Held in the highest regard

We were delighted to learn that the distinguished molecular biologist Professor Sir Kenneth Murray made a gift of £100,000 to The University of Sheffield in his Will. One of the earliest researchers in genetic engineering, he developed the first vaccine against viral hepatitis B, which has saved countless lives worldwide. This generous bequest will help fund PhD students in the area of biological sciences.

Sir Kenneth and his wife Lady (Noreen) Murray had a common interest in the molecular recognition of DNA by proteins, and assembled some of the first recombinant (created artificially) DNA molecules and gene banks. Their work was vital in the development of molecular genetic techniques, which are now used in many biomedical projects.

Their academic careers were spent primarily at the University of Edinburgh. “Ken and Noreen were in many ways traditional scientists,” said Professor David Hornby of The University of Sheffield’s Department of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology. “It was their personal experimental skills, and their love and respect for their chosen fields, which led to their influential work in understanding fundamental aspects of molecular biology.”

The couple were instrumental in ensuring that molecular biology was given a great boost at Sheffield in the early 1980s. David explained, “Genetic engineering became possible at the end of the 1970s. The microbiologist Professor John Guest FRS took advantage of Ken and Noreen’s great generosity and used the resources they had established at Edinburgh to make the transition from traditional microbial genetics to contemporary, recombinant DNA techniques.

“Without Ken and Noreen’s support, Sheffield would not have maintained a leading edge in molecular biology and their contribution to John’s research was key to laying the foundations of the Krebs Institute at the University. The Department of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology was created in 1988 under the Headship of Professor Ernie Bailey and we are now one of the most successful bioscience research departments in the country.”

In gratitude and respect for Sir Kenneth’s and Lady Murray’s work and support, the University awarded them honorary degrees in 2010. Sadly, Lady Murray died in 2011 and Sir Kenneth two years later. “The bequest made to Sheffield by Ken, with Noreen’s support, is just one example of their great generosity and desire to promote the field of biological sciences,” said David. “I am proud to count them among my own mentors. They are a rare example of the powerful combination of pure and applied science and humanity.”

Visit www.krebs.group.shef.ac.uk for details of the Krebs Institute.

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The Murrays gave back to the organisations they cherished in order to continue the pursuit of knowledge.”

Professor David Hornby
An emigrant’s perspective

A medical elective is a great educational opportunity and unforgettable life experience. The Medical School at Sheffield offers all its MBChB undergraduates the opportunity to take an elective – the period a student spends learning away from their ‘home’ medical school – to gain first-hand experience of the way medicine is applied and developed in other countries. In recent years, our students have visited such far-flung places as Costa Rica, Nepal, Malaysia, Tonga, Canada and Cambodia.

Australia is another destination. One student recently spent time with Midwest Aero Medical Services, based in Geraldton, Western Australia; part of their experience was to attend weekly flying GP clinics to remote settlements. This trip would undoubtedly have been of interest to alumnus Dr Eric Bateson (MBChB Medicine 1953, MD Medicine 1963), who emigrated with his family to Australia in the early 1970s.

He took up the position of Senior Specialist Radiologist at Darwin Hospital in the Northern Territory – and was in charge of the only X-ray facility for a population of 40,000. His many contributions to medical practice in the Northern Territory included the formation of its branch of the Australian Medical Association and the development of its first school of radiography. He moved to Queensland, as Visiting Radiologist at the Maryborough Base Hospital, in 1985. He was an active researcher throughout his career and published over 100 articles.

Dr Bateson sadly died in 2011, following a battle with cancer. His wife and daughter – Mrs Winifred Bateson (BA Arts 1953, DipEd Education 1955) and Mrs Helen Lack – have generously donated £12,000 in his memory to establish an endowed bursary at the University, to be known as The Dr Eric Bateson Bursary in Medicine. An award will be made annually to an undergraduate student to help fund their medical elective. We are very grateful that this generosity will give our medical students a helping hand for many years to come.

The music maker

Composer and musician Dr Anthony Skilbeck-Taylor (MMus Music 1990, PhD Music 2000) left a welcome legacy of £1,000 “to help music students within their studies” at the University. The Department of Music has decided to use this gift on equipment, including state-of-the-art music stands.

Dr Skilbeck-Taylor supported his life as a composer by work as a teacher, pianist, organist and choir trainer. Born in 1947, he returned to study as a mature student at Sheffield; his Master’s degree was for organ performance and original composition, and his PhD for original composition. Through his pieces for bells, he had connections with carillonneurs in France, Germany and the United States.

Dr Skilbeck-Taylor’s music is now available online, as free downloads, at the website www.anthonyskilbeckmusic.co.uk

“An elective can have a great impact on a medical student, as they have the opportunity to experience another culture and its medical service. Shelagh and Rodgers Cox (MBChB Medicine 1954, MD Medicine 1961) kindly left an unrestricted bequest of £500 in their Wills to the University and, because of Dr Cox’s link to the Medical School, we have allocated these monies to the medical electives programme.

The couple stayed in Sheffield following Dr Cox’s graduation, and he worked in both general practice and as a consultant geriatrician. Mrs Cox was a nurse in various hospitals around the city. They both enjoyed reunions at the Medical School. We felt that it was appropriate that their gift should help fund the electives programme, which does so much to broaden medical students’ horizons.”

“An emigrant’s perspective”

A GREAT IMPACT

An emigrant’s perspective

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Dr Anthony Skilbeck-Taylor
A champion of British engineering

During his high-flying career, Dr Graham Raper CBE, FREng (BSc Fuel Technology 1954, PhD Fuel Technology 1958) was Chief Executive and Deputy Chairman of Davy Corporation plc, Vice Chairman of Kvaerner Steel and Non Executive Director of Vosper Thornycroft. He left a legacy of £3,000 to the University’s Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering; this will be used to fund prizes for best poster and oral presentation at the department’s bi-annual postgraduate conference and as a travel fund for postgraduates to attend a conference where they will be presenting.

Dr Raper’s family describe him as “a proud Derbyshireman”. He grew up in Ashford-in-the-Water, the son of the village miller. After attending Lady Manners School he studied at The University of Sheffield, where he became an assistant lecturer and was awarded his PhD for a thesis on turbulent combustion.

He left the University to follow an industrial career, first with Head Wrightson in Stockton on Tees and then with Davy back in Sheffield. In later life, Dr Raper remembered his Head of Department, Professor Meredith Thring, calling him “a first-class technologist who was always prepared to look beyond current dogma.”

Dr Raper was passionate about the strength of British engineering and was committed to championing it throughout the world. We are very grateful for his legacy, which will support postgraduate students to follow in his footsteps.

Enterprise in action

The vision for Tapping Potential is to provide clean water and soap to rural villages in Zambia through two businesses, which give a percentage of their profits to help clinics provide life-saving, rehydration treatments. Caroline Turner, Managing Director of Enactus Sheffield, said, “We cannot thank Mr Hurst and his family enough for this kind gift. Our members have been able to engineer an innovative solution to sanitation issues, and have learnt about international development and water engineering. We know that their efforts are helping many hundreds of people.”

Tapping Potential was one of the projects that Enactus Sheffield (as Enactus UK Champions) presented at the Enactus World Cup, held in Beijing in October 2014. They were named the Most Inspirational Team.

Find out more about Enactus Sheffield’s activities at www.enactussheffield.org

A NEW PARTNER FOR HISTORIC VIOLIN

In last year’s Legacy newsletter, we reported on the generous bequest left to the University by Dr Rachael Brook (MBChB Medicine 1956), part of which was the donation of a 1791 Joannes Varotti violin to the Department of Music. The violin is now being played by first-year music student Megan de Garis, who commented, “The violin produces a gorgeously deep, rich tone effortlessly and is a delight to play. I know we will achieve so much together and it will help me enormously to improve as a player and ultimately shape my future in music. I only hope I can do this beautiful violin justice.”

Music student Megan de Garis with the Varotti violin.

A legacy of £1,250 from Peter Hurst MICE (BEng Civil Engineering 1963) has helped a team of students implement a new social enterprise project in Zambia. Tapping Potential is designed to combat the problems caused by water-related diseases and poor sanitation. The students are members of Enactus Sheffield, which uses enterprising projects to benefit communities both locally and globally.

Mr Hurst ensured that his gift was unrestricted. His widow, Mrs Jean Hurst, told us that “he had a happy time in Sheffield and always held the University close to his heart and was proud to have been a student in the Civil Engineering Department.” Mr Hurst spent many years working for Yorkshire Water and, with Mrs Hurst’s approval, we allocated the fund to a project which we knew would benefit not only our students but be directly related to his own life.

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Enactus participants in Zambia.
Recognising excellence

In memory of the late Emeritus Professor Mike Sellars FREng, FNAE (BMet Metallurgy 1956, PhD Metallurgy 1959, DMet Metallurgy 1982), his family and his former department at the University have established the annual Mike Sellars Medal and Prize in Materials Science and Engineering. The award is made to a PhD or postdoctoral student for outstanding work in materials science. Professor Sellars was a long-serving member of staff in the Department of Materials Science and Engineering, and was awarded the Brunton Medal and the Metallurgical and Engineering Association Prize by the University. He was Head of Department (1991–95) and Dean of the Faculty of Engineering (1996–99). His research directly led to the way the metal niobium is used in high-strength steels today.

We were delighted that his widow, Mrs Mavis Sellars, visited the University to award the first medal and £500 prize to Dr Liangxu Lin, who is investigating novel methodologies for the creation of nanoscale materials. His supervisor, Dr Dan Allwood, said, “Lin has been a most breath-taking PhD student to work with and is fully deserving of the Mike Sellars award.”

Supporting SITraN

It was with gratitude that we received the donations given by family and friends at two funerals – of Mrs Brenda Ogden and Dr Yves Sojka (MBChB Medicine 1950) – in support of medical research at the University, and these monies will be used in an area of most need at the Sheffield Institute for Translational Neuroscience (SITraN).

Since its opening by Her Majesty The Queen in 2010, the Institute has grown immensely and developed into a leading global facility. It is at the forefront of research and expertise, pioneering new treatments for neurodegenerative diseases and bringing new hope to patients and families across the country.

Mrs Ogden suffered from motor neuron disease and was well cared for at Salford Royal Hospital. Her daughter, Mrs Kay Colclough, said, “Many kind words have been expressed since my mother died – that she was gentle and kind with a heart of gold, that she was a little gem. She made many friends over the years – we are all privileged to have known her.”

Dr Sojka was of French and Polish descent, and he joined the Polish Mounted Artillery during World War II. He was captured by the Germans, but escaped by jumping from a moving train en route to Germany. He managed to reach Paris where he re-joined the Polish forces and arrived in England following the Dunkirk evacuation. In 1945, he was accepted to study medicine at Sheffield. He met his wife, Madge, at a Union dance in 1950. Mrs Sojka commented, “Yves was always grateful to The University of Sheffield for helping him to achieve a useful and happy life as a GP.”

Find out more about SITraN’s research at www.sheffield.ac.uk/sitran
It is 50 years since the Arts Tower came to dominate the Sheffield skyline. Tower blocks were new and exciting – the Arts Tower was the first major educational tower block in Britain – and the cityscape was changing dramatically with the building boom of the 1950s and 60s.

The Arts Tower took almost four years to build: it was ‘topped-out’ in October 1964 and departments moved in during August and September 1965. The Paternoster lift was a talking point from the very beginning. The Sheffield Telegraph of 20 October 1965 reported that: “The Paternoster Lift in the new Arts Tower at Sheffield University is the longest and most modern lift in the world, but staff and students are claiming that it has caused complete havoc since it started.” Half-a-century later, the Paternoster is still going strong – and is always a highlight of any tour by returning alumni!

Now Grade II* listed, the Arts Tower underwent a major refurbishment in 2010–12. The School of Architecture still occupies the top floors, with the Department of Landscape on Floor 13. Many of the other floors now house administrative services. In her speech at the opening ceremony on 23 June 1966, The Queen Mother described the new building as "the tower of light and learning", a description which is still very apt today.

CAMPUS MASTERPLAN
The University has announced plans for the Campus Masterplan – our vision for the next decade. It expresses the desire to create a unified, sustainable and green campus, which will enhance the experience for students, staff, visitors and the wider community, and integrate seamlessly with the rest of the city. As the University continues to grow, both in terms of reputation and in student and staff numbers, there’s an increasing need to expand and improve the quality of our buildings and the surrounding campus.

Visit www.sheffield.ac.uk/campusmasterplan for full details.

VISIT THE CAMPUS
David Meadows, Development Officer – Legacies, enjoys taking alumni, former staff and friends on tours of the campus, to relive memories, revisit an old department and the Students’ Union – or travel on the Paternoster! Giving you a first-hand experience of the campus today can help to clarify your thoughts on the most effective use of a future gift to The University of Sheffield.

Please contact David if you wish to visit the campus:
Call 0114 222 1073 or
Email d.meadows@sheffield.ac.uk
DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 9 April 2015
Sheffield Alumni Pub Quiz in London
Waterfront Bar, Kings College Students’ Union, London

Saturday 20 June 2015
Reunion Luncheon for the classes of 1955 and 1965
Firth Hall, The University of Sheffield

Thursday 2 July 2015
Event for former staff and friends
On campus

Saturday 12 September 2015
Annual Alumni Reunion
On campus

Friday 30 October 2015
Heritage Circle Luncheon
Firth Hall, The University of Sheffield

We are delighted to celebrate the generosity and foresight of our supporters through the Heritage Circle, which recognises donors who plan a future gift for the University in their Will. All members of the Heritage Circle are invited to an annual luncheon, at which we give an update on recent developments and successes. It is a chance to meet fellow alumni and hear some of our top academics discuss their work.

To ensure that you receive future invitations to our events, please keep your contact details up to date via our website:
www.sheffield.ac.uk/alumni/keepintouch

A GIFT IN YOUR WILL

If you are planning to leave a legacy for a specific part of The University of Sheffield, or for a named prize or scholarship, we would be delighted to discuss this with you so that we can fully understand your wishes.

The University is constantly evolving, so gifts that are not dedicated to a particular area are extremely valuable. Unrestricted gifts enable the University to channel resources to areas where the need is most pressing.

Please contact David Meadows,
Development Officer – Legacies,
if you wish to visit the campus or to discuss any aspect of supporting the University.
Call 0114 222 1073 or
Email d.meadows@sheffield.ac.uk

Please visit the section on our website devoted to leaving a gift in your Will and to see our Legacy video, narrated by Professor Marie Kinsey of the Department of Journalism Studies. Here we explain how a legacy can make a positive difference to the future of The University of Sheffield and the research and teaching undertaken here.

www.sheffield.ac.uk/legacies