



Benefactors' Review 2016

STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITIES





RESEARCH AND TEACHING EXCELLENCE

SCHOLARSHIPS AND HARDSHIP AWARDS

Contents

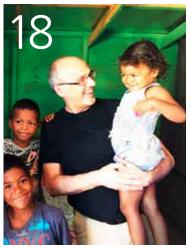
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Leicester's Benefactors: Past and Present

A word of thanks from the President and Vice-Chancellor

Founded as a living memorial to those who lost their lives in the First World War, the endowment fund for the Leicestershire and Rutland University College, which later became the University of Leicester, was established in 1918 on Armistice Day. Led by local Leicester resident, Dr Astley Clarke, along with fellow doctor Frederick Bennett, the University was born out of a voluntary commitment for a people's university. Donations flooded in from individuals, local societies and companies, and, by January 1920, more than £100,000 had been pledged – the equivalent of £16 million today. Local cloth manufacturer, Thomas Fielding Johnson, purchased the Leicestershire and Rutland Lunatic Asylum, which had been used as a base hospital during the War, and gifted it to Leicester Council to set up the new University College and Grammar School.

The first nine students were admitted to the College in 1921 and, in 1957, the College was granted its Royal Charter. Since then, the University has had the right to award its own degrees to over 154,000 alumni and now consists of three colleges accommodating 22,000 students. The University continues to honour those who served and died in the Great War: our motto 'Ut Vitam Habeant' – 'so that they may have life' – is proudly printed on every degree certificate we issue as a permanent reminder of the origins of the University.

As we approach our Centenary, philanthropic support remains critical and it gives me great confidence as President and Vice-Chancellor to know that the University can count on such a committed group of benefactors. We have achieved so much with your backing; notably, the £12.5m Cardiovascular Research Centre, the £1.8m New Gallery at

the Attenborough Arts Centre and most recently the £42m Centre for Medicine. Thanks to the inspirational support of our alumni and friends, the Leicester Endowment Fund was launched in 2014, which, with the help of others like you, will ensure that the University continues to grow and flourish for many years to come. Your generosity is already making a huge impact on thousands of talented students, leading research teams and communities across the UK and overseas, but there is so much more that we can continue to do together.

We are a discovery-led University and our new strategy envisions a range of pioneering projects that will continue to place the University at the forefront of teaching and research. We plan to develop a new set of research institutes to rival the very best in the world; building on our internationally renowned strengths in 'Precision Medicine', 'Structural and Chemical Biology', 'Space and Earth Observation Science' and 'Cultural Media and Creative Economies'. We are also engaged in exciting discussions with the city and the Local Enterprise

Partnership about creating a second campus for the University, next to the National Space Centre, dedicated to space and earth observation science. The 'National Space Park' will be a revolutionary university campus, home to space-related industries, world-leading research teams, local enterprise and students.

With major reductions in government capital and revenue funding for universities, your philanthropy allows us to plan ahead with more certainty and continue the pace of investment in our estate, teaching and research to address the wide-ranging challenges currently facing society. Together we can make a real difference and I hope that you will continue to support the University of Leicester as one of your philanthropic 'causes' for many years to come.

PD B

Professor Paul Boyle CBE

President and Vice-Chancellor



Facts and Statistics

Report on Philanthropy in 2014/15:

The Year in Numbers (Funds Secured)

£2,654,264 NEW FUNDS RAISED*

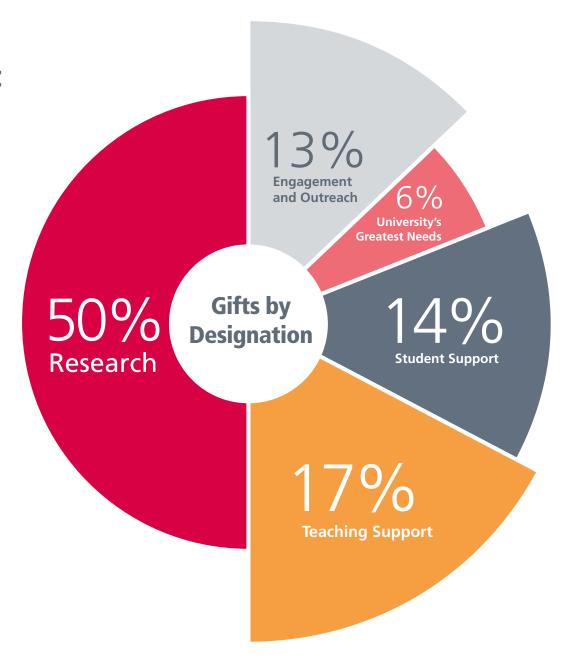
£179,938 ANNUAL FUND

1,553 TOTAL NUMBER OF DONORS

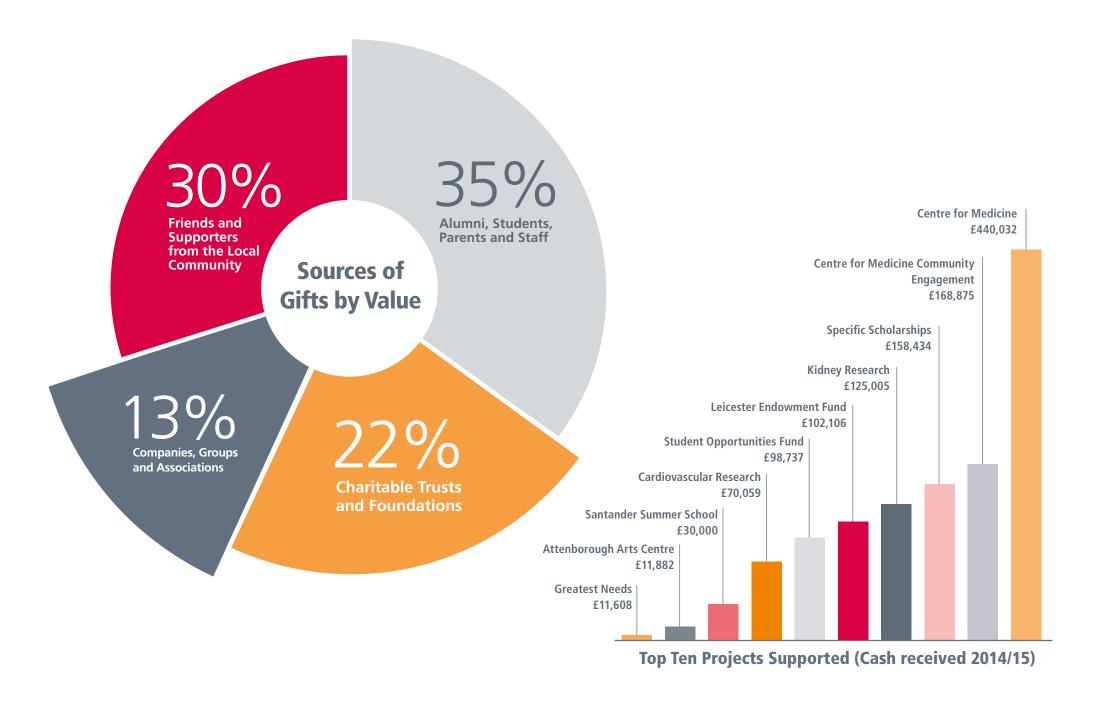
357

NUMBER OF DONORS GIVING FOR THE FIRST TIME 617

NUMBER OF DONORS CHOOSING TO GIVE REGULARLY BY DIRECT DEBIT



^{*} The funds secured in 2014/15 include new cash and confirmed pledges raised in the year, but exclude pledged payments from past years



THE CENTRE FOR MEDICINE APPEAL

The £42m Centre for Medicine will transform the training of doctors and revolutionise the care offered to patients and their families.

> The University has invested £32m into the project, with the remaining £10m coming from the on-going Centre for Medicine Fundraising Appeal. Over the past 2 years, we have been working with alumni, businesses and communities, within and connected to Leicester, to generate the philanthropic funds we need to complete and equip this state-of-the-art facility. Through the amazing support of our benefactors, the Appeal has already raised over £8m and we are now preparing for the final push that will enable us to meet our target.





COMMUNITY AT THE HEART

The Centre for Medicine Appeal is the most successful consolidated fundraising effort in Leicester's history. Donors have contributed to our work in this area for numerous reasons, but, for many, it has been the Centre's commitment to the community within which it will sit, that has motivated them to offer us time, energy and financial support.

Leicester currently has a life-expectancy below the UK national average. The Centre's emerging Community Engagement Plan will aim to share the benefits of cutting-edge medical research amongst Leicester's diverse range of communities to begin to tackle this issue. Leicester's communities, including young people, the elderly and our BAME residents, will help to shape and direct the Centre for Medicine's research by taking into account the differing healthcare needs of these populations. The communities of Leicester are some of the most varied in the UK and the Centre will support this diversity by addressing specific needs and ensuring improved local health and wellbeing for generations to come.

The University is hoping that the Centre for Medicine, and especially the revised undergraduate curriculum, will attract a new cadre of medical students from a more diverse range of backgrounds; particularly those from less affluent areas, who traditionally do not see a medical education as a natural route for

their professional ambitions. The Centre will challenge the idea that medical students must come from wealthy families and will create pathways to higher education that will allow us to recruit more resilient, empathetic healthcare practitioners for the future. There are few health institutions, let alone universities, that are striving for inclusivity in the way that Leicester is. We want to make health, medicine and the underpinning science accessible to all.

The Edith Murphy Foundation, a long-standing supporter of the University, believes in our community engagement aspirations and has chosen to offer their most recent generous donation in support of this area of work. The Edith Murphy Community Engagement Project has enabled the University to secure the resources required to engage thousands of people in a number of innovative ways through campaigns and outreach activities. The Community Engagement Project will be the vehicle that takes the work of the Centre out into our communities and will facilitate numerous opportunities for local residents and alumni to come to the Centre and see the impact this world-class facility is delivering.

LEARN MORE

Visit www.le.ac.uk/savinglives or contact Vin Gaten via vag10@le.ac.uk or +44 (0)116 223 1399

Sir David Attenborough CBE opens the New Gallery at the Attenborough Arts Centre

The late Lord Richard Attenborough, filmmaker, actor and lifelong patron of the arts, founded the University of Leicester's Attenborough Arts Centre in 1997. The Centre's mission is to allow access for all to art, culture and learning, regardless of disabilities or backgrounds. The Centre offers workshops, contemporary art exhibitions, theatre, dance, live music and activities for children and families – proudly championing emerging talent and disability-led artists to an audience of 90,000 people a year.

On the 29 January 2016, Distinguished Honorary Fellow Sir David Attenborough CBE, Richard's brother, officially opened the New Gallery at the Attenborough Arts Centre. The Gallery was funded by donations from over 1000 supporters of the University's Breaking Barriers Appeal, along with a grant from Arts Council England. The extension, comprised of three new exhibition spaces, an outdoor sculpture court and flexible creative space, doubles the size of the Centre, making it the

largest contemporary art gallery in Leicester. Art has always been about breaking down barriers. Art, in all its forms, has the power to transcend cultural, political and geographical boundaries, and the potential to inspire, inform and entertain – but only when it is accessible to all. The New Gallery increases the Centre's ability to engage with more people across the city, the county and beyond and we are proud that this was made possible by the generosity of our benefactors.

Sir David Attenborough has always had a special connection with the University of Leicester. At the age of five, his family moved onto the campus of what was then Leicestershire and Rutland University College when his father, Frederick Attenborough, was appointed as Principal. David and his brothers, Richard and John, were educated at Wyggeston Grammar School for Boys (now Wyggeston and Queen Elizabeth I College) and lived in College House, which remains at the heart of the campus today as part of the Department of Mathematics. David left Leicester in 1945, after gaining a scholarship to study at Cambridge, and Frederick retired as Principal in 1951, but the family's connection with the University endures.

As well as officially opening the New Gallery during his visit to Leicester in January, Sir David gave a lecture, entitled 'Beauty in Nature', as part of the Chancellor's Distinguished Lecture Series. He delivered a captivating exploration of the appreciation of beauty in the natural world, interspersed with fascinating clips from his BBC documentaries, along with snippets about his time in Leicester, to an audience of 1500 students, alumni, supporters, staff and the general public.

We would like to thank our benefactors, who made the New Gallery at the Attenborough Arts Centre a reality, and encourage you to visit the Gallery to witness the incredible impact of your donations first-hand.

LEARN MORE

Visit www.le.ac.uk/ breakingbarriers or contact Emily Bateman via elb49@le.ac.uk or +44 (0)116 229 7464



Inspirational support across the board

The Garfield Weston Foundation

The Garfield Weston Foundation was established in 1958 by Willard Garfield Weston, a Canadian businessman, who moved to the UK with his family in 1932. He was the creator of Associated British Foods and the Foundation was endowed with the donation of family-owned, company shares. The Trustees today are all lineal descendants of the founder and they remain committed to continuing the family's philanthropic ethos, which has made the Foundation one of the largest and most respected, charitable institutions in the country. To date, the Foundation has donated more than £785 million to worthy causes across the UK.

The Garfield Weston Foundation has been a leading benefactor of the University of Leicester for over a decade, beginning with a generous gift of £200,000 to the David Wilson Library in 2005. Since then the Foundation's philanthropic support of the University has continued across the board, from the arts to medicine, and now totals over £600.000.

In 2012, the Foundation donated £150,000 to the £1.8m Breaking Barriers Appeal, which supported the New Gallery at the Attenborough Arts Centre, and the largest of the new galleries has been named in recognition of this support. The Foundation's philanthropic leadership in the Appeal publicly endorsed the importance of inclusive and accessible creative arts spaces within Leicester.

In 2016, the Foundation pledged £250,000 to the £10m Centre for Medicine Appeal. The Centre for Medicine represents the best opportunity in a generation to meet some of the key challenges facing

the health service and the needs of patients. This world-class facility accommodates leading academics, research teams and clinicians from the University of Leicester and the University of Leicester NHS Hospitals Trust, who train some of the most academically-gifted students, to help improve the lives of patients and their families. The Foundation's support of the Centre for Medicine Appeal will also have a profound effect on the city of Leicester; improving the healthcare on our doorstep, addressing the problems of chronic disease, raising the educational aspirations of young people and accelerating research breakthroughs.

The University of Leicester is very grateful for the ongoing support of the Foundation and sincerely hopes to continue to work in partnership in the future.





John and Mary Ann Salmon

We are very proud to have over 1500 benefactors, who have supported projects across the University within the last year. John and Mary Ann Salmon are two of the University's leading benefactors, who have made significant donations to both the Breaking Barriers Appeal and the Centre for Medicine Appeal since 2013.

Earlier this year, the University recognised the couple's inspirational support, by naming one of the new galleries at the

Attenborough Arts Centre in their honour. The John and Mary Ann Salmon Gallery was officially opened by Sir David Attenborough on the 29 January 2016.

John and Mary Ann spoke fondly about why they believe the University is such a worthy cause, "We are proud to support the University of Leicester and its internationally renowned strengths in the arts and medicine. In doing so, we know that we are making a substantial impact on the lives of thousands of people

across Leicestershire and beyond - from increasing the accessibility of the creative arts, to helping to provide the state-of-the-art facilities required to train the next generation of doctors."

They were also delighted to meet Sir David Attenborough and view the gallery named in recognition of their generosity; "We hope that The John and Mary Ann Salmon Gallery will provide the vital space required for new exhibitions, which will support emerging artists,

especially those with disabilities, and allow everyone to have the opportunity to engage with art and creative learning."

John and Mary Ann are wellknown across the East Midlands. In 1972, John and fellow physicist, Mike Bertioli, invented a pressure measuring device, that was five times more accurate than anything else on the market. The device is now used in everything from cockpit instruments to machinery for regulating the bubbles in fizzy drinks. In 1973, the pair founded Druck, which specialises in pressure sensors, and built the business into a multinational operator with customers as diverse as DaimlerChrysler and the RAF. In 2002, John sold Druck and went on to buy Parametric Investments in 2005. which is an international leader in high-precision sensing, which focuses on instrumentation, relative humidity and oxygen analysis.

John has had a distinguished career in physics and the couple are now highly-esteemed philanthropists. We would like to thank John and Mary Ann for their ongoing commitment to the University of Leicester and we look forward to continuing to work together to achieve our shared ambitions



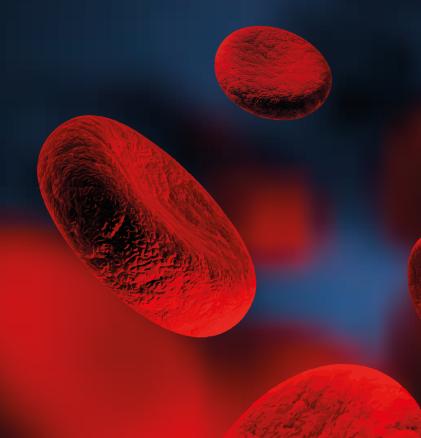
World first blood cancer drug trial reveals life-changing results

In November 2015, Professor Martin Dyer and Dr Harriet Walter from the Ernest and Helen Scott Haematological Research Institute at the University of Leicester announced a major breakthrough in the treatment of blood cancer. They led the first-in-man clinical trial that looked at the efficacy of a new inhibitor, called ONO/GS-4059, in the treatment of Chronic Lymphocytic Leukaemia and Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma on patients who were resistant to current chemotherapies. The inhibitor targets a protein, known as BTK, which is essential for the survival and proliferation of the tumour cells.

After taking part in the trial for three years, the patients with Chronic Lymphocytic

Leukaemia showed the greatest response to the treatment and had no notable toxicities. Dr Harriet Walter said: "These patients were confronted with a cruel reality: they had failed multiple chemotherapy lines and there were no other treatment options available for them. This drug has changed their lives; from desperate and tired, they are now leading a normal and really active life. This is hugely rewarding and encouraging."

The Ernest and Helen Scott Haematological Research Institute was named in recognition of a generous philanthropic provision in the will of honorary graduate Dr Helen Scott OBE. Since 2013, the Institute has been supported by a major donation of £742,000 over 5 years from the Scott-Waudby Charitable Trust, along with additional resources from other charities and funding bodies. Without philanthropy, it is unlikely that this breakthrough would have been made. The discovery has the potential to save thousands of lives across the UK and around the world.







Daniel Hurst visiting the Lab

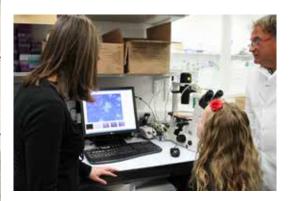
Cancer survivor, Daniel Hurst, took fundraising to new heights - 15,000ft to be precise!

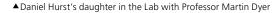
At the age of just 26, Daniel Hurst was diagnosed with lymphoma. After a long 12-month battle he was put into remission with the help of doctors and nurses at the Leicester Royal Infirmary and the University of Leicester.

Professor Martin Dyer, Director of the Ernest and Helen Scott Haematological Research Institute and Consultant Haematologist at Leicester's Hospitals, was Daniel's consultant. Daniel said, "Professor Dyer's support was amazing and he was always trying to make me happy. He arranged for me to have a stem cell transplant, which saved my life, and I can't thank him and all his staff enough for giving me the opportunity to see my daughter grow up. For that I will be forever grateful."

In support of the Ernest and Helen Scott Haematological Research Institute, Daniel and six of his friends took part in a sponsored skydive to support research taking place into his condition. They raised over £2,600 through their JustGiving page – 5 times their original fundraising target! We would like to thank Daniel for his exceptional courage and inspirational commitment to supporting research taking place at Leicester.

If you would like to raise funds for a cause that is important to you, such as medical research at the University or financial support for disadvantaged students, please get in touch. Contact Rosemary Faint via rlf9@le.ac.uk or +44 (0)116 252 2354.





■ Daniel Hurst and his daughter pre-skydive



Life is not always easy and life is too short. Live every day to the best you can as you just never know when life can change, like mine did at the age of 26. I hope that the public will see all the efforts we put in and try to do something themselves to raise money.

DANIEL HURST

THE STUDENT **OPPORTUNITIES FUND**

Donations made to the Student Opportunities Fund help some of Leicester's most talented and deserving students to reach their potential, by enabling them to continue their education to the highest level.

The Fund offers vital support in a variety of ways, including Alumni Research Scholarships and Sports and Music Scholarships, helping to promote a culture of excellence. The Student Opportunities Fund also offers financial support to current students in times of personal crisis so that they are able to continue with their studies.

Research Scholars



EMILY DURHAM

In the 2015 edition of Benefactors' Review we featured Emily Durham, who was the first recipient of the Women of Influence Scholarship for Postgraduate Study. Emily successfully completed her Masters in Green Chemistry in January 2016 and moved straight into a career in stockbroking in London.



I really can't thank the Alumni enough for this support – it gave me the confidence to take on a PhD when I had young children and helped me make a career change into teaching. I haven't looked back.

DR NEIL LANCASTER

Neil was awarded a three year Alumni Research Scholarship and completed his Management PhD in July 2015. Neil's research looked at foreign exchange markets, in particular the period from 1970 until the Global Financial Crisis. His PhD enabled him to get a full-time lectureship in Leicester, which means he can use his experience and connections to help other students.



AHMAD*

In 2014, with few opportunities to progress his academic career in Syria, Ahmad approached the Council for Assisting Refugee Academics (CARA) for support to study at Leicester. CARA offered to cover half his costs to study for an MD (Doctor of Medicine) degree at the University of Leicester. The University agreed to waive his fees and he was awarded a scholarship from the Student Opportunities Fund.

I am today coming close, thanks to CARA and the University's supporters, to completing my Doctorate of Medicine which will enable me to bring new clinical insights in transmission and diagnosis of tuberculosis and pulmonary infections. I will never forget the enormous dangers I was facing, just two years ago, of losing my life and my academic future in a war, the like of which has never been witnessed before.

Hardship Awards

ROBERT – RECENT GRADUATE*

Without the help of the University's supporters, I would not have been able to carry on with my studies whilst living in Leicester. During my final year, I received funding for my university accommodation, as well as a weekly allowance whilst I had no other income. This helped to pay for my travel to Leicester from my home in London and, without this support, I would not have been able to continue with my degree.

SARAH – CURRENT STUDENT*

After suffering ill health during my studies, I was unable to complete my final assessments. This left me in an extremely difficult situation as I had no money to support myself and, having fled domestic violence, I had no home to return to. This financial support truly changed my life - giving me the opportunity to complete my degree and providing me with a brighter future. I had finally given up all hope of completing my degree, but this support turned everything around. I am extremely grateful for the opportunity and I hope that one day I will be in a position to give back, knowing the difference it can make.



Alumni Funded Health Science Scholarship Awarded

The University of Leicester's Department of Health Sciences is engaged in internationally competitive research across a wide range of topics, including epidemiology, medical statistics, public health, primary care, health services research, and psychiatry. The Department offers a Masters degree in Applied Health Research, which demonstrates how a range of scientific disciplines can be used to structure inquiry and develop the evidence base for applied health research, by developing skills in research practice, critical appraisal, policy writing and ethics.

Thanks to supporters of the Student Opportunities Fund, this year the Department of Health Sciences has been able to offer a funded scholarship. This year's recipient, SADIQ*, shared what receiving the Scholarship means to him:

Let me begin by saying thank you to everyone who has helped fund the course that I am currently studying; you have saved my life and my professional career. Like many new immigrants in the UK, I faced a lot of challenges when I was trying to establish my life again, such as working in physically demanding low paid jobs and being unable to rent affordable housing. When I was working back home, I was part of a team doing small scale research to figure out the reproductive health needs of the country; this made me decide to study Applied Health Research. In the coming months, I will be completing a work placement in order to gain experience of working in the UK. Following this I will hopefully get my dream job.

> *The name of the student has been changed to protect their identity



Celebrating talent

Every year, your donations to the Student Opportunities Fund allow students currently studying at Leicester to pursue their passions. Over the last two years, the Fund has helped foster and develop the skills of many talented and deserving students through Sports and Music Scholarships.

Previous Sports Scholar, Kieran Slater, and current Music Scholar, Madeleine Welland, explain how your support of the Student Opportunities Fund has helped them achieve their potential.





Global campaign to improve mental health in trauma affected areas

World Awareness for Children in Trauma (WACIT)

is a campaign led by the University of Leicester that travels to trauma affected communities throughout the world to raise awareness, offer support and leave a legacy that improves the mental health of local children for generations to come.

> The campaign, developed and led by Professor of Child Psychiatry, Panos Vostanis, collaborates with charities, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and academic centres, who work with children facing challenging circumstances, such as poverty, conflict and natural disaster. Panos and his team provide direct support to young people in the areas they visit but, crucially, also deliver training seminars to local agencies that help them to understand and administer mental health interventions, long after the campaign has moved on.

WACIT collects observations from each visit to inform research into the effects of trauma and the types of intervention that can ease immediate mental health issues and build resilience for the future. This research is shared globally through the network of organisations that support the campaign, including the Royal College of Psychiatrists, the US Theraplay Institute, the World Psychiatric Association, the Anna Freud Centre and a range of other mental health organisations.

The combination of directintervention, partnership-working and cutting-edge research has enabled WACIT to improve the lives of children throughout the world and, with plans to visit another eight countries later this year, its impact will continue to grow.

Supported by Next Plc

In a demonstration of commitment to this important project at the University of Leicester, locallybased multinational fashion retailer, Next Plc, has made a philanthropic donation to contribute towards travel costs of the campaign's visits to Greece, Turkey, Indonesia, Australia, Brazil, USA, Kenya and Tanzania later this year.

Jeanette Cooper-Hudson, Charity and Sponsorship Manager, explained that, "Next are delighted to be able to help with such a worthy project; it is wonderful that there is some help for these emotionally traumatised young people. The rest of us cannot even begin to imagine what they are tolerating on a daily basis."

The University is very grateful to Next Plc for their ongoing support. Without the philanthropic generosity of partners like Next, internationally significant projects, such as WACIT and the new Centre for Medicine, wouldn't be able to exist and improve the world for us all.

Ave Vinick, Acting Director of Development



MAKING A DIFFERENCE TOMORROW, **TODAY**

The impact of a legacy gift can be transformational and we've seen this time and time again at the University; from our very foundation, to the formation of the Ernest and Helen Scott Haematological Research Institute, to the scholarships funded through our Student Opportunities Fund.

In the past year, legacy gifts left by generous donors, who are sadly no longer with us, have continued to make a real difference to life on campus for both students and researchers.

Dr Roger Anderson (Mathematics BSc, 1947) was one such alumnus and donor. His experience at Leicester made such a difference to his life that he chose to leave a gift to support student scholarships, like those featured on pages 14 and 15.

LEARN MORE

To find out more about leaving a legacy, donating in memory, giving a gift in kind or indeed attending this year's Legacy Guild Carol Concert, please contact Rosie O'Connor via ro69@le.ac.uk or +44 (0)116 252 2850





Life through the lens

Gifts come in all shapes and sizes and the University of Leicester's Special this year one such gift came in the form of a vast collection of negatives. These aren't just any old negatives; they are a collection stored for over fifty years that capture life on campus, and beyond, during the early 1960s through the lens of a student Ripple photographer.

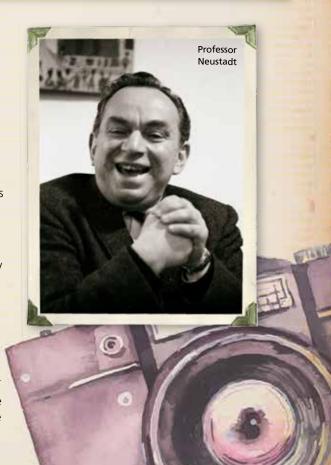
Their owner, and man behind the camera, is alumnus David Francis (Sociology BA, 1963). After attending the Summer Reunion last year, David embarked on a fascinating journey with us that uncovered portraits of the founding Professor of Sociology, Professor Neustadt, and images of student protests, which have never been seen before.

Generously, David agreed to donate his entire negative collection to

Collections and Archives, and since then they have been digitised to allow access for all. His collection adds to the wealth of knowledge and understanding about being a student here in the 1960s, which was a period of radical social change.

Gifts of this kind are incredibly valuable to the University of Leicester; they help us to understand our history and, in turn, can help us to shape our future. Already, this collection has generated a great deal of interest; Professor John Goodwin, from the University's Department of Sociology, is already incorporating the images into his current research and teaching.

The notion that a picture can capture a thousand words certainly rings true for this wonderful donation



In loving memory

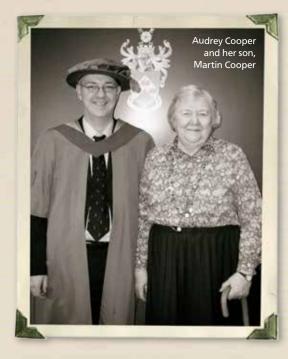
Sixty-eight years ago a young, bright and enthusiastic student graduated from Leicestershire and Rutland University College (which later became the University of Leicester) with a mathematics degree and a burning desire to teach – her name: Audrey Cooper née Weston.

Sadly, on the 24 March 2016, Audrey passed away. Her great-grandchild Joshua, her grandchildren Joe and Rosie and her loving son Martin miss her dearly; describing her as "a remarkable mother and grandmother, whose strength, determination and fine cooking will always be remembered."

Martin talks of his mother's legacy as being: "all those girls whom she taught mathematics from the 1960s to the 1990s." He also tenderly recalls that, "she had me marching around the living room sofa repeating my times-tables as a young boy. Even I was not immune."

Many years after she graduated, Audrey Cooper teamed up with Audrey Simons (BA English, 1945) and formed "The two Audreys", who took responsibility for organising a 1940s Alumni Reunion each year. The Reunion still takes place today, albeit with fewer numbers than when it began in the early 1990s. Audrey Cooper and other graduates from her era, who are sadly no longer with us, will be remembered at the lunch this year.

In memory of his mother, Martin Cooper chose to generously donate Audrey's funeral collection to the Student Opportunities Fund. This is something for which we are most grateful and, as a result, the impact Audrey had on the lives of students will continue in her honour.



"She had me marching around the living room sofa repeating my timestables as a young boy. Even I was not immune."

Martin Cooper

Alumni Association and Legacy Guild Carol Concert

On a dark winter's night in December, alumni, supporters, staff, former staff and friends of the University left the warmth of their homes to gather together in the Fraser Noble Hall for our Annual Alumni Association and Legacy Guild Carol Concert.

Greeted with smiles and piano music, guests enjoyed mince pies, mulled wine and each other's company, before hearing from the Student Chorus Choir, led by Honorary Senior Lecturer and Music Society Conductor, Dr Paul Jenkins. The Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee of the Alumni

Association, Lynda Wight, also gave a beautiful reading of 'Christmas' by John Betjeman.

In support of the Student Opportunities Fund, guests were invited to estimate how many Christmas sweets were in a jar and the lucky winner, Elsbeth Jones, won a chocolate making course for two, which was kindly donated by local chocolatiers, Cocoa Amore.

This joyous event has become incredibly popular and a firm fixture in our annual events calendar – look out for your save-the-date card in the post this autumn.



The Thakrar family's continued commitment to the **University of Leicester**



At the age of just 51, Mina Thakrar died suddenly and unexpectedly as a result of a heart condition. Shortly afterwards, her son, Shane, was diagnosed with the same condition.

> University. In 2015, they pledged a major donation to the Centre for Medicine Appeal, demonstrating their unrelenting commitment to improving the health of their local community and beyond. Life expectancy in Leicester is 2.5 years lower than the national average, but the Centre for Medicine aims to speed up the translation of research breakthroughs from laboratory to bedside and train the city's next generation of doctors to fight chronic disease, in order to help bring Leicester on a par with other cities.

Leicester

ardiovascular Research (

The Thakrar family are well-known in Leicester. In 1984, the family established the highly

bought Brobot Petroleum Limited and they now own and operate over 30 fuel stations across the East Midlands and Yorkshire. The whilst supporting a diverse range of causes philanthropically to improve the lives of the residents of Leicester.

The University is very grateful for the continued support of the Thakrar family and looks forward to an exciting future of collaboration, in order to continue to tackle the greatest threats facing the health of humanity.

successful HKS Holdings Limited. In 2015, they family are driving economic growth in the city,



The Thakrar family (Shane, Kamlesh, Sailesh

and Hasmukh) with the previous Director of

Development, Steve O' Connor

In 2012, Mina's husband, Sailesh, and his brothers, Kamlesh and Hasmukh, made a significant donation to the University of Leicester's Cardiovascular Research Centre in memory of Mina. A room within the facility was named in her honour and the family also established the Thakrar Heart Fund to support the work of Professor Sir Nilesh Samani and his team into the causes, prevention and treatment of heart disease. The family hope that their support will mean that "other families will not have to endure the pain, which we have endured."

Over the last 4 years, the Thakrar family has continued to support medical research at the

Fighting antibiotic resistance

Antibiotic resistance threatens the effective prevention and treatment of an ever-increasing range of infections caused by bacteria, parasites, viruses and fungi. Here at the University of Leicester, Professor Martha Clokie from the Department of Infection, Immunity and Inflammation is leading research into Clostridium difficile, a principal cause of antibiotic-associated diarrhoea in hospitals worldwide. There are limited treatment options available as the pathogen is only sensitive to two antibiotics metronidazole and vancomycin.

Another promising way to treat resistant infections is to use viruses, also known as bacteriophages. Researchers at the University of Leicester have an expansive and unique collection of C. difficile viruses that have been shown to be effective on strains of the pathogen from the UK, Europe, America and Australia. As part of the next stage of the research, the team are required to test the bacteriophages on strains from Syria, which are unresponsive to antibiotics. Due to the current instability of the country, little attention is being given to

hospital-acquired pathogens that are becoming resistant. With new resistance mechanisms emerging and spreading, this is a major threat to global public health.

Professor Martha Clokie recently received a £15,600 grant from the University's Greatest Needs Fund, which is supported by generous donations from our alumni and friends. The grant will allow a lecturer from the University of Damascus, who has been collecting samples from patients with C. difficile infection in Syrian hospitals who are resistant to antibiotics, to join the research team at Leicester. The grant matches funding received from the Council for Assisting Refugee Academics (CARA) and the Department of Infection, Immunity and Inflammation; together we can fight the threat of antibiotic resistance.



UOL Racing en route to Silverstone following successful crowdfunding campaign

This year UOL Racing is aiming to become the first team to enter and race an electric car in the Formula Student Competition, which is held every year at Silverstone. Formula Student is the leading European competition for undergraduates who want hands-on experience in an innovative racing team. UOL Racing is comprised of students from across the University, of varying backgrounds, ages, and disciplines, all with a common passion for motor racing and engineering.

They rely entirely on supporters and partners to finance their work and this year the group turned to the University's Development and Alumni Relations Team for advice on crowdfunding through the University's JustGiving page.

The Engineering Department generously agreed to match all donations received by the team through their page, which has now reached over £2,800, doubling the resources available in order to make the best car possible. Head of the Engineering Department, Professor Helen Atkinson CBE, FREng, said: "We are hugely grateful for the contributions benefactors have made to this project. The funds raised have been added to match funding from the Department, which has really helped the Formula Student team to thrive this year. Formula Student had a very high profile at our

Annual Industry Lecture in February when we had Paddy Lowe, British motor racing engineer and Technical Director of Mercedes Formula One, here to speak to an audience of over four hundred. The skills and experience that students gain from Formula Student has a profound influence on their future careers so again we want to express how grateful we are for everyone's support."

The team would also like to thank their sponsors and everyone who helped take them one step closer to making their dream a reality and gaining a place at Silverstone in July 2016! Goergeous Gobrial, Engineering Student and member of UOL Racing said that, "Support from donors and sponsors has been vital for us to get the car to race day standard. Without this funding, we would not have the opportunity to be the first UK team to get past the scrutinising stage and race at Silverstone."

LEARN MORE

Follow the UOL Racing team on Facebook at www.facebook.com/UoLRacing to keep upto-date with their progress.



GOING THE EXTRA MILE TO SUPPORT HEART RESEARCH

Spontaneous Coronary Artery
Dissection (SCAD) results from an
acute bleed into the vessel wall of
a coronary artery, creating a false
lumen. A lumen is the term for the
inside of a blood vessel, the 'tube'
down which the blood is supposed
to flow. As a result, blood
accumulates compressing the true
lumen, restricting or preventing
blood flow to the heart.

It is an unpredictable event, with patients usually experiencing a sudden, unexpected heart attack. The condition is recognised as a cause of heart attacks in young adults and is more common in women, who are otherwise healthy, in particular during or soon after pregnancy. Little is currently known about the underlying causes of SCAD, its long-term outcomes or how best to treat it, and it can be fatal if the symptoms are not swiftly recognised.

Dr David Adlam, Senior Lecturer in Acute and Interventional Cardiology at the University of Leicester and a cardiologist at Leicester's Hospitals, is leading the UK's study into SCAD. The study is funded by a grant from the British Heart Foundation (BHF), and over the last 2 years over £4,000 has been raised by those who have been touched by the condition, yet funding remains limited.

Suzanne Smith, a SCAD survivor, shared her story with us.

Q: Tell me about when you were first diagnosed with SCAD.

A: It had been a stressful day and I went to bed with some pain in my chest. I thought I would sleep it off and be fine in the morning, but at 4am I decided I should get myself to hospital leaving my husband at home with our two young children. Part of me knew it was my heart, but I hoped I was wrong.

My blood results came back showing I'd had a heart attack. I had more tests, which showed that I had experienced a SCAD in my left anterior descending artery. I had never heard of the condition; I had felt chest pain in the past at times of stress and knew I had a heart murmur, but this time the pain was different. I left hospital on a cocktail of cardiac medications: aspirin, bisoprolol (betablocker), simvastatin, ramipril (ACE inhibitor) and glyceryl trinitrate. Three and a half years later, I still take ramipril and diltiazem (calcium channel blocker).

Q: How has SCAD impacted on your life long-term?

A: I was one of the lucky ones and made a fairly quick recovery, but my condition is always at the back of my mind and I've learnt to live with mild chest pain most of the time. Dr David Adlam performed my angiogram when I had my SCAD and has been my cardiologist ever since; he thinks the pain I experience may be due to arterial spasms which is something that his team of researchers at the University of Leicester are looking into.

Q: How have you been involved with the SCAD research taking place at the University of Leicester?

A: I am one of the research subjects. I've had some of the research assessments done already, as I had a CT scan and an MRI as part of my initial investigations

and follow-up care. I also attended the 2015 SCAD conference, where the BEAT SCAD charity was launched! In 2015, my husband, Chris, ran the Edinburgh Marathon in support of the research taking place at Leicester. He's a keen runner, but this was his first marathon. It was a perfect opportunity to raise funds and increase awareness of the condition amongst his colleagues, his running club, our friends and online via the SCAD JustGiving page. I am very proud to say that he has raised over £800 for Leicester's SCAD research.



Chris Smith running the Edinburgh Marathon▶

Thank you to our volunteers

Over the last 8 years, the University has raised over £27m in philanthropic funds. The Development and Alumni Relations Office was officially established in 2008 and, since its inception, the team has relied upon the advice and support of a range of committed volunteers in order to achieve our ambitious objectives.

We are honoured to work with the members of the Strategic Fundraising Committee, the Philanthropy Advisory Board and the Standing Committee of the Alumni Association, who are committed to ensuring the success of the University of Leicester for centuries to come.

The Strategic Fundraising Committee

The Strategic Fundraising Committee oversees all aspects of the development and implementation of the University's fundraising strategy. From ensuring that the University's fundraising strategy is consistent with the aims of the University's Strategic Plan to actively raising philanthropic funds for the University alongside the Director of Development, the advice and support of the SFRC has made our fundraising goals a reality – making a difference to the lives of so many within and beyond the University.

The Standing Committee of the Alumni Association

The Standing Committee of the Alumni Association is a key channel of communication between the University and the alumni community. Members offer advice and support to the Development and Alumni Relations Office on alumni relations activity and play an active part in arranging and hosting events. The Committee also disburses grants to student societies on an annual basis, which in the last year totalled over £500. Members also support the Alumni Black Tie Dinner, which this year raised over £7,000 for the Student Opportunities Fund.

The Philanthropy Advisory Board

The Philanthropy Advisory Board reports to the University's Strategic Fundraising Committee and works with the Director of Development to raise philanthropic funds on behalf of the University of Leicester, by planning introductions to prospective donors and supporting a range of bespoke fundraising activities and events. Members raise awareness of the University's causes with business leaders, influencers and potential supporters in Leicestershire and beyond.

We are very grateful to these highly esteemed individuals for dedicating time within their busy schedules to support the University, by offering professional advice, sharing their wealth of experience and raising awareness of the institution's causes among their networks. In recognition of their support, members of the committees are listed in the Roll of Benefactors on page 35 of this publication.



Our global community

Your university is a global university; 23% of our students are from overseas. 18% of our staff are from outside the UK and 28% of our courses include an integrated year abroad. We are very grateful to our alumni and friends from around the world who have chosen the University of Leicester as one of their philanthropic causes.

We would like to thank our supporters in the USA, who donate to the British Schools and Universities Foundation (BSUF), expressing a preference for the Foundation to support the University of Leicester. Since its founding in 1961 and receipt of tax exempt status in 1964, the BSUF has served as a catalyst for tax efficient funding by United States taxpayers of educational, literary and scientific institutions in the British Commonwealth of Nations. The University is very grateful to the board members of the BSUF for awarding grants to the University, without charging fees or commissions, in line with the preferences of those who wish to support us. We would like to give thanks to Roger Edgar (Politics BA, 1991) who acts as our representative for the BSUF.

LEARN MORE

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

INSPIRING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Based in Qatar and working as a Senior Manager in offshore operations in the oil and gas sector, Othman Al-Yafei completed his MBA at Leicester via Distance Learning in 2014. After graduation, he felt it was important to show his appreciation for the quality of the education he had received and decided to establish a scholarship for an international student, who wanted to enrol in an undergraduate degree course at Leicester.

Othman says, "I gained a lot of knowledge whilst studying for my MBA at the University of Leicester, especially in terms of HR and resource management. The concepts I learnt whilst studying the subject of ethics were utilised directly at my workplace and the results of the applications were remarkable.

Since the University of Leicester taught me several important management techniques I can take back home, I felt that it was time for me to pay back, in a small way, for the excellent education I received. I chose this scholarship because it builds a strong relationship between the quality of the educational product that the University offers and the student who will be going out and working in the world."

Education is an area Othman is passionate about. Not only does he believe that people should offer aid to those who are in need, he also feels that "education is one of the most important fields that can bring people together around a table of information and technology exchange. I believe it is my responsibility to participate in sending a positive message to society to ease the path for those who cannot afford educational tuition."

The first recipient of the Al-Yafei International Scholarship will be announced later this year and Othman would like to give the following message to the successful student:

Hold on to your educational journey to reach the finishing line of success.



The Annual Fund: 13 years of philanthropy

Two graduates, Graham Jones and Judith **Palmer**, have been committed regular donors to the Annual Fund since its launch in 2003. Between them they have given over £3,000 and, most importantly, they have provided vital support to six students who had nowhere or no one else to turn to. Here they explain why they chose Leicester as one of their philanthropic causes 13 years ago:



"It's simple. It creates opportunity - that's why I give - so someone who otherwise might not be able to, can go to Leicester."

JUDITH PALMER (BA History and Archaeology, 1993)

The Annual Fund was launched in 2003; so far it has raised over

£1.1m and has been supported by ₹4,500 donors

people have given regularly to the Fund since 2006 and together they have raised over

£117,000

people have given regularly to the Fund since 2011 and together they have raised in excess of

£278,000

The average monthly gift given by an Annual Fund Donor is £13.15 with most people giving a £10 per month donation. There are nearly

regular monthly donations to the Fund

"University is a life-changing experience and I owe a lot to the University of Leicester and to the staff of the Classics Department. A donation is a way of saying thank you; a monthly standing order is a constant reminder to me of my time at Leicester and ensures that the University's needs are not forgotten in the maelstrom of our hectic lives. To anybody thinking of making a donation but yet to get round to it: it's quick and easy to set up; it's a one-off task; so little in return for all the good times you had at university."





Personal messages from other **Annual Fund supporters**

"Finding friends, laughter, encouragement, and gaining confidence in developing ideas and thinking creatively is what I owe to the University of Leicester."

DR JOHN ADAMS (BSc Mathematics, 1968)

"I continue to support the University and its present students as it made such a difference to my own life. I benefited enormously from being at Leicester and especially from the lifelong interest in science, which it gave me. I always feel it is quietly doing such amazing work both in research and in teaching students as individuals. I enjoy hearing of all the on-going research which is making a real contribution to the world."

A REGULAR ALUMNI SUPPORTER SINCE 2005

A word of thanks

Life in a war torn country and graduating from one of the **UK's top universities**

Dear Friend.

Looking at the title one might think, what is the connection? The connection is that more than a decade ago I left behind a war torn country I once called home and was fortunate enough to enter the UK's miraculous educational system.

Graduating this year from the University of Leicester with a Bachelor of Science is something I could never have dreamt of in my home country of Afghanistan. One might think that this is down to my hard work, but I wouldn't agree. My hard work is part of it; however, the main factor that has given me such a wonderful opportunity is the generosity from behind the scenes that provides financial support for students like us.

The reason that I am writing this letter is to show you what a difference your contributions are really making to people like me. You are doing wonderful work and I hope my story allows future students also to benefit from your generosity, so that they too can overcome the financial burden that might stop them achieving their career goals.

Thank you,

MALEK

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Introducing Bill Friar, the University of Leicester's new Director of **Development and Alumni Relations**

We are delighted to announce that this summer Bill Friar will be joining the University as Director of Development and Alumni Relations, following the departure of Steve O'Connor earlier this year. Bill has more than 15 years of experience in fundraising, fundraising strategy, capital campaigns, alumni relations, higher-education communications and print and online journalism.

For the past four years he has been Head of Development at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, the worldleading centre for research and postgraduate education in public and global health. Prior to this, he spent two years at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London. Before moving to the UK from California, Bill was in charge of development communications for Stanford University's Initiative on Human Health and its Initiative on the Environment and Sustainability – two key pillars of the most successful university fundraising campaign in US history.

Since 2008, the Development and Alumni Relations Team at Leicester has grown substantially and raised over £27m in philanthropic funds. With traditional sources of funding in decline, this has allowed the University to continue to invest in the student experience, ground-breaking research and teaching excellence. We would like to thank our benefactors for their generous support, which is making a significant difference to the lives of gifted students, leading academics, pioneering research teams and diverse communities across the UK and beyond

Roll of Benefactors 2016

The University would like to thank all of our donors listed below who made a gift between 1st May 2015 and 31st April 2016, and also the donors of 482 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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Mr E R H Levin

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Mr K Y P Soo Mr P W Vaughan

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