



## **Australian Catholic University Foundation**

The Australian Catholic University Foundation was established in 1993 to nurture the University's diverse areas of interest and provide a focus for individual, corporate and community energy and funds.

The Foundation raises funds to support the University's strategic academic initiatives, teaching and research projects, national and international community and outreach projects, and scholarships and bursaries for its students and to support the University's capital development program and facilities.

The University's commitment to the development of these and other partnerships with the community has been strengthened by the establishment of a fundraising and development team within the University Relations Directorate.

## **Highlights**

Over the course of 2007, the University continued to enjoy the wide support of many donors and a number of new partnerships were initiated. Major University projects were realised through significant external support.

The Allan Myers AO QC Chair of Law has been funded for a period of five years through the generous \$1 million donation from eminent Melbourne lawyer Mr Allan Myers QC. The position is based at the University's Melbourne Campus and will coordinate the University's Institute of Legal Studies across its six campuses.

Associate Professor Spencer Zifcak was appointed to the Chair and as Director of the University's Institute of Legal Studies, established as a national initiative of ACU National, to foster legal professional development education and to promote interdisciplinary studies in law with a focus on ethics, philosophy and theology.

Allan Myers and his wife Maria have been long-time supporters of the University and the establishment of this named Chair has allowed the University to honour Mr Myers in a significant way.

The Fethullah Gülen Chair in the Study of Islam and Muslim-Catholic Relations was established and is located in ACU National's Asia-Pacific Centre for Inter-religious Dialogue (APCID) at the Melbourne Campus. Dr Ismail Albayrak was appointed as the inaugural Chair to commence in 2008.

“It is my hope that the Allan Myers Chair of Law will build upon ACU National’s foundation of academic excellence by overseeing the provision of quality legal education with a strong focus on issues of ethical practice and social justice.”

Allan Myers AO QC

The Chair is being funded through a partnership with the Australian Intercultural Society, a non-profit Melbourne-based organisation aimed at promoting greater dialogue between Australia’s various faith communities. It was named in honour of Fethullah Gülen, a Turkish-born scholar, educator, spiritual and social leader, and renowned advocate for inter-religious dialogue and peace.

The Chair of Midwifery is a joint initiative by the Mater Health Services (Brisbane) and ACU National. The Chair of Midwifery will provide leadership in the critical examination of current trends and evidence-based practice in midwifery, and the related implications for research, education and practice. The Chair will be appointed during 2008.

#### **Restoration of Central Hall**

Central Hall, the 103-year-old ornate performance venue in Brunswick Street, Fitzroy, the ‘jewel in the crown’ of the Melbourne campus, was formally re-opened following significant heritage renovation. Funding for the \$3 million restoration of this historic building was provided by the Ian Potter Foundation, the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne, ACU National and a grant from the Australian Government through the National Heritage Investment Initiative. While there is still additional work to be carried out to provide 21st-century facilities, Central Hall is now back to its former glory. The venue was officially re-opened by Lady Primrose Potter AC, Life Governor of the Ian Potter Foundation, Archbishop Denis Hart and Victorian Senator Judith Troeth.

#### **Community engagement**

Through the generosity of donors including staff and students, the University continued to provide support for health and education in East Timor. Support also enabled a third cohort of teachers from Catholic Schools in the Mauritius Diocese of Port Louis to undertake Master of Educational Leadership studies through the University’s School of Educational Leadership. This outreach program represents a significant collaboration between the University, the Diocese of Port Louis and its Australian supporters, generally members of Sydney’s Mauritian community.

#### **Enhanced policy framework**

Reflecting the increased priority the University has given to securing and maintaining the support of donors and other friends in the community, there has been an extensive revision of internal policy and procedures to facilitate this important activity.