



UNIVERSITY OF
LEICESTER

7

2018 - 2019

BOLD VISION BIG IDEAS

L

The impact of philanthropy at
the University of Leicester

WELCOME



PHILANTHROPY ADVISORY BOARD

Mrs Janet Arthur
Mr Mark Dunkley
Mr Birju Ghelani
Professor Robin Graham-Brown
Dr Nik Kotecha OBE
Mr Tim Maxted
Mr Philip Quirk
Dr Vijay Sharma
Mr David Simms
Dr Bridget Towle CBE DL
Mr Michael Turnbull

It has been a year full of milestones for the University of Leicester. 2018 marked the beginning of our centenary celebrations as we commemorated the end of the First World War with a ceremony at the Arch of Remembrance, as well as a moving dedication of Centenary Square on campus by Sir David Attenborough OM and Michael Attenborough CBE.

All of this was made possible because 100 years ago Dr Astley Clarke made the first gift to establish the University of Leicester. Without this initial gift, and the hundreds of other gifts made by Leicester community members, our University would not be here today. We are a University founded through philanthropy, and we uniquely understand the impact that philanthropy can have.

As Chair of the Philanthropy Advisory Board, I have the privilege of promoting the importance of philanthropic support for our

University. The members of The Philanthropy Advisory Board are volunteers who believe in the power of education and the important role that the University of Leicester plays throughout the world. We see first-hand the impact gifts have on the University, its students and academic research. On behalf of all us, thank you.

The University has grown over the past hundred years to be a place teeming with innovation, diversity and excellence. As one of the UK's most socially inclusive universities, we are dedicated to providing equal access to higher education for all.

Philanthropy plays a vital role in making this possible. Each and every gift that we receive increases our ability to invest in research that saves and enriches lives, and fosters a teaching and learning environment that transforms the prospects of our students. We are extremely grateful to those who support the University,

and to recognise this generous support, we have added your name to our Donor Roll, which you can view here:

www.le.ac.uk/supporters

This past year we welcomed hundreds of new donors and we hope you will join us this year in supporting the University of Leicester.

I hope you enjoy reading about the impact philanthropy has had, and we look forward to keeping in touch with you throughout the year.

Thank you again for your support. With best wishes from all at Leicester.

**PROFESSOR
ROBIN GRAHAM-BROWN**
BSc MB FRCP FRCPC
Chairman, Philanthropy Advisory Board

UNIVERSITY PRIORITIES

STUDENT SUPPORT

Your support is helping academically gifted students, regardless of background, attend the University and receive a world-class education.

RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

Your support is providing academics and students with the resources and freedom to explore and make the next great breakthrough.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND ESTATES

Your support ensures that laboratories, teaching spaces, libraries and other facilities across the campus are of the highest quality.

GREATEST NEED

All gifts to our Greatest Need Fund provide the flexibility to address emerging needs and priorities crucial for the success of the University.

2
Welcome

4
Student
Support

6
Research
Excellence

8
Infrastructure
and Estates

10
Greatest
Need

ACCESS TO EDUCATION FOR ALL



“

Being a Centenary Scholar has given me many opportunities that I never dreamt of.

**SYED ALI
FIRST-YEAR MEDICINE STUDENT**

To mark the beginning of our centenary celebrations, we welcomed the first group of Centenary Scholars in September 2018. Because of philanthropic gifts to our Student Support Fund, we have been able to offer additional support to a group of young people whose road to higher education has been more difficult than most.

For nearly 100 years, University of Leicester students have been earning a world-class education at a living memorial to those local people who served in the First World War, many of whom lost their lives. The Centenary Scholarships supported 100 students with £1,000 each.

First-year English student and mother Katy Jones used her scholarship to buy a computer for her studies.

“The scholarship allowed me to study from home, which was invaluable, allowing me to better balance home and university life,” she said.

“Being a Centenary Scholar is undoubtedly a great honour, one that encourages you to strive to succeed and allows you to become part of a group of people that have overcome adversity to be at University. It is humbling and awe-inspiring.”

First-year Medicine student Syed Ali also received a Centenary Scholarship.

“I felt honoured to meet Sir David Attenborough, Prince William and Kate,” he said. “As well as many people who have donated towards the scholarships.

“Personally, the scholarship has given me more confidence and encouraged me to take part in opportunities beyond my studies, and academically, it has helped me to think deeper and plan ahead more than before.

“Being a Centenary Scholar has given me many opportunities that I never dreamt of.”

A HELPING HAND IN PHYSICS



“

This award has allowed me to feel comfortable studying a subject I love in a place I call home.

**SARAH NORMAN
SECOND-YEAR PHYSICS WITH
ASTROPHYSICS STUDENT**

The Margaret Rankin Pitt Award in Physics supports female students at the University who are pursuing their undergraduate degree in Physics and who may struggle to complete their degree because of challenging financial circumstances.

Dr Colin Pitt, a Chemistry alumnus, made a gift in honour of his late wife, Margaret Rankin Pitt. Margaret studied Physics at Leicester and greatly enjoyed the subject and her experience on campus. This Award was created to further the education of talented Physics students, help increase the number of women in the field and support those in financial need.

One such individual is Sarah Norman, who is a second-year Physics with Astrophysics student.

“There was once a time when I doubted if I could afford to be at university,” she said. “But this award has helped me to put that worry to bed, and allowed me to feel comfortable studying a subject I love in a place I call home.”

Sarah hopes to continue her education and engage in scientific research.

Philanthropic gifts like Colin’s make dreams a reality and allow students to realise their potential without the fear of financial hardship during their degrees.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2018 - 2019



Over **£500,000** raised for Student Support

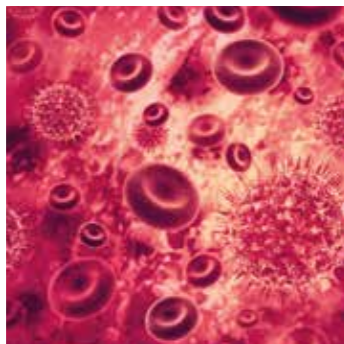


856 donors supported Student Support



22 Medicine with Foundation Year students supported

FIGHTING BLOOD CANCER



“

We are committed to beating blood cancer and have shown marked success in this journey.

PROFESSOR MARTIN DYER

Thanks to the generous support of honorary graduate Dr Helen Scott OBE and the Scott Waudby Charitable Trust, we established the Ernest and Helen Scott Haematological Research Institute and Research Fellowship programme in 2014.

The Institute is committed to strengthening the link between laboratory research and the clinical setting, bringing innovative and life-changing blood cancer treatments to patients. The ultimate aim of the researchers and clinicians at the Institute is to fully understand why blood cancer develops.

The ongoing support this year from the Scott Waudby Charitable Trust has allowed for expansion of the research team and the ability to explore novel and groundbreaking areas of research through crucial clinical trials here in Leicester. The

team is developing less invasive diagnostic tools to detect the reappearance of the disease much earlier than currently possible, which will guide treatment for individual patients.

“The University of Leicester is leading the way in innovative haematological research,” explained Professor Martin Dyer, Director of the Institute. “We are committed to beating blood cancer and have shown marked success in this journey. We wouldn’t have been able to progress so quickly without the generous support of the Scott Waudby Charitable Trust and Dr Helen Scott.”

The team also aims to understand why a treatment may work for some patients, but not others. The goal of this ‘precision medicine’ approach is to find effective treatments tailored to individuals.

A COMMUNITY IMPACT



“

The research we conduct here also has the potential to help to tackle some important child health problems globally.

PROFESSOR ELAINE BOYLE

Professor Elaine Boyle has been appointed the inaugural Leicester City Football Club Professor in Child Health thanks to the generous support of Leicester City Football Club (LCFC).

Professor Boyle began her career as a nurse before qualifying as a doctor. She is an honorary consultant neonatologist at Leicester’s Hospitals, specialising in the care of sick and premature newborn babies. She also serves as the Specialty Lead for children’s research for the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Clinical Research Network East Midlands.

She now leads efforts with LCFC to educate the Leicester and Leicestershire community about the health challenges facing its children. Elaine is advancing her research on the treatment and care of babies born before their due date to help

reduce infant mortality and ill health, and to ensure these babies can go on to lead healthier lives.

“I am honoured and delighted to take up the post of LCFC Professor in Child Health,” Elaine said.

“The generosity of the Club and Khun Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha will have direct benefits for babies, children and families in Leicester, but the research we conduct here also has the potential to help tackle some important child health problems globally.”

The University, LCFC and University Hospitals Leicester will work together throughout the football season to inform fans about the health challenges facing local children. Through this collaboration it is hoped that parents and children will learn about the resources available to live happier and healthier lives.

HIGHLIGHTS
FROM
2018 - 2019



Over
£230,000
raised for
Research
Excellence



22 donors
gave more
than **£10,000**



£50,000 given
to finalise the
transcription of
the **Wilberforce
Diaries**

PRESERVING AN ICON



“

The Getty Foundation was an important catalyst to enable us to develop a conservation plan which ensures the longevity and preservation of the building.

PROFESSOR JONATHON CHAMBERS

The University of Leicester campus silhouette is defined by one of the most architecturally important buildings in the UK. Created by architects James Gowan and Sir James Stirling with engineer Frank Newby, the Grade II* listed Engineering Building was intended to be a unique piece of modern architecture.

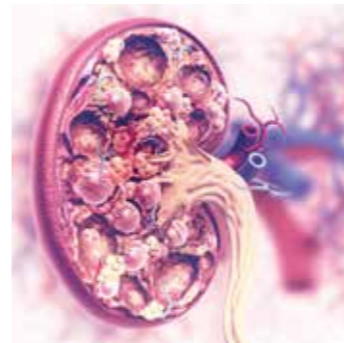
In 2009, it became clear that the 2,500 glass panes in the workshop roof needed replacing. Following the successful completion of this very complex project, the Getty Foundation, as part of its Keeping It Modern programme, partnered with the University to identify a solution to conserve the remarkable building for our students, staff and future generations.

“The Getty Foundation was an important catalyst to enable us to develop a conservation plan

which ensures the longevity and preservation of the building,” said Professor Jonathon Chambers, Head of the Department of Engineering. “Additionally, it is also helping us to rethink how we might use the space within the building more in line with James Stirling’s original ideas for a flexible working environment.”

With the Foundation’s support, the Department of Engineering, the University Estates Team and an outside contractor have developed a conservation plan to preserve the building and ensure its place remains at the heart of the University. The Getty Foundation’s philanthropic support is also allowing a group of innovative MSc Engineering students to put their skills to the test, finding novel ways to clean the external glazing using drones and robotics, to ensure the building continues to look its best.

ADVANCING CARE AND TREATMENT



“

We have set up collaborative projects with teams across the world and have begun work on testing new treatments for IgAN.

PROFESSOR JONATHAN BARRATT

IgA Nephropathy (IgAN) is a kidney disease which affects one in 10 people on renal dialysis in the UK, and even more worldwide.

People are often diagnosed with IgAN during their 20s or 30s, and 30% of patients develop renal failure within 20 years of diagnosis. At present, there is no cure for IgAN and no way of knowing, at diagnosis, how the disease will develop.

The IgAN Research Group at the University of Leicester is now the largest research group working on this disease in the UK. Philanthropic support to the University has allowed the purchase of sophisticated equipment which will enhance our understanding and detection of the

disease, opening up new avenues of research.

“With the support of key donors we are able to enhance our equipment infrastructure, allowing us to advance cutting-edge research into the genetic implications of IgAN as the disease progresses,” said Professor Jonathan Barratt, The Mayer Professor of Renal Medicine. “We have set up collaborative projects with teams across the world and have begun work on testing new treatments for IgAN.”

Thanks to the team’s work and the new equipment, advances are being made that will have direct benefit to IgAN patients in the near future.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2018 - 2019



Expansion and renovations to the Percy Gee Building are under way



1921-2021

Dedication of the new Centenary Square on campus



Space Park Leicester has received £13.75 million from the Government

HANDS-ON LEARNING



“

Students have been given new and exciting opportunities to engage in a wide range of learning and teaching methods.

DR GINA FOX

The opportunity to be taught in an experimental learning environment is now possible for students across the University, thanks to alumni and friends who supported the University's Greatest Need Fund.

The new mock crime scene and police interview rooms opened in January 2019, providing students with the opportunity to practice gathering and analysing physical and forensic evidence. The rooms also allow students to challenge their preconceptions about criminality, policing and victimology.

“Students have been given new and exciting opportunities to engage in a wide range of learning and teaching methods that are not possible in a traditional classroom environment,” explained Dr Gina Fox, Lecturer in Criminology.

“Staff have also been provided with opportunities to think creatively about their teaching methods, how their modules are designed

and delivered, and the opportunities available to provide for new and exciting learning experiences.”

Access to these rooms challenge our educators to enhance their classes and provide students with a better understanding of the criminal justice process, all while learning skills that will be vital in their future careers.

The rooms have also become part of awareness and advocacy campaigns around the issue of sexual violence.

The crime scene room featured as one of six sites in a cross-University exhibition called Let's Talk About Sexual Violence. The exhibition aimed to challenge misconceptions surrounding sexual violence and ran during Sexual Violence and Abuse Awareness Week. The room, called a 'Safe Space', was curated to dispel commonly held myths surrounding the 'real rape' victim. It disrupted the misconception that most women who are raped are young, raped by a stranger and in a public place.

CULTURAL EXCHANGE



“

The Chinese New Year on campus shows the inclusiveness and internationalisation of the University of Leicester.

BOWEN ZHANG
MANAGEMENT RESEARCH
PHD STUDENT

With performances, workshops and events to entertain students, staff and community crowds, this year's Chinese New Year celebrations provided an opportunity for the campus community to celebrate and learn about Chinese culture. This was made possible thanks to alumni and friends that supported the Greatest Need Fund.

The event saw members of the local community, including schoolchildren, join us on campus to enjoy food and festivities which showcased some of the traditional Chinese New Year celebrations.

The event was made possible because of interest from the student community and their collaboration with the University.

“The Chinese New Year on campus shows the inclusiveness and internationalisation of the University of Leicester,” said Management Research PhD student, Bowen Zhang, who is the president of Chinese Students and Scholars Association. “At the same time, this activity allows Chinese students to celebrate in a new way, alleviating the suffering of homesickness.”

Events like these are a dynamic and important part of University life, helping to integrate students from all backgrounds and foster an open and welcoming spirit amongst the Leicester community.

HIGHLIGHTS
FROM
2018 - 2019



£94,000 raised through the University telephone campaign



52 members of the Founders' Circle



419 donors gave to the Greatest Need Fund



UNIVERSITY OF
LEICESTER

Thank you for your support.

Your gifts fund the continued development of the University, the wellbeing of our students, the advancement of world-changing research and the provision of inspirational teaching.

www.le.ac.uk/giving

If you would prefer to receive future publications electronically, please email: philanthropy@le.ac.uk

