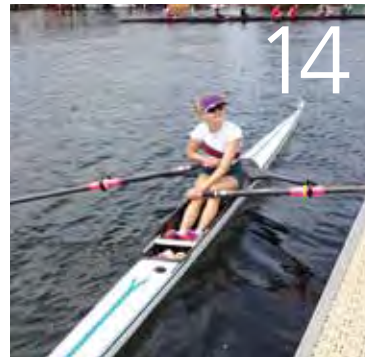


**BENEFACTORS'
REVIEW
2017**



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Thank *you*

When reviewing our Roll of Benefactors this year I was overwhelmed by the loyalty and generosity of our donors. The University of Leicester was founded on an outpouring of gifts, large and small, from a generation that had lived through World War I and were determined to create a better world for the generations to come.

Your generosity keeps that dream alive. Gifts like yours ensure that the University they built nearly 100 years ago remains vibrant, educating 21st century students and addressing 21st century needs. Whether you have made your first gift this year or your tenth, thank you. You are true friends of the University.

When speaking to the graduating class of 2017, our President and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Paul Boyle CBE, said that: "The purpose of the University is not solely to equip scholars with an education, also to encourage a spirit of intellectual enquiry, coupled with curiosity and

the resilience and resources to go far in their chosen fields."

Your gifts have helped us to ensure that students and researchers have those resources. We have awarded bursaries and scholarships to 51 students to give them extra support during their studies. We funded life-changing research into kidney disease, lung and blood cancers, eye disorders and cardiovascular disease. We built a new home for our Medical School so that medical students have the best possible learning environment. These and many other projects that your gifts made possible are described in this report.

I hope you will be as inspired as I am when you hear about the success of some of our talented scholarship recipients: Ciaran Deasy, developer of Sphere, an automated messaging tool that lets users plan and book a journey from their current location; Camilla Plumb, who represented the University at the British Universities

“ We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give. ”

Winston Churchill

and Colleges Sports event; and Ayosola Odunlami, who aims to use her research to raise the aspirations of higher education students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

We have also received generous gifts in honour of lost loved ones. Matt Walter achieved career success after completing his PhD at the University of Leicester. Although he passed away in 2016, his friends and family honoured his memory by raising money in his name for the Matt Walter Memorial Scholarship. This made it possible for two students to study for degrees in engineering. We tell the story of one of these students, Munzer Chahin, in the following pages.

We have also been fortunate to receive some exceptional gifts this year that will transform medical research at the University, and in

turn the lives of patients across the country and the world. This includes a £1 million gift from Leicester City Football Club, £2.7 million for kidney research from philanthropist Jimmy Mayer and his family, and £5.15 million for vascular surgery from fashion retailer George Davies.

These, and other gifts, have made this a record-breaking year for philanthropy at the University of Leicester. Our extraordinarily generous benefactors, talented scholars and inspiring events all point to an exciting future. Thank you all for being a part of it.



Bill Friar

Director of Development and Alumni Relations



Report on philanthropy in 2015/16: Facts and statistics

The year in numbers (funds secured)

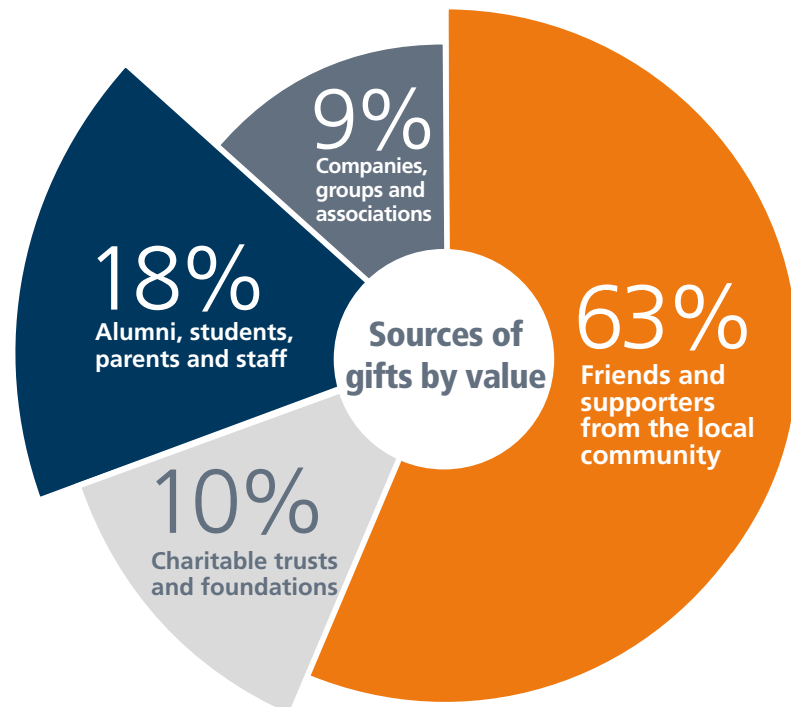
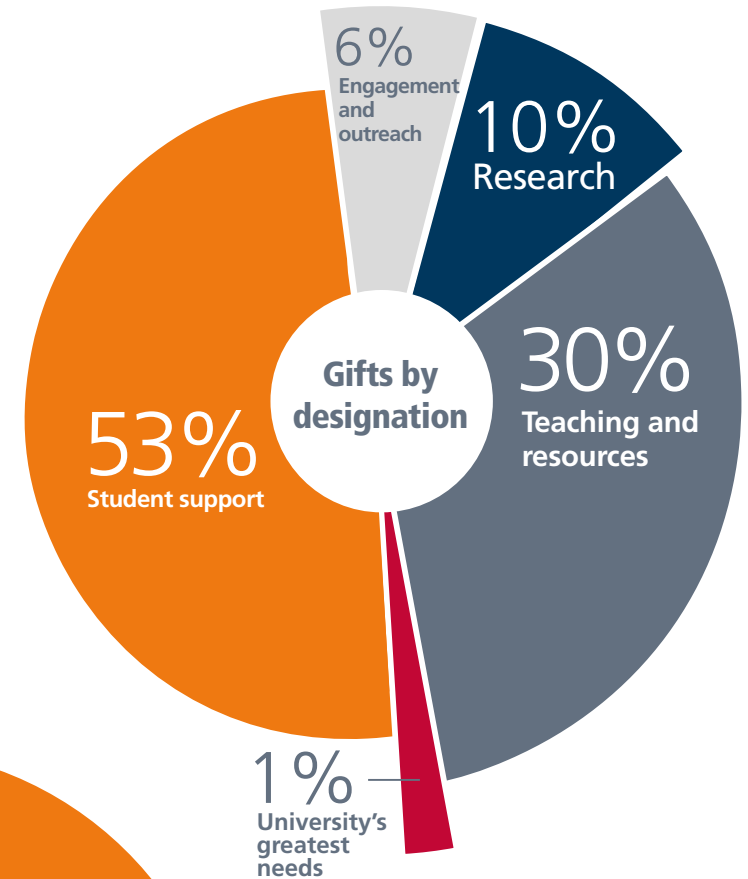
£3,606,884 NEW FUNDS RAISED*

£177,161 ANNUAL FUND TOTAL

1,264 TOTAL NUMBER OF DONORS

235
NUMBER OF DONORS GIVING FOR THE FIRST TIME

618
NUMBER OF DONORS CHOOSING TO GIVE REGULARLY BY DIRECT DEBIT



*The funds secured in 2015/16 include new cash and confirmed pledges raised in the year, but exclude pledged payments from past years.

Report on philanthropy in 2016/17: Facts and statistics

The year in numbers (funds secured)

£9,722,216 NEW FUNDS RAISED*

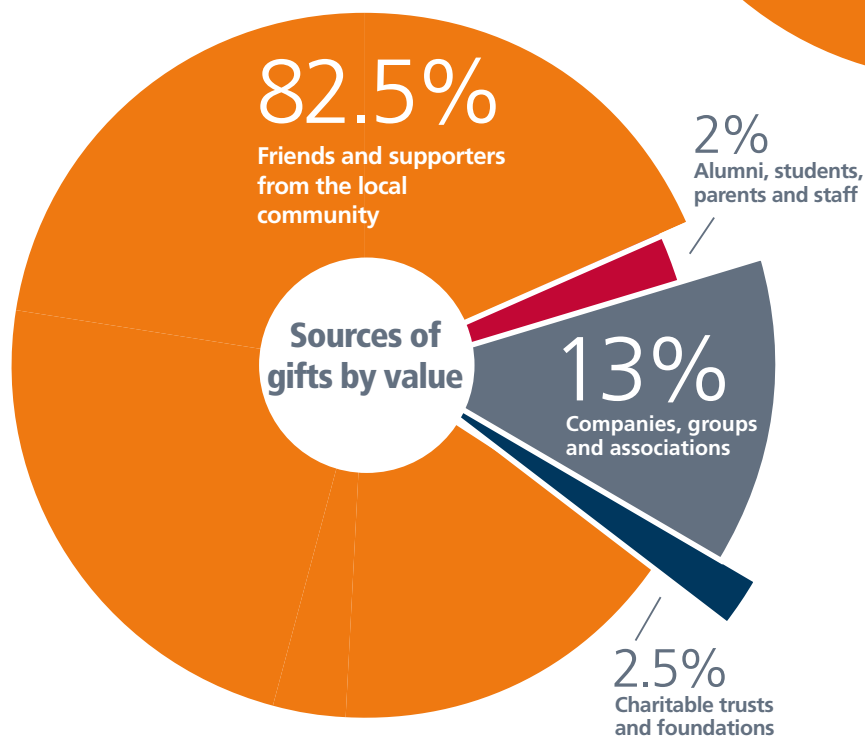
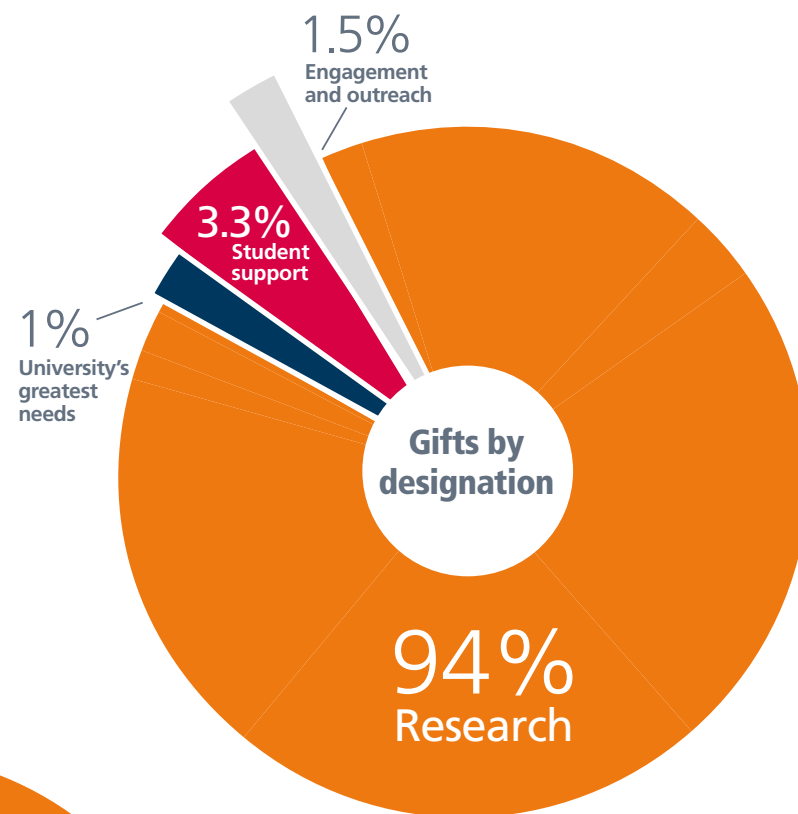
£126,923 ANNUAL FUND TOTAL

1,366 TOTAL NUMBER OF DONORS

366
NUMBER OF DONORS GIVING FOR THE FIRST TIME

693
NUMBER OF DONORS CHOOSING TO GIVE REGULARLY BY DIRECT DEBIT

*The funds secured in 2016/17 include new cash and confirmed pledges raised in the year, but exclude pledged payments from past years.



Extraordinary gift to fund kidney research

Mr Jimmy Mayer, a leading Colombian manufacturing entrepreneur, made an amazing gift to the University in May 2017: £2.7 million to fund life-saving kidney research of global significance to the College of Life Sciences. This is the second donation Mr Mayer has made to further renal research. In 2014 he gave £500,000 to the Leicester research team to fund an IgA Nephropathy research programme.

IgA Nephropathy is a condition where an individual's own antibodies settle in the kidneys and damage them by causing inflammation and scarring. Patients often do not display symptoms. Therefore, most affected people are unaware they have the condition until they have a blood or urine test. The causes are not fully known and, in extreme cases, can cause kidney failure.

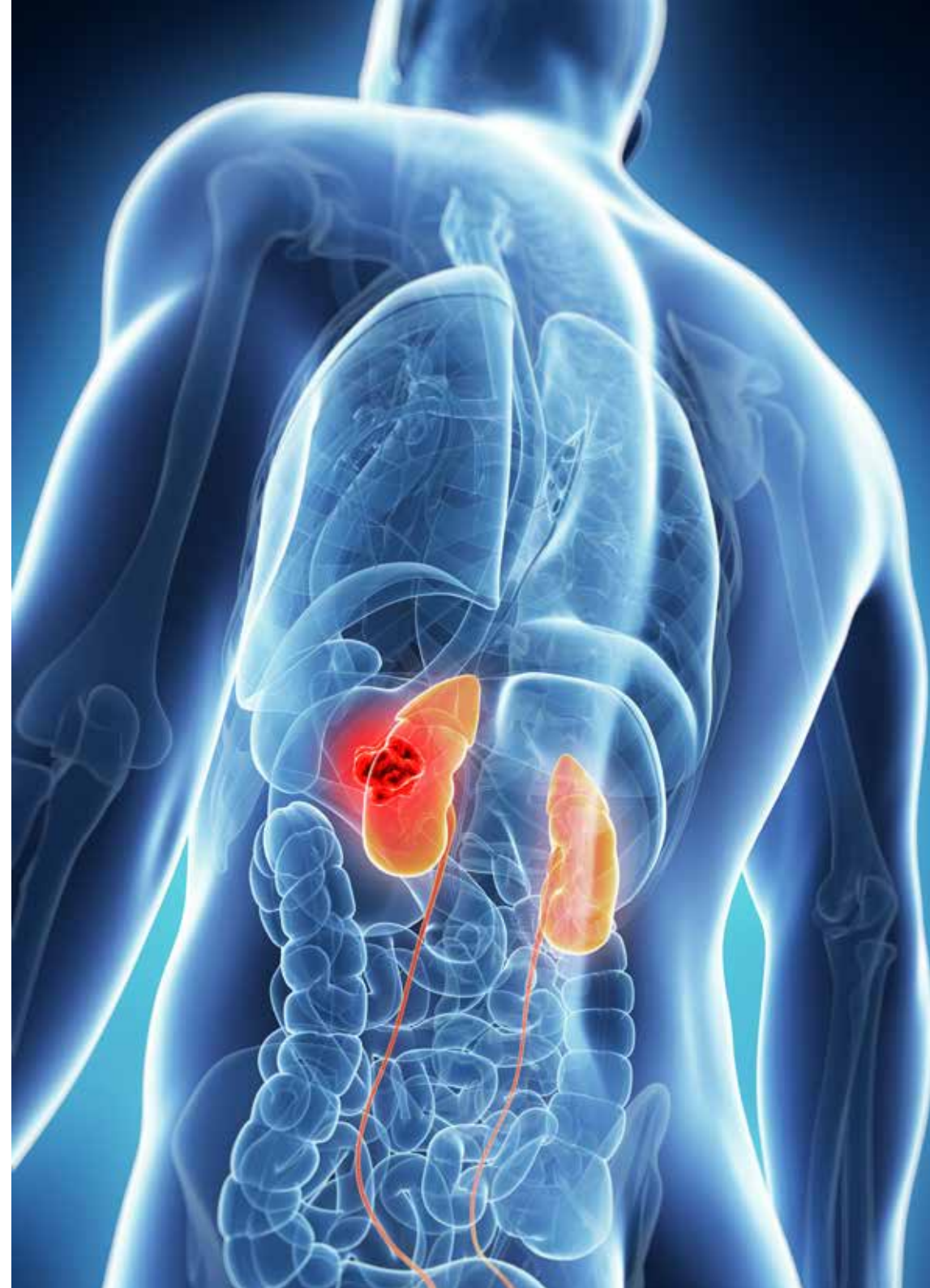
It's a cause close to Jimmy's heart. "My son was diagnosed with IgA Nephropathy in 2012 and as any father would, I started to research to better understand this condition." he said upon announcing the gift. "I wanted to know what could be done and how I could modestly contribute to these efforts.

"Through my investigation I became acutely aware of the broader implication of kidney disease in our society. I also came across the great work of the fabulous team at Leicester. I hopped on a train for a visit and have been their number one fan ever since.

"It is my sincere hope that with these efforts they can make significant progress towards a more complete understanding of IgA Nephropathy, improved treatment options and, perhaps even, a cure."

“This donation will transform our approach to the study of this common cause of kidney disease.”

Professor Jonathan Barratt



The funding is being used to create dedicated research facilities – The Mayer IgA Nephropathy Laboratories – as well as a named Professorship – the Mayer Chair in Renal Medicine. Professor Jonathan Barratt of the Department of Infection Immunity and Inflammation at the University has been named to the chair. He is leading a research group, which, with the support of this vital funding, hopes to fully understand IgA Nephropathy and eventually develop new drugs to treat it. The researchers are working to establish the world's first international registry of IgA Nephropathy patients.

“This donation will transform our approach to the study of this common cause of kidney disease,” Jonathan said. “By better understanding the causes of IgA Nephropathy, we hope it will be possible to develop better clinical tests to diagnose the disease earlier and perhaps to identify new targets for drugs to treat it.

“Over the past three years I have got to know Jimmy and his son, David, and they have been incredibly supportive of our work here in Leicester. Both have shown a real passion for understanding our work and how we are studying IgA Nephropathy. It is true to say that without their support, we would not have had the degree of scientific success we have experienced over the past three years.”

LEARN MORE

Visit www.le.ac.uk/departments/iii



▲ David Mayer and Jimmy Mayer

Margaret Mathieson

truly inspiring

Emeritus Professor Margaret Mathieson has dedicated much of her life to shaping the University of Leicester over the last 50 years, and is still giving back to the University to this day. In 2016, Margaret made an incredibly generous gift to the University's Cardiovascular Research Centre – the latest example of how much she has given to us.

We're truly honoured that Margaret has shared her story here.

Margaret's life with the University of Leicester began as an English undergraduate in the 1950s. She lived in spartan accommodation on site in part of a former hospital. She was taught by Arthur Humphries, Colin Horn and Monica Jones, who was well known as both an academic in her own right and as Philip Larkin's mistress. Margaret remembers her vividly as being very dramatic and theatrical, with blonde hair done high up and horn-rimmed spectacles.

Margaret spent most of her career working at the University until her retirement in 1997. She left twice

briefly during that time, once when she was awarded a research scholarship to undertake an MA at the University of London, and the second when she accompanied her husband (who was also at the University) to Philadelphia for two years, where she taught English at Temple University.

When Margaret returned, she joined the University in the School of Education, preparing graduates for teaching English in secondary schools. She eventually became Deputy Director, and then Director of the School. She oversaw the schools' move to the Fraser Noble Building, even outfitting it right down to the clerestory curtains and clocks.

This was quite a career for someone who initially had no academic ambition and wanted to join the Wrens.

Margaret also made her mark on the University for projects as wide ranging as bringing the Challenger Project to Leicester, enabling thousands of children to benefit from training experiences



▲ Professor Paul Boyle presenting Margaret with her Silver Hearts' Circle pin in recognition of her gift. In the photo: Professor Gerald Bernbaum, Professor Paul Boyle, Professor Nilesh Samani, Emeritus Professor Margaret Mathieson.

based on simulated space flights, to organising a series of concerts given by the famous Lindsay String Quartet. She was also a Director of the Friends of the Leicester International Music Festival, which she was responsible for introducing to the city in the very early days.

Margaret's life has been so entwined with the University, and the city, that when she was thinking

about how she might make a gift to charity, the University was foremost in her mind. After much consideration, she decided to make a gift to cardiovascular research at the University.

She was herself looked after by Professor of Cardiology Professor Nilesh Samani.

"There are so many people

affected by cardiovascular diseases and any advancement in research and treatment could make a real difference," she explained.

LEARN MORE

Visit www.le.ac.uk/departments/cardiovascular-sciences

“There are so many people affected by cardiovascular diseases and any advancement in research and treatment could make a real difference.”

Margaret Mathieson





Introducing the George Davies Centre

The University's most ambitious fundraising appeal since its founding came to a triumphant conclusion on 11 November 2017, when we officially opened the George Davies Centre. This multi-year, £42 million project has created a new home for the School of Medicine, the Department of Neuroscience, Psychology and Behaviour, and Health Sciences.

Given the working title of "The Centre for Medicine", during its construction, the building was inaugurated on 11 November as the George Davies Centre to acknowledge a £5.15 million gift from philanthropist and fashion retailer George Davies.

The new centre will be a hub of teaching excellence and high-quality research in a broad range of health and medical disciplines, from genetic epidemiology to cellular and molecular neurobiology. The research will focus on major chronic diseases such as kidney disease, diabetes, stroke and respiratory disease.

The Passivhaus building achieved BREEAM Certificate of Excellence for water, building management,

energy use, land use and ecology in June 2016. In May of this year the centre was named the Building Sustainability Project of the Year at the 2017 Global Good Awards. The Centre is a base for innovation in teaching for our medical students, including a new medical school that has a strongly patient-centred curriculum. It is proving to be the perfect place in which to deliver our undergraduate medical course. It is equipped with state-of-the-art technology, much of which our students will use when they become physicians, and they are finding the bright and spacious surroundings to be an ideal learning environment.

Our first-year medical students are able, for the first time, to attend lectures together in one auditorium; they have breakout spaces that are fully digitally enabled that can be easily adapted to individual group needs. Students are also able to access spaces that are conducive to peer-to-peer learning.

Dr Margaret Barnes-Davies, Associate Professor and Senior Admissions Tutor for Medicine, said of this groundbreaking project:

“The new Centre has provided us with a spacious, well equipped environment for teaching, and it is great to see students making good use of the informal learning areas. The flexible design of the teaching space is perfect for recruitment and selection events where we are meeting the students who will be the next generation of doctors.”

Thanks to the support of the Edith Murphy Foundation, the College of Life Sciences will be using the centre as a base from which to branch out and connect with the local community to support the needs of the people of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. The Foundation has funded a community engagement project that will open up facilities and expertise in a meaningful way to the local community. None of this would have been possible without generous gifts from our benefactors.

LEARN MORE

Visit www.le.ac.uk/mtbuild

“The new Centre has provided us with a spacious, well equipped environment for teaching and it is great to see students making good use of the informal learning areas.”

Dr Margaret Barnes-Davies



Foundation grants for gifted young medical students

A fantastic £2 million gift from an anonymous donor will help to realise the dreams of a medical education for young, gifted students from some of the most deprived communities in the East Midlands.

The course is designed to attract students from state schools and lower socio-economic groups and will encourage them to train as doctors and stay in the area to improve medical care in our local communities.

Very few UK medical schools offer a medical foundation year with equal opportunities for all at its heart. Currently 80% of all medical students in the UK hail from just 20% of schools, and of the 11,125 students who entered medicine and dentistry in 2011, just 4.1% were from the most disadvantaged backgrounds.

Addressing the lack of students from lower socio-economic backgrounds entering the medical profession is a key national priority. Now students will have a direct route into the University's innovative new medical curriculum, taking advantage of the cutting-edge George Davies Centre, the School of Medicine's new home.

Students joining the new foundation year will be offered scholarships worth £9,000. Those who pass the foundation course and either choose to continue studying medicine or another related course, will qualify for a further £2,000 per year scholarship funding for the rest of their degree. Those who complete the foundation year and a medical degree could receive scholarships worth up to £19,000.

"Leicester was a university founded by philanthropy to give local people access to greater educational opportunities, and it is with great appreciation that we thank our generous benefactors for supporting us to continue that tradition," President and Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Boyle CBE said. "Their donations not only allow us to identify and support talented young people who might otherwise not consider medicine as a career, but in time we also expect that it will provide a boost to local healthcare provision."

LEARN MORE

Visit www.le.ac.uk/departments/medicine



A boost for music on campus

Every year we award music scholarships to talented students, and it's fantastic when we can see the results of this support. The University Big Band was founded by Physics alumnus Dan Jones 20 years ago. It is currently led by final-year Geology student and drummer Alex Champion, with conductor Martha O'Sullivan, a Biological Sciences student and Alumni Music Scholar.

The band plays at student nights as well as gigs such as the Sports Awards gala evening. This year, they are joined by two singers, Holly Mulvey, a Physics graduate and Postgraduate Certificate of Education student, and Brennan Alleyne, a first-year Engineering student. They have benefited greatly from tutoring made possible by their Alumni Music Scholarships.

It has also been a busy year for the University of Leicester String Quartet, whose members have also benefited from philanthropic scholarships.

The group is made up of Medical student Paul Armitage, first violin and Philharmonia Scholar; English student Fiona Kuribashi-Coleman, viola and Alumni Music Scholar; Medical Physiology student Charlotte Dixon, second violin and Vice-Chancellor's Scholar; and History and English student Fran Oldfield, cello. They have played at many prestigious events this year, including the Black Tie Alumni Dinner at the Connaught Rooms in London with guest speaker Sir David Attenborough OM, the Legacy Lunch, and the ceremony for the appointment of Honorary Staff in the Medical School.

TO SUPPORT MUSIC SCHOLARSHIPS PLEASE CONTACT:

Rosemary Faint via +44 (0)116 252 2354,
or rosemary.faint@leicester.ac.uk,
or visit www.le.ac.uk/alumni/supportus/make-a-gift



Leicester's *sporting talent*

Leicester is renowned for its sporting prowess and we are delighted to help our students keep up that reputation through our sports scholarships.

"It gives many students the opportunity to develop and nurture their talent alongside their academic studies," explained Matt Weir, Associate Director of Sports Development.

"We have already helped a number of students to reach national and international competitions, far exceeding their expectations. We're able to do this by providing support staff, facilities and funding for new equipment.

"But it's only possible with the help of the donors who support these scholarships. With this help, I am confident they will break many records in the years to come."

Here, we catch-up with three of our Sports Scholars:

Alex Lloyd

Fencing

"The sponsorship programme has been crucial to my sporting career this year, as fencing has lost vital funding from UK Sport. Therefore, without support from the University, I wouldn't have been able to compete for England and Great Britain.

"As a result, I am delighted to have finished the season ranked 24th in Europe and being awarded the prestigious honour 'Sports Man of the Year' at the University's Sports Awards.

"Being part of the programme has also given me the opportunity to meet new and inspiring individuals, both within the University and outside, and I'm very grateful to be involved. I'm looking forward to next season. This year has spurred me on to further build on my results."





Camilla Plumb

Rowing

"The scholarship programme has given me a whole support network; I now have people around me that want to see me achieve and who are willing to help me so that I can reach my full potential.

"Having people who believe in me has boosted my confidence, and I've developed greatly as a result.

"I represented the University at my first British Universities and Colleges Sports (BUCS) event, which then led onto GB trials where I finished as one of the leading women.

"I've also just raced in the women's lightweight single scull at the Henley Royal Regatta, one of the most famous rowing events in the world.

"The funding I have received has helped me to do this, from being able to purchase vital equipment and maintaining the upkeep of my boat. I am now in a great position to represent my country and it's all thanks to the sponsorship programme."



Abigail McLindon

Hockey

"I owe a lot to the scholarship programme. It has been there for me through the good times and the bad.

"From the low of an injury – which fortunately, funding allowed me to get the physiotherapy and treatment to help me recover quicker than anticipated – to the high of winning 'Sports Woman of the Year' in the University's recent Sports Awards, there has been a team supporting me and encouraging me to keep going.

"The constant reminder that I am representing the University is a mind-set and responsibility I take with me into each game and training session to motivate me, but also as first team captain, to lead with authority and to be an inspirational role model."

TO SUPPORT SPORTS SCHOLARSHIPS PLEASE CONTACT:

Rosemary Faint via +44 (0)116 252 2354, or rosemary.faint@leicester.ac.uk, or visit www.le.ac.uk/alumni/supportus/make-a-gift



Women of Influence 2017: *The art of giving back*

Our first Women of Influence event was held just eight years ago, and if you had said to us then that we would be welcoming 100 alumni and guests and hearing from 10 inspirational speakers, we simply wouldn't have believed you. But we did, and on Thursday, 4 May 2017 we gathered at Kensington Roof Gardens in London and were treated to a variety of speakers over the course of the afternoon, all with varying messages and stories, but all with one thing in common: to challenge us to make a difference in our own communities and networks.

The keynote speech was delivered by Leicester Honorary Graduate Baroness Valerie Amos CH (LLD, 2006) who is currently Director of SOAS, University of London and has served as Undersecretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator at the UN. In her truly inspiring keynote, she asked us to reflect on the role of women and their influence in the home, workplace and philanthropy in a changing world, and noted

that the incredible influence of women in all spheres of life are not acknowledged as much as they should be.

This sentiment was echoed by many of our speakers. For example, Lord Michael Hastings, Global Head of Citizenship for KPMG International, cited evidence that 85% of people around the world don't know their purpose in life. His advice was to "find a purpose and build a life around that". Edwina Dunn, founder of The Female Lead, highlighted the importance of living female role models, and Gina Miller of the True and Fair Foundation, advised us that "It's about using the things we own. Our voice, our conscience, our actions".

We also announced our Women of Influence scholarships at the event. These scholarships are for female PhD students at the University in areas where women are currently underrepresented. This year we were able to support three exceptional and inspirational women who are all undertaking valuable and significant work and hopefully

encouraging more women to follow in their footsteps as a result. Ayosola Odunlami is researching access to higher education for students from disadvantaged backgrounds so that universities can help more talented students complete their degrees. Ayosola said she recognised the importance of raising the aspirations of young people around her and is determined to make a difference.

Shireen Nasser* is researching why tuberculosis bacteria can stay dormant in some people, who then unknowingly spread the disease to others. Her research will aid in tuberculosis drug and vaccine development to ultimately save many lives. Leah Nolan is completing a PhD in Geology. She is studying new ways to calculate and understand shifting sea temperatures in the Mississippian area 300-360 million years ago. She is set to publish several papers which could shed a light on a wide range of environmental concerns that face us all today.

Ayosola recognises the importance of raising the aspirations of young people around her and is determined to make a difference.

We wish Ayosola, Shireen, and Leah all the best in completing their PhDs over the coming months, and we extend our deepest thanks to every donor

who has contributed to these important scholarships.

*This name has been changed to protect the student's identity.

LEARN MORE

Contact Lisa Davies via
+44 (0)116 252 2153, or
lisa.davies@leicester.ac.uk



Ayosola Odunlami



“ The incredible influence of women in all spheres of life is not acknowledged as much as it should be. ”

Baroness Amos

Leah Nolan

Support for students

The University offers a range of scholarships and bursaries to help students from less-advantaged backgrounds attend University and get a world-class education.

Students can be disadvantaged for a host of reasons, and support needs are often complex. One such group is so-called “estranged” students, who study at university without support or even contact with their families.

For those who do not have emotional and financial support from their families, getting the most from their time here can be difficult. Thanks to the philanthropic support of local businessman Ian Mattioli MBE, the University is now in a position to offer extra financial support to these students, and we have begun to understand more about the scale of this issue and the needs of our estranged students.

The fund was very over-subscribed, with applicants from a diverse range of circumstances. One recipient kindly gave us permission to share her story.

Joanna is a first year medical student. Her father passed away when she was two and her mother died in a car accident in 2015. She and her two brothers lived with their stepfather, under extreme financial hardship. In 2016, her younger brother was taken into state care. Joanna’s wider family live in the Philippines, and are unable to offer any assistance. She has to rely on her boyfriend, friends and younger brothers for support while studying. She used her bursary to buy vital equipment for her course, such as a stethoscope and lab coat. It also paid for rent and travel costs to visit her siblings.

Her ambition for the future is to become a doctor, and to be in a

position to offer full-time care to both of her brothers. She hopes they can live together again soon.

Through the support of Ian’s fund, 10 estranged students, like Joanna, had access to extra financial aid to help them excel at Leicester. The recipients, and the other 15 applicants, were also offered extra support through programmes such as the University’s OnTrack scheme, which helps students with difficult circumstances complete their degrees.

The estranged student’s bursary fund is a great example of how philanthropy can change lives, and give people access to chances they perhaps never believed were available.

LEARN MORE

Contact Vin Gaten via
+44 (0)116 223 1399, or
vin.gaten@leicester.ac.uk



Major gift for the Centre for Medicine Appeal

The University recently celebrated the inspirational generosity of the Popat family, and their donation towards a lecture theatre for medical students in the George Davies Centre.

Naresh and Bina Popat, long-term supporters of the University, visited the centre in August 2016 to present a cheque for £251,000.

Naresh spoke passionately about why he supports the University, he said: "I came to Leicester in the 1970s and shortly after we moved here my father had a heart attack at the age of 79. His life was saved by a paramedic. He gave my father five more years of life, and my family and I were so grateful for this.

"I was a young man and working hard to make my way in the world, but I vowed that one day I would find a way to give back to this community and to this country that had given us so much."

In addition to their gift, Naresh and Bina have previously supported the University of Leicester British Heart Foundation Cardiovascular Research



▲ Bill Friar, Bina Popat, Naresh Popat

Centre, where world-leading research teams are conducting life-saving studies into the causes, prevention and treatment of heart disease.

University of Leicester President and Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Boyle CBE emphasised the importance of the Popat family's continuing support: "We are incredibly honoured to

work with such a committed family. Their dedication to helping us meet some of the key challenges facing the health service and the needs of patients today is truly inspiring. We are sincerely grateful for their generosity and look forward to continuing to work together in the future."



Transforming the future through legacy

The existence of the University is deeply rooted in legacy gifts, and we are proud of our heritage and all that has been achieved. Leaving a gift in your will enables you to support a cause close to your heart. We are thankful to all of our donors who choose to support our students and our research in this way.

One such donor is Terry Bishop, who graduated with a BA Sociology in 1966. "My time studying at the University of Leicester was life-changing. Terry said, "The degree programme stimulated my analytical curiosity about issues well beyond the syllabus, which ultimately led to a career in higher education where I was able to travel around the world.

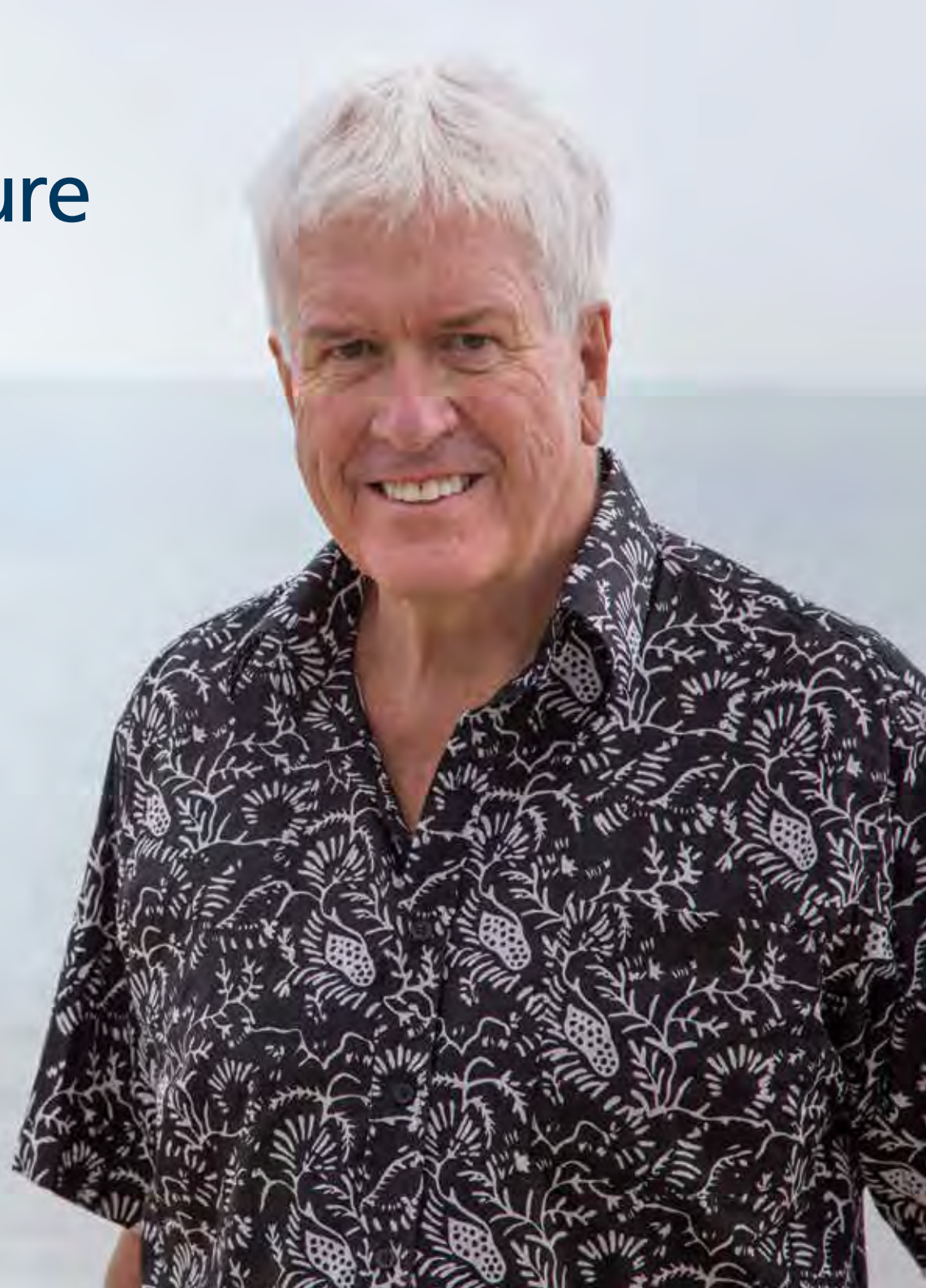
"I was privileged to be part of a small cohort of students and to have generous state support. Things have changed and the introduction of loans instead of grants and much higher tuition fees make it much tougher for today's students and for graduates starting their careers with high levels of debt.

"These changed circumstances and my gratitude for the help I received prompted me to leave a gift in my will to help students in the future who are passionate about life, see themselves contributing to the international community and are keen to be challenged by, and benefit from, the intellectual rigour of a degree from Leicester. Whilst I will not see my gift coming to fruition, it makes me happy to think it will be helping future students."

“My time studying at the University of Leicester was life-changing.”

LEARN MORE

Contact Rosie O'Connor via +44 (0)116 252 2850, or rosie.oconnor@leicester.ac.uk



30 years of *loyalty, friendship and support*

Our friendship with Dr Frank May – a retired Leicester businessman and his wife Katherine May, began over 30 years ago. Together they devoted over 60 years to public service and Frank continues to support the University in countless ways.

In the 1980s Frank was appointed to the University Council. Over the years Frank has supported the University's Attenborough Arts Centre, Holocaust Centre and Department of History, Art and Film. The May Fund was set up by Frank in 1982.

Our annual Frank May Prize Lecture showcases a stand-out programme of medical research each year. As well as honouring the research team, the lecture provides a platform for the lead researcher to share findings with other members of staff, students, and the wider community. This can lead to interdisciplinary collaboration.

Every two years we hold the prestigious Frank May Clinical Sciences Lecture. Internationally renowned medical researchers are invited to address the

University and the wider Leicester community. It is often the first time that many of our speakers have visited Leicester, but it is rarely the last. Speaking at the Clinical Sciences Lecture often forms a long-lasting mutually beneficial relationship, and in turn results in some great initiatives. This year Professor Chris Whitty, Chief Scientific Adviser for the Department of Health, will be joining us.

Inclusivity is important to Frank, and he recognises the difference art can make to people's lives. In addition to supporting the founding of the Attenborough Arts Centre, Frank commissioned a portrait of the late Lord Richard Attenborough by Bryan Organ, which greets every visitor upon their arrival at the Centre.

In 2008 Frank wanted to celebrate students who gave up their free time to help others. As a result he sponsored in perpetuity a student volunteer of the year award. Each year, a student who has shown outstanding voluntary commitment to our community is awarded the Frank May Cup and

is honoured at an awards ceremony. This year's winner was Salwa Almayouf.

While studying for her PhD in Cancer Genetics, Salwa volunteered at a Cancer Research UK charity shop and has volunteer fundraised for the University of Leicester Cancer Research UK Society and Leicester Marrow Society. Notably, Salwa also supported last year's hugely successful Leicester Heroes event, which broke the record for the most people signed up to the stem cell donor registry in a single day. Salwa was delighted to receive the award and said: "I am very honoured and thankful too, for being recognised by winning the prestigious Frank May Cup award for volunteering, especially when I have been volunteering for a cause that is personal and matters a lot to me."

Frank received his Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws in 1992, and in 2005 he became an Honorary Distinguished Fellow, the highest honour the University can bestow. Frank received an MBE in 1994. In 2001 he was granted the Freedom of the City of Leicester for his commitment to the community.



Most recently, Dr May has sponsored the 'People's Choice Award' at the University's annual Images of Research exhibition in memory of Katherine, his late wife. We intend to award this for the first time in 2018.

Without a doubt Dr May has had a significant impact on the University's research, students and reputation. We are incredibly grateful for such unwavering support and know that it will continue to make a difference now and in the future.

Visionary gift to vascular research

George Davies, the most influential fashion retailer on the British high street, has recently gifted £5.15 million to the University of Leicester and Leicester's hospitals to further vascular research.

Worldwide, every 30 seconds, a limb is amputated due to vascular disease with a major amputation taking place every two hours in the UK. With thousands of people in the UK affected by vascular disease and poor circulation, George wanted to bring awareness to a cause that could be prevented with efficient research.

George's biggest passion is supporting good causes and focusing his energy on improving the lives of others. For him there is no greater feeling than giving something back.

George told us that "working with charities close to my heart is extremely important to me. In particular, vascular care and Type 2 diabetes needs further funding to create wider awareness. We need to educate all ages about the severity of the symptoms if left untreated."

The gift will be dedicated to vascular research at the University of Leicester, establishing the George Davies Chair of Vascular Surgery, as well as enabling Leicester's hospitals to open a Vascular Limb Salvage Unit at Glenfield Hospital.

The Unit will allow a limb salvage team to identify and treat patients with poor leg circulation quickly and prevent amputation. In addition, research will be supported to identify the underlying causes of limb loss, including Type 2 diabetes.

LEARN MORE

Visit www.le.ac.uk/departments/cardiovascular-sciences

University of Leicester British Heart Foundation Cardiovascular Research Centre



Matt Walter's Memorial Scholarship

supporting a new generation



The Matt Walter Memorial Scholarship has been awarded to two talented Engineering students this year, Munzer Chahin and Sally Cluley.

Munzer was forced to leave war-torn Syria recently but has worked hard to set up a life for himself and his family. The money from the scholarship has allowed him to settle in Leicester and progress to his second year of study.

"This award has enabled me to take on new experiences beyond the classroom," Munzer said. "I really love my programme of study, it is busy but I enjoy it. Learning and working is a good combination, and thanks to this award I was able to pass my first year without any problems."

Sally is a mature student who left full-time employment to embark on an engineering degree. She is determined to become a Chartered Engineer, and with the financial support she has received, she is well on the way to reaching her goal.

"The Matt Walter Memorial Scholarship has allowed me to be fully

involved in university life as a mature student, without the financial stresses that I first anticipated when considering university," Sally explained. "I have been able to focus on achieving the best grades that I can, which has boosted my self-esteem. I therefore now feel much more confident in my ability at university following a successful first year. I have been able to build a solid foundation of knowledge on which I can continue to build in future years."

The remainder of the money raised has been contributed to Leicester OnTrack – a new programme that provides students from disadvantaged backgrounds the support they need to stay in university and succeed.

Matt's family sent the following statement: "We are delighted that the awards have been made to such determined people and we wish them well in their studies and future careers."

TO MAKE A GIFT IN MEMORY PLEASE CONTACT

Rosie O'Connor via
+44 (0)116 252 2850 or
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Henry and Karen Doyle Bursary

Henry and Karen Doyle have been supporters of the University of Leicester for many years. Having both trained and worked as lawyers in Leicester, they understand the difficulties faced by many students in trying to qualify as a lawyer and particularly where there may be financial or other constraints due to changes in family circumstances which might prevent them from completing their studies.

They set up this award to financially help a student each year who may need some extra support to realise their ambition and who wishes to pursue their career in the city of Leicester. As well as financial support over the years, they have always looked to assist these and other students whether that be by general advice, help during their training period, or mentoring.

This year, the beneficiary of the award was Beatriz Alva*, a former student at St Paul's Catholic School in Leicester, and currently a student in Law with Modern Language at the University. Beatriz is a promising student and she is already playing an active mentoring role herself, acting as a Course Representative and giving students the opportunity to voice any concerns or problems they may have.

Beatriz said: "Without the award, I wouldn't be able to buy the practice questions and study guides that helped me with my internship application. The practice questions helped me realise how much I

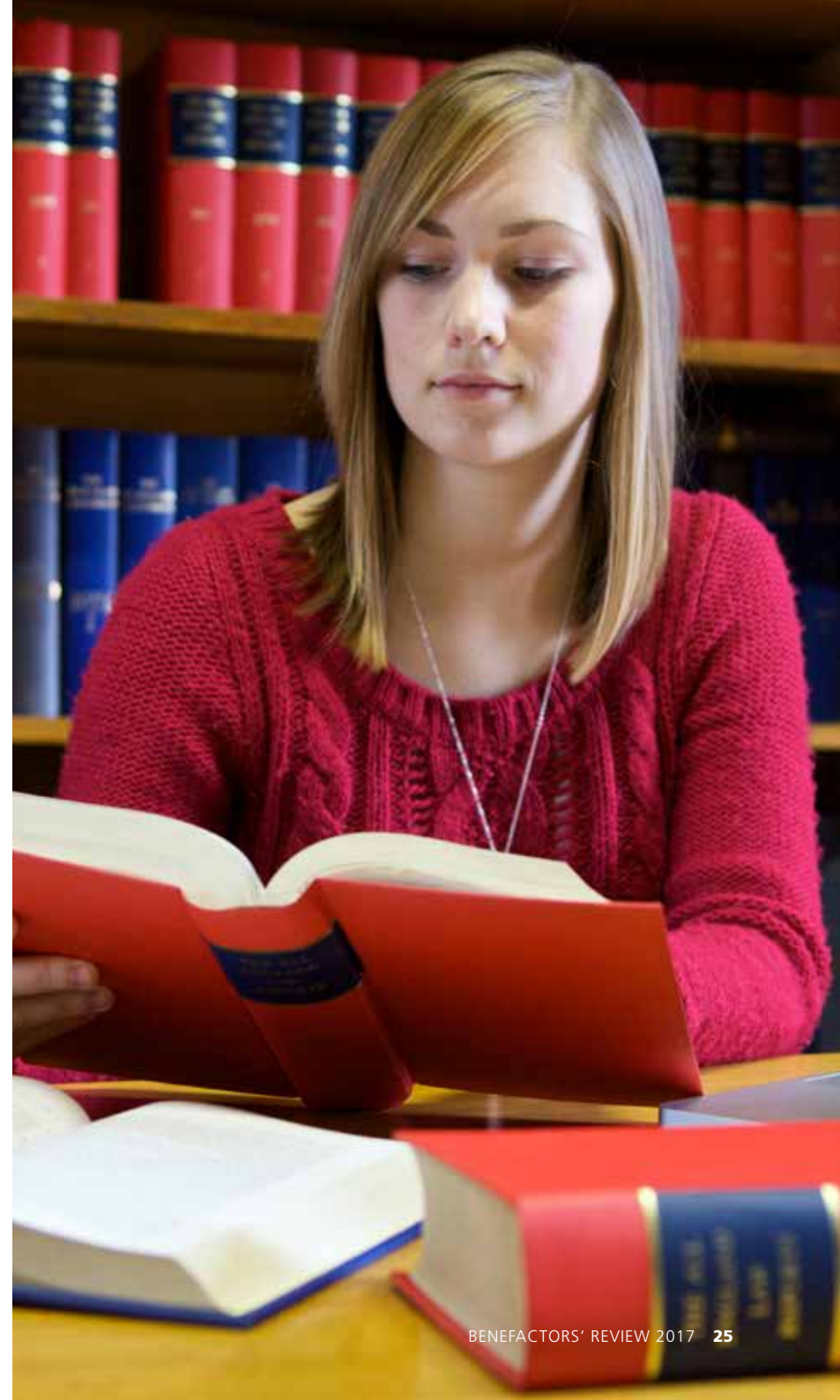
needed to work if I wanted to succeed and helped me focus on improving responses to different scenarios so that I had a better chance of succeeding. A laptop was another thing that I wouldn't have been able to buy without the award. Overall, I was able to acquire different tools that helped me work on improving my applications and save time whilst doing so."

Henry and Karen added: "We are delighted to support Beatriz in her aim to qualify as a lawyer and wish her all the best in her continuing studies."

*This name has been changed to protect the student's identity.

TO ESTABLISH A SCHOLARSHIP PLEASE CONTACT

Lisa Davies via
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lisa.davies@leicester.ac.uk



Revolutionising the public transport experience

Ciaran Deasy is a Computer Science graduate who, as part of a third-year project, developed an innovative product called Sphere, an automated messaging tool that lets commuters communicate with nearby transport services via social media channels such as Facebook Messenger.

For example, it understands queries such as: "Can you get me home now?" as a request to start planning and booking a journey for the commuter from their current location to their home address, taking into account previous personal preferences such as fastest route and accessibility.

Seeing the potential in Ciaran's project, Professor Reiko Heckel, Head of Informatics, encouraged Ciaran to take part in the University's flagship start-up programme, Launchpad Leicester, through which students who have innovative and ambitious start-up plans have access to seed funding, workshops, coaching and networking events to help make their ideas a reality.

Delivered by the Career Development Service, the programme has been backed by Santander Universities, who support the University to nurture an enterprising culture across the institution.

Through this programme, and working with mentors such as Dr Constantina Katsari-Murston from StartDoms and Ben Ravilius from Leicester Startups, he has been able to fund his work alongside his studies, and the support he has been given has helped him to refine his product. So much so, that he even had the confidence to submit an application to the London Midland Labs Accelerator programme, which aims to form fruitful partnerships with innovative start-up companies leading to transformations across the transport industry.

Impressively, Ciaran was the youngest applicant and the only student, and still managed to fight off tough competition from 120 other entrants to be one of only 10 chosen. The application was judged



▲ Ciaran Deasy and Luke Ellis, Santander Universities

on technical expertise, commercial acumen and understanding of the challenges and opportunities that London Midland faces.

Now Ciaran has access to vast technical resources and premium office space to help grow his business, and he has even been able to work with Microsoft and Facebook to learn how he can

better integrate his product into the marketplace. "The funding enabled me to cover the technical costs of my endeavour and the support really helped me develop an understanding of what it means to be a young entrepreneur. An opportunity like this should not be overlooked and I would strongly recommend entrepreneurial-minded students to apply."

This year marks 10 years of Santander Universities, and we held a celebration at the University to celebrate the success of its higher education programme supporting scholars throughout the UK and to thank Santander for the support it has given to the University. Without this funding we wouldn't be able to help budding entrepreneurs like Ciaran.

“The funding enabled me to cover the technical costs of my endeavour and the support really helped me develop an understanding of what it means to be a young entrepreneur. An opportunity like this should not be overlooked and I would strongly recommend entrepreneurial-minded students to apply.”

Ciaran Deasy



Freeths

Bursary and Work Placement Award

Freeths is a highly regarded law firm with a particular focus on encouraging and supporting diversity in the legal industry. The University has been involved with Freeths' mentoring programme for some time, and this year we are delighted that Freeths has made a generous offer to support University of Leicester Law students by launching a Bursary and Work Placement Award scheme.

Alongside the bursary, the students will also benefit from a much sought-after day placement opportunity at the Freeths' Leicester offices. This gives them valuable insight into a career as a solicitor, and an opportunity to see how their skills can be adapted to a practical work environment.

This year's recipients, Noushin Chowdhury, Gary Johnston* and Pavandeep Kaur, have just completed their placements. They were delighted with the chance to have a 'day in the life of' experience, which has increased their determination to embark on a legal career. They are hugely grateful for the opportunity.

Upon completing her placement, Noushin Chowdry said: "The award has been very significant to my personal development as I have gained an invaluable experience by being able to work in a large law firm and seeing what working in such a firm entails. I was also able to work with and speak to solicitors, which was particularly helpful as I was allowed to ask for advice, and it gave me a better understanding of the day-to-day work of a solicitor, which is the career path I would like to pursue after I graduate from university."

Francois du Bois, Head of Leicester Law School, is also very appreciative of Freeths' continued support of the Law School. Francois said, "Freeths' generosity makes a real difference not only to the individual bursary recipients, but also to Leicester Law School's ability to open up opportunities for professional success by widening participation in high-quality legal education.

With one of the most diverse student bodies in the country, combined with a consistent top 10 league table performance in

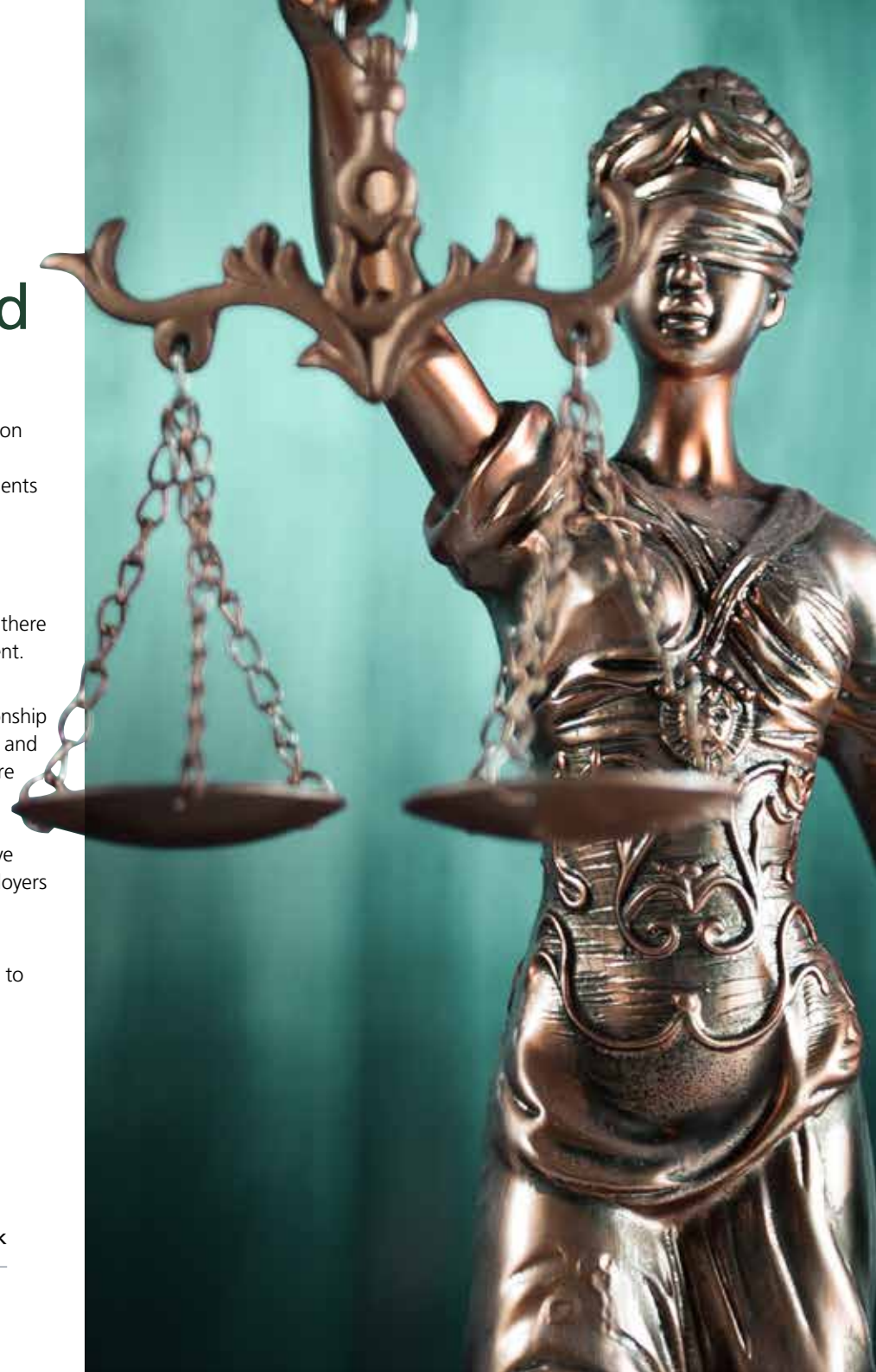
graduate employment, we are making a significant contribution to diversification in the legal profession. By supporting students at a time when they – and our University – are experiencing increasing financial pressure, bursaries of this kind help to maintain this, especially when there is a work experience component.

This partnership with Freeths symbolises the growing relationship between Leicester Law School and the legal profession, and we are proud to be associated with a firm of such distinction. We are confident that this will serve as an inspiration to other employers of our law graduates, locally, regionally, and nationally."

*This name has been changed to protect the student's identity.

LEARN MORE

Contact Lisa Davies via
+44 (0)116 252 2153, or
lisa.davies@leicester.ac.uk



The Annual Fund: Supporting change in the community

The Annual Fund opens up great possibilities through alumni donations, with help from our team of committed and enthusiastic student callers. Those of you who are alumni, may have spoken to one of these students.

In 2016 one of the major impacts of the campaign was the ability to install a fully accessible changing room in the Attenborough Arts Centre, a venue which prides itself on offering inclusive access to the disabled community. This was thanks to the members of our Family Programme who kindly donated over £1,100 through the Annual Fund Telephone Campaign in the autumn. Accessible changing rooms are really important for people with additional needs, because standard sized cubicles often fail to accommodate. This makes Attenborough Arts Centre a unique centre for the disabled community, as it offers a broader range of accessible facilities.

Tom is 17 years old, physically and learning disabled, and life limited. He is co-dependent and relies on these changing facilities, which now allow him to be at peace during what he considers a very intrusive procedure.

Tom is one example of the many people who have benefited from what the Annual Fund contributions are making possible each year.

So far, since its launch in 2003, the Annual Fund has helped raise over £1 million, and has created a huge impact on student opportunities provide facilities that help students, staff and the local community.

LEARN MORE

Contact Rosemary Faint via +44(0)116 252 2354,
or rosemary.faint@leicester.ac.uk



Roll of benefactors 2017

The University would like to thank all our donors listed below, and also the donors of 450 anonymous gifts made between 1 May 2016 and 31 July 2017.

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

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