Benefactors’ Review 2014

STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITIES

RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

SCHOLARSHIPS AND HARDSHIP AWARDS

www.le.ac.uk/benefactors
The sentiment expressed in the above quotation perfectly captures the recent achievements and the future challenges for the University of Leicester. The University was founded on a legacy gift and the willingness of alumni and friends to consider the University as one of their causes to support has encouraged us to invest over the last ten years in reconnecting with our own tradition of philanthropy.

In that time we have raised more than £27.2 million and in the last year alone, over 1,500 donors have supported the University. Thank you to each and every one of you who has chosen to support the University through one of our major fundraising appeals or investing in an area of special interest. I can assure you that every gift, no matter what size, makes a real difference to the University and our students.

I have never believed that government funding alone can, or should, be relied upon to provide all the resources needed by a growing institution like Leicester. It is absolutely essential that we continue to engage even more widely with organisations and individuals who can offer philanthropic support.

This is especially important in the face of major cuts in capital and revenue grants and restrictions on traditional sources of funding. It is only with additional philanthropic support that we are able to plan ahead with more certainty and continue the pace of investment in our estate, and in high quality teaching and research to address the wide ranging global challenges facing our society.

As I enter the last few months of my tenure as Vice-Chancellor, it is with great pride that I look back on some of the milestone projects we have been able to achieve thanks to your generous philanthropic support.

These projects include the award-winning David Wilson Library, the transformation of the Students’ Union building, new sports...
facilities and the state-of-the-art Cardiovascular Research Centre (CRC) at the Glenfield Hospital. It was the appeal for the CRC which helped the University to secure its largest ever single donation - £7 million from the John and Lucille van Geest Foundation – which is a fantastic achievement for the institution and bodes well for the future.

Alumni, friends and parents have also supported key initiatives; student scholarships and hardship bursaries, sports and music scholarships, student prizes and endowment funds to enable new research and the development of tomorrow’s academic leaders. All of these projects emphasise our ongoing commitment to excellence and high quality in all that we do.

I am certain that philanthropy will play an increasingly important part in the future of the University and this is evident in the early enthusiasm shown for our new £42 million Centre for Medicine project, probably the largest investment in medical teaching and applied research by any UK university in the last decade.

In this Benefactors’ Review, you will see the transformational impact your gifts are making for students, teaching and research and for our communities locally, nationally and worldwide. I am very grateful for your generous support and trust that you will continue to support us on the journey ahead.
The Sir Robert and Lady Hilary Burgess Research and Teaching Fund

A VICE-CHANCELLOR’S LEGACY

At Leicester, some of the brightest minds will be able to tackle our greatest global challenges, thanks to generous philanthropic support for the Sir Robert and Lady Hilary Burgess Research and Teaching Fund.

Inspired by the spirit, commitment and support shown by graduates, parents, members of Court and Council, staff and the local community; we have established ‘The Sir Robert and Lady Hilary Burgess Research and Teaching Fund’. The Fund will continue to make a big difference long into the future and was launched by a personal pledge from Bob and Hilary themselves.

The Fund will tackle some of the world’s most pressing issues through the powerful combination of high quality research and excellent teaching. Among these challenges are fighting ill health and disease, building a safe and just world, exploring human identity and inter-cultural interactions and understanding change in culture and society. Many alumni and friends of the University have already supported this inspirational Fund and raised an amazing £165,000, bringing the Fund total to over £1.5 million.

This will probably be the largest investment in medical teaching and applied research by a UK University in the last decade. Bringing together cutting-edge medical research with medical education, the Centre will be completed in Autumn 2015 and will encourage multi-disciplinary collaboration, which is critical in ensuring new discoveries benefit patients as soon as possible.

Beyond medicine, the Fund will also support teaching excellence by providing scholarships to study for a Doctorate in Education (EdD), enabling our leading teachers to improve their practice, develop the best curriculum and ultimately improve the quality of education for future generations.

High quality research and excellent teaching are not only complementary, they’re inseparable. A university should be about empowering people to explore; through passionate, dedicated teaching and innovative, world-changing research.

Professor Sir Robert Burgess, Vice-Chancellor
A Fitting Tribute

Former President of NUS and Leicester Student’s Union, alumnus and donor Aaron Porter explains the significance of this special Fund.

Teaching and research is at the heart of what the University of Leicester excels at. It’s why the University has such a profound impact on society locally and nationally, and why students usually reflect on their time at the University of Leicester as, quite simply, life changing.

Under the leadership of Professor Sir Robert Burgess, the University of Leicester has been transformed. For graduates, The Sir Robert and Lady Hilary Burgess Research and Teaching Fund is a fitting opportunity to acknowledge the distinguished service the Vice-Chancellor has given to the University. But it is also an opportunity for the wider community to acknowledge the difference this University has made both nationally and internationally and ensure that Leicester continues to provide a world class experience for current and future generations of students.

Aaron Porter, BA English 2006

For further information about ‘The Sir Robert and Lady Hilary Burgess Research and Teaching Fund’ visit www.le.ac.uk/benefactors
**Facts and Statistics**

REPORT ON PHILANTHROPY IN 2012/13:

- **1,506** Donors

**The Year in Numbers (Funds Secured):**

- **£3,028,260**
  - **51%** Research
  - **21%** Teaching
  - **14%** Student Support
  - **14%** Unrestricted and Public Engagement

*The funds secured in 2012/13 includes new cash and confirmed pledges raised in the year, but excludes pledged payments from past years.*
519
NUMBER OF DONORS
GIVING FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 2012/13

942
NUMBER OF DONORS TO THE BREAKING BARRIERS APPEAL IN 2012/13

£118,503
RAISED IN 2012/13 FOR THE UNIVERSITY’S ANNUAL FUND, INCLUDING £101K TOWARDS THE BREAKING BARRIERS APPEAL FOR THE RICHARD ATTENBOROUGH CENTRE

32%
Friends and supporters from the local community

39%
Alumni, Students, Family, Staff and Members of Court

16%
Charitable Trusts and Foundations

13%
Companies, Groups and Associations

Sources of Gift by Value
The £42m Centre for Medicine is an ambitious project to create a world-leading facility. Its distinctive feature will be the co-location of innovative medical teaching with world-leading researchers investigating some of today’s key health challenges.

The Centre is thought to be the largest investment of its type by a UK University in the last decade and will become home to Leicester Medical School. By providing a teaching environment which is truly ‘research-led’ and also firmly grounded in patient’s needs, it will meet the increasing challenge of training tomorrow’s doctors.

The Centre will also enable Leicester’s pre-eminent academics to undertake vital applied research that will help to address the major national concern of revolutionising patient care and safety.

Through their inspiring support for the new Centre for Medicine, The Samworth Foundation and The Edith Murphy Foundation are leading the crusade to achieve our shared goals of reducing the catastrophic effects of chronic disease and ensuring that medical treatment and patient care is respectful, caring, and highly effective.

Robin Graham-Brown, Consultant and Honorary Senior Lecturer at the University

Funding the Future of Medicine

SAVING LIVES IS JUST THE BEGINNING …

The facility will become the ‘central hub’ linking our research centres, hospitals and Medical School to encourage collaboration and speed the translation of our ground-breaking research from ‘bench to bedside’; leading the fight against chronic disease.

Leading the way

With the committed support of our benefactors we are seeking to raise £10m to complete the building and turn our vision for the new Centre for Medicine into a reality. Successful business leader and philanthropist Sir David Samworth is one of the premier benefactors of the Centre for Medicine Appeal. The Samworth Foundation has generously donated a lead gift of £1 million for the construction of the main lecture theatre, which will be equipped with advanced technology to link local hospitals with the Centre, providing students with the vital opportunity to experience patient/physician interactions in real time.

Long standing supporter of the University of Leicester, The Edith Murphy Foundation have also demonstrated their continued commitment to improving the lives and health of people in Leicester and Leicestershire with a generous lead donation of £300,000 to The Centre for Medicine Appeal.
The Samworth Foundation is proud to support the Centre for Medicine project which will bring together innovative medical teaching and world-leading research and teaching excellence at the University’s new Centre for Medicine.

Over 300 guests from communities across the city and county came together at the popular venue Athena in Leicester for a special fundraising ball in support of the Centre for Medicine Appeal. Thanks to the generosity of sponsors, local businesses, alumni, supporters and guests, we successfully launched the £10m appeal to complete and equip the new facility.

Leicester has a reputation for producing compassionate doctors; this to my mind is what being a Leicester medical student and doctor is all about. Leicester has always put great emphasis on training doctors to care about their patients as well as care for them and this new curriculum and Centre will allow us to continue to enable our students to do just that.

For more information about the Centre for Medicine or to support the Appeal please visit www.le.ac.uk/savinglives or contact: Steve O’Connor, Director of Development t: 0116 252 2466 e: sj018@le.ac.uk

Emeritus Professor and Former Dean of Medicine, Ian Lauder, who is leading the Appeal to Leicester Medics

For a Gift from One Generation to Another
Alumni support for the Student Opportunities Fund means that the University can respond quickly to students in need and recognise individual talent and potential.

**Research Scholarships**

Every donation made to the Fund has a profound impact upon the lives of students at Leicester. The Fund provides capable students with an opportunity to register for Masters and research degrees, and to undertake world-leading research as a member of the next generation of talented academics.

Ahmad* is a young doctor from Damascus, Syria where academics are unfortunately being targeted indiscriminately. Both the Universities of Damascus and Aleppo have been bombed and kidnappings are on the increase. 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.

In light of his commitment to an academic future and the risks he faced in Syria, CARA offered to cover half his costs to study for an MD at the University of Leicester. The University also agreed to waive his fees.

This left Ahmad with a shortfall of £20,000 to cover 2 years of study. Thanks to the amazing support of Leicester graduates, Ahmad has been awarded a scholarship from the Student Opportunities Fund to fully cover the remainder of his costs.

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We’re absolutely thrilled to tell you that this spring Ahmad commenced his life-saving research into TB and respiratory infections at the University, proving that your support really does make a difference and may even save lives. Thank you.

*The name of the student has been changed to protect his identity.

**The University is a member of the CARA Scholars at Risk UK Universities Network.

I am so grateful to everyone who donated to the scholarship, without which I would not have been able to continue my studies. With the Alumni Research Scholarship I have been able to continue my research with tutors who are leaders in their field. I now hope to be able to undertake my PhD.

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Tess McCarthy received a vital Alumni Research Scholarship to support her through her MA in Modern Literature
Finding sufficient support to pursue professional development, career aspirations and high-level academic research for community impact is exceptionally difficult. For Elizabeth Blood, this has been made possible; thanks to you.

In 2013 an Alumni-funded First World War PhD scholarship was announced and Elizabeth leapt at the chance to apply. Her strong and varied academic background – BA Hons Natural Sciences, Durham, MA Museum Studies, Leicester – and her on-the-job experience – War Memorials Officer for Leicestershire County Council - combined with her intrinsic passion for historic research made her the ideal candidate.

As the nation marks the centenary of the First World War, Elizabeth is exploring the creation of local war memorials in Leicestershire during and immediately following World War One and is fascinated by their impact.

“To be undertaking this research at the University of Leicester, once a wartime field hospital and converted to an educational institution as a war memorial is both fitting and poignant. To be doing it throughout the centenary period is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity”.

Recognising the value of making an impact on the ground, Elizabeth works and conducts her research with people: individuals and community groups. Elizabeth is not the only person benefiting from the generous support of an Alumni-funded Scholarship: its impact reverberates more widely.

Elizabeth personifies the spirit of an alumni scholarship; a spirit that thrives on academic excellence and in-built passion; a spirit that unites research and practical execution; a spirit that really does make a difference.

To support the Student Opportunities Fund please visit www.ac.le.uk/benefactors or contact:

t: 0116 252 2354
e: annualgiving@le.ac.uk

Without the scholarship, I simply would not be able to undertake this kind of dynamic, ground-level work. Knowing that this has been made possible by the support of donors is incredibly inspiring and motivating. Thank you.

Elizabeth, PhD Scholar, School of History
Each year, hundreds of requests for assistance are made by students in exceptional financial need with nowhere else to turn. Generous alumni support provides a lifeline for students facing these difficulties.

The compassionate support of our alumni through donations to the Student Opportunities Fund has provided vital assistance to nine students in financial need.

Thanks to alumni support, each of these students received an Alumni Hardship Award ranging from £600 to £1,914. Here are the stories of just some of the students who have received life-changing support:

- **Joseph**, was assisted with the extra travel costs incurred to resume his studies after he had to return home unexpectedly when his mother went into intensive care.

- **Emma**, who struggled with mental health problems and was estranged from her family due to cultural differences, was assisted with housing costs to enable a move into safe accommodation.

- **Dino**, a final year PhD student, suffered a marriage breakdown and his funding agency in Spain withdrew all sponsorship for his studies. He received support to complete his final few months of study at the University.

The extraordinary generosity of our alumni has allowed these students to fulfil their potential and to continue pursuit of their degrees at Leicester.

In the first year of my course, I sadly lost my mother which was a tremendously difficult time for me. With the help of the Hardship Award, I was able to continue and complete my studies securing a first class honours in Law. Thanks to this vital support I have been able to graduate and pursue my dream career.

— Racheal, Law Graduate
Raising Ambitions

Rising sports stars and talented musicians are fulfilling their potential thanks to the support of our generous graduates.

Vital support to the Student Opportunities Fund is providing Alumni Sports Scholarships and Alumni Music Scholarships to help promote a culture of excellence, raise ambitions and ensure high academic standards amongst these students at Leicester.

Sports Scholarships

Seven upcoming sports stars are being helped on their way to international success thanks to the generous support of our Alumni. In the second year of the scheme, seven Gold Scholarships have been awarded to students with stellar prospects in a range of sports including tae kwondo, lacrosse, kayaking, athletics, cricket, archery and netball.

These scholarships are granted to students who show an exceptional level of excellence in sport and provide them with an array of benefits, including a £500 award and full free membership to sports facilities on campus.

Scholar and hurdler, Lucy, a first year criminology student, is definitely one to watch. She was selected to represent England in Bratislava and Linz and was excited to compete at the European Trials in February 2014.

Lucy has set her sights on being ranked as one of Great Britain’s top five hurdlers by the end of the 2014 season.

Gold Scholar Ryan, a first year student studying Natural Sciences, recently won two gold medals in canoeing in the Men’s National C1 and C2 Classic Championship titles at the British Universities and Colleges Sport White Water Canoe Racing Championships – a University first.

At just 18, Ryan will be representing Great Britain this summer in Austria competing in white water racing (canoeing C1 Men’s).

Music Scholarships

A flautist, a singer and a pianist are just some of the talented students continuing to learn and enhance their musical abilities alongside completing their academic studies at Leicester, thanks to generous philanthropic support from our graduates.

This year, ten deserving singers and instrumentalists have each received an Alumni Music Scholarship worth £500. These superb young musicians will each take advantage of the one-to-one music tuition funded by the Scholarship and play an active part in the musical life of the University through Music Societies and concerts, whilst remaining fully committed to their studies.

Not only do these students have the opportunity to fulfil their own potential, they also offer a range of enriching performances for the benefit of our local community, staff and students.

I just wanted to say a big thank you to those graduates who have supported my scholarship, as without their backing I would have struggled to remain an international standard athlete. My grades are the best they have ever been and I have new sports facilities on my doorstep here at Leicester.

Lucy, First Year Criminology Student
An Inspiring Vision

Breaking down barriers to participation and widening access to the very best of contemporary art and creative learning.

The £1.5m Breaking Barriers Appeal was launched to raise vital funds to build a New Galleries Wing for the University’s Arts Centre, Embrace Arts at the Richard Attenborough Centre. Support from over a thousand donors will make a big difference for people who would not otherwise have access to high quality arts and creative learning, especially for children and people with disabilities, who make up almost 25% of visitors and users each year.

A shining example of inclusivity and accessibility

As the University’s Arts Centre, Embrace Arts provides an important focal point for cultural life on campus and in the wider community.

In particular it has a history of successful engagement in the arts by people with disabilities.

Embrace Arts fosters **inclusive arts practice** for artists, audiences and participants across all its programming, both within the Centre and through its outreach activities, engaging more than 45,000 people annually. The programming includes the promotion of artists with disabilities into the mainstream; developing new audiences from disadvantaged communities and schools; offering opportunities to our students to develop work-based skills; and developing apprenticeships and other similar opportunities for young people with disabilities.

Our aim is to foster excellence, breaking down barriers to participation and widening access to the very best of contemporary art and creative learning. Embrace Arts is a shining example of this philosophy in action.

The Richard Attenborough Centre, Embrace Arts’ award-winning building, currently includes a performance area, three studios...
and an exhibition gallery. Opened in 1997 by Diana Princess of Wales and championed by Lord Attenborough, it remains one of only two purpose-built spaces in the East Midlands for the promotion of arts and disability.

However, the current dedicated space for the visual arts is severely limited. It is estimated that for every three people who are able to access Embrace Arts, there are a further two who are unable to attend due to the lack of more bespoke gallery space.

An inspirational vision

The New Galleries Wing will provide nearly 50% more space, including three new galleries, an outdoor Sculpture Court and a flexible Creativity Space. It will provide a Centre of Excellence for Creative Learning to give audiences, especially children and people with disabilities, greatly expanded opportunities and services.

The creation of the unique Sculpture Court and high quality galleries will attract the very best contemporary and experiential art to Leicester and allow much larger artistic works to be displayed, generating partnerships with galleries and venues such as Tate, the Yorkshire Sculpture Park and South Bank Centre.

Most importantly, the New Galleries Wing will help break down barriers to access and participation and fulfil Lord Attenborough’s original vision of making the arts accessible to all.

Your support has made the difference

The good news is that the University has been able to secure support from Arts Council England who are so impressed by the New Galleries project that they have pledged £600,000 towards the £1.5m Appeal. However, this pledge will only be realised if we successfully raise the balance of the funds needed.

Due to the fantastic support of the 1,232 individuals and organisations who have made gifts so far, we are nearly there. Over £800,000 has been raised to reduce the fundraising gap to less than £100,000.

For more information or to support the Appeal, please visit www.le.ac.uk/breakingbarriers or contact:

Ave Vinick
Deputy Director of Development
t: 0116 252 2176
e: arv4@le.ac.uk

The Honourable Lady Brooks

A key figure in public life in Leicester and Leicestershire for many years, Lady Ann Brooks has been a committed supporter of the Richard Attenborough Centre since its inception. Indeed, she was a member of the original Appeal Committee and it is estimated that in the mid-1990s she was instrumental in raising £100,000 for the Centre through a variety of events she personally organised. Both Lady Ann and her late husband, Sir Tim Brooks, have been tremendous supporters of the current Breaking Barriers Appeal.
Hearing the news that the person you love most in the world is ill can be heart breaking. It can leave you feeling helpless. But, knowing their treatment is in expert hands can be reassuring and bring relief.

After twenty five years of marriage Mr Edward Burdett, known to those closest to him as Ted, was left devastated when his beloved wife Vera was suddenly taken ill. Their plans to spend their retirement travelling the world seemed a distant dream. But, thanks to the surgeon and life-saving treatment Vera received from a University of Leicester Professor and his medical team, their dream was not lost. Vera made a healthy recovery and was able, through medication, to manage her condition. With a new lease of life the pair spent ten years exploring distant shores together.

Forever thankful for the care Vera received, they chose to leave a gift in their Will to support research here at the University. A gift to ensure a love like theirs lives on, ensuring that the life-saving research we undertake continues, far into the future.

Sadly, Ted and Vera are no longer with us and are dearly missed by those who loved them. Ted’s youngest sister, Aldyth, reflects on their loving gift: ‘Knowing that my brother’s wishes are being fulfilled brings me great comfort. It makes me smile to know that my brother’s generosity will be saving lives for years to come.’
Behind every student at the University of Leicester there is a passion; for their study and to succeed.

Back in 1983, at just eighteen, the now Dr Martin Smith left his home in Yorkshire to begin his student life as an undergraduate – the first in his family to do so. Little did he know that his interest in Politics would become his life passion, leading to career highlights such as publishing academic books and holding the position of Senior Lecturer at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst.

Dr Helen Scott OBE

Studying here at the University of Leicester truly inspired me; I am forever grateful for my time here and want to give others the opportunity to share my wonderful experience. This is why I have chosen to fund a named post-graduate scholarship through a gift in my Will.

Dr Martin Smith,
BA Hons Politics and Economic History

This extract is from a poem written by Sybil Marshall featured in her book ‘A Nest of Magpies’ and was a favourite of an exceptionally generous woman; Dr Helen Scott OBE. Its sentiment endorses making the most of the present; something Dr Helen Scott certainly did in her lifetime.

With a gift in her Will Dr Helen Scott also made provisions for the future, from which the University of Leicester and in turn those who are impacted by our research will benefit greatly. This year, on Saturday 28th June, we will mark the official opening of The Ernest and Helen Scott Haematological Research Institute, made possible by the generous funding of The Scott-Waudby Charitable Trust.

As well as funding a Laboratory Manager, this legacy gift funds two Clinical Research Fellows dedicated to complex research into B-cell lymphoproliferative disorders. It is one thing completing the research, it is another thing translating this research into treatments to save lives and doing so quickly – a key objective of the Institute.

The Institute’s research has the power to not only save lives, but change lives for generations to come.

Yesterday returneth not, tomorrow mayhap cometh not. There is today, misuse it not.

Are you curious about leaving a gift in your will?

I enjoy nothing more than hearing anecdotes about your time here at Leicester and I am committed to ensuring your wishes are met. If like Ted, Helen and Martin you feel impelled to leave an everlasting gift I would love to hear from you.

Rosie O’Connor, Legacy Officer, DARO, University of Leicester, Fielding Johnson Building, University Road, Leicester, LE1 7RH

t: (0116) 252 2850
e: ro69@le.ac.uk
Women of Influence Guild

The University has proudly launched a Guild for influential female graduates which will raise crucial funds to support the next generation of inspirational women at Leicester.

There are many Leicester graduates who we would describe as ‘women of influence’ – those alumni who are making a significant impact on the world through their high aspirations and career success.

Five years ago, the University decided to initiate an annual networking event, the Women of Influence Luncheon, to celebrate some of its most influential graduates. Each year we host special events for these women to meet one another, listen to inspirational keynote speakers, share stories of their successes since Leicester and reminisce about their university days.

At this year’s luncheon, the University launched the ‘Women of Influence Guild’ to enable participants to support projects of particular relevance to them. In its inaugural year, the Guild is raising crucial funds to support women scientists and students at the University.

Women are still under-represented in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and access to funding for post-graduate studies is becoming increasingly challenging for today’s graduates. This is why founding Guild members decided that it should initially support an MSc Scholarship for a researcher in the College of Science and Engineering.

The Guild was launched by inspirational businesswoman and honorary graduate Dame Stephanie Shirley (LLD Doctor of Laws, 2005) who was the keynote speaker during the lunch. Dame Stephanie said: “Girls in my generation were not taught science at school and, even today, women are still badly under-represented in these subjects. I’m so proud of my honorary degree from the University of Leicester and hope that my support can help it continue to develop.”

To find out more or to support the Guild, please contact:

Lisa Davies
Development Manager
t: 0116 252 2153
e: ld109@le.ac.uk
The Santander Universities UK Internship Programme is successfully boosting the employability of recent graduate and student participants and, at the same time, supporting small and medium-sized businesses in Leicester.

The University of Leicester is proud to be a part of the Santander Universities’ Internship Programme – a project established to support students and local Small to Medium sized Enterprises (SMEs). The initial eight places funded in 2012/13 were filled so quickly with outstanding students that Santander agreed to fund a further 13 places, allowing even more final year students and graduates to be matched with opportunities at local SME businesses on a paid three-month placement.

Thanks to the generous philanthropic support of the Santander Universities Global Division, graduates are able to build the necessary skills to start their career, whilst local SMEs benefit from their skills, talent and enthusiasm. The programme supports companies in recruiting individuals who have the potential to make major contributions to their organisation; enhancing skill levels and providing fresh and innovative ideas, in turn leading to improved performance. Ian Pritchard, Managing Director at Tintisha Technologies (UK) Ltd, one of the businesses to benefit from the programme said: “As a small company, with staff who have been here for a number of years, there is a risk that we get ‘stuck in our ways.’ Interns bring fresh approaches and ideas and challenge procedures.”

In an ever more competitive job market this programme offers successful candidates the chance to gain invaluable work experience, to work on ‘real life’ graduate-level projects, and put their extensive theoretical knowledge into practice. The University’s success in matching students with SMEs has directly resulted in the fivefold increase of philanthropic funding for Leicester’s programme from £12,000 in 2012 to £60,000 for 40 internships in 2013.

Intern Profile: Dilraj Kang

The experience has helped shape my future career aspirations and has increased my confidence in my abilities, which puts me in a good position to advance my career more quickly after University.

Dilraj Kang, BSc Business Economics student

Dilraj Kang, a finalist in Business Economics, secured a role as Development Assistant with Ignite! Futures, which works with young people to develop their creativity. Dilraj oversaw a crucial project from inception, providing fresh insight and implementing a marketing strategy and business plan to further develop the project’s success.
Philanthropic gifts from groups and associations in the local community were at the forefront of the CRC Appeal and helped to raise £1m for the state-of-the-art facility. In May 2014, local charity Heartsearch showed their ongoing commitment to advancing heart research at the new Centre when they presented a cheque for £70,000 to the University of Leicester and Professor Nilesh Samani, Head of the Department of Cardiovascular Sciences. The significant donation arose from a supporter’s legacy bequest and will establish an endowment fund to support projects and rising-star academics long into the future.

Cardiovascular disease is the UK’s biggest killer. It causes one in three deaths in this country and kills more than 198,000 people in the UK every year. Each day, in the East Midlands alone, nine people die prematurely of heart disease. Leicester is at the forefront of the fight against chronic disease and establishing this research fund will allow the team to plan ahead with more certainty, knowing that there is access to vital funding to pump prime new projects or leverage other larger grants. British Heart Foundation Professor of Cardiology Nilesh Samani said: “This gift will enable us to establish a research fund which will provide future support for new research and specialist equipment and offer additional and much sought after research studentships to our talented rising-star academics.”

Hemendra Ghelani, a trustee and chairman of the management committee of Heartsearch, said “We are primarily a campaigning group raising awareness of cardiovascular disease in local communities. But we also attract philanthropic support and are pleased to work closely with the University of Leicester and Professor Samani to realise our shared ambitions for improved prevention, treatment and care.”

Heartsearch are just one of many benefactors who have chosen to continue supporting the progressive and life-saving research which takes place at Leicester, including the ground-breaking work in understanding the inherited basis of cardiovascular disease led by Leicester alumnus Professor Samani. The research findings of his internationally recognised team are already informing new approaches to predicting and treating heart disease across the world thanks to the tremendous continuing support of our generous benefactors.
On Wednesday 11th June, Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir Robert Burgess officially opened the University of Leicester British Heart Foundation Cardiovascular Research Centre.

This memorable occasion was attended by over 100 benefactors, friends and staff and provided the perfect opportunity to celebrate the completion of this high quality research facility. The new £12.6m Centre located at Leicester’s Glenfield Hospital brings together scientists, doctors and patients with the aim of improving the diagnosis, prognosis and treatment of cardiovascular diseases and is already making a big difference.

By creating this unique facility we are bringing together internationally renowned heart scientists who will carry out cutting-edge research to help beat cardiovascular disease for good.

Simon Gillespie, Chief Executive, British Heart Foundation

Premier Benefactors
The Wolfson Foundation
Visit the CRC

In February 2014, The Vice-Chancellor was delighted to welcome Paul Ramsbottom, CEO of the Wolfson Foundation, and trustee Charles Wolfson-Townsley to the University.

The occasion included a visit to the CRC to see the newly opened Wolfson Cardiovascular Laboratories on the first floor of the building. The Foundation’s gift of £400,000 attracted additional matched funding of £133,000 and provided much expanded wet laboratory research space allowing the Cardiovascular Research team to exploit its full potential and come together to work in one dedicated centre. Our guests were hugely impressed to see the impact of their gift and also visited the site of the new £42 million Centre for Medicine. Set to open in autumn 2015, the cutting-edge facility will act as the central hub for medical teaching and applied research, linking research centres such as the CRC, local hospitals and Leicester Medical School. Read more about the Centre for Medicine on page 8.
Thanks to the ongoing generosity of an anonymous Charitable Foundation, the Leicester Kidney Exercise Research Team, which discovered a unique way of overcoming muscle weakness and wasting in pre-dialysis and dialysis patients, have started the next phase of their pioneering research programme.

The bespoke exercise programme created by the Team in phase one of their research for the individual needs of kidney patients has proved to be highly beneficial; improving strength and stamina, reducing the need for some medications, and raising morale and quality of life.

The world-leading Team are now, in phase two, carefully focussing on the lifestyle of kidney patients to develop an exercise package that will fit in with their day-to-day lives to maintain their health and wellbeing as long as possible. As part of the largest research project of its kind, the Team are working very closely with over 1,000 kidney patients, exploring their physical activity and exercise habits.

This next critical phase will see the Team expanding the exercise programme to a second dialysis unit now that they have been able to purchase the vital additional equipment needed for their research, including new exercise bikes and the required exercise and health monitoring equipment.

By 2017, with the fantastic support of the anonymous Foundation, the Leicester Kidney Exercise Research Team will have created a bespoke exercise programme for pre-dialysis and dialysis patients ready for uptake by local and national NHS commissioners. The goal is for the team’s unique exercise programme to be incorporated into the routine care of kidney patients not only in Leicester but also across the UK.
Kidney Disease

One person dies every day waiting for a kidney transplant

The Charitable Foundation which funds the Kidney Exercise Research Team at Leicester also provides vital support to the University’s Transplant Surgery Group, which has been successfully pioneering the most advanced kidney preservation programme in the UK in order to increase the number of kidneys available for transplantation.

The Group developed the Normothermic Preservation Programme, a prize winning technique to preserve kidneys warm rather than cold. This specialised technique has been designed to help make more donated organs suitable for transplantation by circulating an oxygenated blood-based solution through the kidney at normal body temperature to simulate conditions in the body after it has been removed. Thanks to the generosity of the Foundation, Professor Michael Nicholson, Dr Sarah Hosgood and the research team are continuing to make advances with their research.

Normothermic perfusion has the potential to expand the organ donor pool and reduce the transplant waiting list by utilising more kidneys from marginal donors - people who have suffered uncontrolled cardiac death, as well as elderly donors and those with diabetes, hypertension or renal insufficiency.

Approximately 15% of kidneys donated for transplantation are normally deemed unsuitable.

The Group have developed the technique as a viability assessment device to determine the suitability of a kidney for transplantation. The Group studied 85 human kidneys that were declined for transplantation and identified the characteristics that determine if, using the technique, a kidney would be suitable for transplantation. The Group identified 69 kidneys that may have been suitable for transplantation.

Using the Normothermic perfusion technique, the group performed 36 transplants from marginal donors, with only four patients requiring dialysis in the immediate phase after transplantation. Typically a third of transplant patients receiving a marginal kidney require dialysis after transplantation.

The successful advances of the Group haven’t gone unnoticed. Its work has become internationally recognised and they have won an array of prestigious prizes. The Group’s research doesn’t stop there. They are now establishing a model of pancreas perfusion to reduce injury associated with pancreas transplantation.

Thanks to outstanding support from a visionary benefactor, more patients in the UK and beyond waiting for a kidney transplant can hope for the gift of life.
University achieves UK first thanks to alumni support

PhD theses dating back to 1924 will be brought into the 21st Century thanks to the generous support of our alumni for the David Wilson Library.

The University will become the first UK university to offer an almost complete record of its theses online, further demonstrating the University’s commitment to public access to research. The University’s Leicester Research Archive (LRA) exists as an open access repository service for any and all research publications by staff. Since 2008 over 1,600 graduating PhD students have produced an electronic copy of their thesis for the LRA, and a further 2,000 PhD theses dating back to 1997 have been digitised as part of a pilot project run by the Library. This has revolutionised access to the University’s theses which are now amongst the most used items in the Leicester Research Archive.

The £71,000 needed to complete the theses digitisation could not be met by the Library budget without impacting on the provision of books and other resources required for learning, teaching and research. But, thanks to the fantastic support of our alumni for the Library, we are now able to digitise the 3,000 theses submitted between 1924 and 1996, making Leicester the first UK university to offer an almost complete record of its theses. This will ensure the preservation of our paper theses and attract high quality postgraduate research students from around the world.

Annual Fund reaches landmark £1 million raised

Alumni, Family Programme Members and friends of the University have donated a staggering £1m to the University’s Annual Fund over the past decade. This generosity has an impact on the work of the University and the lives of our students each and every day.
Each year since 2004, a team of committed and enthusiastic students have taken part in our annual Telephone Campaign which launches the Annual Fund each year, speaking to graduates, family and friends to raise vital philanthropic funds for the University.

Your tremendous generosity over the last 10 years has supported many projects, including:

• Alumni scholarships, bursaries and hardship awards, through our Student Opportunities Fund, giving some of the most talented and deserving students the opportunity to continue their life-changing education.

• The building and equipping of the award-winning David Wilson Library.

• Translational research benefiting patients and families experiencing, cancer, heart and renal disease.

• The redevelopment of the award winning Students’ Union Building.

• State-of-the-art equipment for the Danielle Brown and Roger Bettles Sports Centres.

• Developing a New Galleries Wing for the University’s inclusive Richard Attenborough arts centre.

• Prizes, travel awards, music and sports scholarships.

• And now the Centre for Medicine, bringing medical teaching and research under one roof for the first time.

Thank you to everyone who has chosen to contribute to our Annual Fund. You have made and continue to make a real difference to the life of the University and communities across the UK and worldwide.

For more information about the Annual Fund or to make a gift visit www.le.ac.uk/benefactors or contact:

e: annualgiving@le.ac.uk

Fiona Moore graduated from Leicester’s School of Law in 1981 and went on to complete her Law Society finals at Guildford. Admitted as a solicitor in 1984, she completed her Articles at Ellison & Co in Colchester. Fiona later joined Sharman, Jackson and Archer in Wellingborough where, in 1987, she became the first woman to be admitted to partnership in the firm’s 200 year history.

Fiona’s entire career was spent working in the specialist area of childcare and adoption, leading to her family’s decision to endow a student prize in her name when, sadly, she passed away in February 2014. It is hoped that the prize will recognise and promote excellence in the field of family law and particularly the area of child protection.

For more information on Prizes and Scholarships contact:

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Philanthropy …

a wise investment in the future

STEVE O’CONNOR, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

The heart-warming story of Bill, a 1960s graduate who had been out of touch with the University for 50 years, reminded me that it is never too late to support your University. *

I recently met Bill at the launch of the University’s Legacy Guild at Beaumont Hall. He had had a busy and successful professional and sporting life and now seemed just the right time to reconnect. We took time to sift through old JCR papers and find the minutes of meetings he had chaired as President of Beaumont. The memories and good times came flooding back and he is planning to return to campus soon and considering how his legacy could support his alma mater. The University was founded with tremendous foresight on a legacy gift after the Great War. The impact of legacy gifts is no less great today, as can be seen from the establishment of The Ernest and Helen Scott Haematological Research Institute on page 16. The fifty people who attended the launch of the Legacy Guild, and many more that could not make it on the day, will be remembering their University with gifts small and large that will provide support long into the future. The common thread is a shared belief in the transformational power of a higher education at Leicester and the University’s ability to tackle the big global challenges from cancer research to environmental sustainability.

Major cuts in Government funding for capital projects, through to research and student hardship awards, mean the current higher education landscape is a world apart from my own time at Leicester in the 1970s. The generous support of our benefactors helps us to meet this financial challenge head on. Their philanthropy allows us to pursue new opportunities, attract additional funding, develop high quality student and academic facilities and support talented students regardless of their background.

You will be able to see the impact of your investment throughout this Benefactors’ Review and we are grateful to the thousands of people and organisations who support our cause. Your generosity has made so much possible; from postgraduate scholarships for early career academics to fighting chronic disease. You have helped build the Cardiovascular Research Centre and ensured we can start construction on the New Galleries Wing at the Richard Attenborough Centre. And then there is the new £42m Centre for Medicine; probably the biggest investment in medical education and applied research by a UK University in the last decade.

In the autumn, after much prompting by leading donors and alumni, we will be launching the University of Leicester Endowment. The aims of this permanent endowment will remain true to the vision of our founding benefactors who established an endowment to create the University. It will also help to ensure that we continue to concertedly tackle global challenges and transform many more lives thanks to the wise investment of today’s benefactors in the future.

* Name has been changed to protect identity

It seems fitting, as we remember the Great War and the philanthropy responsible for founding the University as a living memorial to those who had fallen, that we should also look to the future with the launch of the Legacy Guild and the University of Leicester Endowment.
Smiles, laughter and cream scones were in abundance at the celebratory launch of the University of Leicester Legacy Guild on the 30th of May.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir Robert Burgess welcomed guests to Afternoon Tea at Beaumont Hall and for many it was a trip down memory lane. Fond memories of the University filled the room as did a real enthusiasm for what the future holds.

As conversation flowed over 50 guests, many of whom already generously support the University with a gift in their Will, enjoyed the musical talent of Stephen Anderson, student ambassador and pianist. ‘Let it Be’ by Paul McCartney, was an afternoon favourite.

Talks by Professor Alison Goodall, Dr Martin Smith and Elizabeth Blood captured the room. Their evocations of the life-changing impact of legacy gifts on research and scholarship recipients were highly motivating and heart-warming.

Judging by the success of this year’s event, our Annual Legacy Guild Afternoon Tea 2015 is set to be another wonderful occasion.

To discover whether joining the Legacy Guild is something you might wish to do, please contact:
Rosie O’Connor, Legacy Officer  
t: (0116) 252 2850 or  
e: ro69@le.ac.uk.