



The  
University  
Of  
Sheffield.

Development &  
Alumni  
Relations  
Office.

*The Alumni Foundation has awarded 200 grants from philanthropic donations of over £200,000 by alumni and friends of the University. The grants have enabled students to undertake projects and activities that have enriched their experience of studying at the University of Sheffield.*

# The Alumni Foundation.

Supporting student initiatives across the campus – and beyond

# The Alumni Foundation



## Student Services Information Desk

The Student Services Information Desk (SSiD) offers frontline support for prospective students, current students and visitors on campus. SSiD was the first unit of its kind to be established in the UK and has been cited nationally as an example of good practice.

To mark the tenth anniversary of SSiD's formation in 2007, the Alumni Foundation provided a grant of £2,000 for a large plasma screen, sited at the unit's entrance. This is used to display up-to-date, relevant news and information for students, both during and out of office hours.

SSiD is located in the Students' Union, opposite an area where students sit to eat their lunch and where societies gather; this is an ideal place to provide 'news flashes'. The display can reproduce a range of information, from a diary of upcoming key dates to details of the University Health Service's provision.

## 24-hour charity musical

Alumni Foundation grants have supported the "24-hour Musical" including *Bugsy Malone* (pictured) and *The Wizard of Oz*.

The 24-hour Musical is a biannual Union-wide event which allows members and non-members of the many wonderful Union performing arts societies to create top-quality musical theatre for up to a thousand audience members – all within a period of just 24 hours.



SUSS team in Crete

## Sheffield University Speleological Society

In 2006 an Alumni Foundation grant enabled an intrepid team from SUSS (Sheffield University Speleological Society) to travel to Crete to chart almost 200 new caves.

The team was exploring the large limestone valley of Mavri Laki, in the White Mountains area of Crete. Thanks to their grant, they were able to buy essential equipment such as caving rope and battery powered drills, as well as a generator to charge the batteries for the drills and the team's all-important headlights. The team had to battle against searing heat and lack of surface water, but still managed to produce detailed surveys and high quality photos of all their major new discoveries.

*"Without some of this gear it would have been impossible to survive in this remote valley for a month, let alone try to explore new caves, and we are extremely thankful for the Alumni Foundation grant we received."* – SUSS member

*Front cover: SUSS team encounter a cave in Crete*



Bugsy Malone

The challenges for all concerned included learning all the lyrics and score, building the stage and interchangeable scenery, sound and light design, and publicising the event University-wide all in a very short space of time.

All students involved were extremely grateful for the opportunity that the grant gave them to develop and showcase their creative talents to the full.

## Sheffield Nightline



Sheffield Nightline is an invaluable welfare service, similar to Samaritans, available to all students between the hours of 8.00pm and 8.00am. The student volunteers, of which there are between 60 and 90 a year, provide an information service and a listening service, via email and telephone. Their purpose is to be non-directive, non-judgmental, empathetic and confidential.

The Nightline Committee applied to the Alumni Foundation in 2008 for a grant for computing and working facilities: *"Nightline is extremely grateful to the Alumni Foundation for their very generous grant of £1,400 this year. We have benefited greatly from this money and it has helped us in many ways. We were able to buy a wonderful laptop, printer and phones that are used by everyone in the organisation."*

*We feel that, without this money, Nightline's committee would not have been able to achieve many of their aims for the organisation this year."*

## Women's Cricket Club

A grant of £915 awarded to the Women's Cricket Club helped the club to purchase much needed kit which included; new bats, helmets, pads, gloves, cricket balls for games, training equipment such as cones, balls and stumps and also team shirts for all the club members.

The club has previously found it difficult to keep training sessions well attended and competitive as players have little to focus on before the outdoor season begins in May. The additional equipment has allowed more players to train at the

same time and develop their skills, which has in turn improved the enjoyment and standard of all players.

*"On behalf of the Women's Cricket Team we would like to thank the Sheffield University Alumni Foundation for their kindness, support and generosity. Your kind donation has not only provided kit for the club, but also a firm foundation for the ongoing future and improvement of Women's cricket here at Sheffield University."*

Women's Cricket Club Committee



Women's Cricket Club

**Since the Alumni Foundation was re-formed in 2003 over 200 grants have been allocated to a wide variety of projects around the University.**

Some of the projects that have been supported are:

**International Cultural Evening and World Week March 2009** – £2,000 towards the cost of the event

**The University of Sheffield Men's Hockey Club** – £1,700 for new kit including goalkeeping equipment

**University of Sheffield Tennis Club** – £1,250 for court fees, coaching, rackets and balls

**Sheffield Universities Dancesport Society** – £1,000 for new team costumes

**The Film Making Society** – £1,000 for a new camera

**Sheffield University Rowing Club** – £1,000 for a second-hand eight

**The University of Sheffield Ski Club** – £1,000 for safety and race equipment

**Film Unit** – £660 for a community outreach Saturday matinee project for underprivileged children

**Project Pedal Car** – £976 to design and build a pedal car to enter the British Pedal Car Championships 2009

**StitchSoc** – £600 for five new sewing machines

**Edinburgh Fringe Project** – £500 towards the cost of putting on the production

**Equestrian Club** – £500 for training and competitions

**Sheffield Malaysian Games 2009** – £500 towards the cost of the event

**Hip Hop Dance Society** – £300 for the annual dance show "Phat Beatz"

**Sheffield University Volleyball Club** – £150 for new balls and ball bags



Project Pedal Car



Japan Day is run by the University of Sheffield Japan Society to celebrate Japanese culture and to encourage links and understanding between the local residents in Sheffield and Sheffield's Japanese community. The committee were awarded £500 from the Alumni Foundation to go towards the cost of the 2009 event.

In order to encourage the audience to get actively involved, there were a variety of stalls running throughout the day for people to experience aspects of Japanese culture from various time periods, focussing on changes between the past and the present. These included calligraphy; origami; yukata modelling; tea ceremonies; board games including go, shoji and mah-jong; festival games; arcade games; manga; displays of both modern

and traditional Japanese music and art; and Japanese food provided by Willyaki catering services.

Performance highlights included the world famous Joji Hirota and his Taiko drumming troupe; the University of Sheffield authentic Japanese Quiz Show, performances from the University of Sheffield Soran Bushi troupe and demonstrations from the British Kendo Association who were very well received by the audience who attended.

*"This event would not have been possible without the help of the Alumni Foundation. Thank you to all of the donors who made Japan Day 2009 happen."*

Katrina Cordery and Laura Wilkins, Japan Day Organisers



Sheffield Sabrecats



In 2009 the Sheffield Sabrecats Cheerleading Squad were awarded a grant of £1,000 by the Alumni Foundation Committee to buy nine new practice mats.

This new equipment has been essential for the squad to be able to train effectively and safely. The mats have allowed more people to participate in training and allowed the squad to practice larger and more complex stunts.

Cheerleading is proving very popular, with around 200 people attending the first session of the 2009/10 year.

A large amount of the squad have some past experience of gymnastics training, however some have none. The mats allow everyone to develop their skills no matter how basic they may be.

*"We would like to express our gratitude to the Alumni Foundation for the grant we received. It has made a big difference to the quality of our training which will hopefully make this year as successful as the last."*

Laura Marginson and Katie McDonnell, Sheffield Sabrecats Cheerleading Squad.

## The Alumni Foundation

The Alumni Foundation enables students and staff to enrich their experience at the University through undertaking extra-curricular activities.

The University of Sheffield is regularly ranked within the top five in the country for the student experience and this is thanks to the wide range of clubs, societies, volunteering opportunities and events on offer to students and staff. The grants awarded by the Alumni Foundation provide the vital funding needed for these projects to run successfully and in many cases to take place at all.

The Alumni Foundation was originally created in 1989 and was re-founded in 2003 by the newly formed Development and Alumni Relations Office.

£25,000 of small and medium donations from alumni and friends of the University are given to the Alumni Foundation Committee every year to distribute to projects in all areas of the University involving current students and staff.

Students and staff are encouraged to submit applications throughout the academic year for funding of up to £2,000 for a specific project.

All groups are asked to submit an application form that includes aspects such as the background of the project, how the grant will make a difference and how many people within the University and local community will benefit from the project. The application procedure ensures that the grants are distributed in the most effective way and that the process is consistent for all applications.

The Committee always receives many more applications for projects than they can fund and so alternative ways of raising money are offered to the unsuccessful groups.



*The Sheffield University Woodwind Orchestra received a grant of £500 in 2008 to pay for the sheet music for three overseas formal concerts.*

## The committee

The Alumni Foundation Committee consists of Development Office staff, alumni, donors, academic staff and student representatives. The students are represented by their elected Students' Union President and Activities Officer. The Committee meets three times a year (November, March and May) to discuss applications and award grants.

## Media Hub

A gift of £14,000 was left to the Alumni Foundation in the Will of alumna Kathleen Rogers (BA English Literature 1934, MA English Literature 1935) which has provided an outstanding Media Hub for aspiring student journalists of newsprint, radio and web media in the Students' Union.

This comprehensive facility, providing the latest technology for print and web publishing, design, audio and video, is the home of Forge Media. Forge Media incorporates the Forge Press newspaper (formerly Steel Press and Darts), Forgetoday.com (online), Forge Radio (radio station) and Forge TV (video).

And this isn't just a bit of fun. The output from these student-run ventures has received national recognition. Sheffield Steel Press was named Best Student Newspaper at the 2007 National Student Journalism Awards. The newly formed Forge Media was runner-up in the 'Best Student Media' category at the NUS Awards 2009 and the Forge Press was short listed for 'Student Newspaper of the Year' at the Guardian Student Media Awards 2009.

Students' Union president Paul Tobin said; *"The Media Hub is a marvellous facility for student journalism and on behalf of all the student clubs and societies who have benefited I would like to say thank you."*



*Latest technology in the Media Hub*

If you are interested in finding out more about supporting the University through a legacy please contact David Meadows:

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The  
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*Paul Tobin*  
*Students' Union President*  
*2009/10*

*"As President it is a great privilege to help allocate alumni gifts to student projects. On behalf of all the student clubs and societies which have benefited I would like to say thank you to our donors. Attending Alumni Foundation meetings is one of the highlights of my year."*



*Helen Booth*  
*Secretary to the Alumni*  
*Foundation*

*"It is great to be the person who tells groups and societies they have been awarded money from the Alumni Foundation. I hear from students all the time who say what a difference a grant has made to their project. In some cases these projects would not happen at all without the funds kindly donated by alumni and friends of the University".*



*Michael Bennett (BEng 1955)*  
*Alumnus, donor and committee*  
*member*

*"My father died at the beginning of my final year and a gift from his boss enabled me to complete the course. I had a great career as an engineer and I owe this to the University. And so on two counts I see my donation as a way of saying thanks."*



## **Contact**

For more information about the Alumni Foundation including how to make a donation to support projects such as these please contact Alison Muir.

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