

**Citation for the Award of the Degree of Doctor of the University
to
Mr Nicholas Begakis AM, BTech (Elec Eng), FAICD**

Mr Nicholas Begakis was born in Pireaus, Athens, Greece and migrated with his parents, at the age of 4, to Australia in 1951. He attended Norwood High School and the South Australian Institute of Technology (now the University of South Australia) where he was awarded a Bachelors Degree in Electronic Engineering.

Mr Begakis has an interest in, and involvement with, organisations focussing on generating economic activity, particularly through small to medium sized enterprises, entrepreneurship and exports, for the benefit of all South Australians. He is also involved with not for profit community groups that contribute to making the community a better place to live. In recognition of his outstanding contributions, in 2000, Nicholas was appointed a Member in the general section of the Order of Australia for services to business and export development, and to the community.

Mr Begakis has accumulated over 40 years of experience in a variety of business related roles, including senior management roles in manufacturing industries, as an entrepreneur, in venture capital, in merchant banking and corporate recovery roles, and as a professional company director. His current appointments include Director of Business SA and Director of the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry. He is also an advisor to Government through his involvement on several Government boards. In recognition of his extensive experience, Mr Begakis is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. His involvement in community based organisations currently includes chairing the Women's and Children's Hospital Foundation and he previously served as Deputy Chairman of the Australia Day Council (SA).

Mr Begakis served 3 terms as an external member of the Flinders University Council, from 1999 to 2010, and during this time he was a strong advocate for, and was extensively involved in, developing the University's engagement with the business community. He was instrumental in establishing the Flinders University Business Plan Competition in 2008. This competition exposes students to real world situations, enhances a business orientation among students and staff, and continues to further develop Flinders' engagement with the business sector.

As Chair of the Engineering External Advisory Committee, a position he still holds, Mr Begakis provided guidance on the redevelopment and relaunch of the University's engineering courses. This included the advice given to the School of Computer Science, Engineering and Mathematics at a number of crucial points in the redevelopment process. Mr Begakis continues to provide advice and guidance about subsequent directions and initiatives.

Mr Begakis' emphasis is always on the development of courses that satisfy all parties - students and the wider community, the University, industry and the State. His wise counsel provided a benchmark against which all initiatives are tested and, as a result, the success of the School over the past few years has been enhanced considerably.

11 August 2011