



THE UNIVERSITY  
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# David Albert Hester Undergraduate Honours Prize in Classics

In 2014, the University of Adelaide is celebrating its 140th anniversary: it is a time to reflect on our past and recognise its impact on the present.

Since 1874 when classics was introduced as the first discipline to be officially taught in the Bachelor of Arts, the University has developed a rich and defining culture built on the collective contribution of its staff and students.

When David Albert Hester (1933 – 2013) joined the classics department in the late 1950s, his overriding contribution was the passion and enthusiasm he exuded as a story teller, sharing with his students his love of literature.

According to his friend and colleague, Dr Ron Newbold, 'David's first love was teaching and he brought to it an enthusiasm and gusto to which students responded well'. It was these qualities, among others, for which he was awarded The Stephen Cole the Elder Prize, the University's highest teaching award in 1996.

A former student, Meaghan McEvoy, remembers David for 'the immense impact he had on countless students over his many years by bringing his topics to life with enthusiasm and a sense of fun. She is certain that she was only one of many impressionable undergraduates whose interest in the classical world was sparked and fostered through his efforts'.

His daughter Stephanie says her father was 'a very sensitive man, who marched to the beat of his own drum and responded to the world in his own special way. Thankfully, in his life, people recognised and treasured his unique manner of engaging with others'.

As an alumnus of Cambridge University, David's lifelong passion was classics and ancient languages. Fortunate to be reading classics at Cambridge at a time of major breakthroughs in language, this further ignited his passion and belief in the superiority of all things Greek.

His heroes included Socrates, Sophocles and Herodotus; however it was Socrates who stood out in David's life. Like Socrates, David had great personal integrity and an unswerving commitment to the pursuit of knowledge and understanding.

The current Hughes Professor of Classics, Professor Han Baltussen and the Head, Discipline of Classics, Dr Jacque Clarke both remember David fondly, particularly his choice of descriptor to highlight his disdain at the University's decision to outsource administrative services, referring to it as 'outsorcery'.

After retirement David shared his passion for classics with the wider community, giving classes at the University of the Third Age (UTA). Adriaan van der Wyst, Program Coordinator at UTA said they were sad to hear of his declining health and passing.

To commemorate the years David taught at the University his daughters have established an Undergraduate Honours Prize in Classics. It acknowledges his achievement in preserving the historical importance of classics and recognises his contribution to sustaining the University's cultural integrity. They invite you to join them by contributing to the prize fund, which will be awarded to the best third year classics student, who has chosen to do honours.

To donate, go to [www.adelaide.edu.au](http://www.adelaide.edu.au) choose Alumni, Giving to Adelaide, download Giving Form.



“ ... in his life, people recognised and treasured his unique manner of engaging with others. ”

Stephanie Hester

## Contact

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