INTRODUCING THE DIAMOND

Representing the largest single investment in teaching and learning in the University’s history, The Diamond opened its doors to students in September 2015. The £81 million building is sited on Leavygreave Road, between the Department of Music (in the old Jessop Hospital) and St George’s Church.

The six storeys provide facilities including lecture theatres, seminar rooms, a library and over 1,000 study spaces, which are available 24/7 for staff and students across the campus. It also has specialist teaching facilities for engineering, including 19 laboratories, a chemical engineering pilot plant, a clean room, an aerospacious simulation lab and a virtual reality suite. It was designed as a ‘smart’ building, allowing detailed control of energy management, and includes a central naturally ventilated atrium and rainwater harvesting.

We are keen to introduce our donors to this extraordinary building: it is now one of the highlights of a campus tour. Please contact the office if you would like to take advantage of this service.

The Big Walk 2015

As a ‘big thank you’ to people who donated to The Big Walk (see pages 12-13) via JustGiving, we entered their names into a prize draw to win a limited edition screen print of The Diamond by local artist James Green (see bottom left). Muriel Akam (MEd English Language Teaching 2003) was the lucky winner!

Development, Alumni Relations & Events
The University of Sheffield
40 Victoria Street
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S10 2TN
Email: giving@sheffield.ac.uk
Tel: 0114 222 5598
www.sheffield.ac.uk/alumni

Facebook University of Sheffield Alumni
LinkedIn University of Sheffield Alumni

Twitter @SheffieldAlumni
It is an obvious thing to say, but we feel it is worth repeating: our donors, alumni and friends are the heart, soul and lifeblood of the University of Sheffield. Your support is central to all we do. Consideration of the future and educational improvements are not just of interest to our students but also of great concern to those who work to ensure the University is much enjoyed being at years ago continues to be such a stimulating, vibrant and friendly place.”

Thank you to everyone who is now a member of our volunteering community. Your input is greatly appreciated, not only by our students but also our staff who witness the impact you are having across the campus.

Miles Stevenson
Director of Campaigns
Robert Dufton
Director of Campaigns

What your support can fund

£10,000
A donation of £10,000 provides a fully funded scholarship to a student embarking on a postgraduate course.

£2,000
A donation of £2,000 can help to provide a department with a grant to improve or add to teaching and learning facilities for current and future students.

£500
A donation of £500 can provide a grant to a student club, society or sports team to fund new equipment, competition fees or travel.

£500 per month
A regular donation of £500 a month entitles you to membership of our Firth Circle, and is enough to fund one undergraduate scholarship of £1,200 for a year.

As an exempt charity (X1089), donations to The University of Sheffield are eligible for Gift Aid, making your money go even further. Gift Aid adds an additional 25p for every £1 you donate.

Gift Aid is available only to residents of the UK. A donation of £2,000 can help to provide a department with a grant to improve or add to teaching and learning facilities for current and future students.

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I recently sat around a table with a dozen Sheffield graduates, ranging from a young woman who had just finished her degree and secured her first job to experienced professionals in their 40s and 50s. The conversation turned to their experience of university and particularly of teaching. What, I asked, mattered most to them?

The answers were varied. The key message was that courses had been genuinely challenging and that was a great preparation for what had followed. Lecturers and professors had pressed students hard, demanded essays on time, expected independent study and effective team working. All vital skills in later life.

But they also spoke of encouragement – of University teachers who knew and cared about them, who remained the source of inspiration and warm memories. And they stressed how the wider reputation of the institution had opened doors. Many had drawn on this reputation as they had worked around the world. They knew they had benefited from what several said was ‘one of the most important choices of my life’.

Why do I love listening to our alumni talking about their teachers of many years ago, often retired, sometimes no longer with us? I believe that these memories are precious, that our University is an extended family. Students are with us for their formative years as they make a transition from home to independence and the careers which will shape their future. They will take their ideas and energies into communities around them, identifying challenges and discovering friendships which often last decades.

We are always looking for ways to make our University a better place to build the skills, knowledge and confidence to be a success in whatever career our students wish to pursue. I wish to thank our donors for their generous support which helps us to strive for and achieve this goal.

Professor Sir Keith Burnett FRS
Vice-Chancellor

The four aspects of the value of the education I received at Sheffield University are that, first, for me, it was free; second, it was a terrific technical education; third, the reputation of Sheffield and its networks allowed me to access worlds that would have otherwise been closed; and fourth, the life lessons I learned have never left me.

I was the first in my family to stay at school beyond the age of 16. Sheffield offered me a four-year degree; the first year was aimed at kids like me who passed their A Levels but not with uniformly high grades. I also received a scholarship for the full four years. These two remarkable opportunities of access and affordability changed my world.

I graduated in 1972 and went straight into a PhD, again with a full scholarship. So by 1975 I had my degrees and no debt. This is a great place from which to start. The technical base that I was given at Sheffield served me in ways that are hard to overstate. I was able to enter my career in the United States with confidence, and I started as a postdoc at Stanford University with Professor Oleg D Sherby as a direct result of his recognition of the excellence of a Sheffield degree.

At Sheffield, Gordon Richardson transformed me from a rote learner to a thinker – and changed my life through his patience and kindness. John West taught me to never, ever, be unprepared for a presentation. And Jack Woodhead and Bob Keown took me under their wings and were unbelievably generous with their time and knowledge. As a result, I never now give up on a kid because I know they can thrive with the right opportunity and the right teachers.

An education is the greatest gift you can receive, and it is also the greatest gift you can give to someone else.

President and Chief Executive Officer,
Battelle Memorial Institute

We were delighted to welcome Dr Wadsworth to speak at our Alumni Reunion 2015. He is a generous donor to the University and is acknowledged on the Chancellor’s List.
Philanthropic gifts are vital to The University of Sheffield – the impact that they have is transformational.

Our supporters are helping us to change the world for the better through the power of ideas and knowledge. Your generosity creates exciting opportunities for gifted students, enhances scholarly research and its impact upon the community, provides essential capital funding and underpins the evolution of this great civic university.

We are fully aware that we need to raise funds from diverse philanthropic sources to sustain, widen and enhance the quality of our teaching and research. Whether you make a single gift, set up a regular donation or remember the University in your Will, you are helping to educate and inspire the next generation of graduates. We are also very grateful for the support of a wide range of philanthropic foundations and grant-awarding bodies that make significant contributions to our fundraising activities. All of our donors make a difference.

Celebrating your generosity

Our annual Donor Celebration Events are proving to be a popular way for University students and staff to thank our donors in person. The latest celebration event took place in Firth Hall on 21 October 2015 and was hosted by Professor Shearer West, who has joined the University as Deputy Vice-Chancellor. The response from our guests was extremely positive – they were enthusiastic to meet current students, and hear about the University’s latest developments and activities.

Students attending the event were recipients of donation-funded scholarships and representatives from clubs and societies that had received donation-funded grants. The evening was a great opportunity for these groups to show their appreciation. Highlights included a performance by The University of Sheffield Wind Orchestra – they had received funding of £450 which they used to promote their concerts while representing the University on tour in Berlin.

Many donors went on a campus tour before they gathered in Firth Hall, which included a visit to the latest addition to the campus, The Diamond (also see the back page for further details of this landmark building). Informal conversations revealed that many of our donors want to give back to their University as an act of gratitude for some of the happiest, most productive and formative years of their life. One donor commented, “It gives me a lovely feeling to see and speak to students who are enjoying University life and whose experience of it has been helped by donors such as me.”

It was a great event that made me feel really proud and special to have received such an amazing scholarship, bringing with it so many great opportunities.

Sophie Yardley, second-year Psychology student, Lord Dainton Scholar

A wonderful evening mixing and mingling with scholarship holders and alumni alike. It was a great opportunity to find out more about the individuals who sponsor these amazing scholarships.

Robert Chan, second-year Medicine student, Mo Sacoor Scholar
The results of your generosity

Total donated

£4,950,064
from the Ross CASE Survey for 2014/15 (over £1.7m more than in 2014)

Number of regular donors (Silver Arrows)

1,190

Largest gift

£594,000

Total donated since 2003

£35,450,633

Countries given from

30
(an increase of 10 on 2014)

Legacies

£1,231,168

Beneficiaries include:

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Examples of research funding

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THE SHEFFIELD
STUDENT EXPERIENCE

The University’s reputation was further enhanced by the results of the National Student Survey 2015 of final-year students, in which we achieved an overall satisfaction score of 90 per cent. The sector average is 86 per cent. And the Students’ Union was voted best in the country for the fourth year in a row. One way that our donors can make an immediate impact on the lives of our students – and further enhance the ‘student experience’ – is through support of our Alumni Fund.

Your donations allow us to make grants to clubs and societies to support extra-curricular activities and to fund improvements to facilities and equipment across the campus. The Alumni Foundation is the committee, made up of academic staff, Students’ Union Officers and representatives from the alumni community, which distributes these donations.

Enhancing teaching and learning
During 2015, you have helped to fund over £135,000 of improvements across the campus. Grants have included £15,700 for the Drama Studio to upgrade and replace the auditorium sound control, amplification and speaker array; £10,000 for University of Sheffield Enterprise for their co-working space, known as Evolve; £11,000 to Civil and Structural Engineering for new triaxial testing apparatuses; and £10,000 to the Western Bank Library for new shelf ends and improved wayfinding displays.

Supporting extra-curricular activities
Through your generosity, we were able to award a total of 65 grants totalling £35,500 to clubs and societies: the largest grant was £2,000 and the smallest was £65.

An illustration showing how the Participation Hub can be delivered, erected and used in Sheffield City Centre (see Conversations about architecture).
On the wild side

The University’s nature-related student societies have come together to create the Nature Network Sheffield. We awarded a grant of £850 to support the network’s inaugural event – a weekend called the Peaks and City Takeover.

Over 30 participants volunteered their time to five different community groups and worked together to assist the Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust’s rangers at Blacka Moor nature reserve. Back at the Students’ Union, they also took part in a careers workshop, facilitated by guests from the British Ecological Society, Natural England and the National Trust (two were Sheffield alumni), before attending an evening lecture by conservationist James Borrell.

The President of Nature Network Sheffield and a PhD student, Cat Stokowska said, "Financial support from the Alumni Foundation didn't just provide an opportunity for us to inspire the Sheffield participants who attended the Takeover – it has also helped us to lay the foundations for an inter-university equivalent of Nature Network Sheffield as we welcomed students from other universities. So on behalf of myself and my friends, I’d like to thank you. Your donations played a very real part in our vision for a better, brighter future."

Look, no hands!

A team of final-year Electronic and Electrical Engineering students took pole position at an autonomous car racing event hosted by the Deggendorf Institute of Applied Sciences, Germany. Team SIMBA competed against 19 other teams to go through to the European finals of the Freescale Cup, a global competition with over 23,000 students taking part in building, programming and racing an autonomous model car. Using only cameras and motion sensors with no human interaction, the fastest car to complete the race circuit without more than two wheels leaving the track wins. Team SIMBA created motor-control hardware and software to propel and steer their intelligent car using a camera to follow a guideline around the track. The competition test track at the University was part-funded by a £500 grant from the Alumni Foundation.

In the spotlight

Funny You Should Ask (FYSA) Theatre received a £750 grant from the Alumni Foundation to help support their national tour of The 56, an original piece of documentary theatre that examines the themes of solidarity, strength and community in the aftermath of the fire at Bradford City’s football ground on 11 May 1985. FYSA also successfully submitted the piece for the National Student Drama Festival, which gave members an opportunity to perform to a much wider audience, and meet and work with theatre professionals. The company received three awards, including The Directors’ Guild Award for the company’s artistic director, Matt Stevens-Woodhead (BA English and History 2014).

Conversations about architecture

The School of Architecture used an Alumni Fund grant of £13,000 to run a design competition for a ‘Participation Hub’, which will be used to promote and advertise the activities of the School around the city and beyond. Matt Pearson (MEng Structural Engineering and Architecture 2012, MArch Architecture 2015) and Ross Jordan (MEng Structural Engineering and Architecture 2012, MArch Architecture 2015) were the winners. They said, "We were drawn to the competition as we found the brief to be unique with challenging design constraints. The aim was to have a design that is quick to construct and easy to move. The idea was based on a folding piece of origami, which could be compact when folded, be an exciting event when unfolding, and have a striking, flexible form." Constructed in early 2016, the Hub was the subject of testing and commissioning exercises by students and staff of the School before being put to use.
SUPPORTING TALENTED UNDERGRADUATES

Ensuring that talented students from all backgrounds have access to higher education is not only life-changing for those individuals – it is essential for the UK. Scholarships are a vital provision, both for the individual student and for the health of the University. The average student debt on graduation has risen in recent years to £44,000. For every scholarship we award, there are two students who do not receive the support they need. Your gifts are helping us to provide more scholarships than ever before to our students who are in financial need.

We understand that each degree brings with it specific costs. That’s why our undergraduate scholarships reflect the particular needs of each discipline, and cover a wide range of subjects. Alumni Fund Scholarships, offered across all faculties, are worth £3,600 over three years. We also provide scholarships where a donor has specified a certain department within the University that they would like to support; these include Faculty of Engineering Alumni Fund Awards. Our Alumni Fund Study Abroad Scholarships are available for students who may otherwise struggle with additional costs.

Coming from Northern Ireland to study in the UK had always been my plan but not an easy one to accomplish as it meant higher tuition fees and more travel but I have never regretted it for a second. Your donations have given me greater financial security and the confidence to be who I want to be in the place I now call home.

Megan Myer, English Literature student, Alumni Fund Scholar

The scholarship has been a huge help financially. I have not had to go without text books and materials. When my laptop broke, it could have been a tragedy, but with the scholarship money I could replace it right away and continue taking it to lectures and studying. I believe there has been a significant increase in the quality of my work as a direct result of the scholarship.

Jade Tosney, Law and Criminology student, Alumni Fund Scholar

The scholarship has allowed me to fully engage with all of the different opportunities university life has to offer. I can’t thank the donors enough for the crucial help they have given me and to all the other students.

Mohammed Yusuf Hossain, Medicine student, Alumni Fund Scholar
The Firth Circle: leading the way

The Firth Circle is the gift club through which we recognise the generosity of our donors who make a gift of £1,200 or more within a year. It is named in honour of Mark Firth, the steel magnate and philanthropist; he founded Firth College in 1879, one of the three local institutions from which The University of Sheffield developed.

Our Firth Circle members make an immediate and significant contribution towards scholarships for bright and talented students from financially disadvantaged backgrounds. In 2015, we increased the entry point to the Firth Circle from £1,000 to £1,200 to reflect an increase in the value of the undergraduate scholarships we provide to students in need (now £1,200 a year for three years).

In addition, donations made through the Firth Circle also help us to develop cutting-edge learning, teaching and research facilities, and support initiatives across campus and beyond in music, drama, sport and volunteering.

The University recognises members of the Firth Circle by recording their names on the Donor Honour Board located in the Information Commons, and in our online and printed communications. Members also receive priority invitations to donor and alumni events in prestigious venues such as the House of Lords and the Royal Society, and a Silver Arrows lapel pin.

If you would like to make a gift to the University and join the Firth Circle, please call Richard Hardcastle, Development Officer, on 0114 225 7052 or email r.hardcastle@sheffield.ac.uk.

Why I joined the Firth Circle

"University was a massive step change for me, and gave me experiences I genuinely could not have got anywhere else. The teaching was great and it felt like we were really learning from academics and practitioners who were at the cutting edge of their subjects. I also had a fantastic time through the Students’ Union, gaining great student development training and employability skills. I must admit it was only once I became Students’ Union President (in 1995–96) and started visiting other universities that I realised quite how progressive it was!

"I was the first person in my family to go to university and it was at a time when we got student grants so finance wasn’t a massive issue. I started to think about wanting to give something back when I’d moved on from being a student and was settled in my career – in alumni relations! I was inspired by the story of Bethan Reeves who was Academic & Welfare Secretary the year before I was President. Sadly, Bethan died very young and she left a legacy to the Students’ Union in her Will. I wanted to give a small, regular amount that I could afford while bringing up my family. I therefore started to contribute to the University.

"It’s pleasing to know my £1,200 is funding a scholarship each year."

"As a member of the Alumni Board, I do have an insight into how the Development and Alumni Relations staff at Sheffield ensure that every penny goes to where it’s needed. I know that regular contributions such as mine go into a big pot but it’s pleasing to know that my £1,200 is funding a scholarship each year. I feel that I am investing in the future of the University, and I’m acknowledging the massive benefits I gained from my time as a student."

Claire Kilner (BSc Anatomy and Cell Biology 1995, MA Journalism Studies 1997), Deputy Director and Head of Alumni & Donor Communications & Engagement, The University of Manchester, and a member of the Alumni Board, The University of Sheffield
OPENING THE DOOR TO POSTGRADUATE STUDY

The University is continuing to support students from less well-off backgrounds who wish to undertake a taught postgraduate course. We plan to commit £1 million to provide 100 scholarships worth £10,000 each for students starting their courses in 2016. Postgraduate qualifications are often the gateway to the top professions, such as teaching, law and medicine, so it is important that we provide opportunities for talented students to continue their studies.

Last year, the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) made matched funding available to the University for postgraduate scholarships, meaning we had the potential to support 220 students through their studies. Our donors provided funds of almost £130,000 to our campaign to raise the monies to match the HEFCE grant. This generosity resulted in 26 of the scholarships being funded by philanthropic donations.

This year, HEFCE has not continued its match-funding scheme. The University is maintaining its commitment and will allocate a further £150,000 to postgraduate scholarships if we are able to raise a matching amount in philanthropic donations. Every pound donated will be matched by the University, meaning a donation of £5,000 (or £4,000 with Gift Aid if you are a UK taxpayer) will provide a student with a scholarship of £10,000.

Following the success of last year, we know that our scholarship scheme is an effective way of attracting students into postgraduate study. We hope that you will consider supporting us in helping to expand the pool of talent available to our top professions.

The support of alumni means such a lot to students like me. Thanks to the postgraduate scholarship scheme, partly funded by alumni, I was able to take up a place on Sheffield’s MSc (Eng) Biological and Bioprocess Engineering course – something I never dreamed would be possible. On behalf of all postgraduate scholarship recipients, I would like to say thank you for your donation.

Alyssa Jones (MSc (Eng) Biological and Bioprocess Engineering 2016)

I have a postgraduate qualification from India but I have been taking care of my family for six years. Now, as I wanted to get back to my career, I had to update my skills. As I was still unemployed I thought of applying for the scholarship. The scholarship made it possible to study in Sheffield, which would not have happened otherwise.

Nisha Kamarajan (MSc Advanced Software Engineering 2016)
Why I created a scholarship

After a highly successful career as a Senior Partner of Barton Willmore, the UK’s largest planning consultancy, Gareth Capner FRTPi (BA Town and Regional Planning 1968, MA Town and Regional Planning 1970) is happy to support The University of Sheffield as part of his estate planning: “I had got to the point in my life when, together with my wife, I was thinking about the charities that I wanted to engage with, rather than just leave our executors with a list. I did a vocational course at Sheffield that led to a job from which I’ve done very well. I am very grateful to the University for the education I received – they turned a school boy into a young professional.”

“I feel a great affinity to the University and I am delighted that I can help the next generation of planners.”

In fact, Gareth was the first person to graduate from the Department of Town and Regional Planning, which was established in 1965 (and was renamed Urban Studies and Planning in 2015); his surname ensured that he was top of the alphabetical list of graduands at his degree ceremony! When he received an invitation to speak at the department’s 50th anniversary dinner last year from Professor John Flint, Gareth took the opportunity to raise the issue of making a financial donation to the department. He explained, “John told me about the matched funding scheme for postgraduates established by HEFCE, and how a £4,000 donation could be increased to £10,000 by including Gift Aid and the matched funding. This really appealed to my entrepreneurial spirit!

“When I was a student, we received state-funded grants – free tuition and living allowance – and so I graduated with an undergraduate and a postgraduate degree and no debt. I was told that my donation would create a scholarship in my own name, which I certainly didn’t look for but is very pleasing. The whole process was easy. I handed over a cheque and Hannah Jordan, from Development, Alumni Relations & Events, oversaw the process. I do intend to make another donation next year so the scholarship can continue.

“During my career I have been involved in some high-profile and intellectually challenging projects, met some great people and have been well rewarded. All this is due to the platform of education and skills given to me by my old department and its staff. I feel a great affinity to the University and I am delighted that I can help the next generation of planners.”

For my chosen profession, I knew that I would need to take a master’s so I could get my Royal Town Planning Institute accreditation: my goal is to become a chartered planner. I spent a lot of time thinking about my postgraduate year, because I knew it would be very expensive. I was so relieved when I was awarded the scholarship – I remember the day quite vividly! This support has been such a huge help. It’s taken away so much stress, and I feel like I’m on the next stepping stone to my future career. Thank you.

The Gareth Capner Scholar 2015–16
Frances Hampson (BA Urban Studies and Planning 2015), MA Town and Regional Planning student
The Big Walk 2015 was an impressive achievement, bringing together people from across the University community to tackle the challenge of the Pennine Way – in its 50th-anniversary year – while fundraising for research into lung disease, specifically the rare but devastating Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension (PAH).
Sheffield is a major international centre for the diagnosis, treatment and research of PAH, and the £86,000 raised by the Big Walk team through sponsorship and donations is a terrific boost to the work of the University’s Pulmonary Vascular Research Group.

PAH affects the lungs and the right side of the heart, and begins when tiny arteries in the lungs become narrowed or blocked. This puts an enormous strain on the heart as it works harder to pump blood through the lungs. It is this strain on the heart and decrease in the blood through the lungs that causes the majority of symptoms such as breathlessness, fainting, racing pulse and weakness. As the disease worsens, it becomes difficult for individuals to carry out normal activities.

The majority of the 500 patients diagnosed annually in the UK die from progressive heart failure within five years. Although medical therapies can alleviate symptoms and, at best, slow progression, there is currently no cure. Members of the Pulmonary Vascular Research Group are already making exciting discoveries; the funds raised by the Big Walk will boost our ambitions to stop the disease through the development of new drugs.

Organised by staff from Development, Alumni Relations & Events, the Big Walk involved 22 alumni, staff and friends walking 268 miles in 14 days, starting on 3 September 2015 and covering the full Pennine Way from Kirk Yetholm in the Scottish borders to Edale in Derbyshire. They then completed their challenge with an extra day of walking – a further 18 miles – from Edale to Sheffield, accompanied by over 100 supporters who added their own sponsorship monies to the cause. Others across the University also raised funds, including bake sales, fancy dress and the University’s Library Service organised a walking-themed quiz and raffle.

Professor Tony Weetman, Faculty Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Medicine, Dentistry and Health, and Professor Tony Ryan, Faculty Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Science, led the Big Walk team, which included Dr Allan Lawrie, British Heart Foundation Senior Research Fellow, and Jim Wild, Professor of Magnetic Resonance Physics, who are both directly involved in PAH research – Allan works to develop future therapies to aid patient treatment and Jim develops new diagnostic magnetic resonance imaging techniques.

The team captured their stories of the trek through a series of blog posts. Allan reflected on his experiences, commenting: “I’m humbled by the effort that everyone has put into fundraising and spreading the word, not just the walkers … The fact that the University backed this event, and chose my research as its focus, is amazing.

“To my fellow ‘Big Walkers’ – thank you for making this so much fun! I now feel a huge responsibility to make sure that the money we have raised is spent wisely, and in a way that maximises the impact for patients.”

Donation in memory of ELTC teacher

In December 2015, we were honoured to receive a gift of £10,000 for the Big Walk fund in support of lung disease research. This significant amount was donated by the family of Jane Riberzani, a former teacher at the University’s English Language Teaching Centre (ELTC). Jane came from Italy to Sheffield to work on the summer pre-sessional course for several years before joining the staff permanently in 2011. In May 2014, she was diagnosed with terminal lung cancer and died in August that year. The total donation made by her family will also allow for the planting of a tree in Jane’s name in the University’s memorial garden at Halifax Hall, the purchase of library books for ELTC students and staff, and a painting to be hung in the ELTC.

Our next challenge?

In 2016 the Big Walk is returning to raise funds for refugee academics and students here at the University. Find out more at shef.ac.uk/big-walk.
IN MEMORY OF A SKILLED PRODUCTION ENGINEER

Gifts made in memoriam have a very special significance to their donors. They are a powerful way of celebrating a friend's or loved one's life while helping to make a difference. A substantial gift of £70,000 made by Julia Boler (LLB Law 1968) in memory of her partner Gordon Franklin is now providing a set of scholarships for students, both undergraduate and postgraduate, in the Department of Mechanical Engineering.

Gordon Franklin studied mechanical engineering at Imperial College, London, just after the Second World War. He had no parental support and worked in term time for a dairy company on a delivery round, later becoming a manager, and supplemented a meagre diet with milk. In the holidays, he sought employment with various engineering companies to gain practical experience. After graduation, he signed up for one trip in the Merchant Navy as a junior engineering officer with responsibility for the engine, boilers, and refrigeration system for food storage. The trip took him to the Far East, Japan and China.

He became interested in production engineering and, through the sponsorship of the father of his childhood pen-friend, was accepted at the University of Tennessee to study for a PhD in production engineering, awarded in 1952. Back in the UK, he eventually settled in Sheffield, joining the production engineering team at British Acheson Electrodes (later Union Carbide), ending his working life as chief production engineer.

“My experience of university in the late 1960s was very different from Gordon’s,” said Miss Boler, “and what I’ve seen of today’s student experience is very different again. I admired his determination to experience all he could in his early life, and to innovate and apply his knowledge and skills to any job, large or small. I felt he would empathise with any similarly disadvantaged young person seeking a career in engineering, which can be so varied in its application.”

Miss Boler has witnessed the development of the University over several decades. She followed in her father’s footsteps – Stanley Boler graduated in Law in 1937 – and studied Law in the late 1960s. She has vivid memories of the annual Rag Parade and Boat Race, and the ‘dawn raids’ on the steel works to sell copies of the fundraising Twikker magazine to the steel workers. Apart from six months when she studied for her Law Society final exams in Liverpool, she has lived and worked in the city all her life, specialising in probate and conveyancing, latterly at Wrigleys.

She served as President of the Sheffield University Association of Former Students in the 1980s, and then as Treasurer until the association ceased to exist. She now volunteers her time as a member of the Alumni Foundation Committee, which distributes the philanthropic donations of alumni and friends.

“I am constantly amazed by the enthusiasm of today’s students,” she added. “The range of projects that come before the committee for assessment is always fascinating. We certainly didn’t have such opportunities when I was at University! I hope Gordon would have agreed with the funding I have made available; he had such a difficult financial time during his academic career and I wanted to make a contribution to the lives of the next generation of mechanical engineers in his memory.

If you wish to discuss making a gift in memoriam or a gift in your Will to the University, please call David Meadows, Development Officer – Legacies, on 0114 222 1074 or email d.meadows@sheffield.ac.uk.

The department was delighted to receive such a generous donation in memory of Gordon Franklin. It is fantastic that his legacy will enable some of the most talented students to study with us.

Professor Neil Sims, Head of Department, Department of Mechanical Engineering

Gordon Franklin

Julia Boler
THE FUTURE OF TEACHING AND LEARNING?

“Traditional university teaching, where lecturers pass on knowledge and then test to see how well students have understood, doesn’t work anymore. In the age of easy, on-demand access to information, it’s yesterday’s way of thinking. So what should university teaching look like in the future? ... it’s likely that changes will include increased teamwork and learning in teams, and interdisciplinary collaboration.”

This is how Neil Rackham (BSc Psychology 1965), best-selling author of SPIN Selling, international expert in sales, and Visiting Professor in Sheffield University Management School, explains his approach to questioning traditional teaching methods. Through the Rackham Foundation, he has made a substantial donation of over £300,000 to the University to set up a Rackham Fellowship. This three-year project is conducting an in-depth study into the development of teams, enhancing the current research stream in this area within the Department of Psychology and the Institute of Work Psychology.

Rackham Fellow Sam Foley (MSc Occupational Psychology 2011) is focusing on the Achieve More programme, which encourages students to work with others from a range of academic disciplines in faculty-based group challenges, building on their collaborative skills. Neil explained, “I saw this as an opportunity to contribute – one of the issues Achieve More faces is that it’s hard to measure teamwork. I had developed ways to do this and so it was a natural fit. I wanted to give something back for all that Sheffield has given me. I sponsored the research fellowship to study team behaviour and to develop methods for helping students work together more effectively.”

Sam will recruit and train, with Neil’s support, a number of student observers to watch and capture data on each student group, looking at how they interact. The observers will then be able to give almost instantaneous feedback to the group participants about how each of them operates and interacts within the group and how they could improve this. The associated evaluations and reports will be used to inform the future planning of Achieve More, and the Rackham Fellowship will have a great impact on the University’s expertise in the field of team behaviour, and the future success of Achieve More and the employability of our students.

“There are two kinds of involvement for an alumnus like me,” Neil reflected. “First is funding and, increasingly, the innovative and exciting activities of the University will depend on gifts from alumni. The other contribution is to bring our real-world experience and become an active participant. For me, this second type of involvement has been unexpectedly satisfying. Working on projects with smart young people is unbelievably rewarding. “And there’s a great sense of coming back to your roots. For me, this affinity is even greater because I’m coming back to work with my old department and, to put the icing on the cake, I’m able to work on some of the unfinished questions that were left hanging from my own fellowship at Sheffield.”

Achieve More

Achieve More is the overarching name for one of the biggest and most innovative changes to our undergraduate curriculum in the last 20 years. It allows students to explore their discipline in its wider context. They also have the opportunity to accrue skills and experiences that will contribute to their Higher Education Achievement Report, and which will add to the broad set of personal and professional attributes expected of the Sheffield Graduate.
The Times Higher Education World University Rankings, published on 14 January 2016, named The University of Sheffield as one of the 100 ‘most international’ universities. Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir Keith Burnett commented, “In a world struggling with division, we provide a precious environment in which we learn from one another and build deep bonds of friendship and respect.”

One of the many ways in which we are supporting international students at Sheffield is through the Allan and Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust Masters Scholarships. This scheme is helping 12 students from developing countries to study on one of our International Development postgraduate programmes over the next three years, under the umbrella of the Sheffield Institute for International Development (SIID). The first four Allan and Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust Scholars started their courses in October 2015, and they come from as far afield as Nigeria, the Philippines and Egypt.

“Work on International Development hinges on effective collaborations with a community of scholars and practitioners from around the world,” commented Professor Dan Brockington, Director of SIID. “The research communities forged in Sheffield, by uniting global expertise and experience, are sources of innovation and inspiration which invigorate this University, and the institutions we work with. Scholarships are absolutely vital for making this work. Without them, many students from overseas cannot afford the benefits of working here. With them, they can embark on careers and life paths which will make a profound difference to their communities and social challenges globally.”

Without this scholarship I would never have been able to fund my studies and even pay for my maintenance. It has not only fulfilled my dream but also the dreams of my mother.

Ann Ameh, MA Global Justice student: Ann is from Kogi State in Nigeria. Sadly, her father passed away when she was a child and her family had no stable source of income. Thanks to the support of friends and family, she studied law at Kogi State University, was top of her class and graduated in 2012.

Receiving support from the Allan and Nesta Ferguson Scholarship allowed me to pursue my postgraduate studies in one of the best planning schools in the UK. Without this support, I would definitely not be able to afford this type of education. The doors that it opened and will continue to open for me to pursue not only my personal goals but also my dreams for my country are unparalleled.

Anna Karaan, MA Cities and Global Development student: Anna is from Metro Manila, the Philippines, and is an honours graduate (Architecture) from the University of the Philippines Diliman; she was placed first in the Philippine Architecture Licensure Examination.

The scholarship grant is a very important milestone for me as it puts me closer to a professional career in academia in the Philippines. This degree will allow me to be part of the development of my country through my future contributions in research on climate change and health.

Paul Chua, MSc Environmental Change and International Development student: Paul comes from Bulacan, the Philippines. He received his BSc Nursing in 2010 from the Far Eastern University and was top of his class.
In recent years, The University of Sheffield has become the place to see outstanding and unusual productions of Broadway musicals, all performed by our students and curated by Director of Performance Dr Dominic McHugh. Now, a generous donation of over £55,000 by The Frederick Loewe Foundation is funding a new PhD to support research into the composer of such beloved musicals as *My Fair Lady*, *Camelot*, *Brigadoon* and *Gigi*, and the creation of a new production of *Paint Your Wagon*.

The Frederick Loewe Doctoral Scholarship in Music has been awarded to Matthew Malone (BMus Music 2013, MMus Music 2014), whose master’s degree was devoted to the reconstruction of the Jule Styne musical, *Subways are for Sleeping*, which he conducted at the University in April 2014. More recently, Dominic and Matthew worked together on The Lost Songs of ‘My Fair Lady’, which was a highlight of the inaugural Faculty of Arts and Humanities Festival in May last year. International media coverage of this event reached an audience of over 50 million people.

“I have been researching Frederick Loewe’s work for over 10 years,” explained Dominic. “This has brought me into close contact with The Frederick Loewe Foundation in New York as they have access to a unique range of material and also provide permissions for performances. Emily Altman, the President of the Foundation, is keen to see a high level of scholarship being brought to bear on Frederick Loewe’s musical legacy. I was delighted that the Foundation donated over £55,000 to the University to support Matthew’s PhD studies, and I’m looking forward to our continued collaboration.”

The focus of Matthew’s three-year research programme will be *Paint Your Wagon*, the musical with book and lyrics by Alan Jay Lerner and music by Frederick Loewe. It ran on Broadway in 1951 and in the West End in 1953, with a film version released in 1969. Matthew will be involved in digitising the musical’s archives, housed in New York and the Library of Congress in Washington DC; his final PhD submission will include a thesis and a critical edition of the musical, which he will conduct at the University.

Dominic said, “I have a real passion for the American musical and I value the interest that the Foundation has shown in what we are trying to achieve at Sheffield. Our performance work is backed up by significant research; this generous donation will ensure that a new audience will be able to appreciate Frederick Loewe’s music in greater depth than ever before.”

Visit concerts.sheffield.ac.uk for details of performances that relate to The Frederick Loewe Doctoral Scholarship in Music.
INVESTIGATING HOW DIABETES AFFECTS THE BRAIN AND HEART

A fundamental challenge in providing effective patient care to people with diabetes arises because the disease can affect the brain and heart at the same time – but more needs to be understood about how the effects of diabetes on one can influence the function and degeneration of the other.

The University’s Medical School is renowned for the quality of its diabetes research and clinical care, in partnership with the Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. Over two decades, the Academic Unit of Radiology has developed world-leading expertise in imaging techniques; these are being used to research the nature of diabetes and its effect upon vital organs.

In 2013, major investment and funding from grant-awarding bodies and other sources resulted in the installation of a £1.5 million 3T Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) scanner in the Academic Unit of Radiology, based at the Royal Hallamshire Hospital. Iain Wilkinson, Professor of Magnetic Resonance Physics, explained, “This state-of-the-art scanner gives us opportunities to apply and further develop the latest imaging wizardry to help in our fight against various neurological, metabolic, cardiac and respiratory diseases. MRI scanning is constantly undergoing technological advancements, which may provide new clues regarding the mechanisms of how diseases develop and progress, as well as information about targeting and monitoring the effects of novel therapies.”

With the imaging infrastructure in place, we were able to approach the Garfield Weston Foundation, a major supporter of health projects across the UK, for additional funding for a project investigating the multi-organ nature of diabetes, which may involve both the blood circulation and nervous systems, highlighting the need to study both heart and brain function at the same time. This was very difficult until the installation of the MRI scanner. The grant of £280,000 from the Garfield Weston Foundation further facilitated the University’s multidisciplinary collaboration between imaging and diabetes specialists. The team developed a single MRI examination where a patient can undergo assessment of both brain and heart function in the same ‘sitting’.

The grant has directly paid for image analysis workstations plus associated image processing software, 3T scanner use and development time, and it has enabled a research radiographer to work on the project. The team has also supported important blood and nerve tests. This funding has led directly to the start of a two-year clinical research project using the new heart-brain functional imaging techniques to determine the roles of heart and brain blood supply in diabetic patients who have changes in cognition. Dr Leanne Hunt, one of our trainee diabetes specialist doctors, is studying for a MD degree as part of this work.

In addition, the Garfield Weston Foundation-funded work has also benefited a cascade of imaging projects, including whole-body imaging research in motor neurone disease with experts at the Sheffield Institute of Translational Neuroscience as well as studying how the brain is involved in painful diabetic neuropathy.

Professor Wilkinson commented, “The support from the Garfield Weston Foundation has been invaluable in helping us to discover vital clues to combat the debilitating consequences of diabetes. Imaginative and committed philanthropy is critical in enabling the University to carry out innovative research and transform clinical care.”
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A fundraising update for University donors and friends 2016

InTROdUcInG The dIamOnd

representing the largest single investment in teaching and learning in the University’s history, The Diamond opened its doors to students in September 2015. The £81 million building is sited on Leavygreave Road, between the Department of Music (in the old Jessop Hospital) and St George’s Church.

The six storeys provide facilities including lecture theatres, seminar rooms, a library and over 1,000 study spaces, which were available 24/7 for staff and students across the campus. It also has specialist teaching facilities for engineering, including 10 laboratories, a chemical engineering pilot plant, a clean room, an aeronautical simulation lab and a virtual reality suite. It was designed as a ‘smart’ building, allowing detailed control of energy management, and includes a central naturally ventilated atrium and rainwater harvesting.

We are keen to introduce our donors to this extraordinary building: it is now one of the highlights of a campus tour. Please contact the office if you would like to take advantage of this service.

The Big Walk 2015

As a ‘big thank you’ to people who donated to The Big Walk (see pages 12–13) via JustGiving, we entered their names into a prize draw to win a limited edition screen print of The Diamond by local artist James Green (see bottom left). Muriel Akam (MEd English Language Teaching 2003) was the lucky winner!

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Education is the greatest gift
An outstanding international outlook
**INTRODUCING THE DIAMOND**

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It is an obvious thing to say, but we feel it is worth repeating: your donors, alumni and friends all have one thing in common – an interest in the success of The University of Sheffield in educating future generations of skilled, considerate, successful graduates. And it is increasingly obvious that you are a fantastic ‘personal’ resource for our current students. The growth in participation in our volunteering programmes is a wonderful thing to see, and this commitment of time and expertise is making a real difference to a huge number of students.

From providing profiles of your University experience and career, speaking at events and panels, mentoring and fundraising for University causes close to your heart, to offering feedback on the curriculum and advising on University boards, you provide a perspective and enthusiasm that can’t be replicated by anyone else. Your input enriches the University experience for our students, from skills development and a sense of indebtedness, to networking opportunities, promoting your company and acquainting student talent. To quote one alumna: “It was such a positive experience to meet these thoughtful, engaged young people, and to find that the University I much enjoyed being at years ago continues to be such a stimulating, vibrant and friendly place.”

Thank you to everyone who is now a member of our volunteering community. Your input is greatly appreciated, not only by our students but also our staff who witness the impact you are having across the campus.

End notes

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A regular donation of £25 a month entitles you to membership of our Fifth Circle, and in enough to fund one undergraduate scholarship of £1,200 for a year.

As an owner of a skilled production engineer

Miss Stevenson and Robert Dutton

Front cover
Dr Jessica Redgrave, Clinical Lecturer in Translational Neuroscience, and the other Neurology at the Sheffield Institute for Translational Neuroscience, and the other Neurology at the Sheffield Institute for Translational Neuroscience.

END NOTES

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