

## **EMERITUS PROFESSOR EDWARD MARTIN**

### **Award of the Title of Companion of the University**

Emeritus Professor Edward (Ted) Martin was appointed as Professor of Biology (Microbiology) at Flinders University in 1971 and held that position until his retirement in 1990, when, in recognition of his meritorious service, he was conferred with the title of Emeritus Professor.

During his outstanding scientific career Emeritus Professor Martin worked at the prestigious National Institute for Medical Research at Mill Hill in London, and in Australia for the CSIRO, Kiwi Polish Company and the Nicholas Institute. He was internationally acknowledged for his contribution to the discovery of interferon – the group of molecules with very powerful effects on the immune system. His academic qualifications include Fellowship of the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology and the degrees of BSc and MSc from the University of Melbourne and PhD from the University of London.

Whilst at Flinders he was Chairman of the School of Biological Sciences, served on many University committees and contributed to the development of Flinders University's School of Medicine. He also served on external organisations, such as the Australian Society for Microbiology. His compassionate, innovative and friendly personal style was highly respected by peers and students alike.

In retirement, he continued to contribute to Flinders by becoming President of the Alumni Association, a position he held from early 1995 to mid 1996, when he moved to Sydney.

Ted is particularly aware of the problems that PhD students face in gaining overseas exposure for their work. With this in mind, he donated funds to establish the Elaine Martin Travel Fund (named after his late wife). To date, the Fund has assisted sixteen PhD students in the Faculty of Science and Engineering to travel to international conferences to present papers or posters on their research. All recipients subsequently reported that they were given much useful feedback and greatly expanded their networks. In some cases, these contacts have led to overseas postdoctoral appointments.

In addition to the Elaine Martin Travel Fund Selection Committee, he chairs the Selection Committee for the Max Clark Prizes in Science and Engineering and has donated substantial funds in memory of his late colleague Professor Max Clark, Foundation Professor of Biology and a former Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the University. Ted also financially supports the Jessie Cooper Study Grants for Mature Entry Women and the Alumni Discretionary Fund which assists disadvantaged students and various other projects.

The Council is pleased to award the title of Companion of the University to Emeritus Professor Ted Martin in recognition of his contribution to the University over a period of thirty years in the academic, alumni and philanthropic arenas.