



Benefactors' Review 2015

STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITIES





RESEARCH AND TEACHING EXCELLENCE

SCHOLARSHIPS AND HARDSHIP AWARDS

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Inspirational Philanthropy

A welcome from the President and Vice-Chancellor

In my first months as the new President and Vice-Chancellor I have had the pleasure of meeting many generous supporters and benefactors for the first time at a variety of fundraising and alumni events. Indeed, the House of Lords Reception last autumn was my first official University engagement and your passion for the University was remarkable and very motivating.

I was delighted that evening to launch the *University of Leicester* Endowment Fund which will help to provide vital financial support for the institution in the 21st century and beyond. We have ambitious plans to raise £10m for the Fund by 2020 and growing our permanent endowment will help to rebalance the University's mix of income, bring greater independence and lessen

our reliance on traditional sources of funding that are in decline. Thank you to everybody who has contributed to the Fund so far and especially to alumni Paul Rivlin and Dave Barry as founding benefactors of the endowment appeal.

Many of you will be familiar with our proud history of philanthropy and that the University was founded on a legacy gift and I would like to thank members of the University's 'Legacy Guild' for choosing to remember the University in their wills. These gifts can often be transformational and enable us to do things we could not otherwise have done, from establishing new research institutes to purchasing advanced laboratory equipment used in the fight against chronic disease

The reality for all universities is that government capital and revenue funding is being cut but I have never believed that these sources of income alone can, or should, be relied upon to provide all the resources needed by an ambitious institution like Leicester. It is clear that we must continue to develop more strategic partnerships and engage more widely with philanthropically minded businesses, organisations and individuals who share our ambitions. I am therefore very grateful to over 1500 donors who have done just that in the last year alone. I can assure you that every gift, no matter what size, makes a big difference to the University and our students.

In this edition of Benefactors' Review you will see how graduates, friends and parents have supported key projects; student scholarships and hardship bursaries, sports and music scholarships, and student prizes for tomorrow's academic leaders. All

of these initiatives emphasise our ongoing commitment to excellence in all that we do.

I have been pleased to hear your views as part of our 'strategic conversation', and these will help to shape our aspirational strategic plan which will launch later this year. I believe we must continue to innovate and to invest in our teaching and research strengths and you have endorsed this commitment with your support for the new £42m Centre for Medicine, probably the largest investment in medical teaching and applied research by any UK university in the last decade.

The Review bears testament to the inspirational impact your philanthropy is making for students, teaching and research and for our communities locally, nationally and worldwide. I am proud to be leading this great institution and I trust that you will continue to support us on the journey ahead.



Facts and Statistics

Report on Philanthropy in 2013/14:

The Year in Numbers (Funds Secured)

£2,662,748 NEW FUNDS RAISED*

£233,879 ANNUAL FUND TOTAL (INCLUDING £175K FOR THE BURGESS FUND IN 13/14)

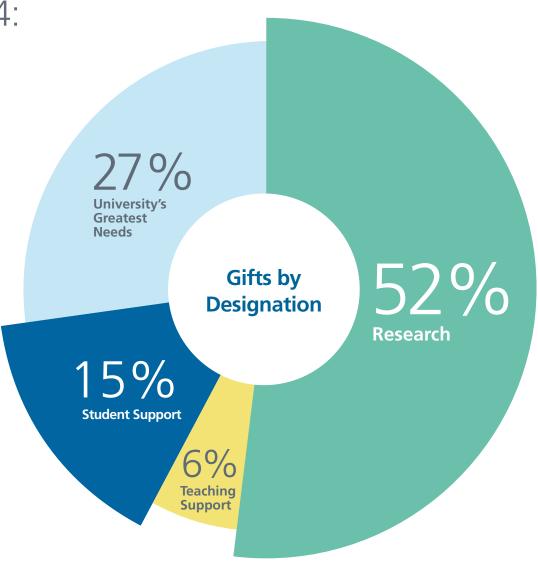
2,057 TOTAL NUMBER OF DONORS

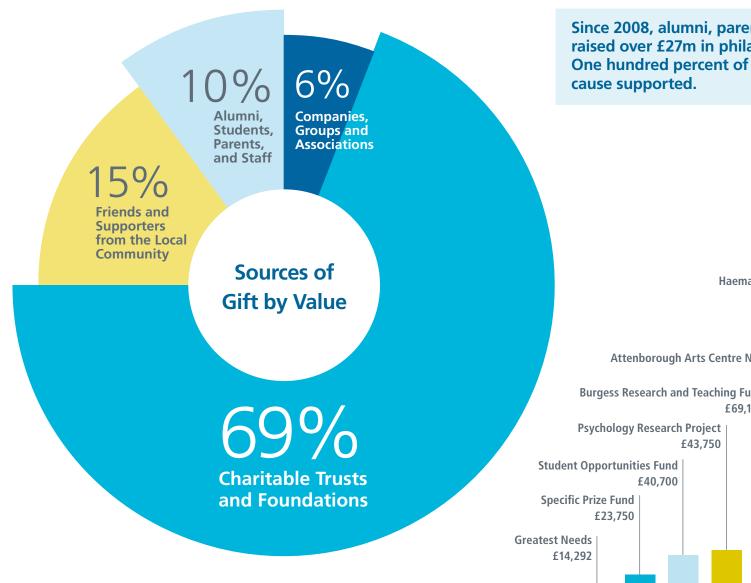
987

NUMBER OF DONORS GIVING FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 2013/14 1,360

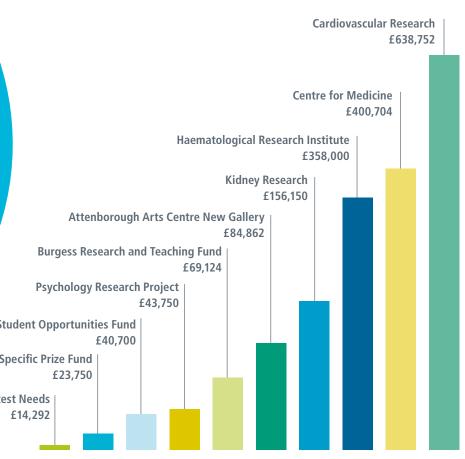
NUMBER OF DONORS
TO THE BURGESS
RESEARCH AND
TEACHING FUND

^{*} The funds secured in 2013/14 includes new cash and confirmed pledges raised in the year, but excludes pledged payments from past years





Since 2008, alumni, parents, friends and benefactors have raised over £27m in philanthropic funds for the University. One hundred percent of every gift goes directly to the



Top Ten Projects Supported (Cash received 2013/14)



With the largest investment in medical teaching and applied research by a UK university for a decade, the University of Leicester is set to transform the training of tomorrow's doctors with a new and innovative 'rapid response' curriculum and lead the fight against chronic disease through the translation of ground-breaking research from bench to bedside. This state-of-the-art facility will bring together innovative medical teaching and world-leading applied research, co-locating clinicians, researchers and students under one roof for the first time. The new Centre will also foster increased collaboration to improve patient treatment, care and safety, locally and across the UK.

Investing in tomorrow's doctors, today

For as long as he can remember, fifth year medical student, Ted Artley has wanted to become a doctor. As Ted approaches the end of his medical degree, with his dream about to become reality, he believes that the new Centre for Medicine will

put the University of Leicester and Leicester Medical School at the very forefront of medical training. "The Centre will provide more teaching and training space, the best new digital technologies and a much better learning environment in general. Students will be interacting with patients from day one of their degree and this hugely increased level of patient engagement during the course will improve their understanding of patient needs and. ultimately, their interpersonal skills and bedside manner."

Professor Nick London, Head of the Department of Medical Education, explains that by 'putting the patient first' and placing the emphasis on the impact of a disease on a patient will be key to providing undergraduate medical training which will lead to improved prevention, treatment and care. "The main impact on students will be that they will always think of the patient and their family first and the whole curriculum will be designed around this focus "

The Centre will act as a central hub. linking Leicester Medical School with the University's six research centres

and the three hospitals across the City. Ted is quick to note that no two days are the same as a medical student at Leicester, with a mixture of placements in hospitals, clinical skills sessions and group study seminars. It is this breadth of learning styles and the interaction with other healthcare professionals that keeps him on his toes. "You're privileged as a medical student to work with professionals from every speciality imaginable," he says. "Every so often you'll come across an inspiring individual who makes you want to work that little bit harder"

As a result of this increased collaboration, our leading investigators will speed the translation of new knowledge from research to trials and clinical practice. Our goal is to reduce the number

of individuals and families affected by cancer, stroke, diabetes, and respiratory, heart and kidney disease; scientific and clinical areas where the University has a strong track record of achievement.

With the support of leading benefactors, alumni, friends and the local community the vision for the Centre for Medicine and its impact on medical training, research and patient care is becoming closer to being realised each day. Thanks to this support, many more medical students like Ted will be able to achieve their full potential by benefitting from the latest technology and the very best training, ultimately ensuring that the doctors of tomorrow are equipped to provide the best care possible for patients locally and across the UK.

LEARN MORE

Visit www.le.ac.uk/savinglives or contact Steve O'Connor via sio18@le.ac.uk or +44 (0)116 252 2466



The healthcare environment is increasingly complex, serving an ageing population with multiple clinical conditions. The new Centre and curriculum will allow medical students to be taught by leading researchers and clinicians and have access to the latest research breakthroughs and developments in healthcare policy and practice and a digital teaching environment which will be second to none.

Ted Artley, fifth year medical student

Symbol for life-changing appeal unveiled in the heart of the community

The sculpture 'Renewal', which will act as the symbol for the University's Centre for Medicine Appeal, was officially unveiled in March 2015 at the Highcross Centre in Leicester.

Designed and created by internationally recognised artist, Diane Maclean, 'Renewal' was officially unveiled by Professor Nick London, Head of the University's Department of Medical Education, and Nicola O'Brien a local cancer patient and committed supporter of the Centre for Medicine Appeal.

The new £42m Centre for Medicine will have national impact through its training of tomorrow's doctors with an innovative new curriculum, putting patients at the heart of healthcare, and fighting chronic disease.

The Centre will also become a learning environment for all, with space for community engagement and an associated outreach programme. The intention is that the whole community, and particularly patients, will have opportunities to be engaged with the education and research that will take place in the new facility. School children and local groups will be encouraged to visit the new Centre to learn about the latest research breakthroughs and understand

more about potential careers in medicine. It is therefore fitting that the sculpture will spend time at the heart of the city.

Professor London, who will lead the introduction of the new medical curriculum. and Nicola, who appreciates the real difference a caring and compassionate doctor can make when facing a life threatening condition, were joined by friends and supporters of the University for the unveiling. Supporter and member of the University's Strategic Fundraising Committee, Michael Turnbull said: "The Centre will train the new doctors of tomorrow and carry out ground breaking applied research which will not only have a positive impact for people in Leicestershire and Rutland, but will benefit communities nationally and across the world "

The eye catching sculpture is already proving popular and will remain in the Highcross as a very striking symbol of the appeal until its relocation to the Centre for Medicine itself in 2016



Leicester based retailer supports Centre for Medicine

British multinational fashion and home retailer NEXT Plc, which has over 500 stores across the UK, has made a generous donation in support of the Centre for Medicine Appeal. This fantastic endorsement and support of the project will be acknowledged through the naming of a prominent Medical Teaching room in the new building, which is specially designed to provide the ideal digital learning environment for training the doctors of tomorrow with optimum space and state-of-the-art technology.

NEXT Plc, based in Leicester since 1982, proudly supports a wide range of charities and organisations across the UK. The company chose to support the University's Centre for Medicine Appeal because of its highly beneficial impact for local communities in Leicestershire and also regionally, nationally and worldwide.



New Research and Teaching Fund set to make a BIG difference

Former Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir Robert Burgess and Lady Hilary Burgess will continue to make a difference long into Leicester's future thanks to a special Fund they established in their final year with the University, which was inspired by their shared commitment to world-changing and innovative research and passionate, dedicated teaching.

Over one thousand people donated to the fund and raised the remarkable sum of £205,000, with support coming from alumni, parents, staff, members of the University Court and Council and friends from the local community.

The first priority for the Sir Robert and Lady Hilary Burgess Fund is to support the transformation of medical teaching and patient care and to assist in the fight against chronic disease through the completion of the University's new Centre for Medicine. The Fund will help to complete and equip this new state-of-the-art facility due to open later in 2015.

The Fund will also support teaching excellence through the launch of a new scholarship for those wishing to study for a Doctorate in Education (EdD). The EdD programme is a parttime professional doctorate programme designed for full-time teachers, senior leaders and other education professionals. The Fund will provide much sought after funding to conduct research within the field of education to improve practice, develop curricula and enhance the quality of education for future generations of students. The first Burgess Studentship will be awarded in the 2015/16 academic year.

LEARN MORE

Visit www.le.ac.uk/benefactors or contact Rosemary Faint via rlf9@le.ac.uk or +44 (0)116 252 2354

Eye-opening research made possible with support of local Foundation

The University of Leicester Ulverscroft Eye Unit

was officially opened in January 2015 by President and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Paul Boyle. Named in recognition of the generous and longstanding support of The Ulverscroft Foundation, the launch of this Unit will continue to advance the ground-breaking research conducted by the Ophthalmology Team led by Professor Irene Gottlob at the University of Leicester.

> The Ulverscroft Foundation have supported ophthalmology research at the University of Leicester over many years, beginning in 1979 when they established the Frederick Thorpe Ulverscroft Chair of Ophthalmology with a total

donation of £250,000. Since then, philanthropic support from the Foundation has continued and has now reached over £1 million

The Foundation's most recent gift of over £350.000 will fund the Optical Coherence Tomography in Children Research Project for a period of three years. Optical coherence tomography (OCT) is a special 3-dimensional imaging technique that is able to generate high quality images of eye structures at a microscopic level and has been used to investigate diseases that disrupt the development of the visual system, such as albinism, achromatopsia (loss of cone photoreceptors) and amblyopia (or lazy eye).

Hand-held OCT devices allow imaging of the retina in young children and infants, enabling researchers to look at the normal visual development of the retina in the early years of life. Establishing this normative baseline also makes it possible to use the device to identify abnormal retinal development caused by problems such as premature birth or retinal diseases.

The very generous and continuing support of The Ulverscroft Foundation will allow the Ophthalmology Team at the University to use these precise imaging techniques to accurately quantify eye structure and function, and further advance our understanding of diseases that affect the eyes and the brain.

The Ulverscroft **Foundation is** proud to have supported the leading research of Professor Gottlob and the **Ophthalmology Team** at the University of Leicester over many years.

> **David Owen, Chair of Trustees,** The Ulverscroft Foundation



New Gallery extension made possible with the support of over 1,000 donors

In February 2015, friends, staff and supporters of the University's Breaking Barriers Appeal gathered in the winter sunshine to witness the Official Ground Breaking Ceremony for the New Gallery at the Attenborough Arts Centre.

The 'ground-breaking', which officially marked the start of the construction of an extension to the University's Attenborough Arts Centre, was performed by President and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Paul Boyle, and Patron of the Centre and son of the late Lord Richard Attenborough, Michael Attenborough, CBE.

Michael spoke passionately about the importance of the Attenborough Arts Centre to the community and to his family, particularly noting how much the Centre meant to his father.

"This Arts Centre is a shining example of providing accessible facilities for everybody. Not just as passive receivers, but also as practitioners. That was very dear to Dad's heart. He believed that personal creativity and cultural expression were a very basic human right. As a consequence, his heart always raced a bit faster whenever he came back to Leicester and to the most important building in the city to him."

The Attenborough family resided at College House on University Campus for several years and have been long-standing supporters of the Centre which was officially opened in 1997 by Diana Princess of Wales and championed by the late Lord Attenborough.

Construction of the New Gallery, which will be officially opened in early 2016, has been made possible thanks to the generous support of over 1,000 donors making gifts totalling £1.5m to the Breaking Barriers Appeal. The extenstion will provide 50% more space and will offer three new exhibition spaces, an outdoor sculpture court and flexible creative space, greatly expanding opportunities for guests visiting the Centre.

LEARN MORE

Visit www.le.ac.uk/breakingbarriers or contact Ave Vinick via arv4@le.ac.uk or +44 (0)116 252 2176





An accessible and inclusive environment for creative learning

Artist and Attenborough Arts Centre Tutor Austin Orwin explains what the Centre means for him and the people he teaches.



: Tell us something about yourself...

A: I am a Sculptor, working at a studio in Leicester for over 15 years. My sculptural practice encompasses clay modelling and casting, right through to stone carving and works in bronze.

: What is your relationship to the Attenborough Arts Centre?

Sculpture courses and a Sculptural Ceramics course. The courses are equally aimed at pushing one's own limits of perception of ability, as much as learning practical techniques and experiencing differing materials.

: What do you like about the **Arts Centre?**

: The purpose-made studios and facilities Aat the Attenborough Arts Centre provide a very accessible, inclusive learning environment, offering a comprehensive programme of creative learning courses and workshops, suitable for everyone from the complete beginner to those with previous experience who want to re-ignite or push their practice.

As a tutor I would say it provides a very supportive atmosphere where learners can be encouraged to not only have a go at working with a variety of art forms, but to actively push the boundaries of their work and enhance their creative process.

Being an artist as well as a tutor, the Attenborough Arts Centre gives me access to a wealth of creative individuals, both learners at the Centre and also other tutors, who support my professional practice and encourage me to continue pushing my own boundaries. I am offered the chance to work with a wonderful variety of people, each one bringing something different to the creative thought process.

: How long have you been involved with the Arts Centre?

: I have been a tutor at the University A of Leicester since 2005, tutoring at the Attenborough Arts Centre on a regular basis. Prior to this, I did take several classes at the Centre myself, so I know what it's like to be on the other side of the desk as a learner.

: What difference do you think the New Gallery will make?

↑ : The addition of the New Gallery to the Arts Centre will give rise to an exhibition schedule which will feature prominently in both local and national event listings. It will give great access to artwork for learners and the public to be further inspired, and will undoubtedly be a huge draw for the general public on a national level. I believe the New Gallery will truly make the Attenborough Arts Centre a complete creative hub, where people can come to learn, to relax, to be inspired, or simply to spend time in a stimulating environment. It will ensure that the Attenborough Arts Centre holds a major standing in the arts and cultural life of the East Midlands.

Life-saving research institute officially opens

Thanks to the generous philanthropic support of The Scott-Waudby Charitable Trust, the University of Leicester has been able to establish a new Haematological Research Institute that will enhance existing research programmes and make possible new initiatives in translational research in haemato-oncology.

Named in recognition of the generous philanthropic provision in the Will of honorary graduate Dr Helen Scott, OBE for this area of research, The Ernest and Helen Scott Haematological Research Institute was officially opened on 28th June 2014 by the former Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir Robert Burgess.

Haemato-oncology focuses on the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of blood cancer and includes leukaemias and lymphomas. The human impact of these diseases is vast and many thousands of lives are impaired or lost as a result. Led by Professor Martin Dyer, the Institute's main objectives will be to investigate resistance to therapies, develop new tools for the diagnosis and stratification of patients for better response to therapies, identify new therapeutic agents and procedures, and investigate the mechanisms of action of new therapies available in clinical trials.

In total, The Scott-Waudby Charitable Trust has committed £742,000 towards the Institute over five years. During its first year, the Institute has also been able to secure additional research funding from charities and other funding bodies for over £500,000, which has further extended the scope of its work. The support of the Trust and other supporters will enable the Institute's intensive programme of research to speed the translation of new knowledge and research findings into prevention and treatments that will ultimately save many lives in communities across the UK.

> Increasingly, with the introduction of precision medicines, cancer medicine will require scientifically-trained doctors. Helen Scott's generous gift has allowed us to establish, in Leicester, a rolling programme for junior cancer doctors to perform cutting-edge scientific research into the causes and treatments of haematological malignancy and to become key national leaders in the field.

> > **Professor Martin Dyer, Professor of Haemato-Oncology**





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Like many people, Doris May Cartwright – known to those who loved her as May – was affected by cancer and now, as a result of a gift May left to the University in her Will, it is hoped our pioneering researchers will be able to save many more lives with earlier detection of the disease.

The South Wigston-born former Office Clerk was inspired to remember Leicester in her Will as a result of the life-saving work of our Department of Cancer Studies.

"The University is renowned as a leader in cancer research," explains May's niece, Rosemary Dillon. "As a family, we wanted to support this great work and now May's legacy will live on at Leicester. We hope that it can help in some way to make a difference."

May's legacy gift has funded a digital PCR droplet machine for Professor Karen Brown and Professor Jacqui Shaw which will speed up their work on plasma nucleic acids for the detection and monitoring of cancer.

"This new technology has revolutionised our research in a very short time," explains Jacqui. "The ddPCR method generates accurate and precise results quickly and cheaply, and is being used to look at very rare genetic mutations in blood and small amounts of tissue from patients with cancer.

"We are extremely grateful to the family for receipt of May's legacy and the new instrument it has funded, which has

enormous potential to speed up and improve the research of a number of groups here in the Cancer Research UK Leicester Centre at the University."

May with her husband, Shirley

May with her family

Legacies left to the University can have a worldwide impact by funding lifesaving research such as this, supporting bursaries and scholarships for those who would otherwise be unable to come to the University and much more.

LEARN MORE

Contact Rosie O'Connor via ro69@le.ac.uk or +44 (0)116 252 2850



Life at the University of Leicester challenged me in several ways. My time at Leicester was special and I'm delighted to provide a commitment to the long term future of the University by donating to the permanent endowment. Paul Rivlin, BA Politics 1975 Alumni David Barry (left) and Paul Rivlin (right) join President and Vice-Chancellor

Paul Boyle to launch the Leicester Endowment Fund at the House of Lords

Securing Leicester's future

Leicester alumni can now support Leicester's ground-breaking research and educational excellence for generations to come by donating to an unrestricted, permanently endowed fund designed to provide a level of financial independence and flexibility for the University through the 21st century and beyond.

The Leicester Endowment Fund is helping to secure the University's long-term sustainability. It was launched with generous philanthropic gifts from visionary alumni supporters Paul Rivlin and David Barry at the University's House of Lords Reception in September 2014. These gifts brought the fund to over £1m and it is our ambition to grow this fund to £10m by 2020.

The new Fund will be an unrestricted. permanently endowed fund, which will operate much like a savings and investment portfolio to offer a stable, ongoing and regular source of income. Especially in the face of major government cuts in capital and revenue grants and restrictions on traditional sources of funding, building the University's general endowment is tremendously important for our future growth and development, as well as our competitiveness.

The University has ambitious plans and endowment income can help us to accomplish things we could not otherwise contemplate, do them faster, or to a higher standard. It can also help to leverage additional funding for world-

changing research and state-of-the-art facilities, as well as academic scholarships to attract the most talented students regardless of their background.

The Fund will provide much needed flexibility, enable the University to plan ahead with more certainty and also provide additional funds to realise strategically important projects and developments beyond the scope of its regular core expenditure.

The inspiration for the Fund came from Politics graduate Paul Rivlin, Partner and Chairman of the Investment Committee of Palatium Investment Management.

The Leicester Endowment Fund is a unique philanthropic investment opportunity with an enduring legacy which will be vital in helping the University to realise its vision not only for the 21st century, but beyond.

LEARN MORE

Contact Lisa Davies via Id109@le.ac.uk or +44 (0)116 252 2153

Our Scholarship Fund aims to encourage many more talented young people to pursue a university education at Leicester.

> Gary Dixon, BSc (Hons) Physics with Astrophysics 1987, Council Member and Linda Dixon, BA French 1987



The Dixon Scholarship Fund:

A gift from one generation to another

Many students have been able to pursue their dreams of a University education at Leicester thanks to the generous support of graduates who are choosing to establish Scholarship Funds through their philanthropy.

Leicester graduates, Gary and Linda Dixon look back fondly on their time at university where they studied and met one another. Both know that a university education may well have been beyond their reach without the financial support available to students of their generation. They also appreciate the big financial challenges and decisions facing many talented students today, especially for young people from those communities not traditionally associated with progressing to higher education.

Wanting to make a real difference for future generations, Gary and Linda set up a Scholarship Fund in their names at Leicester in 2014 to specifically support students who might not otherwise have the opportunity of a university education due to social or financial constraints.

Gary explains, "As alumni, we have always been grateful for both the education and experience we received during our time in Leicester, back in the 1980s. Studying today is accompanied by different challenges, especially for students who have little or no financial support available due to family circumstances. The Dixon Scholarship Fund aims to help by alleviating these very real financial concerns and make studying at Leicester a real possibility."

Chloe, a 2nd year student and the first recipient of a Dixon Scholarship, explains how this has made a difference for her, "I am studying Medical Physiology, and aspire to train as a doctor and work in the fight against cancer. This special Scholarship means I can fully focus on my learning, without the worry of struggling to manage financially."

A huge thank you!

Over the past year, a host of supporters have organised events or taken part in sponsored challenges to raise vital philanthropic funds for a range of University projects and appeals.







Getting muddy for a good cause

Staff from the Development and Alumni Relations Office, Crysta Campbell, Cat Harmer, Laura Woodhouse, Steve Jones, Dilys Machin, Rosemary Faint and Katherine Heath along with friends Corey Still and Steph Harris, completed two gruelling 'Wolf Runs' in June and September 2014. The generosity of sponsors inspired them as they completed the 10km assault course, through very muddy woods, lakes and fields and ensured that they exceeded their target by raising a fantastic £954 for two worthy causes; the Centre for Medicine Appeal and the Breaking Barriers Appeal.

It was great to get out of our comfort zone and into the mud to raise vital funds that will support the fight against chronic disease and expand the University's accessible arts provision.

Crysta Campbell, Development and Alumni Relations Team

I am aware of what a difference even the smallest contributions can make and I wanted to support this particular area of research, which is important to me personally, having lost my daughter a few years ago.

Dave Hall, Registrar and Secretary

One man on a walking mission

Dave Hall, the University's Registrar and Secretary, supported the Centre for Medicine Appeal by completing a challenging two week walk along Offa's Dyke, one of Britain's longest National Trails. Dave was raising funds for the Infant Mortality and Morbidity Studies Team which will be based in the new facility, and is a cause close to Dave's heart. The Team undertakes leading research and clinical audits into the causes, impact and prevention of infant mortality. Dave reached his initial fundraising target of £1,000 before he had even started, and in the end raised an incredible £5.566.







None of us had taken part in a city centre road race before – it was daunting, but very exciting!

> **Dr Andy Ward, Department of Medical and Social Care Education**

The 'Med School Mamils' at the start line

Swapping stethoscopes for lycra

In August 2014 the 'Med School Mamils (Middle-aged men in lycra)', took part in the 'Leicester Castle Classic Cycle Race' wearing eye-catching jerseys depicting the human body's cardiovascular system. They completed the technical 1.5 mile circuit which takes place across the cobbles in Leicester's historic Castle Gardens in aid of the Centre for Medicine. The team comprised Dr Andy Ward and Dr Chris Sanders from the University's Department of Medical and Social Care Education, Mr Mark McCarthy, Honorary Senior Lecturer in Cardiovascular Sciences and Dr Rob Powell, Anaesthetist and Honorary Senior Lecturer. The efforts of these cyclists and those of alumni, friends and members of the local community are all contributing to raising not only significant funds but also the profile of the Centre for Medicine Appeal.



Singing to save lives

In December 2014, the annual Magna Music Makers Christmas Concert was held at the Wigston Magna Methodist Church in support of the University of Leicester British Heart Foundation Cardiovascular Research Centre (CRC). The Magna Music Makers choir consists of 30 women who have a passion for singing and who chose to support the CRC after reading about the facility and its life-saving research in the local paper. The concert was a huge success and raised a tremendous £1,000 which will help to buy new specialist equipment to be used by the University's world-leading research team in their work to improve the prevention and treatment of heart disease.

We are delighted to support the University's Cardiovascular Research Centre and the fantastic research programmes that will benefit local communities in the city and county and across the UK.

Jan Clements, Conductor of the Magna Music Makers



LEARN MORE OR GET INVOLVED Contact **Laura Woodhouse** via lw234@le.ac.uk or +44 (0)116 252 5132 Pursuing their passions

Each year, generous alumni choose to support the Student Opportunities Fund, supporting a range of deserving students and enabling them to continue their studies and achieve their full potential. For Music and Sports Scholars, the assistance they receive means that they have the opportunity to pursue their passions alongside their academic studies. Here, Nick and Christina explain in their own words what this means to them.

In 2011 I, like many freshers to be, packed my bag and prepared to make the trip from Germany to the UK for the first time to take on the world and to study at Leicester. Serenading audiences with the elegant sounds of my flute fills me with absolute joy - it has done since I started playing at the age of ten. So you can imagine my elation at having been awarded an Alumni Music Scholarship, which allows me to continue my flute lessons alongside my degree – an utter privilege.

Personal dedication and ongoing support from my amazing flute teacher, Dana Morgan, has resulted in my passing my ATCL Performance Diploma with distinction. I am told this is an incredible achievement and one of which I am very proud. Alongside my academic studies I have played with the University of Leicester Orchestra as first flute and twice as a soloist: In recent years I have performed Mozart's Flute Concerto and the Chaminade Flute Concertino.

Soon I will be embarking on a new chapter of my life as I start work for a UK based engineering company. It's exciting and somewhat daunting all at the same time, but I know that I will continue to play my flute and I am planning occasional visits to Leicester to continue my lessons.

Pursuing my passion and sharing it with audiences throughout my time here would not have been possible without this Scholarship. I have many good memories of my time at Leicester, but some of the best will be thanks to the way our University values music as an extracurricular activity.

Christina Brugger, Music Scholar, **MEng General Engineering**

I would like to express a sincere thank you to the alumni who have made it possible for me to continue learning and performing alongside my academic studies.





Juggling the demands of my first year PhD course and those of playing wheelchair rugby for both the Leicester Tigers and Great Britain is not easy, but it is incredibly enjoyable. My ambition to succeed permeates both my academic and sporting life. As the newest member of the GB squad, it is my goal to represent my country at the European Championships in Finland later this year and in the 2016

The alumni-funded Gold Sports Scholarship that I have been awarded here at the University of Leicester is helping to make my dreams a reality. In particular, the Scholarship has helped fund the extensive travel that I undertake to training sessions and training camps across the country. With custom-built wheelchairs used in my sport costing up to £6,000 and with vital parts such as tyres and axles frequently damaged during games, the Scholarship has also ensured that the equipment I rely on to compete is in the best possible condition.

Nicholas Cummins, Gold Sports Scholar, PhD History

To every single alumnus who has donated to Sports Scholarships here at the University of Leicester – thank you for helping me to pursue my dream.







First Alumni-funded Postgraduate Research Scholar graduates

In 2011, Evi Christofidou was the first ever recipient of an Alumni-funded Postgraduate Research Scholarship. After three years of hard work and dedication, Evi successfully graduated with a PhD in Cardiovascular Genetics with research which could prove to be life-saving.

Evi started what would be an exciting nine year journey at the University of Leicester in 2005 when she began studying for a BSc in Medical Genetics; she then chose to stay at Leicester to complete her MSc in Molecular Genetics in 2010 because of the stimulating and inspiring academic environment she had encountered here.

In 2011, the award of her Postgraduate Research Scholarship brought her ever closer to realising her ambition of becoming a successful research investigator. The generous philanthropic support of alumni for the *Student Opportunities Fund* was critical in enabling Evi to pursue her PhD in Cardiovascular Genetics, and fulfilling her goal in her chosen specialism.

The scholarship support that Evi received allowed her to focus on researching the genetics of Coronary Artery Disease, a leading cause of deaths worldwide, and identify the genes responsible for the disease. Evi's PhD research revealed a new association between specific genes and Coronary Artery Disease, particularly in members of the South Asian community and highlighted specific areas, previously neglected by research studies, which have the potential to provide new genetic insights into complex diseases.

Evi carried out her research in the Department of Cardiovascular Sciences at the new University of Leicester British Heart Foundation Cardiovascular Research Centre at Glenfield Hospital. Led by world-leading cardiovascular researcher, academic and alumnus, Professor Sir Nilesh Samani, the Centre is a world-renowned research facility which itself has also been generously supported by our alumni and the local community.

During her time at the University Evi also received two prestigious awards – being named the



Evi with Professor Sir Nilesh Samani

International Society of Hypertension New Investigator of the Month and winning the American Heart Association Mentorship Award for a presentation showcasing her talent and dedication to research.

Evi successfully completed her PhD and graduated in 2014. She hopes to continue her important work to develop new diagnostic and treatment strategies for one of the biggest causes of premature death in the UK, meaning that Evi's research and future career could have a major impact on many of our lives thanks to the generous support of our alumni for the Student Opportunities Fund.

LEARN MORE

Visit www.le.ac.uk/benefactors or contact Rosemary Faint via annualgiving@le.ac.uk or +44 (0)116 252 2354





Improving the lives of kidney patients today, inspiring the researchers of tomorrow

Leicester is home to one of the UK's largest and most respected renal research teams. With the generous and ongoing support of an anonymous Charitable Trust, leading investigators based at the University are looking into how the many patients affected by incurable chronic kidney disease can learn to lead better quality lives through improved management of this debilitating condition.

The ground breaking research made possible by the invaluable support of the Trust over the last 4 years will improve the lives of kidney patients today and tomorrow and has also led to my selection for a prestigious **Kidney Research UK** Fellowship Award.

Dr Emma Watson, Exercise Scientist

One of the long-term effects of kidney disease is muscle wasting and there is increasing evidence from research at Leicester that moderate exercise can slow or prevent this from happening. The generosity of the Trust has enabled the Leicester Kidney Research Exercise Team to set up multiple research projects at Hospitals in Leicester which have investigated the effect of exercise therapy on patients. We have found that one of the important benefits of appropriate exercise is overcoming muscle weakness and wasting, which helps kidney patients to lead a more healthy and active life.

Led by Dr Alice Smith, the pioneering Exercise Research Programme (ERP) continues to be supported by the Trust and is now in its second phase with the aim of pilot testing a behaviour change package for pre-dialysis patients. Investigators Emma Watson and Amy Clarke are working on separate aspects of this second phase, focussing on patients who are in the early stages of kidney disease before the need for dialysis or transplant.

Emma is an exercise scientist and her work looks at the science behind the benefits of exercise for these early-stage kidney patients, to help us to better understand what type of exercise works best and why. This vitally important

information helps the ERP team to formulate guidelines for use by doctors and kidney patients, outlining what they can do to have an improved quality of life and health by slowing the effects of chronic kidney disease.

As a researcher in health and behavioural psychology, Amy's research has highlighted the relative inactivity of most kidney patients and she has carried out a detailed study to find out why this is, and how best to help change this situation. Amy is now using the results of this study to design and test cost-effective programmes to inform and support kidney patients to become more active.

Both Amy and Emma are very successful young researchers who are passionate about what they do and the generous philanthropic support of the Charitable Trust has provided an invaluable springboard for their respective research careers. Indeed, Emma has recently received a very prestigious Fellowship Award from Kidney Research UK which will provide vital funding for her to take the next step in her career as a research scientist. This award is not only a vote of confidence in Emma but also the whole team as only the most outstanding researchers, working in the highest quality teams are successful in being selected for such Fellowships.

The David Mayer Research Fund: Eurthoring leading research into

Furthering leading research into IgA Nephropathy

Leicester is the leading Centre studying IgA Nephropathy in the UK and, thanks to the David Mayer Research Fund, established through the support of the Mayer Family Charitable Trust, cutting-edge research into the causes of this condition, which can result in progressive kidney damage, is being significantly increased and enhanced.

Discovered in 1968, IgA Nephropathy is the most common glomerulonephritis, a disease affecting the kidneys, in the world and significantly increases the risk of the need for dialysis or transplant in those affected. The condition is more prevalent in men than women and commonly affects younger people. The Team at Leicester are at the forefront of both laboratorybased research studies and clinical trials to increase understanding of why this condition occurs and to develop and test preventative treatments and therapies.

Immunoglobulin A (IgA) is a protein usually found in the blood where it helps the body to fight infection. In healthy people, IgA is not present in the kidney. IgA Nephropathy

(IgAN) is diagnosed when this protein is found in the tiny sieves in the kidney – the glomeruli. In some individuals, the presence of IgA has little effect but in other susceptible patients this can lead to inflammation and scarring of the glomeruli and other parts of the kidney, resulting in progressive kidney damage. In some cases this becomes so severe that it prevents the kidney from functioning and kidney failure develops.

The funding from the Mayer Family Charitable Trust is allowing the already highly respected IgAN Research Group to increase and further develop their research efforts to understand why and how this condition leads to kidney failure. Karen Molyneux, lead scientist in the IgAN group, is looking at the genes responsible for the changes in the structure of molecules believed to be responsible for IgAN, whilst postgraduate scientist David Wimbury is working to understand how and why IgA triggers inflammation in the kidney. Research Technician Patricia Higgins is studying the possibility of predicting whether a patient with IgAN will go on to need dialysis in the future.

The generous support of the Trust is enabling these three researchers to dedicate one hundred percent of their time and research efforts over the next five years to answering these key questions surrounding this disease as well as supporting a number of other IgAN projects in Leicester.



New Women of Influence Scholarship for Postgraduate Study:

An interview with inaugural recipient Emily Durham

In 2014, the University was proud to launch the Women of Influence Scholarship for Postgraduate Study – founded by generous donations from a group of women graduates who want to support the next generation of inspirational women academics at Leicester. This year, Emily Durham became the first recipient of this Scholarship and explains below what this support means to her and her studies at Leicester.

: What impact has receiving the first Women of Influence Scholarship for Postgraduate Study had on you personally and on your studies?

The Scholarship has had a massive impact on me personally and on my studies. This financial support was critical in enabling me to undertake an MSc in Green Chemistry, a subject that I am extremely passionate about. I hope that it will also enhance my employability to prospective employers, as having a fully funded MSc in Chemistry is rare. I am extremely grateful to those who were able to support the Scholarship, particularly at a time when postgraduate funding is so difficult to obtain.

I also feel that I now have the opportunity to inspire other women and young girls to follow their passions and not be held back.

: What has receiving the Scholarship allowed you to do?

Carry out my main research project, which I started in April this year and will finish in September. I am currently conducting research into electrodeposition of chromium onto steel from deep eutectic solvents in order to explore alternate plating methodology to the hexavalent chromium electrodeposition process currently derived from the highly carcinogenic and toxic chemical, chromic acid. I have also been able to buy a new laptop for my studies which I otherwise wouldn't have been able to do.

: What has been your most enjoyable experience on the course so far?

A: I have had many great experiences on my course but my independent research project has been the most enjoyable and challenging part. It is the first time I have carried out my own specialist research and I have been exceptionally

lucky to work alongside Professor Andrew Abbott, the Royal Society of Chemistry's 2014 Green Chemistry award winner. Additionally, my project runs alongside the steelworks company OCAS in Belgium, so it's been really exciting to see regularly the impacts of the results of the research. I also had the chance to meet world-renowned chemist, alumnus and honorand, Professor Peter Atkins, who completed a BSc and PhD in Chemistry at Leicester in the 1960s, which was definitely a highlight.

: Why did you choose to continue your studies at Leicester?

A: I completed my BSc in Chemistry in 2014 and wanted to stay at Leicester to do an MSc in Green Chemistry because I really enjoyed my first three years at University and in the Chemistry Department, which is highly regarded nationally. The Department has a supportive, friendly environment with academics having an open door policy which is great. I'm also proud of the fact that the University is tied to so many discoveries such as Richard III and DNA fingerprinting, but also projects like the Beagle 2 mission to Mars.

LEARN MORE

Contact Lisa Davies via Id109@Ie.ac.uk or +44 (0)116 252 2153

Q: Why is donors' philanthropy in support of scholarships for postgraduate study so important?

: Individuals who choose to continue onto Apostgraduate study have a huge passion for a subject, but individual financial circumstances and meeting the cost of undergraduate study can result in that passion becoming lost. The Women of Influence Scholarship provides critical financial support at a crucial point in women's academic careers, when many of them might choose to give up. This Scholarship would not be possible without the support of generous benefactors and my experience means I will also personally support postgraduate study in the future, particularly for women carrying out research in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The status quo in these areas means that women are underrepresented and more scholarships will mean a much needed increase in the number of women choosing to pursue postgraduate study in these subject areas.

: What would you like to say to the women that have made this Scholarship possible?

A big thank you! I am extremely grateful to all of the women who made my Women of Influence Scholarship possible as it has opened many new doors for me and is an invaluable source of inspiration and support. Their generous philanthropic gifts have inspired me to encourage young girls and women to participate in Sciences and Engineering and aspire to become a future Woman of Influence.



What Santander Universities UK made possible in 2013-2014

Writing with an international perspective: **Jonathan Coe**

Critically-acclaimed and bestselling novelist meets

students and staff at the Annual Creative

Writing Lecture.

To hear such a **legendary** author in person, speaking about what motivates them to write and how they do it, was amazing. **Anita, PhD Creative**

Writing





An hour with **Ana Botin**

students. academics and local business people shared an hour with Ana Botin, Chairman, Santander Group. Ana shared her vision for the bank and fielded questions on a range of issues from managing risk to supporting SMEs in the region.

Promoting institutional links

travel awards supported diverse research exchanges on topics such as carbon dynamics, diabetes care and bacteriophages, in the Santander Universities Network, including Mexico, Spain and Brazil.



Developing confidence in the future

Young people from lower-attaining schools attended the University of **Leicester Residential Summer Schools** for an inspirational taste of the university experience.

> It convinced me that university is the right path for me in the future.

> > 6th Form Student



More than financial help



international students received Masters Scholarships.

I am very thankful to Santander for the financial support to many students around the world. I commend their efforts in trying to diversify and support a more inclusive experience in higher education.

Mario Guerrero, International student

We really believe in the internship scheme. The interns are making a tangible difference to our business. The quality of graduates from the **University of Leicester is high** and, at times, more suitable than what can be found through normal recruitment methods. The programme runs very smoothly and we hope to participate again in the future.

> Keri Williams, Williams Commerce, **Marketing Director**

Making a difference to business







Your support really does count

The Benefactors' Review is one of the ways we can both thank and recognise our generous supporters and show the impact of our work in addressing some of the biggest global challenges. In the last five years our alumni, parents, friends and benefactors have raised over £27m in philanthropic funds for the University.

This is a tremendous contribution which has enabled the institution to grow and develop at a time when traditional sources of funding are in decline and when the government has just announced a further £500m in cuts for the HE sector.

Our supporters understand the current financial reality and share our continuing commitment to ensuring that more students have the chance to experience higher education and to investing in teaching excellence, a unique student experience, and leading research which improves lives. We are always seeking to attract even more supporters to the cause and show why philanthropy is ever more important and can make a big difference, from student hardship awards to state-of-the-art facilities.

In the last year, construction has begun on the £1.8m New Gallery at the Attenborough Arts Centre. We were delighted that Michael Attenborough could attend the official 'ground-breaking' and mark the occasion with his inspiring oratory and memories of his father Richard's commitment to the Centre and its inclusive ethos. Funding from the Arts Council and the Garfield Weston Foundation has been central to realising our aspirations for this much needed space for the visual arts.

The £42m Centre for Medicine is also rising quickly from the ground and we are grateful to The Samworth Foundation and The Edith Murphy Foundation as founding benefactors of the £10m appeal, the University's biggest ever campaign. There is still much to do and we have been enthused by the recent support of NEXT Plc and the Masonic Charity Association for the training of tomorrow's doctors and the fight against chronic disease.

We are also looking to the future; the 'Legacy Guild' goes from

strength to strength, the *University* of *Leicester Endowment Fund* was launched at the House of Lords and the very first *Women of Influence Postgraduate Scholarship* was awarded to Emily Durham, reflecting our commitment to supporting the careers of women in science

You will have seen recent media coverage of people bombarded by charity appeals. I can assure you that we respect our donors' preferences and wishes and comply with the sector's stringent Fundraising Standards and our own Ethical Giving Policy. One hundred percent of every gift goes to the cause and I hope this Review shows the significant impact your gifts are making for talented students, leading academics, research teams and communities across the UK and worldwide. Your support really does count.

Roll of Benefactors

The University would like to thank all of our donors listed below who made a gift between 1st May 2014 and 30th April 2015, and also the donors of 556 anonymous gifts made during this period.

We would also like to make a special mention of those donors who have made a philanthropic gift to the University for the past three consecutive years. recognised with an asterisk (*) following their name.

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1949

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1950

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1951

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1952

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1953

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1954

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1955

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1957

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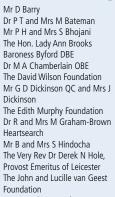
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