct impact in the lives of people in need around the world.”

MUNI was started entirely and completely by students, that’s the nice part about it. They come together to help people and the difference for them is that they can put pressure on governments to live up to their promises on foreign aid, and put the pressure on those in need. It’s really powerful for them.

MUNI aims to elevate health standards by educating communities in developing countries to take proactive steps towards better healthcare and the prevention of preventable diseases including pneumonia, diarrhea, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

Central to these efforts is medical research translation, essentially applying medical research to address issues such as prevention and control of malaria, and other educational and social programs to raise awareness. MUNI is the University of Melbourne’s broad-based translation effort.

Supporting the efforts of translating medical research into practical action, MUNI is a great platform in developing countries, to increase the standard of health care received and is an example of Generation Y’s efforts to address health issues.

Sir Gustav President Joav Jovanoski believes University of Melbourne students are particularly aware of a range of issues that affect us on a global and local scale, for instance the gaps in global health care.

“There is a massive interest from students in finding out how they can make a difference and that’s the great thing; it can get into the heart of what they study and really understand it, and they do,” Mr Jovanoski says.

MUNI is a great platform for students to get high back through education. Mr Jovanoski says University of Melbourne students who give up time to these problems really benefit from the experience.

“The greater interest we take in solving the human and environmental problems that will be present within our lifetime, the better off we will be,” Mr Jovanoski says.

In this year, there is a lack of information and understanding about easily preventable diseases that cause high rates of morbidity and mortality. Volunteering career training programs such as global health provide an opportunity for students to learn about preventable or mild diseases such as high blood pressure.

“Just by going the volunteer immerses themselves in a new culture and get to meet different and very different people,” Ms Johnson says.

When working with these people ‘give up to do just to get out of the day without getting sick, it’s quite incredible,’ she says.

As the younger generations continue to address the health issues in developing countries and improve the lives of others, it is crucially important to make the most of their valuable time.

“Many have new opportunities,” says Ms Johnson, “which are being rolled out in the form of research, in an organisational setting, and political engagement with the issue.

Mr Johnson is enough money to fund a student uniform and learning materials for the year for just seven students.

The Live Below the Line Challenge is part of the University of Melbourne’s Global Health Initiative (MUHI) in its commitment to elevating health standards through global health research translation.

Central to these efforts is medical research translation, essentially applying medical research to address issues such as prevention and control of malaria, and other educational and social programs to raise awareness.

The live Below the Line Campaign has added new meaning to the benefits of reducing food waste to an average of just $2 a day for five days.

Management and Finance students Chris Clarke took part as he was attracted to the live Below the Line campaign because of the involvement by the University among young Australians about poverty alleviation and international development, something he was particularly interested in a time when immediate action is needed.

“I spent a lot of time thinking about it and I couldn’t think of a better way to help,” he says. He then realised that at any age and level of expert prevent the students and the wider community from losing theosaic by putting in place food waste activities such as buying+$2 a day, and by educating everyone to do it in a better way.

MUNI believes the greatest barrier to eradicating extreme poverty is the lack of global solidarity and compassion on the issue.

Countries must invest in social policy so that the countries are provided with the means to address the issue.

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Professor Moodie says many efforts to address these issues and raise money for such worthwhile causes.

The greatest issue is on solving these serious global problems, the better global systems will become. And the live Below the Line campaign is a great example of this.

Professor Moodie believes the University of Melbourne’s role in global health to adapt global poverty in the next 20 years needs to 20 years needs to focus on making international trade more equitable and to push for fully open international trade.

“Such a low income countries do not want to compete with (more developed countries) and the chance to do it fairly,” he says.

As for Live Below the Line the solidarity and especially the students’ efforts to highlight the challenges faced by those living in extreme poverty.

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25 June Focus on Arts
26 June Focus on Victorian College of the Arts

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