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This newsletter can be made available in alternative formats.

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2012 / 2013

Shaping Futures

The newsletter for supporters of Nottingham Trent University



Get your running gear ready for runNTU

Meet the director of the John van Geest Cancer Research Centre

Interview with a student donor

Ukuleles and horses!

NOTTINGHAM
TRENT UNIVERSITY 

Thank you for your support

Last year the Development and Alumni Relations Office was able to award the first of our new Alumni Fund Scholarships to 12 deserving undergraduates.



As part of the process, members of our team met the recipients of the awards to film their profile videos. They were struck by how much of a difference the scholarships made to them, and hearing about their hopes and dreams for the future was inspirational.

I suppose that hope for the future might be a reason so many of us donate. We make donations towards the scholarship fund to change the future for the students who benefit. We make donations to the John van Geest Cancer Research Centre in hope of a future free from cancer. We make donations to support sporting success to build a future of achievement for our athletes. We make donations to a variety of student projects as each and every one has an impact on the development of minds for the future.

The crux of the matter is this, that the impact of your support isn't limited to the present, but helps build a better future for individuals and society for years to come.

So thank you once again for your support.

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



David Richmond

It is with sadness that we bring you news of the death of former lecturer and alumnus David Richmond (Estate Surveying 1964).

A long-standing donor to the University, David was thought of fondly by all those who knew him, including Nottingham Trent University staff and the many students he taught over the years.

David started out as a part-time student at the then Regional College of Technology in the 1950s and became a chartered surveyor. His passion for education led him to join the Department of Surveying in the 1960s where he worked until he retired 30 years later.

Donors to the University who read the last issue of *Shaping Futures* may remember that David

made a pledge to leave a gift to the University in his will. We have honoured the memory of this great man by using his legacy gift as the seed to start the David Richmond Memorial Fund.

The fund will support students who are studying within the broad areas of Surveying, Real Estate Management and Building Construction Management; echoing what David was passionate about. It is our hope that those who were fortunate to know David will contribute to this fund in the years to come, ensuring that his legacy continues to last beyond his lifetime.

If you would like more details about the David Richmond Memorial Fund, please visit www.ntualumni.org.uk/davidrichmondfund. If you would like to discuss leaving a gift to the University in your will please contact Fiona Fowkes on fiona.fowkes@ntu.ac.uk or at +44 (0)115 848 8775.

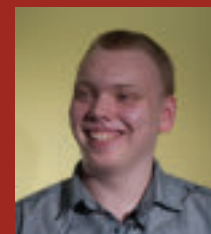
Scholarship scheme launched!

Thanks to the generosity of our alumni, we were able to launch the Alumni Fund Scholarship scheme last year by offering 12 students a bursary of £1,000 for their first year of study. These awards are targeted towards students from low-income backgrounds, ensuring that they are given where they have the most impact. It is an award for the first year of study, helping the recipients to have the best possible start to life in higher education.



We asked some of the scholarship recipients from 2011/2012 a few questions:

How did you feel when you learned that you were able to come to NTU?



"It felt amazing to have received this opportunity. Having worked so hard to get the grades required, I thought I might come up just short, but it was a great feeling to be accepted into NTU on to the Economics degree.

I'm keen to further my study on a subject I've really taken to over the past two years. I feel very privileged and I know that I must make this opportunity count and am keen not to waste this chance."

How has the scholarship made a difference to your university life?

"The scholarship made a huge difference before I even stepped into university. I had my doubts over whether to pursue a course or not because I didn't know whether I would be financially secure enough to cope. My fears were eased with this alumni scholarship and on top of that, now I am at university, it has helped to pay for textbooks and further equipment that I need to use on my course. It has let me concentrate fully on my degree, giving it 100%, without having a worry about finances."

Christopher (Economics)

What do you enjoy most about being at NTU?



"The sense of community, especially studying on the Clifton campus. It is quite a small area so it makes it easier to get to know people and socialise during breaks. I also like the fact that although I am studying on the Clifton campus there are regular

buses into the city, which makes it easy to commute from town. The teachers and lecturers are a very supportive group who make sure that you feel like you can speak to them if you are having any worries about work or anything else."

Lauren (Early Years Education)

Where do you want to be in five years?



"My plan is to do a degree in Dentistry after my undergraduate degree here at NTU. I've wanted to do this for a while. After finishing my A-levels I thought about applying for Dentistry directly but that meant I would have had to move away from home,

which is just too expensive. The finance available restricted me from doing this but I am certain with enough hard work I will get there.

"With that in mind my main focus now is doing well in this degree and the thing I love about this course is that it allows me to keep my options open in terms of what I could do in the future. If after this degree I develop a passion to study a specific area of Biomedical Sciences then I have that choice. I could go into research or work in hospitals. There are so many opportunities available."

If you could give a message to the donors who gave to make these scholarships possible what would you say?

"I'd like to say a big thank you to the donors and all the contributors! The award allowed me to take my mind off the financial restraints and focus on my goal and realise that it's possible and that there is help available. I feel very grateful for receiving this scholarship as it's made a big difference to me. I am sure there are plenty of other students out there in my situation who also need help and would greatly benefit if this help was available. Thank you."

Ana (Biomedical Sciences)

For more information on the Alumni Fund Scholarships, and to watch video profiles of some of the students, please visit www.ntualumni.org.uk/giving_to_ntu.

From the other end of the phone!

Many of you will be receiving this newsletter because you made a donation after speaking to one of our student fundraisers. We thought you might like to meet one of them and get the inside story of what it's like working on our campaign. Our featured caller is Jess, a third year History student with aspirations of working in PR and travelling the world when she graduates.

So Jess, what's the best thing about studying at NTU?

"As well as thoroughly enjoying my course, the social aspects of NTU are fantastic. There is always something going on through sports, societies and other groups, and it really has meant I've been able to meet so many new people and make the most of my time here at NTU."

What are the best bits of working for the Alumni Fund?

"It's great to be able to speak to people who previously studied here, hearing all their best bits, but also being able to take career and study advice from people who studied the same course as me, maybe just a few years ago. Hearing all the different careers people have gone into is very inspiring for me, especially with only one more year to go. It usually spurs me on to work just a bit harder with my course, knowing that hard work can be tuned into huge successes, as it has for many of our alumni."

And of course, raising money for projects across the University?

"Of course! I was personally surprised by the John van Geest Cancer Research Centre. I didn't really know what to expect before I was able to tour the facilities, but within just a few minutes it became clear that the work carried out in the centre is absolutely amazing. Visiting the labs and seeing exactly what goes on there from day to day made me realise just how important raising funds for this centre is. Seeing it all for real was so much better than just reading about it on paper, so do take the chance if you ever get the opportunity to go."

"Working on the campaign is fantastic, and a good number of us are making new friends in the team. We have a lot of fun, and even did well enough one night to convince our boss to come in dressed as a monkey – that was certainly a memorable night."

If you could give a graduate one message before you call what would it be?

"We are just students like you once were, so please take the time to chat with one of us. You're guaranteed to find out so many great things about the University that you probably had no idea about before, and also reminisce about all the great times you experienced at NTU. You never know, it might be me on the other end of the phone."



We thought you might like to meet the Director of the centre, Professor Bob Rees, and hear more about the work your donations are enabling.

Bob says: "I was always interested in Science at school and I was the first generation of my family to obtain a university place to study Science. It was during my university course that I realised I wanted to apply this knowledge to something that was worthwhile and benefited people. So when provided with the opportunity to study for my doctorate in the field of cancer it seemed the ideal opportunity to become involved in an area of Science that could potentially help patients. I suppose the seeds for this passion were planted at an early age when at 15 my father developed lung cancer and after a short illness died as a result of his disease. Obviously this had a long lasting impression and from my time at university to the present I have been involved in cancer research."

Shaping futures

Many of our donors choose to support the John van Geest Cancer Research Centre, and donations from alumni have supported a number of projects over the years, including upgrading a fluorescent microscope used to dissect cancer tumours, and purchasing cancer cell samples and the nutrients required to sustain them for our research. Your support has even helped to sequence DNA and map how genes are behaving within individual cells.

"The John van Geest Cancer Research Centre is unique in that the laboratories are purpose-built and the research is core funded from grants received from the John and Lucille van Geest Foundation. This provided a platform upon which a long-term programme of research has been developed. Additional grant income from other cancer charities also funds the research. The day-to-day excitement of working at the centre comes from the fact that you don't really know what might result from the experiments and where this will eventually lead."

"I was always interested in Science at school and I was the first generation of my family to obtain a university place to study Science."



“Through the funding and donations we receive, the Cancer Research Centre at Nottingham Trent University is able to undertake a large programme of research which aims to understand how the immune system fights cancer and how we might harness this extremely powerful form of therapy to treat patients. Cancer is an intractable disease which can often spread within the body and for patients who experience this dissemination from a primary tumour site to other organs the course of treatment can be prolonged and cause severe discomfort. Your immune system is responsible for fighting infections and preventing cancer developing and it is only under circumstances where the immune system breaks down that cancer as a clinical disease can be detected. Restoring the immune system to its full potential, for example through immunisation using a cancer vaccine, is one way of causing the cancer to regress and treating tumours which have spread to other body sites, perhaps not accessible by conventional therapy.

“One of our main approaches is therefore research within the field of immunotherapy. Our aim is to produce treatments which educate T-lymphocytes (the body’s main immune defence against cancer) to recognise the proteins associated with cancer. Several clinical studies have shown therapeutic vaccines working in this way to benefit certain groups of patients, although we don’t yet fully understand why some patients respond well to this form of therapy and others not so well. We are constantly trialling new forms of immunotherapy in the laboratory and the clinic in order to improve the effectiveness of this new treatment. The nature of the research is complex, for which we require an understanding of the genetics associated with tumours and the immune system to make this approach more effective in the future.



“There are now two vaccines available that are used to prevent the development of cancer caused by viruses, namely cervical cancer caused by the human papilloma virus and liver cancer associated with the hepatitis B virus. Our challenge for the future is to develop vaccines for therapy for all types of cancer. There is much work to be done to optimise this treatment and to gain a full understanding of how it can be used to the benefit of patients. The work undertaken at the John van Geest Cancer Research Centre focuses on this area and translates laboratory research findings into clinical centres at Nottingham and Leicester and more broadly across European centres.

“The passion of scientists working within the centre and their enthusiasm drives the research programme as a whole and the experimental results obtained can turn out to have great meaning. This allows us to propose new research that can be taken forward in larger research programmes into patient-facing clinical settings, with the aim of achieving real-world outcomes – and ultimately helping to save lives.

“Our commitment is to make a difference to the way in which cancer is diagnosed and treated and all donations we receive are used directly to fund our research; every pound contributes to this goal, so thank you.”

runNTU

On a chilly Saturday afternoon in May, 30 teams comprising of staff, students and friends of the University assembled at the Lee Westwood Sports Centre to take part in the inaugural runNTU event.



The event was a 3 x 5 km relay race which took a route around the Clifton campus and along the picturesque banks of the River Trent before returning to the start.

The race was held to raise awareness and funds for the John van Geest Cancer Research Centre and the Anthony Nolan Trust (who also have a research facility on the Clifton campus).

Jeremy Bateman, a member of staff within the University Finance department, was one of the driving forces behind the event. He said: "As a keen runner you are often involved in events which raise money for charity. As I had personal

knowledge of the excellent work done by these two research centres on campus, I thought why not give it a go at NTU? It was a great excuse to have fun but, most importantly, to raise money for causes which can help save lives".

Many runners asked friends and family to sponsor them. In the end, the race raised over £8,000 which will be split between the two centres. We would also like to say a special thank you to UPP Ltd for their kind donation of £2,000 towards the amount raised.

We hope to see you running with us in 2013!



Chris Bussell (Academic Team Leader, Sports Science) turned up on the day and ran the course with his two children. As they all ran together, Team Bussell was actually the first team to complete the course.

Chris said: "I am sure we all have a personal reason for getting involved through runNTU and supporting the great work undertaken at NTU through the John van Geest Cancer Research Centre and the Anthony Nolan Trust.

My mother passed away from cancer some 19 years ago and my father is currently battling cancer. The aims of the dedicated researchers within NTU provide hope and opportunities to all with their own personal story. Research into early detection procedures, better understanding of the pathology of cancer, and potential for vaccine related treatments will have a significant impact on so many people."



India placements

Nottingham Law School has been able to further develop links with an Indian based human rights NGO (non-governmental organisation), thanks to the Alumni Fund.

Jananeethi, which is based in Thrissur, Kerala, in southern India, is a not-for-profit organisation established in 1991. Its fundamental aim is to promote human rights and justice for those who are unable to access the legal system and to provide other support and solutions to those who are victims of injustice.

Four LLB (Hons) Law students recently undertook internships with Jananeethi: Shreena Parmar, Jenna Keough, Lauren Shinfield and Laura Williams.

Shreena said: "The subject of our project was Women in Politics. Recently enacted legislation means 50% of seats must be reserved for women in local self-governments in Kerala. We interviewed 100 people, from former and current women representatives to government officials and voters. We also had to become familiar with the political system within Kerala."

She added: "We would like to thank Jananeethi Institute and the University for this amazing opportunity. We would also like to thank the Alumni Fund for putting money towards the cost of the translator which was a vital resource for the interviews. We made many friends on this wonderful visit and hope that the relationship between Jananeethi Institute and Nottingham Trent University continues."

Lecturer Nick Johnson said: "As with all volunteering opportunities, this internship enabled the students to enhance their understanding of law through seeing it operate in context. They had a unique experience, while at the same time enhancing the profile of Nottingham Law School both in the UK and abroad."

Horsing around

Second year Psychology student Kathryn Gallagher has received one of this year's NTU Alumni Awards for Sport – a package that will help her balance her studies with her para-equestrian training.

Kathryn, who has Turner syndrome – a condition which affects her joints – trains five or six times a week with her horse, Dreamer. She wakes early to travel to University after which she will visit the gym, aiming to be at the stables by 4 pm. After training it's time to go home to fit in some more study before bedtime.

She said: "I'm really enjoying my course, especially the practical side which I can apply to my sport. It's tough to fit studies around training, but being very organised helps!"

Kathryn recently came fourth in a high-profile, invitation-only competition. Her 2011 highlight came when she won the freestyle section at a two star international event. Next year will bring more national and international competitions.

She said: "Riding is my passion and I hope to compete in the 2016 Paralympics. I think 2012 would have been too soon for Dreamer because he is still quite young."

"I've been brought up around horses and have always wanted to compete professionally. The support I have received from the Alumni Fund has inspired me to keep working hard with Dreamer and hopefully one day we can win awards for our country."

The Alumni Fund was also able to support Equine students studying at the Brackenhurst campus by funding several transmitters and headsets. These allow instructors to speak directly to the students they are teaching, allowing them to immediately correct mistakes in riding technique before bad habits are formed.

The units will also improve safety, as the instructors can be heard more easily. So far feedback from students has been excellent, with the overwhelming feeling that the provision has really improved their experience in lessons.



"I'm really enjoying my course, especially the practical side which I can apply to my sport."

Supporting sporting success

The development of excellent sporting facilities at NTU continues with the recent installation of four brand new tennis courts at the Lee Westwood Sports Centre on Clifton campus.

The new courts were part funded by NTU alumnus and former NTU tennis captain Paul Lester (BSc Hons Mechanical Engineering 1972), as well as Sport and Lifestyle sponsor Logicalis.

Paul visited campus in May and toured the new sports facilities, before teaming up with current NTU Tennis Club President William Morton to play a special tennis doubles match against men's first team captain Edward Blake and second team player Sam Jones.

The new tennis facilities will make playing the sport a lot cheaper for the University's Tennis Club, who will no longer have to hire external courts. It is also hoped that they will encourage more students to take part in the sport.



Donations from alumni have also facilitated the purchase of high quality indoor cricket nets. Previously, the cricket teams based at the University had to try to hire off campus and were frequently unable to secure appropriate facilities leading to many students being unable to participate. The cost of hiring off campus was also significant for the students, so these costs have been removed. As they will be able to practise through the winter, these nets will help our cricket teams be fully prepared for the start of the season in the spring.



Splashing out

The Alumni Fund splashed out by supporting flatwater sprint canoeist Chris Calvert.

Sport Science student Chris rose early most mornings to go to the National Water Sports Centre in Nottingham for two hours' training before heading to University for lectures and a session at the campus gym. In the afternoon he did two more hours before eventually returning home to relax.

Chris's 2011 highlight was being selected to represent Great Britain at the European Championships in Zagreb, Croatia. He competed in a single canoe discipline (C1) over a distance of 200 m. Unfortunately he missed out on the final but, after a good race in his semi-final and for his first international race in a boat by himself, he admits he was "very pleased" with himself.

He added: "I would like to thank the alumni who have funded my award. This support means a great deal and took away some of the financial worries of funding training camps and buying kit. It means I could really focus on my studying and my training."

Rugby scholarships

Four students from Nottingham Trent University are set to benefit from a unique rugby scholarship scheme. The University has teamed up with Nottingham Rugby and international ICT solutions provider Logicalis UK Ltd, to offer the scholarships, which will provide the talented University first team players with a wide range of high-level support and development.

The one-year scholarship will see them receive specialist skills coaching, strength and conditioning training, physiotherapy and sports massage, and nutritional, psychological and lifestyle support. They will also undertake an intensive training camp with the Nottingham Rugby academy and will be provided with individual player résumés and profiling.

The scholarship programme – provided by Nottingham Rugby and Nottingham Trent University and funded by Logicalis – will support the players' University rugby and could even lead to a professional playing contract, or to future coaching opportunities. It will also provide academic flexibility and performance lifestyle support, to enable them to leave with their degree and essential employability skills.

Meet the donor!

"In 1978, I began studying a three-year night school Diploma in Marketing at Nottingham Trent, followed by additional Sales and Marketing Studies for a further two years. This experience changed my career prospects overnight. I quickly obtained an executive position in advertising and marketing with the regional and national press. After some years I set up my own business and now, at the age of 68, I continue to run two companies: Bizzy Bee Training Ltd and The City Business Development Academy Ltd. I am thankful to Nottingham Trent for helping to boost my career.

"Over the years I have experienced several universities, but in my view, no other university can help people from humble origins quite as successfully as NTU. I attend many NTU events and guest lectures and think the University is light years ahead of its contemporaries. The University retains its charm and friendliness and I routinely make new social, business and commercial contacts. I thoroughly recommend people make the most of being a member of the Alumni Association during their future years.

"I consider my financial contribution to the University one of the ways I can say 'thank you' for all that the University has done for me. It is truly an honour to contribute to my University and know that I am helping current and future students.

"If you happen to see me at an alumni event, please do come and say hello!"



Joe Forster (Diploma in Marketing 1981)

"I attend many NTU events and guest lectures and think the University is light years ahead of its contemporaries."



Music to our ears

This year a music specialism has been introduced to the BA (Hons) Primary Education programme and, thanks to the Alumni Fund, the School of Education has purchased 34 ukuleles to use when working with children in a local partnership school.

The ukuleles, which are suited to young children because of their size and ease to learn, will be used when teaching a whole class.

The instruments will not only benefit the Primary Education students, but will also form part of a larger central resource for other undergraduate and postgraduate teacher-training programmes.

Lecturer Annette Bindon said: "Over the past couple of years NTU trainees have had the opportunity to work with ukuleles through an external provider. The students expressed the desire for further opportunities to learn. Now that we have a full set of instruments we can build sessions into each year of our music programme to develop skills progressively and provide continuity to the learning experience."

To read more about how the Alumni Fund is making a difference please visit www.ntualumni.org.uk/alumni_fund.



On behalf of the students and staff at the University, we would like to thank all of our donors during the financial year 2011-2012.

With a growing number of people deciding to support the University we no longer have the space within these pages to display the full donor list; this can now be viewed online at www.ntualumni.org.uk/donors. Do visit and look for your name!

We would like to say a special thank you to the organisations who have supported us over the past year, and also those individuals who have given at a significant level to become eligible for membership of the Benefactors' Court giving clubs.

The giving clubs are named after 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. To date, we have placed named plaques in 20 teaching rooms in honour of those who have donated as part of this scheme.

Donating Organisations 2011-12

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The City Solicitors' Educational Trust
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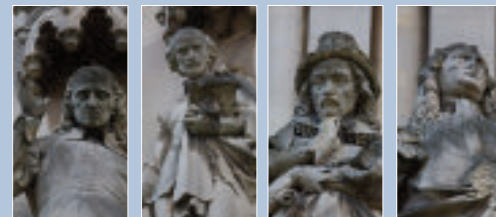
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For more information on becoming a member of the Benefactors' Court, please contact Fiona Naylor, Senior Development Officer, at fiona.naylor@ntu.ac.uk or call +44 (0)115 848 8810.