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Our cover image features just some of the 251 undergraduate and postgraduate students who received a donor-funded scholarship last year. Over 550 students are currently receiving support.



Joining Sheffield's donor community

By Professor Koen Lamberts

Like many people about to embark on a new job, I did my research about the University of Sheffield before I joined as your new President and Vice-Chancellor in November. What I learned impressed me. From being founded on penny donations by the local people over a century ago to recently raising the magnificent sum of £2 million to fund the Sheffield Scanner, it is apparent that this is a university with a tradition of philanthropy - where everyone has a part to play.

Our students are at the heart of everything we do. And I am passionate about ensuring that they receive the highest quality education and the best possible experience during their time here.

Donations have an important role in enabling this. Reading about all of the ways in which your support has made a difference in *Your Gift* and seeing the "It is a great privilege to be both leading this great institution and also to be joining such an active and passionate donor community."

many names listed on the new digital donor Honour Roll, I am filled with pride and optimism for the future. Whether it is supporting scholarships, funding research or helping clubs and societies, as a donor, your contribution to the University is vital. And it is deeply appreciated.

One of the first things I did when I joined the University was to make my own gift. It is a great privilege to be both leading this great institution and also to be joining such an active and passionate donor community. I look forward to working together to further enhance Sheffield's strengths as a genuinely world-leading University.

Community fundraising

The BIG WALK

returns

Now in its fourth year, the Big Walk has become a hotly anticipated fixture on the University's fundraising calendar for the many staff, students and alumni who have taken part. Over the years the challenges have changed, but one thing has remained constant: it's the perfect opportunity to get out in the fresh air in aid of a good cause.

The most recent challenge? A **26.2 mile** marathon-distance sponsored walk across the Peak District in aid of the Sheffield Scanner campaign. From experienced hikers to novice walkers, over **330 people** from across the University community took part, collectively covering over **8,500 miles** and raising over **£86,000** from over **3,000 donations**.

Sheffield Scamp

"MRI-PET presents incredible opportunities to help fight disease on many fronts. That's why I took part in the Big Walk and why I'm genuinely excited about the Sheffield Scanner coming to Sheffield."

John Cocking, member of staff in the Faculty of Engineering

"Thank you to everyone who fundraised for the University over the past year - together you raised an amazing £227,204."

Miles Stevenson, Director of Advancement

John Cocking

251 lives transformed

Supporting bright students from a range of backgrounds to achieve their potential is one of the University's founding principles. Over a century later, it's something we're still incredibly passionate about. But the reality is that social barriers and the increasing cost of higher education are a real obstacle for some. Scholarships have a vital role to play in helping those students feel that going to university is within their reach.

Last year, 251 students from across the UK received a scholarship to study at Sheffield thanks to the generosity of donors like you.

Over the past five years, donations have helped over 900 students. Time and again, they tell us how transformational this can be. Each and every student has a different story to tell about what receiving a scholarship means to them, but one thing remains true across the board: they are deeply grateful to the donors who made it happen.

"Receiving the scholarship has enabled me to explore my subject area in greater depth and get to know what Sheffield has to offer, without the pressure of having to find enough work to make ends meet."

Rory Hanna, *MA Computer Science student*

new undergraduate scholarships were funded by £736,800 of donations.

new postgraduate scholarships were funded by £250,000 of donations.

"Knowing that someone cares and has given me the opportunity to study for a degree without having to worry about money has really encouraged me to work harder to achieve my goals."

Santiago Wagner Velez, BA Architecture student SANTIA CO PUBLICITY DESIGNER

"My scholarship provides really valuable help with living costs and relieves some of my financial anxieties. It allows me to study uninterrupted and throw myself into university life just as freely as my better-off peers. Thank you!"

Isobel Macdonald, *BA Sociology student*

"The scholarship for me is not just a financial support, but a life-changing event which has given me a lot of self-belief and confidence."

Myra Mufti,

MSc International Social Change and Policy student

A gift of £10,000 could fund two postgraduate scholarships.

Help those most in need

Maybe they've experienced personal difficulties, are from a low-income family or live in an area of economic deprivation. It could be that they have a disability, caring responsibilities or have no family support. There are lots of reasons why a bit of financial help can make a big difference.

Reduce social inequality

Undergraduate scholarships are a great way to encourage those who are most able but least likely to go to university because of the spiralling cost. Postgraduate scholarships increase the likelihood of them going on to further study, boosting their job prospects in professional careers.

Plug the funding gap

There's a significant gap between the student loan and the cost of living at university, especially for students who can't rely on parental support. At £1,200 per year, our undergraduate scholarships provide up to an additional 20% income.

The £10,000 postgraduate scholarships can make all the difference too.

4

Mean working fewer hours

More than 15 hours of paid work each week is too much. Any more than that can — and does — have a detrimental effect on health, wellbeing and academic performance. Scholarships enable students to work fewer hours, freeing up their time to focus on their studies.

Eight ways scholarships make a difference

5

Reduce money worries

The lowest-income students undertaking a three year course will graduate with debt of £55,000. Knowing they have some non-repayable support can seriously reduce their financial anxiety.

6

Make room for the fun stuff

Scholarships offer the financial freedom to be able to pay for that society event ticket or go on a field trip, join their friends for a drink at the Students' Union or participate in their sports club competition. All these things mean that even students from lower-income backgrounds can have a rich university experience that they'll remember for the rest of their lives.

7

Inspire confidence

Knowing someone believed in them enough to help them out financially doesn't just improve confidence, it gives students extra motivation to work hard and do well too.

8

Are in demand

The hardest part of my job is having to turn down students who need our help because there aren't enough funds available to help them all. The more donations we receive, the more students we can help. It's that simple.



Name: Sarah Arkle

Studied: BA English Literature 2013,

MA Librarianship 2017

Scholarship: £3,600 undergraduate scholarship,

£10,000 postgraduate scholarship

Current role: Technical Services Librarian,

The Queen's College Oxford



What attracted you to study at Sheffield?

I fell in love with the city and frequently pine for it now I'm located down south. The facilities were amazing and – typical librarian response – I loved the libraries, especially Western Bank. Although the Information Commons holds a special place in my heart for having been the site of many ill-advised all-nighters finishing coursework off.

How did your undergraduate scholarship help you?

One of my parents was unwell, and eventually passed away during my first year. Having the money from my undergraduate scholarship meant that I could make last minute trips home to spend time with them in hospital, without having to think about the fact that train fares cost at least twice as much as a weekly shop. I would have gone to see them anyway, of course, but I'm so grateful for the scholarship because it made a distressing time much easier and meant I didn't have the added pressure of worrying about money whilst experiencing a bereavement.

The funds I received also meant I

didn't have to get a part-time job whilst studying, freeing up my time to both focus on my studies and take on voluntary work with underprivileged children and the local homeless population. It was really important for me to be able to give something back to the city which gave me so much.

What has been your journey after graduation?

I liked the idea of library work, so I applied for jobs absolutely everywhere in that field and was eventually offered a post at a further education college in Oxford. After working there for a year, I was accepted onto the Bodleian Libraries Graduate Trainee Scheme at Oxford University. During that year, I applied for, and was awarded, a postgraduate scholarship from Sheffield which allowed me to study for an MA in Librarianship. I then worked briefly as a school librarian, before being offered my current role as a Technical Services Librarian at The Queen's College in Oxford. I love my job, and work with really fantastic colleagues. In the time since graduating and starting my career, I also co-founded a national network which gives advice and assistance to aspiring library professionals.

I wouldn't be where I am today without the postgraduate scholarship I received. Not only did it cover my course fees and rent for the year, it also opened up opportunities that I wouldn't otherwise have had access to, as my current role requires a postgraduate qualification.

"The financial support I received helped me overcome the barriers I've encountered throughout my life and enabled me to succeed. For that, I feel both grateful and hugely privileged."

What are your hopes and ambitions for the future?

I'd like to continue working in the library and information sector, but for organisations dealing with inequality and social policy, particularly in improving access to education. I hope that in some way I can help other young people from low-income families or underachieving areas to succeed in building a good life for themselves like I've managed to do.

Research

EDUCATION and RESEARCH for the benefit of society

By Professor Dave Petley, Vice-President for Research and Innovation

From the outset the University of Sheffield was founded to provide education and undertake research to the benefit of the wider society. Throughout its history, the University has remained true to this cause - from Sir Hans Krebs being awarded the Nobel Prize in Medicine in 1953 for his pioneering work on the metabolic reactions that produce energy in the human body, to our role in the discovery of gravitational waves in 2016 - we can demonstrate many achievements.

Understanding the unknown

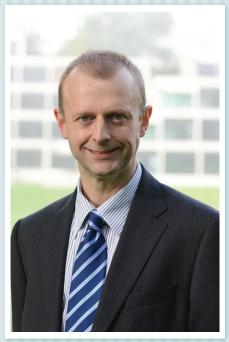
Today, the University has 42 academic departments spanning disciplines as diverse as Landscape Architecture, Chemistry, Mechanical Engineering and History. They undertake cutting edge research in which academic staff, post-doctoral researchers, technicians and students collaborate and together, they are finding real-world solutions to real-world problems.

Sometimes this work looks at global-level challenges, such as climate change or feeding the worldwide population in a sustainable manner; in others we tackle problems on a more local scale, such as the specific needs of small companies to work with the NHS or improving the education of disadvantaged children in Sheffield. In every case, our research is underpinned by a thirst to understand the unknown, to solve problems and to improve lives.

University Research Institutes

Our commitment to making a difference in the world through research has never been stronger. And so, over the next two years we are creating a series of *University Research Institutes* which will address some of the most significant challenges facing society today. The first four of these will launch in the spring, focussing on Food Security, Neuroscience, Sustainable Energy and Healthy Lifespans.

So what part do alumni and donors have to play in all of this? As you'll see on the following pages, your involvement is vital to the future of the University's research. And by supporting the development of the new research institutes, you can have a hand in helping us find solutions to some of these most pressing problems. I'm excited about the possibilities for knowledge and change which lay ahead and I look forward to bringing you with us on our journey of discovery.



"Our research is underpinned by a thirst to understand the unknown, to solve problems and to improve lives."

Donations totalling £1,560,589 were used to support research last year



Revealing SHEFFIELD CASTLE

A city-wide collaboration to unearth the remains of Sheffield Castle is bringing back to life this long-forgotten symbol of medieval Britain. The Departments of Archaeology and Architecture at the University, in collaboration with the City Council and the Friends of Sheffield Castle, aim to use this heritage to inspire urban regeneration in the city's Castlegate area.



But for the foresight and generosity of one inspiring alumna, the exciting project might never have happened. Pamela Staunton (1930 - 2014, BEd Education 1982, MA Archaeology and Prehistory 1993) chose to leave her former department a gift of £140,000 in her Will. And part of that gift has been used to fund the creation of a digital Castlegate Archive. Analysing all the material excavated from the castle in the 20th century, the archive helped set the wheels in motion for the next phase of discovery: a recently completed excavation of the site. The dig saw students, together with professionals from Wessex Archaeology, uncover even more of Sheffield's forgotten heritage.

Professor John Moreland from the Department of Archaeology, explains more:

"As a result of Pamela's kindness, we have looked at all the existing archives and objects related to Sheffield Castle in a way that has not been done before, providing us with a very detailed understanding of the site. We were able to use this to advise on the design and conduct of the recent excavations, giving us a unique slice through the history of Sheffield, from the time of Sheffield Markets right back to the time of the Castle.

Most importantly, we hope that the new understandings emerging from our Castlegate Archive and from the excavations will help to stimulate regeneration – our results will inform what happens next."

Two million thank yous

SheffieldScanner
MRI-PET: the future of imaging

The world's most advanced medical imaging technology is coming to Sheffield – and it's all thanks to you.

With the support and generosity of over 11,000 donors, we've raised an amazing £2 million to help fund the Sheffield Scanner. Alumni, staff, students and members of the public have come together throughout the campaign to make this possible. As well as sponsored walkers and runners, swimmers and singers, bake sales and craft fairs, so many people from all around the world have donated towards the project in recognition of the important role it will play in advancing knowledge of human health, right here in Sheffield. Large or small, each and every contribution has made a difference.



The Sheffield Scanner will be located next to the Royal Hallamshire Hospital



The first of its kind in Yorkshire – and one of only eight in the UK – this new facility at the heart of our medical campus

will bring about the biggest change to medical research at the University in its 114-year history.





Professor Dame Pam Shaw, Vice-President and Head of the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health

£373k largest gift (see page 12) 682 **fundraisers** £175k gifts from overseas 34 large gifts over £5k £133k from alumni appeals

One minute with Pam Shaw

The Sheffield Scanner campaign is the brainchild of **Professor Dame Pam Shaw**, a world-leading expert in neurology. We caught up with her to learn more about the scanner and find out how she feels now that her vision has been realised.

What is the Sheffield Scanner?

It's a cutting edge medical imaging system which will enable us to not only look at the structure of the body in great detail, but also the function of how tissues are working.



Why is combining MRI and PET preferable to scanning separately?

The combination of MRI and PET imaging techniques in one machine allows us to detect very small abnormalities very

Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

sensitively. We hope, and expect, this will allow us to diagnose conditions a lot earlier and monitor whether new experimental treatments are working much more nimbly than we have in the past.

Which conditions will benefit?

The scanner will accelerate research into many conditions. It is particularly important for cancer research, neurological disorders and degenerative diseases such as dementia. Alzheimer's disease. Parkinson's. motor neurone disease, and multiple sclerosis, as well as conditions including stroke, epilepsy, cardiovascular disease and infectious diseases.

What are the next steps?

Work has already started on the facility where the scanner will be housed adjacent to the Hallamshire Hospital, and we're hoping it will be completed by Spring 2020. Once it's up and running we will begin clinical trials with patients from the Yorkshire region.

If you'd like to know more about the Sheffield Scanner, visit sheffield.ac.uk/sheffieldscanner



A legacy of hope

It is often said that one never recovers from losing a child. And although **Peter** and **Ruth Linacre** went on to play an active role in the Sheffield community after their daughter's untimely death, Alison was never far from their thoughts. She was just 27 when she passed away in May 1982, having been diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumour.



Ruth and Alison Linacre

For the remainder of their lives, Peter (1924 - 2001), an honorary graduate and former member of staff who rose to become the University's first Academic Registrar, and Ruth (1926 - 2015), a Wages Clerk at South Yorkshire Police, were passionate about supporting medical research. And so, together, they chose to leave a gift in their Will to the University to do just that.

"It was my Aunt and Uncle's greatest wish that no other parent should lose a child in this way. As a family, we are so proud that their legacy is helping to support the Sheffield Scanner, which offers so much hope for seriously ill patients like Alison."

Janet Woffindin,Ruth Linacre's niece



In the years since Alison's death, advances in technology have been rapid and research has progressed at pace. Today, MRI-PET is emerging as one of the greatest tools in the fight against serious conditions such as brain disease. And thanks to Peter and Ruth's generosity, the University is now one step closer to helping in that fight.

Their gift of over £373,000 has played a vital role in bringing the first MRI-PET scanner to the Yorkshire region. In fact, it was the largest single gift made as part of the University's £2 million Sheffield Scanner campaign. Researchers and clinicians hope that this exciting technology will unlock answers to some of the most pressing medical questions, resulting in improved detection, diagnosis and treatment for people just like Alison in the future.

Legacy gifts totalling £1,033,213

Were left to the University last year.



The University of Sheffield is a leading player in the field of cancer research, both nationally and globally, with our researchers paving the way towards finding new and better treatments for this devastating disease.

Joining forces against cancer

Their success is in no small part down to the continued backing of organisations such as **Weston Park Cancer Charity**. Over the past decade, the local charity has donated over £8 million to the University, playing a pivotal role in bringing world-class treatments and research to Sheffield.

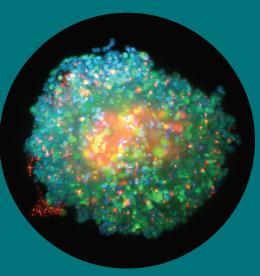
Investing in research is an important part of the charity's work, explains CEO, Samantha Dixon:

"Our vision is to help build a better life for those affected by cancer, now and in the future," she said. "One way we do this is by investing the money raised by our supporters into the cutting-edge research taking place at the University of Sheffield. The University has a reputation as an outstanding centre for research into specific tumour sites, including lung and melanoma, as well as breast and prostate cancer that has spread to bone."

The partnership between the University and the charity is not only helping clinicians better understand the disease, it is also having a positive impact on local patients.

"We are delighted to have recently supported an initiative to help increase the number of Weston Park patients taking part in early phase clinical trials. Participation will enable them to receive treatments or drugs before they are more widely available on the NHS," said Samantha.

Ingunn Holen, Professor of Bone Oncology in the Medical School, is one of the scientists whose work has benefitted from Weston Park funding. Her research, carried out by an international team of post-doctoral researchers, PhD students and technicians, is focussed on understanding how cancer cells spread to the skeleton. She explains more:



Cancer cells growing in a 3D culture

"In order to develop new and effective cancer treatments, we need to find out how cancer cells spread around the body and form new colonies, including in patients' bones. This is a particular concern for some of the most common cancers, like breast and prostate cancer. We also need to understand how cancer cells interact with the normal tissues around them and how they manage to avoid being detected and destroyed by the immune system."

Professor Holen is hugely grateful for any support which can enable her research to continue, commenting:

"It is thanks to the support of organisations such as Weston Park Cancer Charity that we can carry out this enormously important work. It is my hope that our findings will find new ways of eradicating these cancers and stop them from coming back."

Boost for patient-led research

As Europe's largest centre for research into pulmonary vascular disease, the University of Sheffield is making exciting discoveries in a bid to defeat the condition.

Pulmonary hypertension — or high blood pressure in the lungs — is a rare but serious illness which can lead to heart failure. Untreated, some forms have a survival rate of only two to three years, worse than many common cancers. However, important work by our researchers is helping to change that. They are developing improved diagnosis and treatment techniques which have contributed to dramatically improved survival rates in recent years.

One study, the Donald Heath Research Programme, has recently been given a boost thanks to alumnus **Richard Hughes** (*BA Economics 1978*). His donation of £10,000 is supporting the collection of data for a longitudinal Pulmonary Hypertension Biobank, by helping to fund the salary of the Biobank's nurse - now named the Hughes Research Nurse. Responsible for collecting patient samples and acting as a crucial interface between patients and researchers, the nurse's work is vital in maintaining and accelerating this unique study.

Research in focus:

Harnessing the breadth of academic expertise at the University, a legacy gift of over £540,000 has funded a number of unique studies over the past two years. From examining religious violence in Algeria to tackling poaching across Africa, the generous donation is enabling the University to address a range of important societal issues. Each strikingly different, they have one common aim: to further our understanding of peace across the globe.



Peace march to the Torrejón Air Base, Spain. March 1983. Archivo Moviniento Comunista de España

A watershed moment

One such project has looked to the recent past for inspiration. Through their research, academics from the Departments of History and Politics are shining new light on the peace movements that swept across Greece, Spain and Italy in the late 1970s and 1980s. Amidst a backdrop of political turmoil, protests against the international nuclear arms race were a "watershed moment" in the contemporary history of Western Europe, says principal investigator, **Dr** Eirini Karamouzi. Historically. Northern Europe has attracted the focus of academic attention and the stories of Southern European activism have remained largely untold, until now.

To find out more about the project, visit coldwarcultures.group.shef.ac.uk

Peace and the power of people

Hangover of dictatorship

A shared vision for peace united activists across national borders, but their motivations were nuanced, often reflecting their own country's political past. The recent end of an authoritarian regime in Spain and Greece loomed large in people's minds, for instance. **Dr Giulia Quaggio** – a Peace Studies Postdoctoral Fellow, whose role is funded by the legacy gift – explains more.

"Local circumstances strongly impacted the Southern European peace movements. Spanish activists defined their peace mobilisation as the 'last battle of transition' after the death of their military dictator, General Franco." In traditionally male-dominated Italy, on the other hand, "activists imagined a different society in which women had a more active role to play." With this hangover of dictatorship and the threat of political terrorism, peace became a "synonym for democracy" in the region, says Dr Quaggio.





Peace demonstration. Florence, February 1980

Activating civil society

So, what was the impact of the protests? Although unsuccessful in influencing governmental nuclear policies at the time, the lasting significance of the activism is not diminished. "The effectiveness of the peace movements lies in the social construction and imagination of a different reality and life in a changing society," argues Dr Quaggio. "The activists disseminated new social codes, new ideas, images, meanings

and values after the strongly politicised and violent decade of the 1970s."

Dr Karamouzi – an expert on the history of the Cold War – agrees. "The protests activated civil society, renegotiated the parameters of political participation and redefined people's understanding of national and international security," she explained.

Then and now

The project draws parallels with the present global situation and the Trump era, suggests Dr Quaggio. "At a time when experts warn that we are in the midst of the 'most severe crisis on nuclear arms control since the 1980s' and the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, it is useful to understand the cultural and social dynamics of

peace movements and the distinctive characteristics of nuclear fear within local circumstances from the recent past," said the historian.

As part of this work, Dr Karamouzi, in collaboration with Dr Quaggio, has held an exhibition at the Hellenic Parliament in Athens (with other European venues in the pipeline) to share the findings with

the public. Featuring an abundance of material – from pop music and film, to literature and oral history testimonies – the rich collection shows how societies in Southern Europe reacted to the threat of nuclear war. The exhibition also aims to act as a reminder of the existential threat that nuclear weapons still pose and the value of harnessing the power of people.

The student experience

Students giving back

in the local community



There's a thriving body of student volunteers here at the University, but what role do donations have to play in supporting them? Two diverse projects have benefitted from financial support over the past few years – and they are having an impact right across the region.

Pro bono publico: For the good of the people

Cuts to legal aid in recent years have left vulnerable people unable to access the advice they need in order to pursue justice. But dedicated students from the School of Law are giving their time to local people in a bid to help plug that gap.

So, how does it work? Students volunteer at the FreeLaw Legal Clinic, a pro bono advice and support service set up to help those in need at regular drop-in sessions at The Lodge on campus. Overseen by qualified staff, they offer advice on a whole gamut of legal issues – from housing and family law to employment and probate matters. In the last three years alone, over 355 people and small businesses have made use of the service. Having the opportunity to gain real-world

experience is invaluable for the student volunteers too.

FreeLaw – which recently celebrated its tenth anniversary – is part of the wider pro bono legal support that Law students offer; this includes a new clinic for start-up enterprises, advice on potential miscarriages of justice and volunteering for a number of projects working to meet unmet legal need within the Sheffield region.

From renovating The Lodge to funding the development of a new case management system, financial support from donations has helped these pro bono schemes go from strength to strength over the past decade.





FreeLaw student volunteers

"FreeLaw was a fantastic and really important part of my university experience. Through working at the clinic I was able to develop my skill set which considerably improved my employability."

Amelia Hammerton, LLB Law (European and International) 2018

Removing barriers to participation

They've got skills to offer and a desire to give back, but financial challenges can be a real barrier to volunteering for low-income students. Between their studies and paid work, there simply isn't the time to commit.

It's not just charities who are losing out. Be it the opportunity to gain new skills or the resulting sense of satisfaction, these students aren't experiencing the wealth of benefits that come from helping others.

The innovative 100 Hours Third Sector Placements scheme is helping to change that. Run by Sheffield Students' Union and generously supported by philanthropic alumnus **Professor Neil Rackham** (BSc Psychology 1966, Hon DSc 2017), the project is breaking down barriers to participation.

By providing funding – as well as training and resources – for students who might not otherwise be able to volunteer and matching them with a local charity, more students from a wide range of backgrounds are making a difference across South Yorkshire.

From working with food banks and the vulnerable to creative projects and hospices, many diverse charities are involved in the scheme. **Grimm & Co.** is one of them. With an aim to "change lives one story at a time", they are doing important work in inspiring confidence and creativity in under-resourced young people through storytelling. They commented:

"The student volunteers come with a unique specialist skill set which would be very rare in our other volunteers. This has enabled us to enrich our programme through more in-depth research and evaluation, which simply would not have been possible otherwise."

With both students, charities and local people benefiting, the placement scheme's multi-dimensional impact can be felt in more ways than one.



Student volunteers at Grimm & Co. literacy charity



Inspiring young people through storytelling



Recognising our donors

We are delighted to share with you our brand new digital Honour Roll. Featuring the many thousands of people who have chosen to donate to the University of Sheffield over the past year, it is our way of formally recognising each and every one of you for your support and generosity. Thank you!

To view the Honour Roll, visit honour-roll.group.shef.ac.uk

Tackling **gender inequality** in engineering



Despite great advances in societal gender equality in recent years, women are still "woefully under-represented," in engineering, says **Dr Gwen Reilly**. Herself an engineer — in the field of bioengineering — Dr Reilly is leading the initiative to encourage more women into the profession at the University of Sheffield. Women in Engineering has a clear vision: to create a more equitable environment for females to thrive.

The UK engineering workforce is currently 91% male. But Dr Reilly is a passionate believer that the problem doesn't just lie in the workplace, nor in higher education. More, it's that from an early age, girls aren't being informed about the possibilities that a career in engineering offers. "We need to show young people that engineering is an accessible and exciting career and we do this by celebrating a diverse workforce. However, in order to do this, first we need to create one."

Professor Mike Hounslow, Vice-

President and Head of Engineering, agrees. "We need to be talking to kids in primary school about what engineering is and what engineers do, particularly to girls," he says. "They make up half the population, they should make up half the engineers."

And now, thanks to the generosity of local engineering company **AESSEAL**, the University is doing even more to tackle the gender gap. Their gift is supporting Women in Engineering in a number of ways, by:

- encouraging more girls to study science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) subjects through an extensive outreach programme.
- providing a route into higher education for girls who realise only after choosing their A-Levels that they want to pursue engineering.



 supporting academics as they progress through their careers to ensure representation and positive role models at all levels of the University.

The work is having a positive impact, as Dr Reilly explains: "We have already seen an increase in the number of females studying engineering at Sheffield. 40% of students on our general engineering course, for example, are female – far higher than the norm."

There's still a way to go to achieve parity, but with the support of donors such as AESSEAL, the University is playing its part in inspiring the next generation of female engineers.



Supported **72** groups

In clubs, societies and student-led projects

With grants of up to £2k

Plus a
£10k
Students'
Union grant

Making memories to last a lifetime

Whether it's ceilidh or quidditch, feminism or film-making, getting involved in extra-curricular activities is often what makes the Sheffield experience so memorable for so many. And thanks to your generosity, 72 groups — made up of hundreds of students — from across the University and Students' Union had the opportunity to make even more memories last year.



Project: Multidisciplinary expedition to

Ala Archa National Park, Kyrgyzstan

Award: £1,450

Funded: First Aid training, research equipment, a tent and medical supplies

They said: "It was an incredible experience for all those involved, regularly

including boundary-pushing challenges. Memories have been formed that

will last a lifetime. Donations made this possible - thank you."



Project: Obstetrics and Gynaecology Society

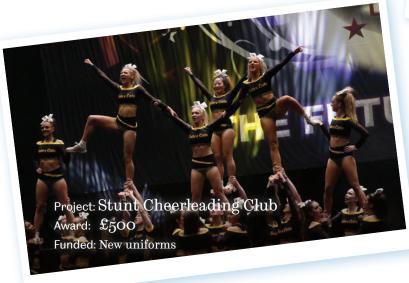
Award: £2,000

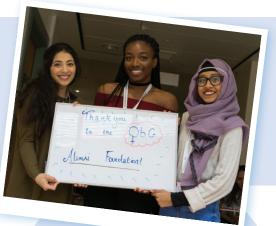
Funded: The society's inaugural conference

They said: "The conference was a huge success and we received really

encouraging feedback from both the speakers and the student delegates. We are incredibly grateful for allowing our society

to thrive in our first year!"





Project: Stitch Society

Award: £375

Funded: Specialist embroidery training



Project: 'Railway Challenge' team

Award: £900

Funded: A new motor system

They said: "We'd like to thank donors for allowing us so many

opportunities outside of our degrees. As a result of the donation, we won the 'maintainability challenge' for the second year in a row, setting a new challenge record!"







Project: Men's Rugby Union Club

Award: £650

Funded: New equipment, including tackle shields and training balls

They said: "We have been promoted this season and our travel costs have gone

up massively. The kit that this money has provided will save valuable funds to help us run throughout the season. We'd like to say a huge thank you - every member of the club appreciates your generosity

and understands what a beneficial impact you have."



Project: Lifesaving
Club

Award: £180

Funded: Competition

entry fee



£20

a grant for a student group, giving them the chance to take part in a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.



It's not only financial gifts that make a difference. Giving the gift of time to share your experience and advice is also a rewarding way of helping the next generation of Sheffield graduates. From mentoring and speed-networking to hosting events and giving career talks, there are lots of ways in which you can become an Alumni Volunteer.

ALUMNI VOLUNTEERING HIGHLIGHTS

City Connections

Raising the confidence and aspirations of undergraduate students from disadvantaged backgrounds, *City Connections* gives students the opportunity to travel to London to visit alumni businesses and network with inspirational alumni. The trip provides them with valuable advice and contacts they may not otherwise have access to. Over 40 alumni took part in our evening networking event and daytime business

visits, with hosts including the BBC, DLA Piper and AHMM Architects.

"City Connections was really life changing for me and has definitely helped me with understanding what kind of career I want in the future."

Amy Clarke, *BA English Literature student*

From **45** countries

Gave **10,000** hours To support **5,000** students

Multidisciplinary Engineering Projects

Equipping students with the knowledge, skills and experience which they'll need in the workplace is at the heart of a Sheffield education. As part of this, the Faculty of Engineering holds two unique project weeks for first and second years - Global Engineering Challenge and Engineering, You're Hired – giving students the chance to work in multidisciplinary teams to solve a real-world problem. 85 successful alumni now working in the engineering industries came back to campus for a day to assess, mentor and advise the students. Their contribution was integral to the projects' success and provided students with valuable support in developing their project management and problem solving skills.

"Volunteering as an alumnus is something I really enjoyed. It was great to be in Sheffield again and the event served as an important part in my professional development towards Chartership."

Samuel Hunting, *MEng Mechanical Engineering 2016*

CAN YOU HELP?

If you'd like to reconnect with your former department whilst also helping current students, volunteering could be for you. To find out more, visit sheffield.ac.uk/alumni/volunteering

A community of support

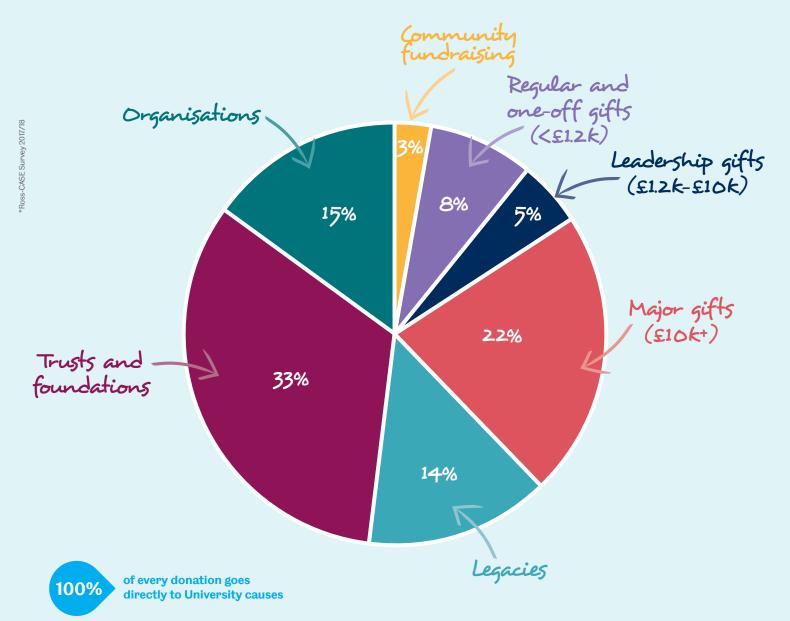
















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