Forging new pathways to improve access to quality education for everyone continues to be a major focus of the University’s teaching program. The University continues to grow and continues to achieve high standards in its curriculum its teaching and in the quality of its graduates.

The University’s reputation for excellence in teaching was reflected in the strong demand for courses during 2011, with overall preferences up by 13%. There was a combined 11% increase in first and second preferences over 2010 and a 7% lift in commencing student load.

Also of note was the strong demand for the University’s suite of health-related courses, such as medicine, health sciences, medical science, nursing, midwifery and paramedic degrees, and significant interest in teacher education degrees and the revamped group of science degrees. In 2011 the University also welcomed the first intake of students to new undergraduate courses in occupational therapy, physiotherapy, education/disability studies and science (animal behaviour).
Teaching awards success

The University’s performance in the 2011 Australian Learning and Teaching Council Awards, the nation’s highest accolades, was exceptional. Nine individuals and teams, drawn from the staff of the University, were awarded Citations for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning – the equal highest number awarded to a single institution in 2011 – and included one of 22 inaugural awards to Early Career Achievers.

Other highlights of Flinders’ teaching and learning program during 2011 included:

- An expanded relationship with TAFE SA for the joint delivery of Flinders’ Foundation Studies Program which provides an alternative pathway to university.
- The launch of Project 21, a new high school-university collaboration which offers students an opportunity to access airborne research technologies. Supported by an education grant from the Australian Space Research Program Education worth almost $2 million, Project 21 has been developed by Flinders Centre for Science Education in the 21st Century and Airborne Research Australia.
- Establishment of the Logos Australian Centre for Hellenic Language and Culture which brings together Greek business leaders, cultural events and schools in an innovative online environment.
- The strength of Flinders’ relationship with Charles Darwin University was highlighted with the opening of the Flinders University Northern Territory Medical Program Complex in Darwin by Prime Minister Julia Gillard. During 2011 Flinders accepted its first intake of 24 students into the Northern Territory Medical Program, marking the first time NT students can complete their medical training without leaving the Territory. The intake included 10 indigenous students plus a further four in Adelaide, giving Flinders the highest ever single intake of indigenous students to any Australian medical course.
- The University’s capacity to train doctors, nurses and allied health workers in the NT has been further boosted with a Federal Government Clinical Training Funding Program grant of just over $6 million. The money will be used to provide health infrastructure in Darwin, Katherine, Nhulunbuy and Alice Springs, where about $1 million will go to building student accommodation.

Student awards

- Student teacher Stacey Fyfe-Savage, who is studying for a double degree in Early Childhood and Special Education, won a prestigious Governor-General’s Indigenous Student Teacher Scholarship, the second time a Flinders undergraduate has received the award in the two years since it was established.
- Creative writing PhD student and first-time novelist Hannah Kent became the inaugural winner of the Writing Australia Unpublished Manuscript Award, comprising a $10,000 cash prize and $2000 mentorship, for her manuscript Burial Rites.
- Phillip Kavanagh was a joint winner with Flora Gaugg of the State Theatre Company’s Young Playwrights Award for his play Plain Jane. He was subsequently hand-picked for PlayWriting Australia’s prestigious National Script Workshop in Sydney.
- David Hobbs, a PhD candidate in the Faculty of Science and Engineering, won the stage final of the Three Minute Thesis (3MT™) competition. His project looks at haptic gaming to help children with cerebral palsy.
- Six Flinders students, Megan Sebben, Giverny Rodgers, Matthew Norris, Toby Phillips, Matthew Williams and Katherine Moore, received scholarships from the Playford Trust.
- Khadija Cbla, who fled war-torn Sierra Leone as a child and is studying Law and International Studies, received the 2011 Young Australian of the Year Award for her advocacy for refugees and volunteer community work, including with Multicultural Youth SA and Shine SA.
Indigenous Engagement

Flinders University continues to place a high priority on its Indigenous engagement. This engagement encompasses the full range of the University’s activities including student and staff recruitment, curriculum content, research, professional development and community partnerships.
Key appointments and awards

Associate Professor Daryle Rigney has been appointed Dean, Indigenous Strategy and Engagement, to provide strategic leadership for the further development of the University’s indigenous programs. He is a key researcher, lecturer and research coordinator at the Yunggorendi First Nations Centre for Higher Education & Research.

Simone Ulalka Tur was appointed during 2011 as Director of Yunggorendi First Nations Centre, in succession to the distinguished predecessors who have occupied this key position.

Engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in both teaching and research programs has been strengthened by a number of key appointments. Poche Professor Dennis McDermott was appointed the inaugural Director of the Poche Centre for Indigenous Health and Well-Being in Adelaide and Poche Professor Della Yarnold, was appointed into the Poche Centre in Alice Springs. Both appointments were made possible through a $10 million bequest from philanthropist Greg Poche AO.

Kaurna Elder Uncle Lewis Yerloburka O’Brien was recognised by the award of Degree of Doctor of the University honoris causa for his contributions in maintaining Kaurna language and culture and teaching at Yunggorendi First Nations Centre for Higher Education and Research. He has been involved in various Flinders University activities and has contributed to curriculum development and teaching within Yunggorendi.

Milestones

The number of Indigenous students starting at Flinders increased from 81 in 2010 to 93 in 2011, an increase of 15%. Increasing the number of Indigenous students is a key goal in the University’s Strategic Plan.

Yunggorendi First Nations Centre for Higher Education and Research celebrated 21 years of commitment to Indigenous education and research with events which included the Long Way Home exhibition at the University’s City Gallery. These 21 years have been a period of growth for the Centre. It began as an Indigenous education program with the initial appointment of one tutor providing student support. Since that time the Centre has developed as a leader in the areas of student support, teaching, research and community engagement. Yunggorendi now has 15 academic, research and professional staff, nine of whom are Indigenous. Since 1971 it has facilitated the graduation of over 264 Indigenous students.
Flinders University has been active internationally, forging new relationships with major institutions and attracting increasing numbers of overseas students. International onshore student enrolments grew by 4.5% in 2011 despite a down turn in international students across Australia. This was driven mainly by new higher degree research and continuing undergraduate student enrolment growth.

Among the other highlights:

- Total international student enrolments increased by 9.9%.
- International offshore student enrolments were 22.3% higher, driven mainly by continuing postgraduate coursework enrolments.
- Higher degree international student enrolments enjoyed growth in both commencing (22.4%) and continuing (19.4%).
- Higher degree research enrolments grew by 20.3%.

Student feedback has been very positive with the University achieving a 90% overall satisfaction appraisal in the 2011 International Student Barometer (ISB). The survey results demonstrate Flinders is performing strongly in key areas such as learning (86.6% satisfaction), living (86.1%), support (91.3%) and arrival services (88.5%).

Overseas students should find the process of gaining entry to Flinders easier with the launch of the new Apply Online system which will cut processing times and enable applicants to monitor the progress of their application.
Overseas centres

Flinders continues to expand its presence overseas by opening new offices and establishing partnerships with key education centres. During the year the University opened offices in Jakarta, Indonesia and also in Shanghai, China. Their aim is to build links with institutional partners, help service our recruitment network and engage with government and alumni.

China is a major focus of activity for the University with various events held during the year. Joint Research and Education Centres have been established between Flinders and the Central South and Hunan Universities for fully-funded joint research projects involving the Faculties of Science and Engineering and Health Sciences.

The relationship with Nankai University in Tianjin has also been strengthened with a groundbreaking third program approved—a Master of Educational Leadership and Management. No other university has more than two programs with any university in China.

The University’s role in nanotechnology has been recognised under an agreement with one of the world’s leading nanotechnology institutions, the National Institute of Materials Science in Japan. Flinders PhD students are the first in Australia to be invited to undertake research at the institute.

International network

Links with the International Network of Universities have been expanded with Hiroshima University receiving a US$5 million five-year grant from the Japanese Government to enhance international mobility. Flinders staff and students will work with Hiroshima on global citizenship, environmental studies and nursing programs.

AusAID scholarships

Four Flinders AusAID students have been awarded the Prime Minister’s Pacific Australia Award while 12 others became eligible for the Chancellor’s Letter of Commendation. A further 41 AusAID students qualified for the Golden Key Honour Society which is open to students in the top 15% academically.

Student achievements

At the Governor’s International Student Awards, final year Nutrition and Dietetics student Elysia Low from Malaysia was named International Student of the Year for her outstanding academic record and community work. Two other Flinders students were also recognised–China’s Shan He for Academic Excellence (Postgraduate) and Nepal’s Deepak Chetry for Sporting Achievement. Law and International Studies student Neo Pitso was highly commended for his contribution to the arts.

Flinders graduate Sonia Ziaee, from Afghanistan, was recognised for her academic achievement and contribution to the community by winning the Zonta’s Jane M Klausman Women in Business Scholarship for District 23.

Overseas study opportunities

It was a very solid year for Flinders’ students gaining overseas experience with 201 people heading offshore, including 63 semester exchange students (up 140% over 2010) and 60 short-term program students (up 285%). Flinders received $121,000 through the International Student Exchange Program to support semester exchanges in China, Malaysia, India and Indonesia, and $133,000 through the Study Overseas Short Term Mobility Program to support short-term programs in the USA, Norway, China, Malaysia, Nepal and the Philippines.
New and more effective ways of collaborating, support for early career researchers and increased recognition for high-performers have been the hallmarks of research activity at Flinders during 2011.

To enhance its focus on research higher degree students, the University has appointed Professor Jeri Kroll as the inaugural Dean of Graduate Research. The role provides strategic leadership for higher degree research programs and involves working in partnership with senior executives, staff, students and external organisations to develop new programs and provide support for students and supervisors alike. It will ensure the University is well positioned to respond to changes in Federal Government policies that affect higher degree research programs and training.

Supporting researchers who have family and carer responsibilities with ‘family-friendly’ financial incentives is a key focus of the annual Flinders University Re-entry Fellowships and Conference Travel Fellowships. To enhance research collaborations with other institutions, the University also introduced Visiting International Research Fellowships in 2011. Ten Vice-Chancellor’s Awards for Early Career Researchers were awarded for outstanding contributions to the University by young researchers and the first four Vice Chancellor’s Postdoctoral Fellows were appointed.
Leverhulme Trust

Professor Margaret Davies from Flinders Law School was awarded a Visiting Professorship by the prestigious Leverhulme Trust. Based at the University of Kent in England, she will help develop a new academic network in Anglo-Nordic feminist legal scholarship to consolidate links between Kent, Umeå University in Sweden and Flinders.

Forensic science research

A laboratory dedicated to forensic DNA research was opened at Flinders to increase South Australia’s capacity in research and postgraduate education in forensic science. The new laboratory has special ‘clean rooms’ to allow valuable research on DNA in partnership with Forensic Science SA.

Higher degree research student awards

The first-ever Vice-Chancellor’s Best Student Paper Awards were presented to seven higher degree research students specialising in a range of fields from sustainable solar panels to the increasing problem of piracy in Somalia. The annual award program recognises excellence in student research and encourages publication of results, with each winner receiving $1000.

Funding success

Flinders’ staff continued to be strongly supported during 2011 by funding from various external agencies. In particular, the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) awarded Flinders researchers $9.5 million across 19 grants for projects to be undertaken in 2012. The number of projects and individuals to receive funding represents the University’s best NHMRC performance and second best in terms of overall amounts.

- Professor Malcolm Battersby and his team in Flinders Human Behaviour and Health Research Unit were awarded more than $10 million in funding from Australian Government agencies for projects to support health professionals working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, chronic condition management and chronic disease management for veterans.

- Five young researchers were awarded Australian Research Council’s (ARC) Future Fellowships and Discovery Early Career Researcher Awards, winning $2.6 million for their research projects.

- The ARC also awarded a total of $1.9 million in grants for 10 Linkage and Discovery projects, including several to early career researchers. Biologist Professor Mike Bull continued an extraordinary record of funding success by securing a Linkage grant of $510,000 for his research into the ecology of the pygmy bluetongue lizard.

- Research links with China were taken to a new level through the establishment of joint Education and Research Centres with Hunan University and the Central South University in the city of Changsha. The three institutions are providing seed funding of more than $400,000 to support 14 collaborative Chinese-Australian research projects in health and environment, and a highly successful joint research symposium on these topics was held in Changsha in September.

- Dr Paul Gardner-Stephen’s innovative telecommunications system, the Serval Project, received a US$400,000 grant from the Shuttleworth Foundation, USA.
Fostering partnerships with other organisations is an increasingly important focus of the Flinders teaching and research program. The University has been proactive in forging links with various business and industry organisations, the broader community and alumni – a process that has been achieving significant outcomes.

A key strategy of the 2010-2014 Strategic Plan is the Southern Knowledge Transfer Partnership (SKTP), which involves working with schools, industry and community groups to help improve the region’s knowledge and skills base. Several new relationships were established during 2011 while earlier initiatives have been delivering results. Among the highlights were:

- The inaugural Science and Maths Academy at Flinders (SMAF) involving 84 Year 12 students from six schools. They were taught physics, chemistry and specialist mathematics on campus by highly skilled teachers competitively selected from the participating schools.

- The Southern Justice Network, a partnership between the University’s Law School and Anglicare SA, and involving many other individuals and organisations with an interest in welfare issues and the justice system. A series of network forums were held for members to explore current justice issues of local concern.

- Thirty-four Knowledge Exchange Grants for projects that benefit the Southern Adelaide region and support the exchange of knowledge between the University and community.

- A community project with eight artists to highlight environmental issues such as land use changes and urban encroachment on the Fleurieu Peninsula. The artists’ work was presented in the Landscape Art and Environment Exhibition.
Engaging with alumni

A key focus of Flinders’ community program is a comprehensive re-engagement with University alumni, both in Australia and overseas. A survey of graduates found a strong interest in alumni events, support for an ongoing relationship with the University and the desire to link more across their professional groups.

To facilitate the program the Council has replaced the Alumni Executive Committee with a new project-based model. The Marketing and Communications Office has taken a key role in the re-engagement process by entering into partnerships across seven broad areas – culture and arts, government, business and corporates, sport, media, science and education – to leverage opportunities and expand our visibility into major community groups and entities. Alumni will be invited to join small committees to oversee a range of projects to strengthen future engagement. Initiatives during 2011 included:

- A series of events with many former graduates in Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Canberra, Lae, Manila, Hanoi, Beijing, Seoul, Frankfurt and Tokyo.
- A forum in London showcasing Flinders’ research strengths in obesity and body image.

Regional programs

The University was very active in regional Australia during 2011 with various projects to engage local communities. A national rural summit chaired by Professor John Halsey, the Sidney Myer Chair of Rural Education and Communities, was among the key initiatives. The summit attracted widespread media coverage and resulted in a raft of recommendations to enhance the viability of rural communities.

Distinguished lectures

Two of the University’s most important public lectures in 2011 were delivered by South Australian Premiers. Former Premier Mike Rann presented the annual Investigator Lecture, Charting a Course for Change – the Politics of Progress, as the closing event of the Adelaide Festival of Ideas, while his replacement Jay Weatherill delivered the second Dean Jaensch Lecture titled Debate and Decide: A New Conversation with our Community.

Honorary Degrees

One of Flinders’ most distinguished medical graduates, former Federal Opposition Leader Dr Brendan Nelson, was among a select group awarded the Degree of Doctor of the University honors causa in 2011. He was joined by the Lieutenant Governor of South Australia Hieu Van Le, Aboriginal Elders Lewis Yerloburka O’Brien and the late Mona Tur, Professor Martha Hill from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore and Emeritus Professor Faith Trent.

Karmel Endowment Fund

Community engagement is also important to support the university’s fundraising. The Karmel Endowment Fund was established in 2009 as Flinders’ fundraising arm and efforts to further build this platform continued during 2011. Important elements included the appointment of key staff in donor relations roles, fundraising promotions, new activities for people to make gifts and relationship building with alumni and corporate organisations. The past year also saw the bringing together of all trusts and donor events under the Karmel Endowment Fund umbrella, with new stewardship-recognition protocols.

International symposium

Flinders hosted the international conference Transition, Stabilisation and Development in Asia and the Pacific – Case Studies of Afghanistan, Timor-Leste, and the Solomon Islands in conjunction with the Defence Science & Technology Organisation. The conference examined the issues and lessons learnt from Australia’s close involvement in helping nations move from conflict to stabilisation and development.

Partnership with Anglicare

The University has linked with Anglicare SA to improve education and research outcomes in the community. Initiatives include a series of Research to Practice public seminars on topics such as residential care, food security in Australia, the social service impact of climate change and positive ageing.
People

Academic acclaim

The consistently high quality of research and teaching at Flinders was recognised on many occasions during 2011 with several Flinders academics winning major national awards and appointments:

- Biomedical engineer Professor Karen Reynolds was elected as a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering, an honour that recognises a career which has significantly advanced scientific knowledge. Professor Reynolds is Director of the Medical Device Partnering Program.

- Psychologist and Chair of Academic Senate, Professor Marika Tiggesmann, was elected as a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences. The award recognises a very high level of scholarly distinction and a distinguished contribution to psychology.

- Professor Craig Simmons, Director of the National Centre for Groundwater Research and Training, was awarded the 2011 Anton Hales Medal for research in earth sciences by the Australian Academy of Science for his ‘transforming’ influence in the discipline of hydrogeology.

- Professor Sue Richardson, Principal Research Fellow at the National Institute of Labour Studies, Professor Malcolm Smith, Head of Rheumatology and Dr Roger Sexton, who advises the University as a member of the Flinders University Investment Committee and the Karmel Endowment Fund advisory committee, were appointed Members of the Order of Australia (AM) in the Queen’s Birthday Honours.

- Emeritus Professor Faith Trent AM, who retired as Executive Dean of the Faculty of Education, Humanities and Law at the end of 2010, became the inaugural recipient of the Outstanding Service Award made by the Australasian Council of the Deans of Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities.

- Dr Phil Dinning, of the Department of Human Physiology at Flinders, and his CSIRO colleague Dr John Arkwright won a 2011 Eureka Prize for their development of a pressure-sensing catheter that provides unprecedented detail of muscular contractions within the human colon.

- Dr Tim Chataway, Head of the Flinders Proteomic Facility, was awarded the Unsung Hero of Science Award, and Stewart Walker, Associate Professor of Forensic Science, received the Unsung Hero of Science Communication Award.

Senior Executive appointments

Shane McGregor has taken on the new position of Vice-President (Strategic Finance and Resources) after eight years as Chief Financial Officer at the University of Adelaide.

Professor Richard Constantine has been appointed to the new role of Pro Vice-Chancellor (Information Services) and Chief Information Officer after joining Flinders from Swinburne University. His responsibilities include oversight of the University’s libraries, IT, Centre for Educational ICT and e-research unit.
Strategic professorships

Flinders University has taken steps to sharpen its research profile and academic leadership with the appointment of a number of distinguished academics from around Australia and overseas to key professorial positions. The aim is to build critical mass in major areas of research interest.

- Professor Mike Nicholls was appointed Director of the Brain and Cognition Laboratory in the School of Psychology. Professor Nicholls’s research is concerned with laterality—left/right asymmetries in the brain—and spatial attention.

- Professor Jason McCarley joined the School of Psychology from the University of Illinois. His special research interests are applied and basic aspects of perception, attention and cognition.

- Professor Ross McKinnon is the new Research Director at the Flinders Centre for Cancer Prevention and Control (FCCPC). The integrated nature of the new Flinders Centre for Innovation in Cancer, which will house the FCCPC, has been the driving force behind Professor McKinnon’s return to his alma mater.

- Professor Pamela Sykes, whose research focus is Preventive Cancer Biology in the FCCPC, is leading a team exploring the possibility that low doses of radiation may prevent or delay the progression of cancer. Her work is partly funded by the US Department of Energy Low Dose Radiation Program.

- Professor Lambert Schuwirth, from Maastricht University, joined Flinders School of Medicine as a medical education specialist. His main interest is the assessment of medical competence and performance, both in undergraduate and postgraduate training settings.

- Professor Jerzy Filar, who has an international reputation for his work on mathematical models that are inspired by the environmental impacts of development, was appointed a Strategic Professor in the School of Science and Engineering.

Academic Promotions

The academic ranks of Flinders were further bolstered during 2011 with 35 members of staff—20 women and 15 men—winning promotion. Those promoted to Level E were:

- Professor Carol Tilt (Flinders Business School) who specialises in social and environmental accounting.

- Professor Claire Smith (School of Humanities) a former Fulbright Fellow with the Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History and President of the World Archaeological Congress.

- Professor David Powers (School of Computer Science, Engineering and Mathematics) who has specialist research interests in artificial intelligence and cognitive science.

- Professor Keryn Williams (School of Medicine) a NHMRC Principal Research Fellow in the Department of Ophthalmology and Associate Dean (Research) within the Faculty of Health Sciences.

Academic Appointments

The following external appointments were made during 2011.

- Professor Dean Carson (School of Medicine) a Professor of Rural and Remote Research and a Research Professor at the Roche Centre for Indigenous Health and Well-Being in Alice Springs.

- Professor Malcolm Cook (School of International Studies) a former founding East Asia program director at the Lowy Institute in Sydney and the current Dean of the School of International Studies whose research interests include Asia-Pacific regionalism and international political economy.

- Professor Hugh Grantham (School of Medicine) who has 20 years experience in clinical governance and leadership in pre-hospital emergency care and whose interests include quality and safety initiatives throughout the whole of health, emergency and disaster medicine, rural medicine and clinical education.

- Professor Adrian Schoo (School of Medicine), the Head of Clinical Education for Physiotherapy at Flinders University and former physiotherapist to the Australian Olympic Committee.

- Professor Gillian Webb (School of Medicine) an international specialist in the area of physiotherapy curriculum development and accreditation.
Faculties

The University’s four Faculties have been investing in strategies that are innovative and flexible and with a strong external focus to deliver a diverse range of teaching and research programs. The year was marked by new partnerships in Australia and overseas, more offshore ventures and significant funding wins.
Education, Humanities & Law

Executive Dean: Professor Richard Maltby
School of Education
Dean: Professor Bob Conway
School of Humanities
Dean: Associate Professor Diana Glenn
Flinders Law School
Dean: Professor David Bamford
Undergraduate Degrees: 20
Postgraduate Degrees: 63
Higher Degree Research Students: 245

Health Sciences

Executive Dean: Professor Michael Kidd AM
School of Medicine
Dean: Professor Paul Worley
School of Nursing and Midwifery
Dean: Professor Paul Arbon AM
Undergraduate Degrees: 13
Postgraduate Degrees: 89
Higher Degree Research Students: 235

Science & Engineering

Executive Dean: Professor Warren Lawrance
School of Biological Sciences
Head: Associate Professor Ian Menz
School of Chemical and Physical Sciences
Dean: Professor Joe Shapter
School of Computer Science, Engineering and Mathematics
Dean: Professor John Roddick
School of the Environment
Dean: Professor Andrew Millington
Undergraduate Degrees: 44
Postgraduate Degrees: 34
Higher Degree Research Students: 323

Social & Behavioural Sciences

Executive Dean: Professor Phyllis Tharenou
Flinders Business School
Dean: Professor Carol Tilt
School of International Studies
Dean: Professor Malcolm Cook
School of Psychology
Dean: Professor Neil Brewer
School of Social and Policy Studies
Dean: Professor Fiona Verity
Undergraduate Degrees: 19
Postgraduate Degrees: 36
Higher Degree Research Students: 228
Education, Humanities & Law

The Faculty consolidated into three schools, with Theology becoming a department in the School of Humanities, and sharpened its focus in languages, education, the creative arts, and its programs in justice and law. It also strengthened partnerships with other universities and the corporate sector.

The new partnership with Charles Darwin University was further cemented with an agreement for the online delivery of Chinese Language topics. Other highlights for Education, Humanities and Law included:

- A major new offshore teaching program consisting of a third Masters degree, a Master of Educational Leadership and Management with China's Nankai University and commencement of the Faculty's Bachelor of Creative Arts (Digital Media) course jointly with the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

- A Bachelor of Education/Bachelor of Languages double degree to help address a shortage of language teachers in South Australia.

- Establishment of the Australasian Consortium of Humanities Research Centres, a network for groups engaged in humanities-based research.

- Success in the 2011 South Australian Tourism Awards with Flinders University Tourism winning the Tourism Education and Training category.

Faculty Public Lectures

- Elliott Johnston Tribute Lecture: The Nine Most Terrifying Words in the English Language are 'I'm From the Government and I'm Here to Help', Eddie Cubillo, Northern Territory Anti-Discrimination Commissioner.

- To Civilize the City; Or, The University and the City, Professor Raimond Gaita, Professor of Moral Philosophy, King’s College London.

- Why Sustainable Rural Communities Matter (part of the National Summit on Rural Futures), Professor John Halsey, Sidney Myer Chair of Rural Education and Communities.
Health Sciences

The Faculty of Health Sciences moved to strengthening its regional and territory engagement. The University’s presence in the Northern Territory was expanded during 2011 when Health Sciences unveiled a series of initiatives to support new learning opportunities. Faculty Highlights include:

• A collaboration agreement with Charles Darwin University and a new facility for the Northern Territory Medical Program.

• Expansion of clinical training in SA and the NT supported by a valuable funding agreement from Health Workforce Australia.

• Professor Keryn Williams was awarded a major National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Fellowship which will enable her to explore the application of gene therapy and other methods to improve outcomes in the treatment of a range of eye diseases.

• The introduction of two allied health programs, the Master of Physiotherapy and the Master of Occupational Therapy, with a launch being held in October 2011. The programs complement and further develop Flinders University’s significant presence in allied health.

• The joint Flinders/Charles Darwin University Centre for Remote Health has linked with Monash University School of Rural Health and the University of Sydney Department of Rural Health in Broken Hill to establish a Centre for Research Excellence in Rural and Remote Primary Health Care. This is supported by a $3 million, four-year grant from the Australian Primary Health Care Research Institute.

Faculty Public Lectures

• Sir Ewan Waterman Oration and Seminar: On the Edge of the Possible: Educational Transformation at Flinders, Harvard and Beyond, Dr David Hirsh, a General Physician at Cambridge Health Alliance in Boston.

• John Chalmers Oration: Mental Health Reform and 21st Century Care, Professor Patrick McGorry, Executive Director of Orygen Youth Health and Australian of the Year in 2010.

• Southgate Oration: Action on the Social Determinants of Health, Sir Michael Marmot, Professor of Epidemiology and Public Health at University College London and a former Chair of the Commission on Social Determinants of Health set up by the World Health Organisation in 2005.
Science & Engineering

The University moved to establish itself as Australia’s leading research centre for medical devices and associated technologies with the formation of the Medical Device Research Institute (MDRI). The MDRI is home of the award-winning Medical Device Partnering Program (MDPP) recognised for its role in linking researchers, clinicians, industry and end-users. In 2011 the MDPP was named Best Research and Development Collaboration in the prestigious annual Business/Higher Education Round Table (B-HERT) Awards.

Also during 2011 Science and Engineering:

- Celebrated a 43% increase in offers to engineering and science courses.
- Played a key role in analysing a volcanic ash cloud formed by the eruption of the Chilean volcano Puyehue. The Faculty’s Airborne Research Australia was commissioned by Qantas to undertake the research.
- Hosted an international conference titled Transition, Stabilisation, and Development in Asia and the Pacific featuring keynote speaker Catherine Walker, AusAID First Assistant Director General.
- Developed new courses in Electrical Engineering and Clean Technologies.

Professor Craig Simmons, director of the National Centre for Groundwater Research and Training (NCGRT) was appointed chair of the Australian Government’s Interim Independent Expert Scientific Committee on Coal Seam Gas and Coal Mining. 2011 also saw the launch of the inaugural NCGRT Summer School. In 2011 the program was held in Adelaide allowing NCGRT members from across the country to share their work and attend workshops and lectures. The Centre’s inaugural Distinguished Lecturer Series was also a great success with esteemed groundwater modeller Dr John Doherty presenting public lectures around Australia.

The Faculty has strengthened its commitment to teaching and research in Mathematics with the appointment of Strategic Professor Jerzy Filar, Associate Professor Vladimir Ejov and the creation of the Flinders Mathematical Sciences Laboratory.

Faculty Public Lectures

- Population and the Human Dimensions of Climate Change, Dr Adrian Hayes of Australian National University.
- Clandestine Drug Laboratories in SA, Dr John Edwards, Associate Professor of Environmental Health.
- What Drives Science Forward? How Society Poses the Questions that Science has to Answer, Emeritus Professor Matthias Tomczak.

The Flinders Centre for NanoScale Science and Technology was part of a successful team that won a $3 million grant for the Transparent Electrodes for Plastic Electronics Research Cluster under the CSIRO Cluster program.
Social & Behavioural Sciences

The University’s offshore links were extended by Social and Behavioural Sciences with the successful launch of a Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting) in Hong Kong and a jointly-badged psychology degree with HELP University College in Malaysia. Other highlights included:

- Flinders was awarded the prestigious Fulbright Distinguished Chair in American Political Science from 2011-2015; inaugural chair, Professor Howard Schweber, will commence in January 2012.

- Washington Internship Program celebrated 10 years of internships with a reception hosted by Kim Beazley, Ambassador for Australia, in Washington. Mr Beazley has nominated the Flinders University Washington Internship for an ALTC Program Award in the category of educational partnerships and collaboration.

- Flinders was awarded a contract by the Ministry of Finance of Timor-Leste to build the capacity of its human resources in a project initially funded by the World Bank. The first cohort of four postgraduate and 19 undergraduate students in business and commerce will commence their studies in 2011-2012.

- Two Outstanding Alumni Awards were made to Flinders-Nankai alumni, Ni Rong and Xu Jingrong, at the October graduation ceremony in Tianjin, China, the first such awards to be made to Flinders-Nankai alumni.

Faculty Public Lectures

- Dean Jaensch Lecture: Debate and Decide: A New Conversation with Our Community presented by Premier Jay Weatherill.

- Reforming Asia: How the Re-emergence of China and India is Redefining Asia, Professor Malcolm Cook, Professor of International Studies.

- Mistaken Identity: How to Use Police Line-ups to Nab the Bad Guy, Not the Good Guy, Professor Neil Brewer, Professor of Psychology.
Major Research Centres & Institutes

State & National Research Centres

- National Centre for Groundwater Research and Training
- Centre for Remote Health
- National Institute of Labour Studies (NILS)
- National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction
- The Goyder Institute for Water Research
- Lincoln Marine Science Centre

Collaborative Research Centres

- Australian Seafood Collaborative Research Centre
- Collaborative Research Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health
- Collaborative Research Centre for High Integrity Australian Pork
- Collaborative Research Centre for Remote Economic Participation
- Wound Management Innovation Collaborative Research Centre

Health Sciences

- Centre for Cancer Prevention and Control
- Centre for Ophthalmology, Eye and Vision Research
- Southgate Institute for Health, Society and Equity
- Centre for Gambling Research
- Flinders University Disaster Research Centre
- Centre for Neuroscience
- Centre for Clinical Change and Health Care Research
- Centre for Marine Bioprocessing and Bioproducts
- Research Centre for Injury Studies

Science & Engineering

- Medical Device Research Institute
- Centre for NanoScale Science & Technology
- Airborne Research Australia
- Research Centre for Climate Adaptation and Animal Behaviour

Social & Behavioural Sciences

- Flinders Centre for Ageing Studies

Education, Humanities & Law

- Institute for Research in the Humanities
- LOGOS Australian Centre for Hellenic Language and Culture
- Educational Futures Research Institute
PhD student Mark Bissett
Risk Statement

The University is committed to the efficient and effective management of risk across all of its activities. Accordingly, the University has risk management principles, policies and procedures in place to fulfil this objective. This framework is monitored closely by the Audit and Risk Committee and the Resources Committee. Regular reports on risk are made to Council and significant new commercial initiatives are brought to Council for approval on a case by case basis.

During 2011, a number of significant achievements were made including:

- Appointment of a dedicated risk management officer with responsibility for continuously improving the University’s risk management framework;
- Development of a toolkit to facilitate risk assessments; and
- Completion of audits focussed on internal controls for the effective management of risk.

Priority actions for 2012 include:

- Reviewing enterprise risks with the objective of more closely aligning risk with the key strategies detailed in the Strategic Plan;
- Improving the framework for the assessment and ongoing monitoring of operational risks at School / Division level; and
- Improving the framework for the assessment and ongoing monitoring of project related risks.
Financial Performance Statement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Consolidated Economic Entity</th>
<th>Parent entity University</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2011 $'000</td>
<td>2010 $'000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2011 $'000</td>
<td>2010 $'000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Income Statement</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revenue</td>
<td>386,012</td>
<td>385,718</td>
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<td>376,233</td>
<td>374,588</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expenses</td>
<td>349,028</td>
<td>328,945</td>
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<td>341,074</td>
<td>317,331</td>
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<tr>
<td>Operating Result</td>
<td>36,984</td>
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<td>35,159</td>
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<tr>
<td>Operating Margin</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
<td>14.7%</td>
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<td></td>
<td>9.3%</td>
<td>15.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Balance Sheet</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Assets</td>
<td>556,511</td>
<td>521,557</td>
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<td></td>
<td>553,971</td>
<td>520,128</td>
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<td>Current Ratio</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>2.8</td>
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</table>

During 2011, the University continued its sound financial performance underpinned by strong growth in student numbers (an increase of 1,350 students to more than 20,000 total students) and an increase in research income to over $80 million.

The University continues to reinvest in its students, staff and infrastructure. In 2011, the University incurred capital expenditure of over $30 million with a large number of projects being undertaken across its Bedford Park campus and regional sites, including the Northern Territory, Riverland and Mount Gambier, to support growth initiatives and improve student and staff amenity.

It is important to note that the decrease in Operating Result from 2010 to 2011 is primarily attributable to significant, one-off revenue items received in 2010, including a major donation.

From a Balance Sheet perspective, the University is in a strong liquidity position.