Providing life-changing opportunities

See page 2 for the instant impact of a legacy
In this edition of *Legacy News* you will find stories about our incredible supporters whose generous legacies and in memoriam gifts to the University make a very real and often immediate difference to our students and staff.

The instant impact of a donation

Joan Shawcross (MEd 1999) met her husband-to-be Bill in the 1950s at an adult residential college which they attended once a month in Manchester. The couple married in 1957 and made their first home just behind the college which they continued to attend every month, and indeed they continued their education throughout their married life. For Joan, education was a way out of poverty but she also developed a real joy in adult learning.

When Joan died in 2015 the University received an unrestricted allocation of £80,000 from her estate which she had asked to be used to support students with financial difficulties. Given her love of adult education, preference was also given to mature students where possible.

Her donation was immediately put to good use, with £40,000 funding eight postgraduate Joan Shawcross Scholarships in 2016. The other half was used as part of the Alumni Fund Scholarships Scheme in 2016 to create 10 undergraduate Joan Shawcross Scholarships.

One such scholar pictured right – a 28-year-old single mother to a six-year-old daughter, and now, thanks to the scholarship, a first year MEng Chemical Engineering student.

She said, “When I knew that the donor passed away, I had tears in my eyes. I was so sad because I was so eager to thank her and tell her how my life became easier because of her. However, I am always grateful and thankful to this generous person. I will always remember her.”

Joe Woolway, Senior Financial Support Officer, expressed the University’s thanks to Joan, saying, “I would personally like to thank Joan for providing a very generous legacy gift that is funding a number of scholarships at the University. It is not an exaggeration to say that each Joan Shawcross Scholarship provides a life-changing opportunity for a student to continue with their education. Without the scholarship this would not be possible.”
Former professor boosts future research

A former Sheffield mathematics professor has left a substantial legacy of over £500,000 to his former department which will be used to support students carrying out research in applied mathematics - the field in which he dedicated much of his life.

Born in Gateshead, William Derek Collins (known as Derek) was the first in his family to go to University. He received a first class honours degree in Mathematics from University College London and received his PhD in 1956. He went on to become Professor of Mathematics at the University of Sheffield from 1974. He retired in 1987, partly to spend more time focusing on the Mechanics in Action Project (to support the teaching of mechanics in A-level mathematics), which he co-founded.

Derek was also an active hill walker, but this was curtailed after he had his right leg amputated. Having an artificial leg, however, did not stop him from continuing his research, in particular on electric motors, well into retirement. Derek’s bequest was in part in gratitude to the University for the office and facilities provided during this time, as well as a means to promote the study of applied mathematics in Sheffield.

In line with Derek’s wishes, the WD Collins Endowment will be used to fund scholarships for postgraduate students undertaking PhD research in applied mathematics along with an undergraduate prize in honour of his parents William and Winifred for the support they gave him as an undergraduate.

Professor John Biggins, Head of the School of Mathematics and Statistics, remembers Derek fondly: “I worked with Derek when he was on the staff and also saw him often after he retired. I am very pleased that he has been so generous in creating an endowment which will, mainly, be used to fund research students in areas close to his own.

“It will be a continuing and fitting testimony to his commitment to education and research.”
In memory of a dearly loved husband

Two annual prizes in the Department of Electronic and Electrical Engineering (EEE) will be awarded for many years to come, thanks to a generous legacy in memory of a dearly loved husband and graduate of the University.

Daisy Eveline Walker (known as Eveline) died in 2013 aged 102 and left the University a legacy of over £300,000 in memory of her husband Thomas Henry Walker (BEng 1931, MEng 1933). Mr Walker passed his undergraduate degree with first class honours before completing a master’s and then going on to work in the area of energy supply to machinery and large plants. He was a member of the Institution of Electrical Engineers and the Institution of Mechanical Engineers and in his spare time played the pipe organ at his local Methodist church. He died in the 1970s after a battle with Motor Neurone Disease.

The endowment fund will return around £11,000 per year and will pay for two prizes which were established in 2014 and are set to continue for many years to come.

Between one and three Thomas Walker Mature Student Scholarships are to be awarded annually with preference, where possible, given to mature students who have never previously studied in higher education, have financial hardship and have high academic potential.

Additionally, the Thomas Walker MSc Prize in EEE will be awarded to two MSc students each year for the best overall performance in assessed work.

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A lasting legal legacy

A graduate and former law professor at the University of Sheffield has left a wonderful legacy in her name which has supported a student in the School of Law.

Josephine Mary Steiner (LLB Law 1976) was a graduate, Professor Associate in the School of Law and a member of staff for 20 years, from 1976 to 1996. During her time at the University, Professor Steiner wrote two books, including the popular textbook EU Law which is regarded as one of the best EU law textbooks available and is still widely used by law students at the University.

Jo died in 2015 aged 82 and left an unrestricted legacy gift of £5,000, matched by the University, allowing us to award a full £10,000 postgraduate scholarship in the School of Law. The recipient is MA International Criminology student Claudia Carlin (LLB Law and Criminology 2016). Born and raised in the small town of Strabane, Northern Ireland, Claudia hopes to bring about social justice in her home country but wouldn’t have been able to afford postgraduate study if it wasn’t for the Professor Jo Steiner Scholarship.

Claudia said, “I find it very difficult to put into words how grateful I am for Professor Steiner’s contribution toward my scholarship. Without this scholarship, I simply wouldn’t have been able to pursue postgraduate study. “I am now doing something which I really love and have been given an opportunity to try and achieve my career goals of being a major influence in Northern Irish penal reform. “I am so happy I have the opportunity to tell you that because of the generosity of Professor Jo Steiner, she has changed the future of a wee girl from Strabane who will be eternally thankful.”
Uncovering our region’s past

The legacy gift of a local woman and Sheffield alumna with a keen interest in archaeology will breathe new life into a range of archaeological projects in the city.

Pamela Staunton (BEd 1982, MA Archaeology and Prehistory 1993) was born in 1930 and, following a nursing career which saw her work in the forces and the NHS, she twice studied at the University as a mature student, including a master’s degree in Archaeology and Prehistory, which is where her main interest lay. Pam was a member of the Hunter Archaeological Society, which studies and reports on the archaeology, history and architecture of South Yorkshire and North Derbyshire, until 2011. She also volunteered for the National Trust, and wrote the guide book for Stainsby Mill - a working 19th century water mill on the Hardwick Estate in Derbyshire.

Following her death in 2014, aged 84, the University received a legacy gift of over £140,000. It will be used to support three postgraduate scholarships for recent graduates in the Department of Archaeology. Additionally, £5,000 will be set aside to support the University’s Centre for Childhood Archaeology and the remainder will be used to support a range of archaeological research projects over the next two years.

Professor Dawn Hadley, Head of the Department of Archaeology, explained, “Pam had a great interest in the archaeology of the city and region, and in industrial heritage. Her bequest, for which we are immensely grateful, is enabling us to carry out research on Sheffield Castle, on the city’s stainless steel industry, and on the establishment of schools for working class children in Sheffield following the Education Act of 1870.

“Through her work as a nurse, Pam also had a commitment to children’s welfare, and we have used some of the bequest to support our recently-launched Centre for the Archaeology of Childhood, which is a reflection of our department’s exceptional and internationally-renowned expertise in this area.”
In honour of a lifelong passion

Bryan Marsden (BA History 1970) had an enduring passion for history – in particular the American West. He was a charismatic and enthusiastic history teacher, and became Deputy Head at Meadowhead School in Sheffield. He never lost his passion for the subject (along with gardening, cooking, real ale and football) and even developed a special course on the American West.

Bryan met his partner Anne Harper in 1991 and the pair travelled extensively, in particular around the United States. He was fascinated by the American political system and he loved the friendship, hospitality and warmth of the American people, especially in the West.

After Bryan died in 2000 aged 51, Anne, in consultation with the University, chose to commemorate his love of life and education through a £10,000 gift (worth £12,800 with gift aid). The donation has been used to purchase books for the Library on the American West, as well as funding the Bryan Marsden Prize in American History, established in 2004 and which continues to have a positive influence on students’ lives today.

One recipient of the annual prize is PhD student Harriet Smart, who has been researching religion and ritual in the Aztec empire from 1430 to 1519. As a faculty-funded student with no access to extra funds for travel, winning the prize helped her travel to Mexico in April 2016 for six weeks to consult, first-hand, important archaeological reports held in Mexico City.

Harriet said, “I am very grateful to have received the Bryan Marsden Prize which has really helped me with my research.”

Miles Stevenson, Director of Alumni and Donor Relations at the University of Sheffield, added, “We are extremely grateful to Anne for the kind donation in memory of Bryan. The Bryan Marsden Prize in American History is a fitting tribute and continues to make a real difference to the lives of students studying the subject he was so passionate about.”
Inspiring the architects of tomorrow

Pamela Burnip Mann MBE, RIBA (BA Architecture 1954) had a very distinguished career as an architect, which started with her undergraduate studies at Sheffield. After qualifying, she worked in the private sector in Birmingham and then Nottingham. In 1963, she moved to Cardiff, joining the Welsh Hospital Board, and remained with them and their successors until her retirement in 1995. She was involved in many new hospital builds and redevelopments, and was particularly proud of her work at Singleton Hospital, Swansea. In 1993 she was recognised with an MBE for services to hospital architecture in South Wales.

Pam died in 2014 aged 84 and left a legacy gift of £20,000 to the University which has been used to set up a prize for postgraduate students in Architecture. She was a very charitable woman, and also left gifts to Breast Cancer Care, the Architects Benevolent Society, the Royal National Lifeboat Institution and the Royal British Legion.

Professor Fionn Stevenson, Head of Sheffield School of Architecture, said, “We are hugely grateful to Pam for her very generous gift to our School which will inspire our postgraduate students with prizes in her name awarded annually for health, wellbeing and care in the community. Gifts like this make a real difference to students’ lives.”

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Tony Lewis was happiest when he was either learning or passing on his knowledge to others through teaching. He felt strongly about rewarding hard work and genuine achievement, especially from those who overcome adversity to succeed. That’s why, in 2004, Tony donated £3,500 to the School of Law to set up an endowment called the Tony Lewis Prize. The prize is awarded to the LLB student who shows the most impressive improvement from level two to three. Tony spoke with the recipients every year and was so pleased with how the money was used that he left another £5,000 in his Will to add to the existing endowment, which means the annual prize will be doubled.

Twenty-one-year-old Cypriot Letitsia Mousa (LLB Law 2016) came to Sheffield to study a demanding course, with English as only her second language, yet managed to overcome this challenge, graduating in 2016. She was honoured to receive the prize which she says will go towards studying for a master’s degree in the future.

Letitsia said, “I was really excited when I first received the email informing me that I had been awarded a University prize, but most importantly, I feel grateful for being awarded this specific prize, since it rewards improvement, something that I personally consider one of the most valuable skills a student can acquire.”
Remembering Watson

Alumnus Watson Shaw (BSc Geography and Geology 1975) died from cancer in March 2016. He left a legacy of £5,000 to be directed towards cancer research at the University. With the agreement of his family this gift will be one of the first donations to support an exciting new facility for medical research.

Watson met his wife Shirley (BA Geography and Economics 1976) at Sheffield in 1973. She told the University that Watson would have been pleased to know that his legacy was being used in this way.

He always stayed in touch with his University, supporting students and attending the Heritage Circle Lunch. He loved walking and in the last year of his life he walked several stretches of the Thames Path. Since his death, his family and friends, including several from his Sheffield days, have been meeting regularly to continue the walk in his memory.

Shirley said, “We shared such happy memories of our student days. The University, the city and the Peak District always held a very special place in both our hearts. We made many wonderful friends and have so much to thank Sheffield for.”
Supporting refugees

Thanks to a community of supporters, the University has raised over £52,000 to create six new scholarships for asylum-seeking students from around the world who have made Sheffield their home after being forced to flee their own countries due to war or persecution.

Sheffield is a City of Sanctuary, and the University is committed to playing its part to help keep safe students and academics who are at risk of harm in their home countries. That’s why in 2016 the University has coordinated a series of fundraising events to support this cause.

On Sunday 5 June our Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir Keith Burnett, led a walk in solidarity with refugees, inviting staff and students from the University, as well as members of the local community, to walk with him from the suburbs of Sheffield to the University.

Then, from 12-17 June, the Big Walk 2016 saw two teams cover more than 120 miles each along the Trans Pennine Trail – one setting off from Southport on the west coast, the other from Hornsea in the east – before meeting in the middle at Tankersley, north of Sheffield, to join over 100 friends and supporters for the One Day Challenge – a further 18-mile walk back to the University together.

If you would like to fundraise for an area of the University, please visit shef.ac.uk/alumni/donate/fundraising

Community fundraising

Our supporters have been organising a whole range of challenges throughout the year. One fundraiser, Kerry Hart, raised £470 for the Sheffield Institute for Translational Neuroscience (SITraN), in memory of Elizabeth Pick who died of Motor Neurone Disease and for whom Kerry was a carer. Having never set foot in a boxing ring before, Kerry undertook a punishing 8-week training course, culminating in her taking part in a fight night at the KC Stadium in Hull.

Kerry said, “On the night I lost my match by two points and it was a very tough fight. It was the hardest six minutes of my life and it was so hard to catch your breath in the ring but the whole experience was amazing and for such a good cause.”
Made in Sheffield

Congratulations to Sheffield alumni Hollie Webb (BA Economics 2013), Jessica Ennis-Hill CBE (BSc Psychology 2007, Hon LittD 2010), Bryony Page (BSc Biology 2015) and Nick Beighton (BSc Natural Environmental Science 2004) who came home with a gold, two silvers and a bronze medal respectively from the Rio 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Hollie, Jessica and Bryony, as well as Paralympic table tennis competitor David Wetherill (BSc Biological Chemistry 2012), all have close links to the University’s Elite Sports Performance Scheme (ESPS) which was launched in 2009 to provide support to talented student athletes at the University.

Hollie scored the winning goal in a dramatic penalty shootout which saw Great Britain’s women win their first ever Olympic hockey gold medal. She praised the support she received from the University: “It made a huge difference. This was one of the reasons that I chose the University of Sheffield in the first place. It came across as a university that supported its student athletes. Without the scheme my sport or my degree would have suffered. The scheme offered me the support to succeed in both areas.”

sport-sheffield.com/sport/talent-elite/elite-sports-performance-scheme

Your wishes

We do our utmost to ensure that a legacy or donation to the University of Sheffield is devoted to precisely the use you intend. You may find that a discussion with David Meadows, Development Officer – Legacies, provides you with the information and assurances you need to help you clarify your decision. David also enjoys taking alumni, former staff and friends on tours of the campus, to relive memories and revisit an old department and the Students’ Union. The University is constantly evolving, and this may be the perfect way to explain how your gift can make an impact on the future of the institution.