



UNIVERSITY OF
LEICESTER



BOLD VISION BIG IDEAS

IMPACT OF
PHILANTHROPY AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER

2017 - 2018



WELCOME



As Chair of the Philanthropy Advisory Board I have the enjoyable role of promoting the importance of philanthropic support for the University. Members of the Board are volunteers who believe in the power of education and the important role that the University of Leicester plays in the UK and throughout the world. We are privileged to see first-hand the wonderful impact gifts have on the University, its students and academics. On behalf of all of us, thank you!

PHILANTHROPY ADVISORY BOARD

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The University is a lively, energetic and global community, home to more than 20,000 talented students, working towards and helping to shape the future. We are world-renowned in research disciplines ranging from genetics to space research, and from museum studies to diabetes. We are a university committed to international excellence,

life-saving research and high-quality, inspirational teaching. We are also dedicated to providing equal access to higher education for all.

Philanthropy plays a vital role in making this possible. Each and every gift increases our ability to invest in research that saves and enriches lives. Gifts enable us to foster a learning environment that transforms the prospects of our students and those they will go on to influence.

We are extremely grateful to all those who support the University, and to recognise this generous support we have added your name to our Donor Roll. To view the Donor Roll please visit: www.le.ac.uk/supporters

It is an honour to be associated with such a wonderful university, a university founded through philanthropy as a living memorial to those who served in World War One.



UNIVERSITY PRIORITIES

STUDENT SUPPORT

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

RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

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

INFRASTRUCTURE AND ESTATES

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

GREATEST NEED

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

Our donor community continues to grow and we hope you will join us this year in supporting the University of Leicester and its core priorities.

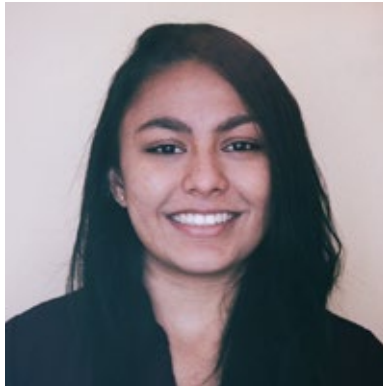
Enjoy reading about the impact of philanthropy in this booklet. We look forward to keeping in touch with you throughout the year. Thank you again for your generous support.

With best wishes from all at Leicester,

Professor Robin Graham-Brown
BSc MB FRCP FRCPCH
Chairman, University of Leicester
Philanthropy Advisory Board

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TRAINING A NEW GENERATION OF DOCTORS



This course has given me the opportunity to fulfil my dream.

ANMOL LANDA

”

In 2017 the first cohort of the new Medicine with Foundation Year started their training. The course addresses a national priority of attracting students from state schools and lower socio-economic groups into medicine. Leicester’s course will prepare students and encourage them to stay in the region to improve medical care in our local communities.

Benefitting from philanthropic and matching support of £9,000 each, 15 students from the East Midlands went through a rigorous selection process. They were given a direct route into the School’s innovative new curriculum, which puts patients at the heart of healthcare education.

At the core of our tailored curriculum we are developing a bespoke clinical empathy-enhancing teaching programme to nurture and maintain empathy skills while learning to

cope with high academic demands in subsequent years.

Anmol Landa was one of the first students to complete this course. “I’m really happy that I chose the Medical Foundation Year,” she said. “I enjoyed the opportunity to meet and talk to patients about their lives and experiences, something I never expected to do this early in my training, and I know this will definitely make me a better doctor in future.”

“It’s my passion to help people and make them better. This course has given me the opportunity to fulfil my dream.”

Now that she has successfully completed the Foundation Year, Anmol will stay at the University to complete her Medicine degree.

Up to 25 students from the East Midlands can receive the full £9,000 support each year.

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SUPPORTING SPORTING SUPERSTARS

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I can't thank the donors enough.

JOSH CRANE

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Student athletes are realising their sporting ambitions alongside their academic studies, thanks to the generosity of our donors.

Josh Crane, a second-year Chemistry student and Regional Sports Scholar, was five years old when he started playing ice hockey, and nine when he began playing in goal. Aged 18, he signed a two-way contract with Milton Keynes Thunder and Coventry Blaze, which he has renewed again this year.

“I love ice hockey and I have loved my first year of university, although I would've struggled a lot without the financial support,” he said. “I train every Tuesday and Thursday and have games most weekends. The money has helped with fuel costs and allowed me to buy new

kit, definitely contributing to my success this year.”

And what a year Josh has had, with MK Thunder making the play-offs and Coventry Blaze undefeated. Next, he is preparing for the GB university squad trials and has high hopes to turn professional in the future.

Josh's scholarship provided £500, gym membership, a personal trainer and a physiotherapist. He also had access to coaching qualifications and an athlete life skills coaching programme.

Philanthropic support funds 10 sports scholars like Josh each year. “I really can't thank the donors enough. Everything they do is incredible and I want to thank them so much for this opportunity. The scholarship has made such a difference to me,” he said.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2017-2018



OVER £500,000 RAISED FOR STUDENT SUPPORT

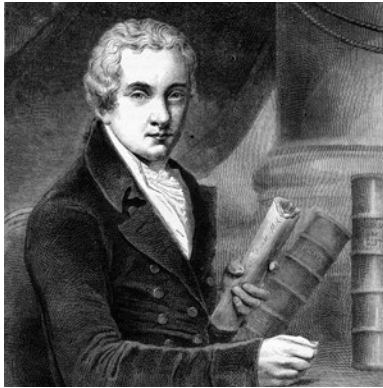


823 DONORS SUPPORTED STUDENT SUPPORT



100 CENTENARY SCHOLARSHIPS FUNDED IN 2017-18

REDISCOVERING HISTORY



It is a rare opportunity to work on a neglected source of this importance.

PROFESSOR JOHN COFFEY



A rich historical source shedding light on 18th and 19th century England is being rediscovered.

William Wilberforce (1759 – 1833) was an English politician and tireless parliamentary campaigner against the slave trade until the passage of the Slave Trade Act of 1807. During his lifetime, he kept personal diaries detailing his fight which, until now, have remained largely untouched by scholars.

Research funding in this area is scarce. Thanks to philanthropic support, John Coffey, Professor of Early Modern History, is leading a project to produce a major multi-volume edition of the diaries. They will shed light on a career of pivotal significance in terms of the relationship between Europe and the wider world.

“Although he is a famous British figure, his manuscripts have not been properly studied,” he explained. “His sons put together five volumes which used only

10 per cent of his writings. There’s another 90 per cent that has been unpublished for nearly 200 years.

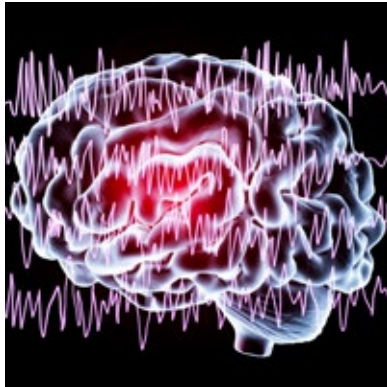
“By any measure, these manuscripts are among the most significant unpublished diaries from the time. It is a rare opportunity to work on a neglected source of this importance.

“His words tell us about the history of Parliament, the campaign to abolish slavery and the incidents of his daily life. It’s a really rich historical source that should be made available.”

Working in conjunction with Oxford University Press and colleagues at the University of Oxford and the Open University, the project will transcribe all of his diaries, covering half a century of public life.

“This project wouldn’t be possible without philanthropic support. With almost one million words, this is a massive undertaking. The funding has allowed for a complete first draft of the transcription.”

UNDERSTANDING EPILEPSY



Our research is seeking understanding of what happens in the brain in different forms of epilepsies.

DR VINCENZO MARRA



More than 500,000 people in the UK live with epilepsy. Yet it is an area that is relatively underfunded in comparison to other medical research.

The University is pioneering research into preventative treatments for this condition. In 2016, we identified a mechanism in the brain that reduces the severity and risk of seizure. The aim is to develop a treatment that mimics this.

“Our research is seeking understanding of what happens in the brain in different forms of epilepsies, in the hope of finding a therapy to prevent or cure these forms of acquired epilepsy,” explained Dr Vincenzo Marra, Lecturer, Department of Neuroscience, Psychology and Behaviour.

We are one step closer to achieving this, thanks to a gift of £200,000, made in memory of a family member affected by epilepsy.

“The gift will be used to purchase a bespoke microscopy system,” said Dr Marra. “The remaining funds will be used to support a PhD student who will perform fundamental research to understand the mechanisms of epilepsy.”

The studentship will provide dedicated resources to delve deeper into the neurological condition, and the new equipment will simultaneously study electrical activity and morphology of brain tissue. As a result of this gift, researchers are closer to improving the lives of those living with epilepsy.



OVER £3.5M IN
PHILANTHROPIC
SUPPORT GIVEN
TO SUPPORT
RESEARCH



NEW
PROFESSORSHIP
IN ENVIRONMENT,
HEALTH AND
SUSTAINABILITY
ESTABLISHED



11 DONORS GAVE
£10,000 OR MORE
TO SUPPORT
RESEARCH

HOME FOR PIONEERING HEART RESEARCH



The research undertaken in the CRC...is having a real impact on patients not only in the UK but worldwide.

PROFESSOR SIR NILESH SAMANI

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When it opened in 2014, the University’s British Heart Foundation Cardiovascular Research Centre (CRC) brought together scientists, clinicians and patients under one roof. Our vision was to improve the diagnosis, prognosis and treatment of cardiovascular diseases, which kill more than 170,000 people in the UK annually, and to be a leader in transformative medical research.

Four years on, the state-of-the-art facility situated at Glenfield Hospital has established the University as a regional hub for translational cardiovascular research.

“The research undertaken in the CRC, from heart failure to heart arrhythmias, stroke and peripheral vascular disease, is having a real impact on patients not only in the UK but worldwide,” said Sir Nilesh Samani, Professor of Cardiology and Director of the Leicester NIHR Biomedical Research Unit in Cardiovascular Disease.

Recent news includes:

- Leading worldwide efforts into the identification of more than 100 genes that affect the risk of a heart attack, paving new ways towards prevention and treatment.
- Opening the first ever ‘aortic cardiology clinic’, diagnosing and assessing patients with aortic disease, and contributing to the research of this life-threatening condition.
- Being chosen as the lead of 11 centres investigating the use of Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO) on the outcomes of patients who have had a severe heart attack.

“This would not have been possible without the generosity and support of people who helped to establish the CRC,” added Professor Samani.

Over 850 individuals, groups, associations and companies throughout Leicester and Leicestershire gave £12.6 million in generous philanthropic support to make this facility a reality.

STATE-OF-THE-ART MOOTING



The Mooting Room will be a dedicated facility for students to develop their legal skills in a realistic environment.

PROFESSOR FRANCOIS DU BOIS



A new facility will enhance the practical experience of our Law students, thanks to the generosity of alumni Sir Nicholas (LLB Law, 1980; Honorary Doctor of Laws, 2017) and Lady Green (BA Social Sciences, 1980).

Their gift of £50,000 is enabling us to construct a Mooting Room. A moot is a mock court hearing in which two teams of two students argue fictitious civil or criminal cases before a panel of judges. Mooting is a big part of the experience of Law students.

“The Mooting Room will be a dedicated facility for students to develop their legal skills in a realistic environment,” explained Professor François du Bois, Head of Leicester Law School.

The skills developed in mooting are essential for future law professionals, improving their advocacy, research,

presentation and writing skills. Currently, Law students gain valuable hands-on mooting experience during extra-curricular society activities, using whatever space is available on campus.

“The legal profession is extremely competitive; some application forms even ask candidates to prove evidence of their mooting experience. Integrating mooting into our Law courses will give students the opportunity to carry out assessed moots and gain feedback.

“For educating the next generation of engaged and well-trained lawyers, mooting experience is essential and will give our students the kick-start to the career that they deserve. We are extremely grateful for this gift to allow us to realise this very important project,” he added.



859 DONORS
SUPPORTED THE
CARDIOVASCULAR
RESEARCH CENTRE



OVER £500M
BEING INVESTED
INTO THE CAMPUS
ESTATE OVER THE
NEXT DECADE



25,000 STUDENTS
AND STAFF
MAKE USE OF
THE UNIVERSITY
FACILITIES
ANNUALLY

FLEXIBILITY TO MEET EMERGING NEEDS



I received a scholarship when I started at the University. Without it, I couldn't have funded my place here.

MEGAN SCOTCHER



If you'd like to dedicate your support to the University more generally, consider a gift to our Greatest Need. This fund enables us to respond quickly and meaningfully across campus to changing circumstances as they arise.

Gifts of all sizes to our Greatest Need are very much appreciated and collectively can be transformational. Your gift, combined with those of others, makes a significant and immediate impact upon the quality of the Leicester experience for our students and staff.

One such donor to support the Greatest Need is Mr Ian Imlay MBE (Honorary Masters of Music, 1983; Distinguished Honorary Fellow, 2013), "I have a deep respect for the University. I support the Greatest Need, because I trust the University to use my gifts wisely. I want my gifts to make the biggest impact they can for

the areas of work that need it the most."

Over 250 people have given more than £260,000 to the Greatest Need fund, through appeals and telephone calls with current students on campus.

The students really enjoy hearing from alumni about where life has taken them since graduation. It's also a great opportunity for them to update graduates on the latest University news and activities.

"I received a scholarship when I started at the University," said fourth-year Medical student Megan Scotcher who was one of our student callers. "Without it, I couldn't have funded my place here. I am pleased to be a part of the calling campaign that helps students in a similar situation achieve their dreams."

RECOGNISING YOUR SUPPORT FOUNDERS' CIRCLE

Philanthropic support continues to grow year on year, thanks to you.

Owner of communications business Dunnell Gillingwater and Associates, alumna Claire Gillingwater (BA Combined Studies, 1983) made a gift of £1,000 to our Centenary Scholarships last year.

"I really believe that education is at the heart of everything we do and therefore want to support those for whom that opportunity isn't always available because of their personal circumstances," she said.

"It was quite a while ago now, but I had a really good time at the University of Leicester and I have fond memories of that formative time of my life – that's why I chose to give something back so that others may benefit from what the University offers."

With gifts of £1,000 or more, donors join the Founders' Circle.



The Founders' Circle connects individuals with a shared vision to make a difference for our students and academics and prepare the University for tomorrow.

"I am very proud to be a University of Leicester graduate and I still feel a connection today," Claire added. "This is why I continue to support the University. I hope that my gift gives students the opportunity to have as good an experience and education as I had."

HIGHLIGHTS
FROM 2017-2018



£81,000 WAS
RAISED THROUGH
THE UNIVERSITY
TELEPHONE
CAMPAIGN



50 MEMBERS OF
THE FOUNDERS'
CIRCLE



£261,000
GIVEN TO THE
GREATEST NEED

Thank you for your support.

With your help, we are able to raise vital funds which are essential for the continued development of the University, the wellbeing of our students, the advancement of world-changing research, and offering inspirational teaching.

www.le.ac.uk/giving

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



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