



Giving today - transforming tomorrow

Donor Impact 2023

**Development and
Alumni Relations Office**

#WeAreUU

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Welcome to

Donor Impact 2023

We want to take this opportunity to highlight, to you, as a valued donor, the life-changing impact of supporting Ulster University's students and research.

Despite the ongoing cost of living crisis, you continue to give and we are so grateful for that. We saw applications to many of our scholarship programmes increase significantly this year. In the following pages, you can learn from our students about how scholarships are helping to create access to education, improve their academic performance and enhance their academic experience.

Your contributions help us to play our role in transforming Northern Ireland through sustainable regional economic and social development by harnessing the power of people, place and partnerships. Our many corporate partnerships also continue to strengthen the communities we serve by supporting equality of access to education, driving innovation, fostering talent, and catalysing responsible growth locally, nationally, and globally.



Professor Cathy Gormley-Heenan
Ulster University Provost

Ulster University has had a wonderful year. A particular highlight was hosting President Biden as part of his visit to Ireland to mark the 25th anniversary of the Belfast Good Friday Agreement. We also delivered three major art commissions which celebrated the resilience and contributions of our diverse communities to 25 years of peace amid conflict. You can read more about this and our newly launched 25@25 Leadership Programme, for 25 Ulster University graduates on page 7.

With Ulster University rising to be recognised as the Top University in Northern Ireland (Guardian University Guide 2024), our future is exciting. There is much to be proud of as a graduate and supporter. We thank you sincerely for being part of our journey and for your commitment to our work and ambitions.

I would like to recognise the impact of one of our most significant donors, Dr Chuck Feeney, who died in October. Through the work of Atlantic Philanthropies, his vision and generous support enriched countless lives, providing access to Higher Education, and enabling pioneering research. Thank you so much for your wonderful legacy, Dr Feeney.

Your ongoing support remains indispensable, now more than ever. I am confident that this edition of Donor Impact will vividly illustrate the profoundly positive difference your generosity is making on the lives of those we seek to transform.

Professor Cathy Gormley-Heenan
Ulster University Provost

Donor Impact in Numbers:



4,197

donors and partners



£7,805,756

income generated



1,097

students supported with
life-changing scholarships



£4,639,768

raised from
38 corporate partners



£1,366,646

sponsorship secured

*Figures for 2018/19-2022/23

#WeAreUU



We believe in creating access to education for everyone.

Our scholarships are supporting the talent of today for a better tomorrow.

Our scholarship programmes support a diverse range of students, helping those facing financial challenges or other obstacles, as well as nurturing our most talented and dedicated individuals to unlock their full potential.

Your support is making this happen.

This year we saw a 28% increase in applications to the Student Opportunity Fund on the previous year. With the cost of living crisis, more and more students need our help and so we continue to prioritise fundraising for scholarships.

Ulster University Student Opportunity Fund

Your support transforms lives

Serendipity Scholar success

The Student Opportunity Fund has the power to transform students' lives. In her second year, full-time Adult Nursing student April Canning received the Serendipity Scholarship, generously provided by graduate Mr. Harry Cayton CBE. This scholarship aims to support dedicated students, ensuring they make the most of their degree. April's impressive achievements during her time at Ulster demonstrate the impact of this scholarship.

She expressed her appreciation to Harry through a heart-warming letter of thanks stating, **"I just wanted to reach out to thank you**

from the bottom of my heart for your support this year with the Serendipity Scholarship. It is such a generous gift and really made a massive difference on my year at university.

I have been able to focus on my studies and family without feeling overwhelmed with needing to work as well.

This year, because of your generosity, I have achieved so much. I was awarded the Allstate NI convocation student of the year 2023, been placed on the Dean's list for a second year running, achieved the EDGE Excel Award and I have also been able to do a lot of volunteering. I would never have been able to achieve all of this without your support and kindness. Without you I would have struggled to get through this year. I am truly honoured to have been chosen for this scholarship."

April Canning - Serendipity Scholar

Sports Scholar kicking his way to the top

Callum Nash, Computer Technologies Graduate and past Sports Scholar, contacted us recently to note his appreciation of the scholarship and how it enhanced his sports performance. Callum is a full-time Irish Judo Athlete who has been representing Ireland on the biggest of stages since the age of 17.

"I could not be more appreciative of the scholarship throughout my time at Ulster University – it allowed me to continue my studies whilst striving to

become the best Judo athlete possible. It helped me to manage a challenging university degree alongside a hectic competitive journey in Judo, while also juggling family life. For now, my aspirations within Judo look towards the 2028 Olympics in Los Angeles! Thank you to everyone who supports these life-transforming scholarships."

Good luck Callum with your Olympics dream!

Sports Scholar breaking records

A huge well done to Victoria Catterson, Commonwealth Games swimmer and recipient of the Sporting Talent Scholarship in 2021 and 2022. She represented Northern Ireland as a swimmer at her first Commonwealth games in summer 2022 where she competed in her first international finals, breaking the 200m Irish Record that had stood for 25 years. In April 2023, she also set the national 200m freestyle record at the Irish Open.

"The Sporting Talent Scholarship has been a huge help in me achieving my ambitions, both sporting and academically and I am so incredibly grateful for the difference it made. It took the pressure off having to balance study, training and a part-time job, meaning I could cut down on my work hours at key times to study and train.

It also helped me gain nutritional advice which is so important to competing athletes. The scholarship played a

significant role in helping me to compete at the highest level as well as succeed in my degree."

The last time we spoke to Victoria at her graduation, she was heading off to Fukuoka, Japan to prepare for the World Aquatics Championships. Victoria sets her sights high for the future and aims to qualify for the Paris 2024 Olympics.



Victoria Catterson - Accounting Graduate and Sporting Talent Scholar, 2021 and 2022

Travel Opportunity Scholar leaves lasting legacy in Ghana

Shannon Barr received a Travel Opportunity Scholarship which enabled her to undertake her role-emerging placement at a physiotherapy department and a vocational special school in Takoradi, Ghana. A role emerging placement is one that is conducted in an area where there is no input from the relevant studying area and so aims to bring skills to a region without those skills.

Shannon says: **'The people in Ghana have to pay for their own health care and try home remedies before attending hospital. By the time they get to hospital, they are usually in a severe condition. I worked with children who had stiffness or paralysis in their limbs, helping to ease their symptoms.'**

The vocational special school was very underfunded and not appropriately built for people with special needs. Many of the people there do not have family support and so reside at the school. I mainly worked with the children with cerebral palsy and Down's syndrome – with the equipment I had brought, we helped their hand movement with things such as



Shannon Barr, third year Occupational Therapy student, on placement in Ghana with school child

theraputty, exercises including pasta and pipe cleaners, pegs and cups. All these simple exercises had a major positive effect on them. In addition, I did a few hand massages on children with cerebral palsy and taught the teachers so it could be continued when we had left.'

Well done Shannon on leaving such a powerful legacy and for putting our donors' money to such excellent use.

Marking the Belfast Good Friday Agreement

Celebrating Mo Mowlam's legacy

The Labour Party Irish Society funded the refurbishment of Ulster University's Derry~Londonderry campus cinematic arts studio, named after the late Mo Mowlam, former Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. This initiative, commemorating 25 years since the Belfast Good Friday Agreement, pays tribute to Mowlam's enduring impact.

Attendees at the opening included Mowlam's stepchildren, director and

producer Henrietta Norton and stepson Freddie Norton, as well as current Labour Party leader Sir Keir Starmer, Shadow Secretary of State for Northern Ireland Peter Kyle, and former Shadow Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Louise Haigh.

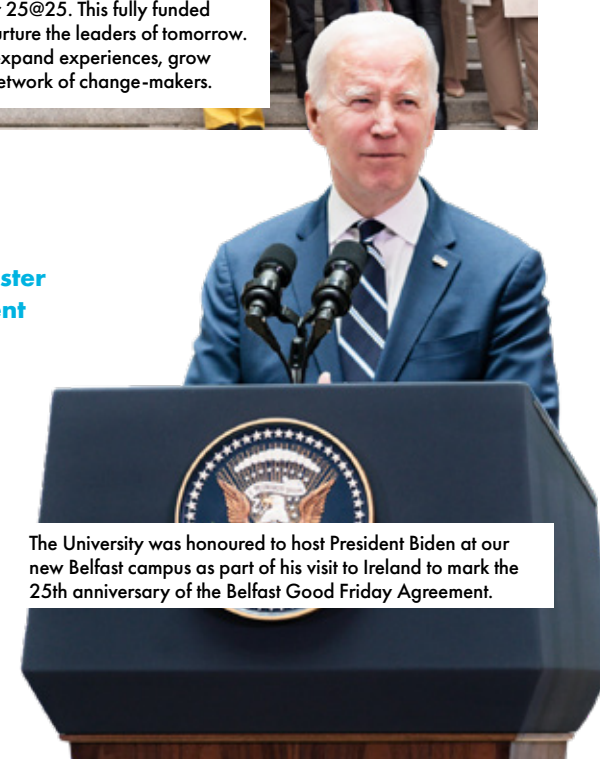
The Mo Mowlam Studio has been transformed into a professional-grade facility for Ulster University's Cinematic Arts students.



Labour Party leader Sir Keir Starmer and Professor Victoria McCollum with BA Cinematic Arts students



Ulster University Provost, Professor Cathy Gormley-Heenan stated at the event, **"The launch here in Derry~Londonderry highlights Ulster University's continued commitment to the Northwest, the arts and culture of the region, and to our students leveraging the power of film to inspire social change. This truly is an investment in the futures of our young people – the post-Belfast Good Friday Agreement generation."**



The University was honoured to host President Biden at our new Belfast campus as part of his visit to Ireland to mark the 25th anniversary of the Belfast Good Friday Agreement.

Ulster Presents world-class BGFA@25 programme



BGFA
@TWENTY-FIVE

ULSTER
PRESENTS

Ulster Presents, the University's prestigious Arts programme, with funding from the Imperial War Museum, National Lottery Heritage Fund, and British Council NI, marked the 25th anniversary of the Belfast Good Friday Agreement through a significant arts programme. This initiative included three significant art commissions, aiming to celebrate the resilience and contributions of diverse communities to 25 years of peace amid conflict. The programme offered not just an opportunity to mark an anniversary, or even the Agreement itself, but one that allowed people to reflect on what the idea of agreement means to them now and what we want of peace in the future.



series of events for more than 30 local and international artists, curators, and cultural policy makers. This included the participation of the Turner Prize-winning Array Collective, a number of whom are Ulster alumni. These gatherings served as forums for exploring the role of arts and creativity in addressing unresolved issues and navigating controversial questions within our community.

The programme concluded with Compagnie XY's remarkable, world premiere performance, 'After the

Rain,' created in collaboration with local artists in Derry-Londonderry.

It celebrated the physical and spiritual resilience of Northern Ireland's citizens through a visually stunning non-verbal performance, symbolising unity.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our generous funders for their support, which made this powerful and fitting celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Belfast Good Friday Agreement possible.



Ulster University Chancellor, Dr. Colin Davidson speaking at 'Difficult Conversations' event

Amanda Dunsmore's 'Agreement' was the first event, featuring video portraits she had created over the past 20 years of key figures in the Belfast Good Friday Agreement. The three-screen presentation of this artwork was subsequently showcased at six other locations across Northern Ireland, facilitating conversations about the principles of agreement and the significance of the Belfast Good Friday Agreement to others.

Building on the success of the initial joint symposium, 'Difficult Conversations,' held in collaboration with the University of Canberra, Ulster Presents hosted a



A legacy of passion and learning

In 2023, the legacy of Ulster University graduate, Margaret Caher, found new life through the establishment of the *Margaret Caher Scholarship in Irish Language and Literature*. This scholarship, born out of love and remembrance from her family, will honour Margaret's dedication to languages and her deep connection to the Irish Language.

Margaret was a woman of remarkable linguistic talents, demonstrated in her exceptional ability in Spanish, French, and Italian. In her early 50s, she embarked on an academic journey, enrolling in an Irish Language diploma. This commitment would later lead her to pursue an undergraduate degree, a journey she completed with distinction in 2009, graduating with first-class honours.

The Margaret Caher Scholarship in Irish Language and Literature offers more than just financial aid; it's a tribute to a remarkable woman whose thirst for knowledge and passion for languages knew no limits. Margaret's legacy will continue, guiding and supporting students who share her enthusiasm for the Irish Language and Literature

and her memory will forever remain a source of inspiration for generations to come.

Margaret's son Charlie Caher stated **"We set up the scholarship for my mum because her passion in life was a love of language, and she found so much pleasure learning Irish as a mature student. She would be very happy to know that the scholarship is enabling others to discover and nurture that same passion."**



Margaret Caher, Irish Language graduate, Class of 2009

The Brundle Award empowers Aoife Harvey's sustainable fashion journey

Congratulations to Aoife Harvey, a first-class honours graduate in Fashion and Textiles, on winning the BBC TV show 'A Stitch Through Time'. Aoife is an award-winning designer whose designs have been featured at fashion shows across the UK and Ireland, and most recently, at New York Fashion Week. Aoife was the recipient of The Brundle Award which aims to reward ambition and enhance the quality of the selected final year students work, ensuring it is not compromised due to a lack of personal resources.

Aoife says that the generous support from this scholarship had an incredible impact on her final fashion collection, both financially and creatively.

In her note of thanks to Tim Brundle, Director of Research and Impact at Ulster University, and funder of The Brundle Award, she said: **"I wanted to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude for the scholarship you provided me with. I was able to bring my dream collection to life. With the financial burden lifted, I had the freedom to focus entirely on my creative process, pushing the boundaries of my imagination and exploring innovative design concepts."**



Aoife Harvey, The Brundle Award winner

The scholarship truly empowered me to create a collection that I am immensely proud of. My success wouldn't have been possible without your belief in my potential and your unwavering support."

Aoife's current aim is to focus on producing more sustainable clothing collections. She is a finalist for her 'Waste To Wardrobe' collection in the Institute of Designers' Ireland Awards 2023. We wish Aoife all the best for her bright future!

Creative fundraising efforts blossom for Mind Your Mood



Ian McClure, Grounds Person
on UU's Coleraine campus

During the recent graduation ceremony, the university's grounds team in Coleraine spotted an opportunity to make a difference. They initiated a sale of the flowers displayed at graduation, raising an impressive £550, which was generously donated to Mind Your Mood. The quick thinking of Ian and the support of Sam and Sarah on reception were crucial in making this impromptu fundraiser a success.

In another noteworthy effort, Ulster University staff and graduates came together to participate in the Belfast City Marathon to raise money for Mind Your Mood, demonstrating remarkable camaraderie and dedication. Among the participants was Mr. Zi Chen, a PhD student at Ulster University, from China, whose relay team humorously named "Spring Rolls" completed the marathon. Zi Chen shared his personal connection to Mind Your Mood, highlighting the importance of maintaining good mental health during his academic journey.

"As a PhD student, I find it important to maintain good mental health when studying and living, and I have benefitted from support from Mind Your Mood activities in the past, particularly during the pandemic. It was a great experience and helped me through the tough times during my PhD and lockdown. That's why our team wanted to do something to contribute to supporting student mental wellbeing."



Zi with fellow relay team members

The Mind Your Mood initiative, organised by Student Wellbeing, encourages students to prioritise and discuss their mental health through various engaging activities and events. This is just one element of Ulster University's broader commitment to promoting mental wellbeing among its students.





**We believe
together we
can shape
the future
of Northern
Ireland.**

Partnering with business is
an integral part of our identity.

The transformative journey of Sophie Carlin, from Ireland Healthcare Scholar to cancer research pioneer

In 2018 Sophie Carlin was selected as one of the first cohort to receive an Ireland Healthcare Scholarship, funded by the United Health Foundation and supported by Optum Ireland.

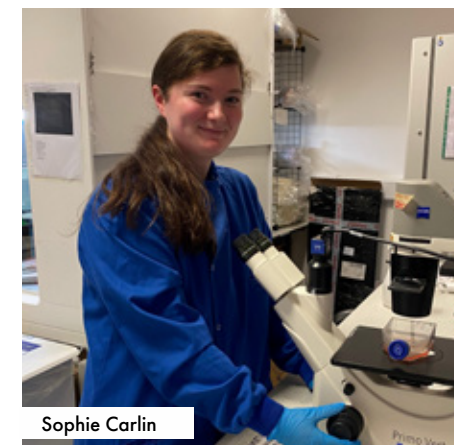
Studying Stratified/Personalised Medicine at our Derry~Londonderry campus, Sophie's favourite aspect of the course was getting real-life experience of working in a wet laboratory environment and conducting experiments. Sophie also completed a placement year researching childhood blood cancer at the Ulster University Personalised Medicine Centre located in C-TRIC at the Altnagelvin Hospital.

Graduating in 2022 with a first-class honours degree in Personalised Medicine, Sophie is now a PhD Researcher at both Ulster University and UCD, focusing on finding kinder, less toxic treatment options for children affected by blood cancers.

Sophie said **"The Ireland Healthcare Scholarship made a huge difference to me as it helped me worry less about financial stresses and allowed me to dedicate 100% of my energy to my studies. It also helped build my confidence as I met every subsequent year's new scholarship students at events and talks,**

developing my communication, teamwork and presenting skills.

My aspiration for the future is to continue in the world of cancer research. I would also love to share my knowledge with the future generation of scientists perhaps by teaching and to inspire them to follow their dream career pathways. I would also like to help support the Ireland Healthcare Scholarship Program so someone else can have a scholarship, as without the help and support that I received I would not be where I am today."



Sophie Carlin

Optum

London study visit helps Ulster University students envision their future careers



A group of first year undergraduate Interaction Design and Graphic Design students went on a five-day educational, business, and cultural trip to London funded by Santander Universities UK.

Visiting top global organisations in the Creative Industries such as Frog Design, Synechron, Jack Renwick, IDEO and Pentagram, the students gained an insight into each business with senior

creative leaders also taking time to share their own career journeys and provide valuable advice for building portfolios and standing out in job applications.

The students also attended an Alumni Networking event, giving a fantastic opportunity to connect with influential alumni and build professional networks.

For some students, this was their first visit to London, so time was scheduled

in to visit the Design Museum and enjoy some sightseeing in London. Two talented graphic design students have since secured work placements through connections they made on the trip, thanks to the power of LinkedIn.

Graphic Design student, Sohaila Pourjalali said:

“This programme was the best experience of my life. Before this trip I was quite unfocused as it is hard to visualise your future at such a young age. Having the opportunity to speak with employers I have idolised, and tour design studios was amazing. All the employers on the trip have since kept in contact and I have an opportunity to gain a job from this. I couldn’t be more thankful.”

The partnership between Ulster University and Santander Universities UK began in 2011 and to date has directly benefitted more than 2,500 students, providing funding of £1.4m to support impactful initiatives developing education, enterprise and employability.



Carson McDowell partners with Ulster University's Belfast School of Art to showcase Northern Ireland's creative future

Carson McDowell, Northern Ireland's largest independent law firm, is supporting Ulster University Belfast School of Art's Annual Degree Show with a two-year partnership. In June this year, over one hundred guests attended an evening reception on the Belfast campus, followed by a preview of the exhibition which displayed the exceptional talent of the Belfast School of Art's graduating students.

Original artwork created by final-year and masters students included illustration, graphic design, fine art, photography, video, product design, silversmithing, ceramics, textiles and fashion exhibits, alongside more contemporary forms such as animation, games design, user experience and service design.

Partners from Carson McDowell also purchased a piece from the exhibition created by student Michael Doherty, adding to their already well-established corporate art collection. Michael's piece is the first artwork to be displayed in their Dublin offices.

Neasa Quigley, Senior Partner, Carson McDowell commented, **"The Arts and Creative Industries is a hugely important growth sector in Northern Ireland that is already recognised on the global stage. By supporting the Ulster University Belfast School of Art Annual Degree Shows we**

believe we are investing in our shared future, as the successful career development of these individual artists and creatives will generate additional social and economic benefits for the region through the development of innovative concepts, ideas, knowledge and networks."



Sally McGaughey, BA Hons, Fine Art, First Class Degree, graduated Summer 2023; Neasa Quigley, Senior Partner, Carson McDowell, Dr Brian Dixon, Head of Belfast School of Art, Ulster University.



Kainos and Ulster University partner to fuel AI innovation and skills development in Northern Ireland

As a leading digital technology company, Kainos is committed to aiding research and skills development in Northern Ireland. Through this partnership the Artificial Intelligence Research Centre (AIRC) Laboratory was launched which includes two funded PhDs at Ulster University's Belfast campus. The purpose of the AIRC is to drive trustworthy innovation in Artificial Intelligence and find solutions to problems people face.

The new partnership has a broad remit, with projects expected to span education, healthcare and everything in between, with students involved in developing AI solutions that will hopefully lead to commercial products. For Kainos the lab will help to provide a skilled and confident workforce to keep up the pace of innovation. The aim of this partnership is to inspire the next generation by

letting them learn from industry experts while cementing Northern Ireland's position as a centre for technology.

Professor Chris Nugent, Head of the School of Computing at Ulster University said, **"This work will benefit both the economy and society. It's exciting to extend our partnership with Kainos, which now spans research, apprenticeships, student placements, graduate opportunities, executive leadership programmes, guest lectures and input into curriculum development. It's a partnership that shows just how powerful collaboration between the University and industry can be."**



Back row L-R: Dr Jun Liu, Reader, School of Computing, Karen Delgado, Deputy Director (Alumni and Corporate Engagement), Development & Alumni Relations Office, and Professor Chris Nugent, Head of School of Computing, Ulster University. Front row L-R: Tom Gray, Chief Technology Officer and Ruth McGuinness, Data & AI Practice Director, Kainos.

At Ulster University, we prioritise the future and excel in purpose-driven collaborations with individuals and companies. Our numerous business partnerships consistently generate positive social, cultural, and economic outcomes.

Connect with us today to transform your change initiatives into reality.

Contact: Tania Carlisle, Corporate Engagement Partner
t.carlisle@ulster.ac.uk



Stethoscope Appeal 2023

- Heartfelt thanks!

We extend our deep appreciation to Ulster University's giving community for their extraordinary support, raising an impressive £7,020 for our Stethoscope Appeal 2023. Thanks to their generosity, we were able to provide all 77 of our new medical students with essential stethoscopes, invaluable tools they'll use throughout their medical careers.

Donors who gave the full cost of a stethoscope were invited to include a personal message with their gift. Their contributions and words of encouragement reflect a deep commitment to our mission.

Together, we are shaping the future of healthcare, one stethoscope and heartfelt message at a time.

"Dear Doctor to be... your journey as a medical student begins with the gift of a stethoscope, a symbol of the profound connection you will forge with your patients. May its presence ignite your passion and guide you to become an extraordinary doctor who can make a lasting impact on countless lives. Good luck!"

"May your patients always feel the warm touch and care of this stethoscope from your healing hands all along your medical career. All the best and good wisdom to your study."

Celebrating our future medical workforce

Since the School of Medicine opened its doors to its first students in August 2021, we have been able to support 30 medical students with a life-changing scholarship. These scholarships were conceived to remove the financial barrier to ensure that all students with potential, from all walks of life, could access a graduate entry medical degree.

And so, we were therefore delighted to welcome our donors who have made these scholarships possible to an event to celebrate the impact of their giving, and meet the scholars they support.

As Orla Ward, Commercial Director at 21 Training, one of the donors, reflected:

"Before I met Laurie, I just looked at a line on our budget and thought 'oh, that's another thing we sponsor'. Now I've heard Laurie's story and see her dedication and how much the scholarship means to her, it's completely different. Now I see the human behind the budget line and am really proud of what we're doing. More businesses should be doing this, and I'm happy for you to quote me on that."



Visitors viewing the anatomage table in the School of Medicine



Orla Ward



Orla meeting Laurie McKibbon

Laurie McKibbon, second year MBBS and the 21 Training Scholar, says:

“As a mature student, and a single parent, this scholarship means I can pursue my life-long dream to study medicine. Coming from a working-class background, medicine is not a degree I would have been able to afford were it not for this funding. I will still face financial challenges, however having the scholarship means I can use any maintenance funds to survive daily life during my degree.

I want to show my daughter that coming from a working-class background should not hinder your

career goals, and following them, no matter what age, is possible.”

Thank you to all our donors for your commitment to helping students like Laurie on their journey to be part of our future medical workforce. These scholarships are transforming lives, not just the lives of the students benefitting, but of the thousands of patients they will treat and care for during their professional careers.

21
TWENTY ONE
TRAINING

Recognising Community Scholars and welcoming donors

We were also delighted to welcome donors of the Ulster University Community Scholarships to our new Belfast campus in November to celebrate and meet the successful scholars. These scholarships offer school and college leavers a life-changing opportunity, by removing the final barrier to them progressing to university – lack of finance.

The donors were able to hear first-hand the difference they were making in enhancing the scholars’ academic experience. We have supported 114 students to date and continue to fundraise. This year we received 176 applications for 26 scholarships, a 26% increase on last year. We hear from students everyday about how the cost of living crisis is impacting on their lives. Anthony Devenney, second Year BSc Economics, had this to say: **“Getting this scholarship has been a game-changer for me and my family. I’m from a single parent home and the first in my family**

to go to university. Without this financial help I simply wouldn’t have been able to afford it. Thanks to the Community Scholarship, I am able to focus on my studies and immerse myself in university life without constantly worrying about money. Seeing successful alumni giving back gives me great encouragement. If I get the chance, I’d love to do the same one day and help someone like me unlock their potential.

I can’t thank the donors enough for giving me this opportunity, I will be forever grateful.”



Allison Dowling, Corporate Affairs and Engagement Director at Belfast Harbour, at the event with Ulster University Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Bartholomew and some of the students supported by Belfast Harbour

Successful telephone engagement campaign: bridging alumni insights and giving

We would like to express our gratitude to all the graduates who generously spared their time to chat with current Ulster University students during our recent telephone engagement campaign. The campaign involved a dedicated team of 28 students who reached out to an impressive total of 850 graduates. Our students had the privilege of delving into our graduates' experiences at Ulster University and gaining insight into their journeys and accomplishments since graduation.

These interactions presented a valuable opportunity for our current students to seek priceless advice as well as offering

our graduates a unique glimpse into the present-day student life at Ulster.

Among our student callers was Cara Scott, a final year Music student, who really enjoyed connecting with graduates. Cara shared her enthusiasm, stating, **"I really enjoyed the telephone campaign! I spoke to so many wonderful people from all kinds of professions and hearing their experiences meant that I walked away with a real range of advice and new knowledge. I look forward to taking all I've learned with me into my future career."**



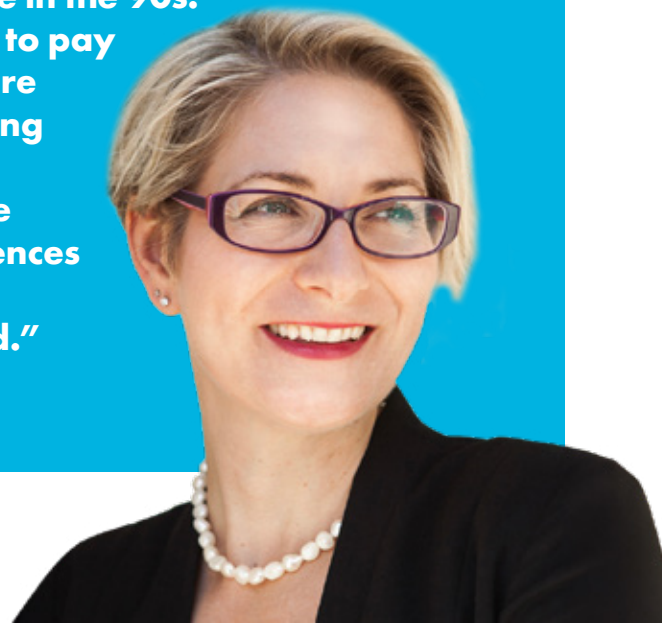
Cara Scott

The student callers also played a crucial role in raising awareness of the transformative impact of giving to Ulster University. We are thrilled that a total of £60,384 was also raised, which will support life-changing scholarships for students and life-saving research in the field of pancreatic cancer.

Cara's conversation with Gail Creighton-Davies, a graduate in Geography and Computing and Information Systems, now residing in Queensland, Australia, and employed at Origin Energy, led to Gail's decision to make a generous gift. Gail reminisced about her time at Ulster University, saying,

"It was great to chat with Cara, to hear first-hand what university life is like now at Ulster. It brought very fond memories flooding back and I reflected on how fortunate I'd been to be a student there in the 90s. It was an honour to pay it forward to future students by making a gift and hope they get the same learning, experiences and fun out of university as I did."

Gail Creighton-Davies



Free Will writing service for UU graduates

KENNEDY BURCHILL
WILL WRITING & ESTATE PLANNING SPECIALISTS

Legacy-giving is a special and meaningful way to ensure long-lasting support for Ulster University's students and research efforts. We are seeing a growing number of our graduates choosing to contribute to the university's mission beyond their lifetime. Prioritising your loved ones in your estate planning is key, but considering a legacy gift can be an extraordinary way to leave a lasting impact on our institution and the future of Northern Ireland and beyond.

We are delighted to offer Ulster graduates access to a complimentary Will Writing Service, and to date, over 100 graduates have taken advantage of this opportunity. We have joined forces with Kennedy Burchill, experts in Will Writing and Estate Planning, to provide this crucial service to you, completely free of charge.

Three out of five adults in the UK do not have a Will in place. The importance of having a Will cannot be overstated, and by availing of this service, you could potentially save up to £700. Beyond the financial

implications, having a well-prepared Will can bring peace of mind to you and your loved ones in the future.

To get started, simply scan the QR code or visit kennedyburchill.co.uk/ulsteruniversityalumni to register your interest.

Once registered, you will be scheduled for a phone meeting with a Kennedy Burchill Will Advisor, who will guide you through the process.

Your legacy can play a pivotal role in supporting our students' educational journeys and advancing groundbreaking research. Join us in leaving a lasting mark through your commitment to Ulster University. ulster.ac.uk/give



Ekram Ahmed, a 2001 graduate in Government Financial Management, currently residing in Bangladesh, expressed his gratitude via email after engaging in a conversation with another caller, Caitlin Quinn, a third year Geography student.

Ekram's message conveyed his appreciation for the opportunity to connect with a current student and reminisce about his fond memories of Ulster University. After the call, Ekram sent some images of his time studying in Northern Ireland.

He shared, **"It was a great opportunity for me to talk to a current student and cherish my sweet memories of Ulster University days. I can still remember our professors, the campus, our attending classes, and the wonderful environment within and around the campus. My talk with Caitlin was very interesting, useful and informative. She was very enthusiastic about her studies and her career plan. I hope our talk will bring some positive impact."**

These conversations not only bridged generations of Ulster students but also contributed to the enduring spirit of unity and support within the Ulster University community.



REASONS BEHIND OUR DONORS' GENEROSITY

Hear from a few of our supporters.



ANISA MKUWU

UU Alumnus, Class of 2005 and 2007

"When I was at University, I was very grateful for the financial support I received from other people. It helped me in pursuing my dreams. As I support the Student Opportunity Fund, I hope it will encourage and enable more students to realise their potential and overcome their financial difficulties. I trust that more alumni will get involved and help support this great cause."



MICHELE CONNOLLY

UU Alumnus, Class of 1992

"I had an amazing time at UU and my academic and life experiences there set me up well for a fantastic career. So, I love the idea of being able to reach back in and help someone else coming behind me - no matter in how small a manner."

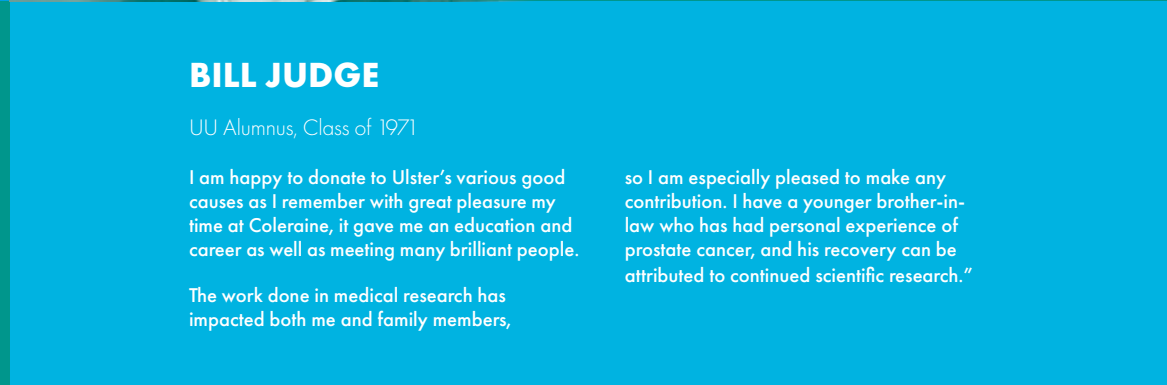


ALICK HODGSON

UU Alumnus, Class of 1974 and 1976

"Ulster University provides an extraordinary education, as much for life as for study. Where else can one 'let off steam' after exams by climbing on the likes of Ramore Head to be followed by Guinness in the Harbour Bar? 40 years after graduation there still exists a strong comradery amongst the Alumni of that era."

I have been asked why I give to the University. Financial support for Higher Education has not been a popular policy amongst our political masters for a good while and I know that all colleges and universities are working hard to maintain their standard of excellence and range of courses. I do however consider it a priority to maintain student support, no one should be deterred from starting or prevented from completing their degree because of financial stringency. The part to be played by the Ulster Alumni will become more and more important in the raising of funds to provide this support."



BILL JUDGE

UU Alumnus, Class of 1971

I am happy to donate to Ulster's various good causes as I remember with great pleasure my time at Coleraine, it gave me an education and career as well as meeting many brilliant people.

The work done in medical research has impacted both me and family members,

so I am especially pleased to make any contribution. I have a younger brother-in-law who has had personal experience of prostate cancer, and his recovery can be attributed to continued scientific research."



SHAUN REDDIN

UU Alumnus, Class of 1987

"I believe an education can open a world of possibilities and choices and anyone with the talent, ambition and perseverance to attend university should not be denied the opportunity. The recognition that some students need and deserve help to realise their potential is a fantastic concept and it is a pleasure to support the Student Fund which is making a real difference to people's lives both now and in the future."



ATHI SILEVU

Subway Scholar 2022 (Computing Technologies Graduate)

"If I could quantify the amount of relief I have felt from this funding, I would. No words could describe my gratitude. As a person seeking international protection, I am not allowed to work. The scholarship helped me to be able to transport myself to and

from the university. I was able to pay for the monthly internet bill which enabled me to be able study at home. Most importantly the money helped reduce financial stress and anxiety and allowed me to focus on my studies. I am very grateful to the funders."



THANK YOU!

NOMATHAMSANQA THOLO

Academic Opportunity Scholar 2021 (Personalised Medicine)

My name is Nomathamsanqa Tholo, a final year personalised medicine student. Despite the odds stacked against me, pursuing higher education to become a successful entrepreneur and make a positive impact on the world has always been my goal. However, the cost of education seemed like an insurmountable obstacle. This scholarship eased my financial burden, though I still faced many challenges along the way.

As I draw near my finishing line, I am reflecting on my journey. The scholarship has not only provided me with financial support, but it has also instilled in me the confidence to pursue my dreams relentlessly. I am a proof that education has the power to change lives and make the world a better place, one scholar at a time. Thank you!



HANNAH THOMPSON

SSE Scholar 2018 (Environmental Science)

Being awarded the SSE Scholarship in 2018 had such a positive impact on my time at university. It enabled me to focus on my course with no financial stress, which was a huge benefit.

I thoroughly enjoyed studying and graduated in 2022 with a First-Class Honours BSc in Environmental Science, with a Distinction in my placement year.

Through the success of my degree, I was able to continue my education at Ulster University Coleraine. I am now a second year PhD student, and aspire to become a lecturer.

I would like to sincerely thank the donors for making my scholarship possible and the positive impact it has made to my university experience and future endeavours.

JOEL NABI

Academic Opportunity Scholar 2021 (Politics & International Studies with Criminology)

I just wanted to write a few words thanking you for my ongoing bursary. I am now in my third year. This summer I underwent more surgery to implant a new upgraded pacemaker, which we are hoping will see me through until I finish my degree and move into some form of part-time work. This will hopefully keep me well and active as I complete

my busy (potential) final year. I want to thank you for your support. Due to my health conditions, I am unable to both work and attend university, so the support provided helps me to stretch my finances so that I can complete my degree. Many years ago, my Mum was told 'I wasn't worth operating on'. I'm well on my way to proving that statement wrong.





**Donate today.
Transform lives.**

ulster.ac.uk/give

 giving@ulster.ac.uk

 028 9536 5104

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