

2011

# Shaping Futures

The newsletter for supporters of Nottingham Trent University



Discover who you've helped this year

News from the John van Geest Cancer Research Centre

Launch of Benefactors' Court

Meet Jerry, the Alumni Fund dog!

NOTTINGHAM  
TRENT UNIVERSITY 



# Thank you for your support

This autumn my daughter was able to take her first steps in higher education by starting at university. Dropping her off at her new residence, her excitement and enthusiasm for the next few years was evident for me to see, and I was so proud of her.



As we go to press the University is in the process of awarding 16 students a £1,000 Alumni Fund scholarship for their first year of study, providing them with an opportunity to study here when otherwise they might struggle financially.

At NTU we care about the future and ensuring students get the most out of their university experience during what is a pivotal time in their lives. In a similar way, the cutting-edge research which takes place here aims to impact on the future in a positive way. One example is the outstanding work of the John van Geest Cancer Research Centre, which aims to improve diagnosis and treatment for cancer patients.

As an alumnus of NTU, I am pleased that so many of my fellow graduates and friends of the University are able to join together to make a difference today, in order to shape the world of tomorrow. Whether your focus is on students and the value of education, or on the effect that our research has on the world around us, know that your donation to the University has a lasting impact.

So thank you once again for your support.

**Tim Cobb, BA (Hons) Economics, 1982**  
**Head of Development and Alumni Relations**



# Where is your name?

In May this year we were pleased to have our Chancellor, Sir Michael Parkinson, and special guest Sir David Attenborough officially open our Grade II\* listed Newton and Arkwright buildings.

The opening event was attended by hundreds of staff, students, alumni and friends of the University, and so was a fitting time to launch our newly created donor boards.

Situated in the Newton building, just inside Benefactors' Court (itself supported by a generous pledge from local philanthropist and honorary graduate Sir Harry Djanogly), the donor



boards are designed to be easily updated with the names of those who have supported NTU over the previous financial year.

It's just one way we acknowledge the impact our donors have on life at the University and on the world around us. So, if you are in the area and would like to visit, please do get in touch with us – we'd love to point out your name!

# Thank you...



## ...from the Alumni Fund Calling Team

We'd like to say a huge thank you to all former students who spoke to our team of current students during our telephone campaigns in 2011.

This year over £65,000 was pledged towards Alumni Fund general projects, our world-class cancer research and to kick-start our Alumni Fund scholarship programme.

The students really enjoyed speaking with you and valued the advice that you gave – you certainly gave them a lot of advice for their future direction in life. The feedback from many of our graduates is that they enjoyed hearing about the latest news at the University and recounting tales of their time here.

We will be continuing the campaign next year and we are aiming for even greater success. You never know, the next time your phone rings it could be NTU.



# Fighting cancer with your donations

After receiving a transformational donation from the John and Lucille van Geest Foundation, Nottingham Trent University formally opened the John van Geest Cancer Research Centre in November 2010.

The centre is a world-class research facility that seeks to combat all forms of cancer but with a particular emphasis on breast and prostate cancer. Between them these cancers account for over 22,000 deaths in the UK every year.

Under the leadership of Professor Bob Rees, the centre's scientists work directly with front-line clinical staff on a variety of projects they hope will lead to breakthroughs in diagnosis and treatment.

We are delighted that over the past year more than 130 former students and friends of the

University have supported this work through generous donations. Thank you!

One donation in particular has allowed us to purchase an automated cell sorter. This technology enables our scientists to quickly and easily isolate cells of particular interest. This saves the scientists many hours and so increases the amount of research they can do.

It's not just alumni who have been digging deep, businesses have also made donations. Local food wholesalers Asiana Limited is the most recent supporter and, as a result, we are able to welcome the company to our newly created John Milton club of the Benefactors' Court (see page 9 for more information about the giving clubs).

Every donation made to the centre has a real impact, and working together as family and friends of the University, we can make a difference in the fight against cancer.



*...we can make a difference in the fight against cancer*



# Award-winning support

The University's Student Services Centre has been awarded the Government Standard in Customer Service Excellence.

Based in the recently opened Newton and Arkwright buildings, and supported by donations from alumni during our Chancellor's appeal, the centre acts as a one-stop shop for any information or support students might need during their studies.

The Student Services Centre was praised for demonstrating a complete understanding of our diverse student population. Regular and detailed consultation keeps the University abreast of students' needs and allows the centre to constantly operate efficiently and for the benefit of students.

The assessment also noted the high level of training that staff receive. A major part of the centre's

success has also been its use of benchmarking to continually improve the standard of customer care.

Richard Irons, Student Services Centre Manager, says: "We're extremely proud to have achieved the Government Standard in Customer Service Excellence. Our goal is to provide a service that leaves our students in no doubt as to how much value we place on supporting them during their time with us. This award is recognition of the hard work of our staff and we'll continue to do all that we can to ensure we maintain the very highest standards of customer service."

# Running towards SUCCESS

The latest recipient of the Alumni Fund Award for Sport is first year Business Economics student and 400m runner James Baines.

James trains at a local gym and the nearby Harvey Hadden Stadium. In a typical day James will attend lectures then train for at least two hours in the evening before settling down for a "good meal".

James says: "I enjoy my course but it's hard work, especially trying to tie it in with training a minimum of six times a week. I've certainly had to change my priorities this year, but having a clear plan makes it easier to fit it all in."

Unfortunately 2010 wasn't a good year for James because of injury, although he still managed to knock 0.8 seconds off his personal best. His goal for this year is to compete in the Amateur Athletic Association (AAA)

Championships, and he's grateful of the support from the Alumni Fund.

"The funding has provided me with a fantastic opportunity to fulfil my goals," he adds. "It has been hard managing my time and money so it is a big relief to be supported in this way."

Meanwhile the Alumni Fund continues to support flatwater sprint canoeist Joe Seaman, featured in the previous edition of *Shaping Futures*.

Sport at NTU has also received a boost due to a generous donation from an alumnus. His support will be used to create three top quality tennis courts on our Clifton campus, further enhancing our outstanding sports facilities.



# Alumni Fund hits a high note

First year BA (Hons) Economics student Paula Yan has been playing the piano for 13 years. She will now enjoy playing a brand new piano during her time at University, thanks to an award made through the Alumni Fund. After Paula graduates, the piano will remain at the University for other students to enjoy.



Paula, who achieved her Grade 8 last year, has a passion for music and a talent for memorising pieces. Her grandad played both the piano and violin and so encouraged her to start.

She says: "Before University I used to practise at least three times a week, and then I stopped because I didn't have access to a piano. I'm really excited and grateful that one will be purchased for me to practise with while I'm here."

Meanwhile, first year Fashion and Textile Management student Ffion Evans will receive the Clifford Beck Award, given in memory of a former lecturer, which will fund her music lessons.

Ffion has been playing the flute since she was eight and reached Grade 8 two years ago. She hopes the lessons will help her achieve her diploma.

Ffion, who comes from a musical family, was encouraged to play an instrument from an early age. She says: "I love the sound of the flute, which is why I knew it was the instrument for me. I try to practise for at least 10 or 20 minutes a day and, before coming to NTU, I'd have one lesson a week. This funding will help me achieve my dream of gaining a diploma in playing the flute. I'd like to thank the University and Clifford Beck's family for this very exciting opportunity."





# Join our club!

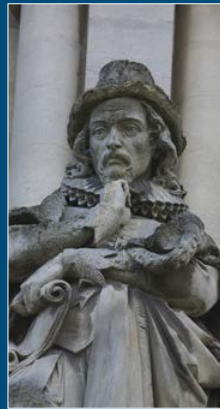
Join one of our giving clubs with other alumni and friends of the University in support of NTU's education and research portfolio.



**Sir Isaac Newton**



**William Shakespeare**



**Sir Francis Bacon**



**John Milton**

Over the years, philanthropic gifts have helped support teaching, enhance the student learning experience and advance internationally recognised research.

A range of projects and research require financial support, including bursaries for students from low-income families, new library and IT resources, and vital equipment for cancer research.

To encourage support, we have launched the Benefactors' Court giving clubs, named in honour of four individuals known for their literary or scientific genius and whose statues adorn the Arkwright building: Sir Isaac Newton, William Shakespeare, Sir Francis Bacon and John Milton.

Those who make a donation of £1,000 or more will become a member of the Benefactors' Court and will be recognised appropriately. This may include a permanently named room, a plaque or invitations to VIP events.

The University has also launched the Chancellor's Circle for individuals who have made a donation of lasting significance.

For more information on becoming a member of Benefactors' Court, please contact Fiona Naylor, Senior Fundraising Officer, at [fiona.naylor@ntu.ac.uk](mailto:fiona.naylor@ntu.ac.uk) or call **0115 848 8810**.

# Students giving back!

Many of you will be reading this because you decided to support NTU after receiving a phone call from one of our student fundraisers. What you might not know is that several of these students felt so strongly about the projects that they decided to make a donation themselves.



Jack is a final year Law student with aspirations to become a successful solicitor. He says:

“I chose to donate £4 a month to the John van Geest Cancer Research Centre for reasons close to my heart. First of all the research being conducted into making vaccines for breast and prostate cancer is groundbreaking and of an extremely high standard. Both my Mum and cousin have suffered from cancer, and both pulled through.

“Without the efforts of people like Professor Bob Rees and others like him, they wouldn’t be here today. I’m proud to give back to the University from which I have already gained so much.”

Every single contribution, no matter how small, makes a difference. Collectively, donations make a huge impact on the quality of the student experience and learning at NTU.

For more information on the Alumni Fund, or if you would like a student fundraiser to call you, please get in touch at [alumni@ntu.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@ntu.ac.uk).



Lindsey is a final year student studying International Business and one day hopes to run her own business. She has more experience of the inner workings of the University than many other students thanks to her placement year with our International Development Office. Lindsey says:

“I have always tried to give to charity when I can, but there are so many of them it’s sometimes hard to decide where to put your money! Knowing that my money would go straight to the University and that it would stretch even further because of the government’s matched funding made giving to cancer research at NTU an easy choice. It’s nice to feel that you have given something back to the University and to know that you have contributed in some way.

“So why should alumni donate? For the same reasons I did. A lot of people don’t think of the University as a charity but the Alumni Fund does

a lot of work that has a positive impact on the experience that students have at NTU and in society. University holds fond memories for many people and it’s good to give something back and know you are helping to support the students who are here now.

“...the Alumni Fund does a lot of work that has a positive impact on the experience that students have...”

“When you are in your last year you think about all the things you have achieved and all the things you never did. There is so much I still want to do before I graduate. The

Alumni Fund will continue to support the University after I leave and give students like me the opportunities they need to succeed whether it be academic or otherwise.”

**For more information on the Alumni Fund, or if you would like a student fundraiser to call you, please get in touch at [alumni@ntu.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@ntu.ac.uk).**



# ‘Jerry’

helps  
veterinary  
nursing  
students

Critical care manikins have been purchased, thanks to Alumni Fund donations.

The manikins will provide FdSc Veterinary Nursing students with opportunities to learn critical care techniques.

‘Jerry’ is a dog model specifically designed to have life-like features such as jugular blood vessels, a realistic airway, working lungs and an artificial pulse. He also features a broken leg and realistic skin for students to practise administering sutures.

Technician Team Leader for Animal and Equine Sciences Cat Sanderson says: “These manikins are great as students obviously can’t practise on real animals either at the University or on placement. Students on other animal courses will also benefit from them in animal first aid practicals, especially using the artificial pulse, and for practising splinting and bandaging.”

# Alumni Fund Histology Suite

Histological examinations of tissue are a powerful way of helping students develop their knowledge and laboratory skills.

The interface between animal nutrition and animal welfare is currently a hot topic in animal science; creating a resurgence of interest in histology (concerned with the microscopic structure of tissues) as a tool for investigating gut health.

Generous alumni donations have enabled the School of Animal, Rural and Environmental Sciences to set up the Alumni Fund Histology Suite at our Brackenhurst campus.

This new facility allows the preparation of tissue on site for microscopic examination. It will also enable students to undertake dissertation projects focused on histological studies of gut health.



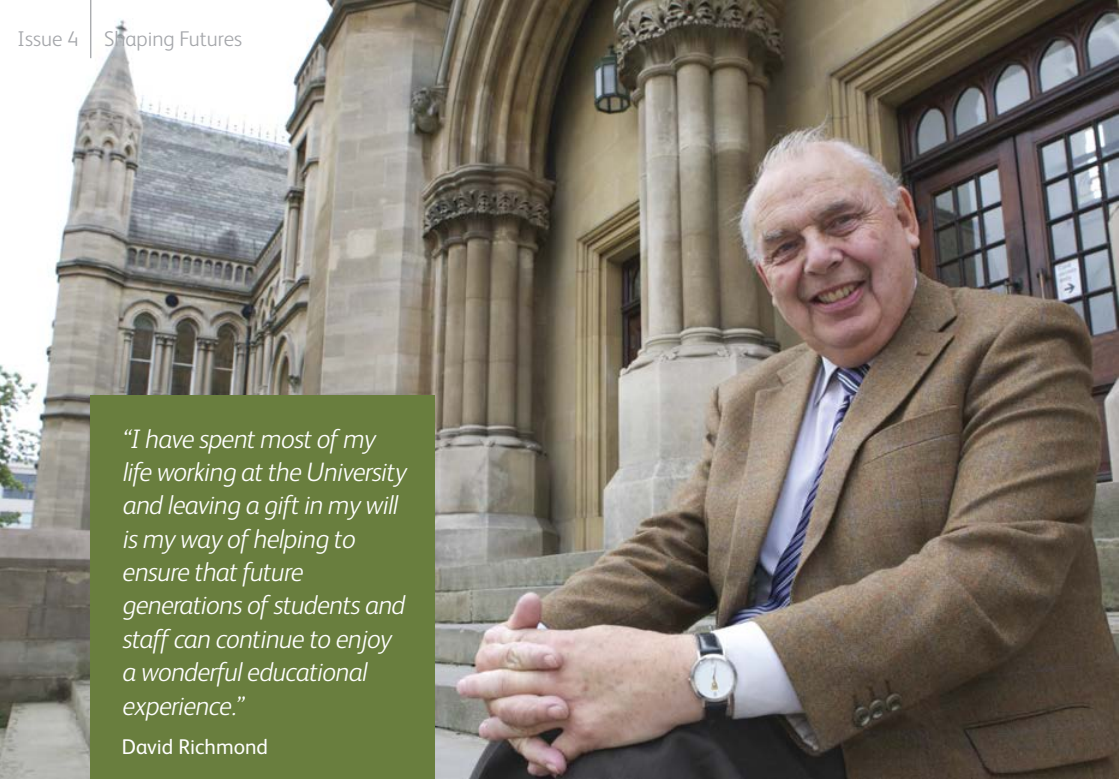
## Building the student experience



An 'early years' room has been developed within the School of Education to help students gain practical experience working with children.

Thanks to the Alumni Fund, large construction blocks, found in many early years settings, have been purchased. Students are using the blocks to explore how children learn.

Senior Lecturer in Early Years Vicky McEwan says: "Research has shown that children develop their understanding through schematic behaviour that can be observed in their play, most commonly in mathematical and spatial domains. A block play session will provide a high-quality experience for our students enabling them to explore and understand fully open-ended play."



*"I have spent most of my life working at the University and leaving a gift in my will is my way of helping to ensure that future generations of students and staff can continue to enjoy a wonderful educational experience."*

David Richmond

# A legacy for tomorrow

David Richmond is one of a growing group of alumni who have decided to make provision for the University in their will. He says:

"Starting out as a part-time student at the then Regional College of Technology in the 1950s, I became a chartered surveyor and my passion for education led me to join the Department of Surveying in the 1960s. I had a happy working life and retired 30 years later.

"I still like to stay in touch with NTU and there are those who perhaps think that staying in touch with my alma mater is living in the past. On the

contrary, still being involved with the life of the University keeps me looking forward.

"Whenever I meet or hear from very successful graduates, they always recall their time at NTU with affection and gratitude and I suppose that this is the best accolade you can have for a career well spent."

David Richmond

Estate Surveying 1964 and retired Principal Lecturer, Surveying

**If you would like to follow in David's footsteps and make a legacy gift to the University, or if you have any questions then please contact Fiona Fowkes on [fiona.fowkes@ntu.ac.uk](mailto:fiona.fowkes@ntu.ac.uk) or 0115 848 8775.**

# Thank you!

With grateful thanks to all our donors in the University financial year 2010 / 2011 (1 August 2010 to 31 July 2011). Thank you also to our donors who have chosen to remain anonymous.

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