

Shaping Futures

The newsletter for supporters of Nottingham Trent University

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2009 Issue 3

Message from the Vice-Chancellor



Thank you for your support of Nottingham Trent University during the academic year 2008-2009. As a direct result of your generosity our students are benefiting from additional opportunities and resources that help to enhance the overall student experience and enable the University to continue to deliver education and research that shape lives and society.

It is an exciting time to be part of the Nottingham Trent University community with the stunning transformation of our Newton and Arkwright buildings nearing completion, the most significant estate development in the University's history. This ambitious regeneration programme provides a unique opportunity to deliver a truly inspirational learning environment for generations of students to come.

Earlier this year we announced the launch by our Chancellor Sir Michael Parkinson, of the Chancellor's Building Futures Appeal to help us complete the state-of-the-art Student Support Centre which will become the heart of the new-look City site.

If you haven't already supported the appeal I hope that you will consider making a gift to ensure that students receive the very best support they can during their time at NTU.

Professor Neil Gorman DL
Vice-Chancellor

News from the Alumni Fund Calling Team

A big thank you from the Alumni Fund Calling Team to all who contributed to the fund in the Autumn 2008 Telephone Programme! Over £34,000 was pledged by NTU graduates who we phoned during October and November to support a wide range of additional student resources and opportunities, as well as pioneering research.

And in the Spring 2009 Telephone Programme, the Alumni Fund was proud to support the Chancellor's Building Futures Appeal, with gifts from alumni contributing towards the completion of the new and integrated Student Support Centre. More than £32,000 has been pledged by former students over the phone in support of the appeal so thank you!



Connecting current and former students

Note perfect

Generous donations to the Alumni Fund have struck a chord with gifted young musicians at the University.

Our first-ever special awards for music were announced earlier this year, with winners Ellie Forbes, Catherine Rich and Duc-Yen Truong being selected for their talent, potential and commitment to the University's musical life. Ellie, a first year Psychology student, received the Alumni Fund Award for Music, enabling her to purchase a high quality violin for use during her time at NTU. "It's brilliant news," said Ellie, who has previously been playing an instrument which belonged to her great-grandfather. "Of course I love my old violin but it will be wonderful to play a new one - I'm looking for something with a deep, gorgeous tone. I'm so grateful to all the people who donate to the Alumni Fund because not everyone has the opportunity to go out and buy a new instrument - it's very exciting." Ellie, a grade 8 violinist, is a member of NTU's Orchestra, Choir and Chamber Choir. As part of the prize, she will keep the violin throughout the three years of her studies and after that the instrument will remain the property of NTU.

Meanwhile, Catherine is the winner of the Clifford Beck Music Award, an annual scholarship set up in memory of a former lecturer. A first year Biosciences student, she has been playing the cello for a decade, is grade 8 standard and belongs to the NTU Orchestra. However, she chose to spend her £150 award money on singing tuition, which will support her work with the NTU Choir and Chamber Choir. She said: "Continuing with my music at university was essential for me - and to receive this award is amazing. I really

wanted lessons but found that I probably wouldn't be able to afford them. I'd like to thank Mr Beck's family for the opportunities this award has given me."

Meanwhile, flautist Duc-Yen Truong - known as Dee - has been awarded £90 to contribute to her music lessons. The second year Computer Science student was a runner-up in the auditions for the Alumni Fund award and the standard of her work was so exceptional that she was given this special prize.



A duet of awards for music-lovers Catherine (left) and Ellie

Going for gold

Jacqui makes a splash thanks to new Alumni Fund award

Talented rower Jacqui Round is riding on the crest of a wave after racing her way to a special sports award – created thanks to the NTU Alumni Fund.

Jacqui (22), who has represented Great Britain at both Junior and Under 23 level, is the first athlete to receive this new award aimed at promising sports people who study at NTU. Her ultimate dream is to succeed at the London Olympics in 2012.

The £2,000 award package will help her balance her studies with the rigours of training to ensure she keeps ahead in her sport. She enthused: "I want to say thanks very much to everyone who contributes to the Alumni Fund, I hope I can make them proud. This grant will help me so much – it means I can focus more on my training rather than having to worry about money."



Jacqui Round has rowed her way to the first-ever sports award created via the Alumni Fund

Making a difference

Here is a selection of some of the latest initiatives made possible thanks to the support of former students through the Alumni Fund:



Modelling kits make spectrochemistry come to life

The Alumni Fund has been able to help provide 3D molecular modelling kits for Chemistry and Forensic Science students in the School of Science and Technology at Clifton. The kits will enable them to create models in their own time and work with academic staff to aid understanding of spectrochemistry.



New equipment gives students a closer look at cell microscopy

Additional laboratory equipment has also been funded to help students on Animal and Equine Science programmes in the School of Animal, Rural and Environmental Sciences at the University's Brackenhurst campus to learn about cell microscopy.



New equipment helps students cook up a treat

Donations to the Alumni Fund are a vital ingredient in a project which will serve up food preparation skills to school children. The School of Education has used the money to buy COOKITs - a unique range of high-quality equipment and utensils suitable for teaching cookery in primary schools or in cooking clubs designed by the Focus on Food Campaign. These new resources will provide practical hands-on experience for Primary Education students as they teach cooking skills and food-related knowledge to pupils, helping them prepare a range of dishes from fresh ingredients. They will receive similar training to that being offered to schools within the Food Partnership Scheme, a government-backed initiative. Primary Education Lecturer Annette Bindon said: "With growing awareness of obesity and poor nutritional standards in the diets of children, the government is actively promoting food preparation skills in schools. This equipment will not only enhance our students' learning experience but also benefit teachers and pupils in the schools in which they train."

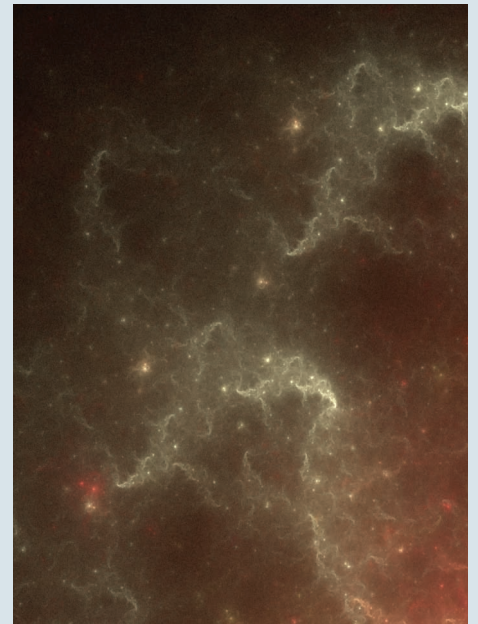
Portable learning makes picking up languages easier

Thirty MP4/MP3 players have been purchased to provide a portable form of learning across the University Language Programme (ULP). This marks a radical transition in the use of audio both inside and outside the classroom. The purchase of portable powered speakers will also guarantee that all ULP tutors can make use of the MP3 players in class.



Gallery collaboration helps trainee teachers get the picture

Teacher training students are discovering how a picture speaks a thousand words when it comes to enjoyable learning experiences – thanks to a successful collaboration with the National Gallery. ‘Take One Picture’ is the Gallery’s countrywide scheme for primary schools. During a course at the Gallery, teachers are given a print of a painting to use in the classroom, both as a stimulus for artwork and for activities in more unexpected curriculum areas. Each year NTU students join the Gallery’s Education Department in London to experience ‘Take One Picture’. So that all our trainee teachers can learn from this project, the Alumni Fund has helped to purchase 12 good quality reproductions of paintings for use with students during workshops. Third year student Alice Holifield said: “I now see how paintings can tell a story without the need for words and how they can be highly supportive to teaching by taking children down a range of learning avenues.” Kate Warren, Lecturer in Primary Teacher Education, added: “This way of learning can be inclusive of all children and all subjects.”



Blowing up the Cosmos

The Alumni Fund has also helped to provide two portable projection screens for use by Theatre Design students on the Cosmos Project. This initiative represents an art and science collaboration by Narrative and Interactive Arts with Dragon Breath Theatre, NTU’s Centre for Effective Learning in Science, Leicester Theatre Trust and other regional partners. After the project, the screens will be used to display students’ work.



Making a song and dance about child development

An intriguing project known as Oogly Boogly will help NTU students take a fresh look at themes such as child development and communication. Oogly Boogly is a unique piece of theatre in which dancers follow and echo movements and sounds made by 12 to 18-month-old babies. Donations to the Alumni Fund have enabled our Psychology team to purchase videos of a theatre group performing Oogly Boogly. The resources will be used for a Masters module in Observational Methods.

Making your gift go even further

Remember that your gifts to Nottingham Trent University now go even further - thanks to a new drive to promote giving to higher education. Since August 2008 the government has been providing matched funding for private donations to universities. Under this scheme, running for an initial three years, we can claim £1 for every £3 donated to NTU. Even better, the Gift Aid scheme is being matched too. Overall, this means that someone making a gift of £30 a month will now see the value of that gift rise to £50. Tim Cobb, Head of Development and Alumni Relations at NTU, said: “The new matched funding scheme will strengthen both the impact and the reach of our fundraising efforts.”

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Help support the future of education

The Chancellor's Building Futures Appeal



"I am proud to put my name and energy behind the Chancellor's Building Futures Appeal and call on all our alumni to hand down a timeless gift to their future counterparts; the gift of great personal and professional support while receiving a first class education in the finest city-centre campus in the UK."

Sir Michael Parkinson CBE, Chancellor

www.ntu.ac.uk/chancellorsappeal

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Make a difference to society

Deborah Bardouille, a Senior Lecturer in Social Work at NTU has been training social workers for 16 years. With 11 years experience as a Social Worker herself she is the ideal tutor to equip her students with the knowledge and skills they need to deal expertly and competently with the problem situations that they will encounter.

Deborah is an extremely conscientious and dedicated lecturer who cares about every student that she deals with ensuring they all get the information, guidance, feedback and support that they need. "I find it extremely rewarding to enable students to develop and grow. I enjoy helping them, especially when they are being trained for such a worthwhile profession."

Well over half the students studying Social Work are mature students. Many want to do the course because of their own life experience or things they have witnessed.

They often have great insight and sensitivity. "For example" Deborah explained "I recently had a student who had been in institutions or foster care for almost all her life. She had a very hard life. Then she got a wonderful Social Worker who understood her and made a huge difference to her life. That experience made her want to be a Social Worker herself. She got very angry at the negative press about Social Workers."

Many social work students really struggle financially while they are studying for the qualification, especially with the costs of travelling to their placements and work experience.

What would our communities be like if we did not have Social Workers to help people in need, whoever employs them?



Can you help support a social work student who is strongly motivated to help needy children and adults in society, but who is struggling to finance their time at NTU? You could do this by leaving a gift in your will.

Garden restoration project

The School of Animal, Rural and Environmental Sciences is slowly restoring the gardens at Brackenhurst to the full glory they enjoyed in decades gone by.

Bequests have enabled two areas of the gardens to be 'rejuvenated' – the Mick Saxby Garden (the Sunken Garden) and the Rose Garden to which the late Margaret Edmunds left a gift in her will.

The 'Brackenhurst Old Students Association' (BOSA) have also donated items for the gardens and many BOSA members and ex-students have given very generous donations for the next phase – the Italianate Garden and the Terrace Walk.



The Italianate garden in the early 20th Century

Leaving a legacy

If you would like more information or a brochure about leaving a legacy to NTU, please contact the Fundraising

Development Team on **0115 848 8809** or by emailing us at alumni@ntu.ac.uk



Nottingham Trent University attracts donations from a wide range of organisations, trusts and foundations and is delighted to recognise the generous support of:

CSET (City Solicitors Educational Trust)

Experian

The Manifold Trust

The Pyrus Trust

The Worshipful Company of Saddlers