New contributions and investment income saw University philanthropic funds under management rise to $10.7 million at 31 December 2012, which was an increase of 11 per cent since the end of 2011.

During 2012, just over $800,000 was distributed to the various causes supported by our donors. Since the start of Foundation activities in 1992, $10.5 million has been paid out to support students, research activities and resources.

First time donors comprised 25 per cent of all donations in 2012 and I warmly welcome new donors to our circle of supporters. Six organisations donated to the University for the first time: ING Foundation, the Department for Manufacturing, Innovation, Trade, Resources and Energy, San Remo Macaroni Company Pty Ltd, Lipman Karas, Department of Health, and Hickinbotham Holdings Pty Ltd. I wish to express our gratitude to these organisations for supporting the University and its students and researchers.

Highlights of the year included:

- The receipt of the first philanthropic gifts supporting the University’s Endowed Chair in Child Protection. This important cause is designed to protect the future work conducted by the Centre for Child Protection by ensuring the pivotal position of the Centre’s Director is funded long-term.

- Further success in fundraising for the Gavin Wanganeen Indigenous Scholarship, with over $75,000 raised in 2012. As the amount raised increases, we are able to support more students each year. The number of Gavin Wanganeen scholars who have graduated rises each year and their achievements continue to both inspire and impress.

- Continued support for students by the SA Water Corporation who are one of the University’s major donors. The scholarships and grants offered by SA Water are highly prized by students, and the University’s relationship with SA Water is both important and valued.

During the year we received a large number of in-memoriam gifts to the Norton Jackson Material Science and Engineering Medal as well as the new Ian D. McLachlan Memorial Scholarship. Dr Norton Jackson AM was a member of University Council from 1995 until 1998 and a member of the University’s Development Board for several years. He was also a Fellow of UniSA and received an Honorary Doctorate.
Ian McLachlan served the University for over a decade as a Council member, member of the University Finance Committee, Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee and as a Director of ITEK Pty Ltd (the University's commercialisation company). I would like to sincerely thank all those who paid tribute to these two significant contributors to the University.

The Chancellor's Club acknowledges major donors and bequestors to the University and I would like to acknowledge several people who, through their enduring support, joined the Club in the past year:

- Dr Kia Ngee Chew and his wife, Gek, have been wonderful supporters of the University of South Australia over a long period and are amongst our greatest international donors. Over the years, they have supported a range of causes including scholarships for our students.

- Professor Peter Høj, previous Vice Chancellor and President of the University of South Australia, personally created and generously supported the John and Johan Høj Scholarship in honour of his father and grandfather. The scholarship recognises the challenges rural students face in relocating to the city and aims to assist more rural students to obtain a university education.

- Ray Pank has generously supported research conducted by the University's Barbara Hardy Institute and the SA Water Centre for Water Management and Reuse: investigating whether it is possible to relieve water shortages during periods of drought by transporting large amounts of water across great distances in a sustainable manner.

I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge outgoing Foundation Committee Member, Paula Nagel. I thank her for all the support, energy and enthusiasm she has provided over the past three years. With Paula's departure, I welcome Eric Granger to the Foundation Committee of Council. Eric's professional career spans close to forty years in marketing, sales, customer service and retail distribution sectors. He also has a distinguished record of selfless community service, and in recognition of his generous contribution to the University's growth and prosperity, he was made a Fellow of the University in 2004.

On behalf of the University of South Australia Foundation committee I extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to the University in 2012. Every gift donated is helping fund world-class campuses, research and graduates. Your support is truly making a difference.

Bruce Linn  
Chair: University of South Australia Foundation Committee

The generous support of many people and organisations has given students access to life-changing opportunities and made a real contribution to the community. View inspiring stories of our students and donors at unisa.edu.au/Business-community/Give-to-UniSA/Gifts-in-action