Sheffield Scanner: The power to transform medical research
Where are they now?
A makerspace for Sheffield
THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE OF PHILANTHROPY

I am delighted to share with you the latest issue of Your Gift. Reading through the magazine, I have once again been overwhelmed by the kindness and generosity shown towards our University this year and it has given me the opportunity to reflect on the positive impact this has had over time.

More than 100 years ago, the local people of Sheffield understood the benefit that a university would have on improving their children’s lives through education; on regional and international trade; and on society’s health, wellbeing and future prosperity. They raised £50,000 in penny collections – around £15 million today – to help build a university in their city. Their donations, both large and small, made an incredible difference.

That same spirit of philanthropy is ever-present today. Your generosity enhances the life of the University in so many ways – through life-defining scholarships which give hundreds of students the opportunity to study at Sheffield each year; by funding vital grants for departments, clubs and societies to enhance their facilities and improve the student experience; and by supporting some of the world-leading research which is taking place here.

As we consider our philanthropic past and present, so too we look to the future. Ground-breaking research needs ground-breaking facilities and this year we are hoping to raise £2 million to fund the Sheffield Scanner – a pioneering MRI-PET research facility at the forefront of imaging technology. With your help, the Sheffield Scanner will provide insights into some of the cruellest diseases facing humankind, enabling us to transform the way they are treated in the future.

We have already raised over £1 million to help fund the Sheffield Scanner and it gives me a tremendous sense of pride to know that our alumni, staff and friends have played such a vital role in getting us this far. By supporting our appeal, you can help shape the future of medicine.

Thank you for your continued support.

Professor Sir Keith Burnett, CBE FRs FRSW
President and Vice-Chancellor

THE BIG WALK CHALLENGE
50 MILES IN 24 HOURS

With your help, The Big Walk raised an incredible £117,000 towards the Sheffield Scanner campaign. The challenge saw alumni, staff, students and friends walk as far as they could along a circular 50 mile route in 24 hours.

The walk started and finished at the Octagon at the heart of the University campus. Walkers were able to enjoy some of the Peak District’s stunning scenery along the 50-mile route.

“I absolutely loved taking part in The Big Walk and was delighted to raise funds for such a good cause.

Chris Black, University staff

To raise such an impressive sum is an outstanding achievement and it has played a vital role in helping us move towards our £2 million target. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

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THE POWER TO TRANSFORM MEDICAL RESEARCH

We are fundraising to bring the future of medical imaging to Sheffield. Our aim is to raise £2 million to fund the Sheffield Scanner – a pioneering MRI-PET facility that will transform our research into some of the most devastating diseases affecting human health today. Thanks to support from across the Sheffield community, we’re already over halfway there.

The most advanced technology available

Bringing two complementary, powerful technologies together, MRI-PET is the most advanced imaging technology currently available, providing medical researchers and doctors with the most detailed pictures of inside the body. By capturing both anatomy and metabolic activity in a single scan, they will be able to see what is happening to a diseased organ with unprecedented detail and analyse whether it is responding to treatment.

Currently there are only seven MRI-PET scanners in the UK. Having this technology right here in Sheffield will help our researchers improve understanding of serious conditions like cancer, heart disease, Motor Neurone Disease (MND), dementia and lung disease and the way they are treated in the future.

Accelerating clinical impact

Professor Dame Pamela Shaw, Professor of Neurology, Vice-President and Head of the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health and Director of the Sheffield Institute of Translational Neuroscience, is heading up this exciting project. She had this to say:

“The Sheffield Scanner will allow researchers like me to see inside the body in amazing detail, observing its processes and structures at the same time. The impact of this could be phenomenal. At the moment, it can take several years to establish whether or not a clinical trial has been successful, but this new technology will help us to monitor what’s going on inside the body as it happens, so we’ll know whether or not a treatment has been effective much more quickly. This means that we’ll be able to develop improved treatments faster – which could change, or even save people’s lives.”

The story so far

Thanks to overwhelming support, we have raised over £1 million since the campaign launch in March 2017. More than 5,500 people have contributed towards the total in the hope that Sheffield will become the home of Yorkshire’s first MRI-PET facility. From large individual donations and generous gifts in Wills, through to cash in fundraising buckets at charity events, each and every donation has enabled us to reach this milestone.

Former medic boosts campaign

Former consultant medical microbiologist, Dr Beryl Jameson (1934-2015, MB ChB 1956), chose to leave £100,000 to the University in her Will as thanks for being given the opportunity to pursue her dream of becoming a doctor here. Her generous gift has made a significant contribution towards the Sheffield Scanner campaign total.

“Motor Neurone Disease has taken my independence away from me. Not much is known about what causes it, and at the moment there’s no cure. The Sheffield Scanner could change that.”

Why I’m supporting the Sheffield Scanner

Richard Mayson, BA Geography 1978

“My father suffered from dementia and we all know people who have suffered from different cancers. The University of Sheffield is at the forefront of this form of health research, and an MRI-PET scanner would clearly help in taking the research to a new level.”

Maddie Sinclair, Psychology student

“The Sheffield Scanner is a fantastic project, which will benefit so many people’s lives. As a student it’s been amazing to see alumni, staff and friends coming together to support it. All the enthusiasm from everyone fundraising and donating has been astounding, and it makes me feel proud to be a student at Sheffield!”

Gemma Middleton, MND sufferer

To keep updated on the progress of the campaign and to add your support, visit sheffield.ac.uk/sheffieldscanner

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STAFF DIG DEEP FOR SHEFFIELD SCANNER

From administrators and porters to technicians and professors, the University of Sheffield is home to over 7,000 members of staff. This year, many have come together in a variety of ways to raise thousands of pounds to support the Sheffield Scanner campaign.

Sisters scale three peaks

Intrepid sisters Janine and Michelle Barraclough – who both work in Corporate Information and Computing Services – raised over £500 by successfully completing the Yorkshire Three Peaks Challenge. They scaled the infamous Ingleborough, Pen-Y-Ghent and Whernside peaks in under 12 hours.

Tireless 10k team

A team of 16 staff were amongst thousands of runners to pound the city’s streets back in September when they took part in the Sheffield 10k race. They completed an exhausting route through the city centre, along Ecclesall Road and Endcliffe Park before continuing along Endcliffe Vale Road close to the Botanical Gardens and back into the city centre where they were greeted by crowds cheering them on. Together they raised £4,000.

Five-a-side fundraiser

Colleagues from across the University came together at Goodwin Sports Centre for a five-a-side football tournament in aid of the Sheffield Scanner. The eight teams, representing the Students’ Union, Corporate Communications and senior leadership amongst others, raised over £700.

Med School marvels

By organising bake sales, a raffle and participating in The Big Walk, staff from the Medical School have raised over £3,000. Resident knitter, Jacqui Harrison, even designed a team mascot – Hettie the Hedgehog – sales of which have contributed over £400 to the appeal.

Making a splash

Ian Wright from Human Resources took on a gruelling 24 mile swim to raise funds for the campaign. In open water, he swam a mile every hour for 24 hours, raising £1,300. “The ground-breaking work which happens here in Sheffield has an impact on and addresses some of the world’s biggest challenges – it’s really inspiring,” he said.

Five-a-side football tournament winners, the Sitoos All Stars

Five-a-side football tournament winners, the Sitoos All Stars

Whether you have been walking, baking, swimming, singing, marshalling or sponsoring a friend or colleague... however you are helping the Sheffield Scanner campaign reach its £2 million target - I say thank you.

Professor Sir Keith Burnett, President and Vice-Chancellor

“My research involves investigating the reality of a potential gene therapy treatment for a heritable form of MND. More specifically, I am investigating if it has any unexpected side-effects which would have serious implications for future human clinical trials. Thanks to the Wadsworth Fellowship I spent three months working at the Meyer Lab in Columbus, Ohio looking at the distribution and effectiveness of a viral vector-based gene therapy. Having the opportunity to work in a stimulating scientific environment and to interact with such an inspirational and dynamic team was fantastic. The friends I made...”

The Wadsworth Fellowship is an exchange programme for early-career researchers. It was funded by a generous donation from the Ohio-based research and technology organisation Battelle, of whom University of Sheffield alumnus Dr Jeffrey Wadsworth was President and CEO for many years until October 2017. The fellowship aims to facilitate collaborations and foster connections between the University of Sheffield, Battelle, and leading US universities and research centres, including the Ohio State University.

CONNECTING KNOWLEDGE ACROSS NATIONAL BORDERS

International collaborations are integral to creating world-class research with impact. Our university has a long tradition of working with partners across national borders to tackle global challenges that no country can tackle alone. 28 year old Joe Scarrott, a PhD student from the Sheffield Institute for Translational Neuroscience (SITrAN), was recently given the opportunity to spend three months working in the United States to further our research into Motor Neurone Disease (MND) therapies thanks to the Wadsworth Fellowship. Joe took some time out to tell us about his experience.

“It brought home to me the reality of why it’s important to work hard to develop the field of gene therapy and the experiences I was lucky enough to have during my time in Ohio will stay with me for the rest of my life. I could not have wished to have met a more welcoming and friendly group of people. The lab is directly connected to the Nationwide Children’s Hospital. This really brought home to me why it’s important to work hard to develop the field of gene therapy, as it has such potential for treating what are often devastating medical conditions...”

Both our lab in Sheffield and the Meyer Lab have been working very hard to move the therapy towards the eventual goal of a first-in-man study. My time over there allowed me to learn new techniques and generate data which is bringing us a step closer to achieving that goal, with the eventual aim of finding a treatment for this debilitating disease.”

Thanks to the Wadsworth Fellowship, we can take this research to the world. Joe, pictured far right, with his research group
CREATING GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES

We’re proudly a global university, passionate about giving students the opportunity to experience other cultures whilst studying with us. Now, thanks to a generous donation named in honour of leading lawyer and proud Sheffield graduate, Stephen Gale (1957-2014, LLB Law 1979), students from the School of Law are doing just that.

Over the next ten years, twenty high achieving students – particularly those from under-represented backgrounds – will be awarded a £5,000 Stephen Gale Scholarship to enable them to study at Chinese University Hong Kong as part of their undergraduate degree. In a tribute to their “hardworking and talented” colleague, Stephen’s former firm, Herbert Smith Freehills, matched the donation and, in addition, are offering the scholarship recipients a money-can’t-buy internship at their Hong Kong office. The donation and, in addition, are offering the scholarship recipients a money-can’t-buy internship at their Hong Kong office. Gale Scholarship to enable them to

“...will be awarded the Stephen Gale Scholarship and I will be forever grateful. It frees me from money worries, an added bonus which will bring me one step closer to achieving my goal of working in a corporate law firm.”

Stephen was passionate about helping bright Law students realise their potential at Sheffield and he gave a tremendous amount back to the University during his lifetime. The scholarship, which will benefit students in so many ways, continues his work and is a wonderful tribute to his memory.

21 year old European and International Law student, Jodene Afful, is one of two students this year to receive the scholarship. Currently living and studying in Hong Kong, she had this to say: “I honestly could not believe it when I heard I’d been awarded the Stephen Gale Scholarship and I will be forever grateful. It frees me from money worries, has given me more confidence in my abilities and is a great reward for all my hard work so far. The internship is an added bonus which will bring me one step closer to achieving my goal of working in a corporate law firm.”

Jodene Afful

COLLABORATION AND CHALLENGE

Established in 2013 thanks to a donation from Emeritus Professor, Tony Crook, and matched with Economic & Social Research Council accelerator funding, the Crook Public Service Fellowships aim to forge long term collaborations between future leaders in the public and not-for-profit sectors and leading policy researchers in the University.

Together, Fellows and their partner academic colleagues explore how research can inform and support policy and practice developments to make a genuine difference to society. Each year, the Fellowships are focused on a particular theme which aligns with the strategic priorities and academic strengths here at Sheffield. Previous themes have included ‘Democracy’ and ‘The Housing Challenge’. This year’s theme of ‘Children’s Chances’ will bring together figures from the civil service, social work and youth work sectors with academics from the Faculty of Social Sciences. They will work to tackle issues facing young people today, such as how we can better understand the nature of modern single parent families and the transition from state care for young people with complex needs.

Professor Crook said: “I have been pleased to help instigate and fund the Fellowships. They reflect what has been important to me both in my own research and in my non-executive roles in the policy and practice communities and that is to ensure that policy research is both theoretically rigorous and policy relevant. Without the rigor there can be no impact. I also wanted to build more bridges between academic practice and the policy communities. The ‘Children’s Chances’ Fellowships will be looking at what works in helping disadvantaged children build resilience and realise their full potential. It is hard to think of an issue which is more salient for the future of these children. I wish our new Fellows well.”

Emeritus Professor of Town & Regional Planning and Pro-Vice Chancellor for a decade until 2008, Professor Crook is currently chair of the Trust for Conservation Volunteers, deputy chair of the Orbit Housing Group and on the board of the Royal Town Planning Institute where he chairs its Education Committee. Recent former non-executive roles include Chair of Shelter and Sheffield Homes, and a board member of the Coalfields Regeneration Trust and with the national council of the Academy of Social Sciences. He was appointed CBE in 2014 for his service to housing.

It has been a privilege to be able to spend time away from the everyday challenges of work and collectively reflect on what possibility there might be for change and re-thinking.

Alice Field, Young Futures

“...we've already made progress with an idea that has been floating around for months (if not years), thanks to the expertise and enthusiasm of the academics taking part, I'm really excited about what we can produce together.”

Sumi Rabindrakumar, Gingerbread
A REGULAR IMPACT

Over 1,400 Sheffield graduates, staff and friends have chosen to give back in a special way this year - by making a regular gift to their University.

Together, these monthly, quarterly or annual gifts have an incredible impact. A regular gift can help provide a life-changing scholarship, enabling a bright student from a low-income background to continue their education, or give once-in-a-lifetime opportunities to student clubs and societies.

Every regular giver becomes part of the Silver Arrows Circle – our special gift club for those who choose to donate in this way. Silver Arrows members come from all across the world – but they’re united in their love for Sheffield, and their commitment to helping the next generation of students. Together, their gifts help to ensure that the brightest students continue to have access to every opportunity here at Sheffield, both now and well into the future.

What can your support fund?

£5 per month could help fund new, cutting-edge equipment for Sheffield students and researchers.

£10 per month could help fund a scholarship, giving a low-income student the chance to study at Sheffield.

£20 per month could provide a grant, giving a student club or society the chance to take part in a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

£100 per month could fund a full undergraduate scholarship of £1,200 a year.

“I want a world that is full of Sheffield graduates; it would be a much better place because of it. I truly believe Sheffield is what allowed me to succeed in life, and I will be forever grateful.”
Joellyn Jones, Study Abroad student 2006

“I just really believe that anyone who wants to go to university should be able to do so whatever their financial circumstances. I had the chance, others should too.”
Lynne Sterner, BA Sociology and Economic History 1984

“My generation benefitted from a free education. I think it’s only right to help those who haven’t.”
David Bradbury, BA Japanese Studies and Social History 1989

“We had a wonderful experience being students at Sheffield University and wanted to help others have the same.”
Dr Mark Lee, MB ChB 1982 and Anitra Lee, BA Business Studies 1982

“I’d have never gotten by without my bursaries and getting a job to help pay my way. And things are only getting more difficult. It gives me a great sense of pride if I can remove that problem for at least one person through donating to the University.”
Joshua Piggott-Smith, BEng Mechatronics 2012

“My degree opened up employment and life opportunities that I feel very fortunate to have had, and I hope that my modest regular giving helps some of today’s students.”
Les Masco, BSc Physics 1975

“I want to reward students who go that extra mile and do extraordinary things at a University that inspired me to do just that.”
Professor Claire McCourtay, PhD Law 2002

“I have never giving by without my bursaries and getting a job to help pay my way, and things are only getting more difficult. It gives me a great sense of pride if I can remove that problem for at least one person through donating to the University.”
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“I am keen to help the University take part in state-of-the-art research.”
Ian Elliott, BEng Mechanical Engineering 1956

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WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Each year, hundreds of students receive scholarships funded by donations to the University. We caught up with two recipients from recent years to find out what they are up to now – and were thrilled to learn that their scholarships continue to have a positive impact on their lives long after graduation.

Name: Sikose Mjali
Studied: BA English Language and Linguistics, MA Applied Linguistics with TESOL
Scholarship: Alumni Fund Scholarship
Graduated: 2012
Now working as: English Language Teacher, Oman

"The scholarship gave me the peace of mind I needed to immerse myself in my studies without financial constraints and afforded me the flexibility to take part in many activities, both academically and socially. Even today, it continues to benefit me. If it wasn’t for the scholarship, I would not have been able to gain access to the kinds of activities that have led me to where I am now. It enabled me to network and make ties with people who have helped me significantly throughout my career. So yes, I’d say the scholarship opened, and continues to open, a lot of doors for me!"

Name: Matt Kempson
Degree: BA Business Management with Employment Experience Scholarship
Scholarship: £3,000 Wadsworth Scholarship
Graduated: 2014
Now working as: Strategic Services, Engagement Manager, SAP

"Receiving the scholarship not only helped subsidise my studies, it ultimately started (and then facilitated) the chain of events which led me into the technology industry. Without it, I wouldn’t be working in a career that I love, pursuing my passion to help businesses develop, change and grow. To be able to wake up every day and do something interesting which makes a real difference is a gift, and Dr Wadsworth has my thanks for starting me on this path. The scholarship has also given me an appreciation of the impact generous benefactors can bring. I’m not yet at the stage where I can afford to give a lot of capital back, but I can give my time and efforts to students and young professionals to help them get where they need to be and that in itself is enriching.”

Remembering Professor Roach

He was a working class lad from Lowestoft, having left school at 16 to pursue his love of football and the music business. He joined the RAF but failed his medical, so entered the University of Cambridge in 1938 – John’s university career was interrupted by World War II. At the outbreak of the war he chose to sign up to fight and was posted to Singapore in 1942. Whilst there he was captured, surviving three brutal years as a Prisoner of War working on the now infamous Burma-Siam “death” railway, where thousands of his fellow soldiers died.

After the war John returned to complete his studies, graduating with First class honours in 1946. He moved to Sheffield in 1965 to take up the post as Head of the Department of Education, continuing to play an active role in the life of the University long after his retirement in 1985. As well as his outstanding scholarship in the study of the history of education, he is remembered for the encouragement and kindness he showed towards his colleagues and students. It is this generosity of spirit which lives on through his considerable legacy gift.

John Roach (1920-2015), an eminent and much-loved Professor of Education, left over £750,000 to the University in his Will. His generous gift will be used to support students through the Roach Scholarships, named in his honour. They are expected to benefit over 200 undergraduate and postgraduate students over the next 20 years.
INSPIRING THE SCIENTISTS OF TOMORROW

The University will be opening its doors to local school children and young people thanks to an innovative new science laboratory set up from alumni donations in memory of Nobel Prize winning alumnus, Professor Sir Harry Kroto, FRS (1939-2016, BSc Chemistry 1961, PhD Chemistry 1964, Honorary DSc 1995).

Famed for the role he played in the discovery of buckminsterfullerene – carbon atoms in the form of a ball – also known as ‘buckyballs’, Sir Harry was hugely passionate about engaging young people in science. So much so that he and his wife, Margaret, set up the Kroto Family Foundation to promote science education and he regularly returned to the University, bringing the sometimes intimidating subject to life through his entertaining Buckyball Workshops.

The Kroto Schools’ Lab, located in the Dainton Building, will continue this legacy. Lady Kroto, herself a Sheffield alumna (BA Economics 1962), had this to say about its opening: “This wonderful facility will help to achieve Harry’s vision of giving young people the opportunity to explore science in an exciting and hands-on way. Harry was a communicator and an inspiration to young people and I cannot think of a more fitting tribute.”

The testimonies of immensely grateful recipients of alumni scholarships are powerfully moving, especially for those who were able to go to university as a consequence. Ultimately it is those young people whose lives we are helping to shape who can make the difference in the world and, of course, become the next generation of our alumni. We are grateful for the difference our alumni can make to young people in so many ways and the way they can change lives as a result.

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Providing an outstanding learning experience for all students has long been at the heart of our University. Professor Wyn Morgan, Vice-President for Education, shares his thoughts on why this is more important than ever and how alumni can play a vital role in bringing our learning and teaching aims to life.

“At the heart of it all

The University of Sheffield has a long and proud tradition of providing opportunities for all to come and study here. Creating and sharing knowledge is central to what we do and supporting our learners through inspirational teaching has been at the heart of our work since 1905.

A university education can help young people become active, creative and valuable members of civil society and this opportunity should not be restricted to a privileged few. The experiences of working with students, appreciating different viewpoints and stretching themselves intellectually in ways they might not have imagined previously are so rich and personally empowering for students. Clearly such outcomes will only come from a shared commitment of student and teacher and that is what we continually strive to ensure.

However, there is a strong role for others, especially our alumni, in shaping and enhancing this outcome. By engaging in the life of the University and supporting our teaching in many ways, our alumni can be an essential part of creating an inspirational and positive environment for all our students. This can take many different forms; from engagement with departments through to larger scale activities, such as that of alumnus Professor Neil Rackham, who is supporting research into developing team skills amongst students (see right). The scope is only limited by the imagination of our alumni and they have been so generous in mentoring undergraduates, offering placements, giving lectures, providing advice or simply championing the University to those beyond its walls. Our alumni are a rich and vital part of our achievement of success.

“AT THE HEART OF IT ALL

Professor Wyn Morgan

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Research to enhance employability

Best-selling author, Professor Neil Rackham (BSc Psychology 1966, Hon DSc 2017) has generously funded research into teamwork amongst students, most recently in the Faculty of Engineering. The findings will benefit them in the increasingly competitive job market, where employers expect graduates to be able to work effectively as part of a team.

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HIGHLIGHTING THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Dr Ross Cameron and Andy Clayden from the Department of Landscape recently designed a garden for the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Chatsworth Flower Show to highlight the impact of climate change on gardens and other green landscapes. Features included innovative ways to trap and store water to reduce the incidence of flooding, using excess run-off water to provide ponds which can support wildlife, and carefully siting plants to protect homes from excessive heat and reduce reliance on artificial air conditioning.

An award of £4,000 made up of alumni donations enabled more than 50 undergraduate and postgraduate students to get involved in this progressive project. The students helped build the garden and worked alongside staff from the RHS, explaining to visitors the different features of the garden and how plant communities may adapt in response to climate change. This was a fantastic opportunity for students to develop their landscape and plant knowledge, but also to gain experience and confidence from sharing this understanding with the public.

The project brought together skills that I have learned on the course. I was delighted to be involved.

Bob Goodman, MA Landscape Management student

ENGINEERING THE PAST

Housing a treasure-trove of historical records cataloguing the University’s rich history, from its infancy as the Sheffield Technical School in 1884 right up to the present day, the University Archive is one of our most important assets.

Now, thanks to your donations, minute books charting the beginnings of the Faculty of Engineering have been carefully conserved for generations to come.

The books - four in total spanning the years 1905 to 1914 and 1949 to 1960 - detail significant decisions, events and activities from the time.

“They are a unique historical resource,” explains Archivist, Matthew Zawadzki. The minute books were in a poor physical condition with access limited to prevent further deterioration of the volumes. Matthew worked closely with Sheffield City Council’s conservation unit to identify those volumes most in need of remedial work from the minute book collection. Using professional techniques and materials, they then undertook detailed work on the volumes, ensuring that researchers will continue to have access to this original and unique source material.

The successes of the Faculty of Engineering today are built on the achievements set out in these volumes.

Matthew Zawadzki, University Archivist

MISSION: POSSIBLE

A team of intrepid engineering students have designed, built and launched their own telescope 25km into space on a hot-air balloon to capture images of the sun.

Ground-based solar telescopes are expensive to build. In contrast, the SunbYte used novel manufacturing techniques, such as 3D printing, to obtain low-cost, high altitude images. The results have genuine scientific value.

The exciting project, in collaboration with the European Space Agency, was made possible thanks in part to alumni donations. The team of undergraduate and postgraduate students are incredibly grateful for the support received from across the University, and in particular, for the £6,000 award they received.

The grant has enabled the project to engage more students and give us a rare taste of working on a real space project.

Yun-Hang Cho, Civil Engineering student and SunbYte team leader

The SunbYte team at the Esrange Space Centre, Northern Sweden, where the balloon was launched

The SunbYte team at the Esrange Space Centre, Northern Sweden, where the balloon was launched
A MAKERSPACE FOR SHEFFIELD

An innovative new facility on campus – the iForge – is giving students the opportunity to collaborate, create and “make” outside of their academic studies. It has been set up with the support of engineering education charitable trust, the Reece Foundation. Their donation of £39,750 has provided the iForge, housed in the University’s flagship Diamond building, with vital equipment to help get the open-access workshop up and running.

“The ethos of the whole space is that anyone can come and create anything with any idea they have,” explains fourth year Aerospace Engineering student and iForge Rep, Amy McLauchlan. Amy was inspired to help set up a makerspace after spending a year at the University of Oklahoma in the United States as part of her course. There she saw first-hand the positive benefits that a makerspace can bring to a university. Once home, she became part of a team of passionate students, academic staff and technicians – headed up by Dr Pete Mylon, a University Teacher in Multidisciplinary Engineering Education – who set about trying to establish one here in Sheffield. “Working with academics and a really keen group of students, things snowballed and there was a real momentum behind it,” Dr Mylon said.

Run by students, for students

Believed to be the first of its kind in a UK university, the iForge is managed by a team of 24 student Reps. This student-led approach has seen University staff relinquish control of the space, allowing the students themselves to make decisions about how the iForge is run. As well as supervising and assisting other students for three hours a week each, they manage everything from procuring and maintaining equipment and materials, to developing relationships with industrial partners and alumni. Amy’s course mate, Will Proud, is a fellow iForge Rep and he’s enjoying the experience so far. “We’re learning as we go and it’s a really exciting project to be a part of,” he says.

Dr Mylon has been impressed with the team. “We don’t give students enough credit for what they can do, for the industry links they can bring, the ideas they have, the responsibility that they take, and the leadership they can show if given the opportunity. It’s been amazing to see.”

Housing a wide range of equipment, from traditional hand tools and a sewing machine to state-of-the-art laser cutters and 3D printers, the possibilities for what can be made in the iForge are limitless. Since November 2017, over 500 students have produced a diverse array of products, including battle robots, 3D printed Christmas decorations, parts for tribology research and a fully moving Thomas the Tank Engine cake. They’ve also made components for large-scale ventures, such as the ambitious project, Formula Student, to design and build a single-seat racing car. “All of this wouldn’t have been possible without support from the Reece Foundation”, says Dr Mylon. “Their grant has helped realise our vision to bring a makerspace to Sheffield, which is already benefitting our students in so many ways.”

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Amy McLauchlan, iForge Rep

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ENHANCING THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

From Anime to Zumba and everything in between – the Students’ Union is home to over 300 clubs and societies. Giving students the opportunity to make friends, gain new skills and pursue their interests, they play an important role in making the University such an innovative and exciting place to study. Each year, your donations are used to provide individual grants of up to £2,000 to help the groups run activities, purchase vital equipment and develop innovative new projects.

University of Sheffield Medics’ Orchestra
£1,000 awarded
“Thank you for providing such a large sum of money, it really helped to make our Christmas concert possible. Performing in Forth Hall was a fabulous experience; the venue was so picturesque with beautiful acoustics and it definitely fit our fairy tale theme.”

Bollywood Society
£600 awarded
“Thank you very much for the grant award – it meant that we were able to take part in the Battle of Bollywood national dance competition and proudly represent Sheffield. Due to your kind donation, we were able to attract people of all ages, backgrounds and interests to participate in this show, in our society and learn more about Bollywood dance.”

Gospel Choir Society
£430 awarded
“The choir is about more than just singing; we learn and develop together, form lasting friendships and provide support for one another. Thanks to your generous grant, we have been able to invest in much-needed equipment, including a new amp, percussion instruments and matching scarves and ties for performances, giving us a greater professional image and presence.”

TaeKwonDo sports club
£500 awarded
“Without your support, the club’s fees for the British Student TaekwonDo Federation Nationals would have been potentially unmanageable and would have required the participants to pay an enormous amount of money themselves, which could have prevented some from attending. The grant also facilitated the purchase of much-needed new equipment.”

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SANTANDER PLEDGES SUPPORT FOR SHEFFIELD STUDENTS

The University of Sheffield signed a new three-year agreement with Santander Universities in September 2017 which will see the company donate £225,000 to support a range of areas across the University.

This will see the University receive £75,000 a year for the next three years, which will be used to provide international scholarships and widen participation amongst under-represented groups. Awards will also encourage entrepreneurship at the University through Entrepreneurship Summer School Bursaries, as well as supporting our award winning ‘Give It A Go’ scheme to provide courses in employability, language and cultural awareness.

President and Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir Keith Burnett has been instrumental in establishing the University’s relationship with Santander and explained:

“Our ambition is to ensure all students have the opportunity to study and excel at Sheffield.”

“The University of Sheffield has been proud to work with Santander to create wonderful educational opportunities over the last seven years and we are delighted to be extending this relationship. We share in common a commitment to the positive impact of international students and international partnerships, and both organisations see the vital transformative power of education around the world. Another shared commitment is to opening opportunity for those who may need additional help to access education but who we know will flourish and achieve tremendous things when they receive it. From our industry sponsored apprentices to our outreach activities with schools, our ambition is to ensure all students have the opportunity to study and excel at Sheffield and we are deeply grateful to Santander for helping to support work which gives opportunities to students who truly value it. We look forward to developing this partnership and sharing our successes in the years to come.”

Santander Universities is a division of Santander committed to supporting its communities. Since 2007, Santander Universities has been supporting HE institutions across the UK, providing increased access to study through scholarships, mobility awards, research grants and university customer support. The University of Sheffield has had a relationship with Santander since 2010, which has seen the bank donate in excess of £500,000, as well as having a branch within the Sheffield Students’ Union dedicated to supporting Sheffield students in financial matters.

Matt Hutnell, Director of Santander Universities UK and Professor Sir Keith Burnett, President and Vice-Chancellor

PLAYING YOUR PART

Thank you for being part of the Sheffield community. Your support – in all its forms – plays a vital role in helping to shape our University. If you’d like to continue to support our work, there are lots of ways for you to get involved.

Volunteer
Stay connected with your University in the most rewarding way, by giving the gift of time. Sharing your experiences with students offers invaluable learning and networking opportunities for them – and, we hope, for you too.
sheffield.ac.uk/alumni/volunteering

Fundraise
From running and abseiling to karaoke nights and sponsored silences, we are constantly inspired by our fundraisers’ ingenuity and commitment. If you’re not sure where to start, you’ll be given all the support you need to bring your ideas to life.
sheffield.ac.uk/donate/fundraising

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Donations to Sheffield are transformational. By making a gift today, you can help invest in world-class research, provide first class teaching and learning facilities, and ensure that the brightest students, regardless of background or financial ability, are able to achieve their potential by experiencing a full and enriching university education.
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“I’ve been fortunate enough to benefit from an undergraduate scholarship, which greatly eases the financial constraints that come with university life, and I’m able to participate in a huge range of clubs and societies thanks to the funds they receive from alumni donations. I’ve also been amazed by the academic and research projects that donations have helped. For all of this I would like to extend my thanks.”

Ryan Hawkins, Politics student
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