



Donor Impact 2016

Development and Alumni
Relations Office

Shaping bright futures



Contents

Welcome and thank you 3
 Student Fund successes..... 4 & 5
 Graduating scholars..... 6 & 7
 Connecting with the US..... 8 & 9
 Corporate impact 10 & 11
 Lasting legacy 12
 In loving memory 13
 Why our donors support Ulster..... 14
 Excellence at Ulster 15

Meet the team

In each edition of Donor Impact, we introduce you to some of the members of the Development and Alumni Relations team.



Nicola McLroy

After working for a number of years as an IT accessibility and usability consultant and then as a mobile device test engineer, Nicola joined Ulster University in 2009. She is responsible for managing, updating and maintaining the alumni database as well as the team's website. Nicola is kept busy outside of work also with her two year old daughter.

Favourite food: a sweet and spicy tagine
Guilty pleasure: watching Come Dine with Me
Dream job as a child: astronaut (it's never too late...)



Alison Snookes

Alison has spent most of her career to date working in the Middle East, most recently as a business instructor and head of department in the Higher Colleges of Technology in the United Arab Emirates. Alison joined Ulster University as Development Services Manager in 2011. She is in charge of the operational support of the team, including donation processing, database management and stewardship, and ensures that the team maintains its operations in line with best practice.

Favourite food: chocolate
Guilty pleasure: chocolate
Dream job as a child: being a chocolatier



Sinead Ward

Sinead joined Ulster University from Newcastle University in 2014, where she worked as Project Support Officer in Research and Enterprise Services. At Ulster she works as part of the Fundraising team to provide research on potential funding streams as well as working on proposals and applications for funding.

Favourite food: cheese (so much so that she had tiered cheese as her wedding cake)
Guilty pleasure: watching Don't Tell the Bride and Dinner Date
Dream job as a child: bus driver or ballerina



Thank you to all supporters of Ulster University

I am delighted to introduce the second edition of Donor Impact, our publication designed to update you, our supporters, on the impact your generosity is having on our students and subsequently on our society as a whole.

It has been another exciting year, with increased awards made from our Ulster University Student Fund as well as increased support from our corporate partners.

In challenging times, it is even more important that we have the valuable support of our graduates, staff and friends, support that encourages and rewards excellence and opens up opportunities for our students to significantly enhance their academic experience at Ulster University. Students today face many more costs relating to their study than did previous generations, and so the support provided by generous graduates, staff and friends is all the more vital.

Throughout this edition of Donor Impact, you will see just a few of the many examples of how your giving is being used to maximise student success. This ranges from support provided by the Student Fund through hardship funds, sports and travel scholarships and encouraging entrepreneurs, to support provided by local and global companies who value the impact made by Ulster University's work on our society and the future that our students will forge in Northern Ireland and beyond.

I hope you enjoy reading about this incredibly positive impact and I would like to invite you to come and visit us at Ulster University – the door will always be open.

Caroline Armstrong
 Head of Fundraising
 Development and Alumni Relations Office

More alumni giving = More students supported

When you, our graduates, staff and friends, choose to donate to the Ulster University Student Fund, the direct positive impact you have on students' lives is unquestionable.

We are delighted that more and more of you are generously deciding to contribute to making this impact happen. It means we are in a position to assist more and more students – enabling them to realise their dreams, to reach and often surpass their goals, and to become the entrepreneurs, the scientists, the sports stars, the creative drivers and the leaders of tomorrow.



Mega sporting success for two Megans

Megan McGrath and Megan Frazer are two great sporting successes doing the University proud.



Irish hockey captain and Elks player Megan Frazer

Megan Frazer, Irish Hockey Captain and Ulster Elks midfielder, has had another tremendous season on the hockey pitch. Currently completing an MSc Biomedical Engineering, Megan is such an exceptional athlete that she received the Sports Scholarship for a second consecutive year.

The Ulster Elks won the Irish Senior Cup at the end of the 2015 season, resulting in qualification to European club competition. Competing for the first time in Europe, the team not only took gold but also secured promotion to the second tier in Europe for Ireland's qualifier next season. With Megan's help, they also retained the Irish Senior Cup in 2016.

Megan McGrath, another very talented Sports Scholar, graduated with a BSc Physiotherapy this summer and is also pursuing her talent for dressage.

Following a very busy and demanding final year at University, the scholarship enabled Megan to spend a week based at the yard of three-time Olympian Heike Holstein for some intensive training. The scholarship also covered costs for physiotherapy for both Megan and her horses throughout the year, helping maintain the fitness required for high level competition.



Megan McGrath on Romanno Frerejacques

“Both myself and my horse made a lot of improvements while with Heike. It helped us progress and establish further the movements required for the higher level tests that we were to complete this year. These improvements were directly reflected in my performances following this training. We won our first show an amazing 6% ahead of the second placed competitor.”

Saddled up for the phone campaign

Megan also found time in her busy dressage and study schedule to join the team of students who contacted our alumni during the annual telephone campaign. This is a great opportunity for our students to chat to successful graduates and gain career advice for life beyond Ulster. We are so grateful to everyone who took the time to speak to our students during this campaign. Your time, advice and generosity are hugely appreciated.

Megan particularly enjoyed being able to thank donors who helped support her scholarship:

“I am very grateful to have been selected as a Sports Scholar and was delighted to speak on the phone to the alumni who make this possible, and to thank them for their generosity.”

Student Fund supports peer mentoring scheme

The Writing Pad, made possible by the Student Fund Vice-Chancellor's Award, saw a successful pilot year, with 20 student Writing Consultants trained to assist their fellow students with every aspect of the writing process. The drop-in service in the new teaching block on the Coleraine campus was a busy and buzzing place, serving students from every discipline, and from every campus making use of the Writing Pad's expertise. This academic year will see the Writing Pad assisting the School of Psychology with its peer assisted learning programme (PASS), and working with Student Support to expand access to improve writing skills across the University.

Choir sing their way to New York City

Illustrating Ulster University's distinguished reputation, members of the Ulster University Choir were honoured to be invited to sing at the prestigious Carnegie Hall earlier this year.

It was a life-changing experience for the talented choir members, who received a standing ovation for their performance of The Music of Paul Mealor, featuring the New York premier of Stabat Mater.

Without the financial support of the Student Fund, Culture Ireland, Santander Universities, the Northern Ireland Bureau, graduates and staff, including Vice-Chancellor Professor Paddy Nixon, this tour would simply not have been possible.

In New York, the choir maximised the trip with a moving performance at Ground Zero and a fabulous evening at the American Irish Historical Society on Fifth Avenue, where they sang to graduates, supporters and friends of Ulster University.



Priyamvada Yarnell

Bursary allows scholar to make global impact on justice policy

Priyamvada Yarnell is in the second year of her PhD studies with the Transitional Justice Institute at Ulster University. She is researching the international criminal tribunals' practice of granting early release to perpetrators of atrocity crimes (genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes).

Priyamvada was awarded the Broadening Horizons Travel Bursary to travel to Germany to attend the International Nuremberg Principles Academy's annual conference, focused on the advancement of international criminal justice and ending impunity. She said:

“Attendance at this conference provided me with important contacts which are highly relevant to the development of my PhD. The PhD will highlight this neglected element of international criminal justice. I will obtain victims' perspectives on the practice with a view to inform those engaged in the early release practice and advocate for the development of a fair and coherent policy.”



Elaine Thompson

Brave decisions

Elaine Thompson is in her second year of the BSc Therapeutic Communication and Counselling Studies course.

Coming from a background where no family or friends had been to university, she left school at 16 and has worked hard in her career in the civil service. However, she realised that to progress further in her career she needed to gain more qualifications, and so at the age of 29 she took the brave

decision to start a part-time degree. With a home to run, a job and a six year-old son, taking on a degree was a tough but clear decision for Elaine, who wants to improve her life chances and be a good role model for her son.

The Gateway Scholarship has helped her enormously to get through her first year of study. Elaine said:

“I understand how lucky I am to have been chosen for this Scholarship, it has helped me enormously, allowing me to pay my first year fees in full which took huge pressure off and provided some security. I would like to thank you for this opportunity and assure you I have done everything I can to make the most of it and will continue to progress in order to achieve my goals and set a positive example for my young son.”

Celebrating our scholars' successes

The Student Fund aims to improve students' lives and significantly enhance their experience of academia while at Ulster, so we were delighted to see so many of our scholars graduating with top-class degrees earlier this summer. Here are just a few...



Julie Steele graduating with a First Class Honours

From waitress to first class hons

Julie Steele was the first ever Student Fund Gateway Scholar back in 2012. Julie had a challenging time at school and left at 16 with few qualifications. After working for five years as a waitress she decided she wanted more from life and so took on the challenge of gaining the qualifications to enter Ulster University.

After seven years of study Julie graduated in July with a First Class BSc Marketing Honours, a tremendous achievement. She is already in a permanent marketing coordinator role with a global company based in Belfast. Julie expressed heartfelt thanks for the support she received from the Student Fund in helping her achieve her dreams.



Derek Hanrahan

Overcoming autism

Derek Hanrahan from Omagh has overcome the challenges of living with autism to graduate with First Class Honours in Sociology and Psychology and now hopes to inspire others facing similar obstacles.

"I was 14 when I was diagnosed with autism. From a very early age I found education to be a very difficult experience. I struggled to fit in and as a result I was placed

in a special needs school. As soon as I was old enough I enrolled in my local college. It was my goal to attend Ulster University and I worked extremely hard to achieve the qualifications I needed to get in."

Derek was awarded a Gateway Scholarship from the Student Fund.

"The scholarship allowed me to really focus on my studies. I could get books when I needed to and was able to pay for travel to spend more time on campus studying," he commented.

"It was truly instrumental in supporting my education. I now want to empower those most in need and show others that a person on the spectrum can not only succeed, but can help others to succeed."

Mature student magic



Catherine McCarron graduating in June

Catherine McCarron was proud and delighted to graduate with a First Class BSc Hons Accounting and Managerial Finance.

Catherine began her working life in Derry-Londonderry's Fruit of the Loom factory, and then worked for many years in the Ulster Bank. Her husband Brendan had worked in the same company for 24 years and felt it was a relatively 'safe' job, so Catherine took the voluntary redundancy on offer in 2009 so she could spend time with the children before changing career. However, things were turned upside down when Brendan was also made redundant. They had a mortgage and three small children and suddenly found themselves both out of work. Catherine and Brendan both took the brave decision to use the opportunity to improve their prospects, and applied to undertake degrees. Catherine says:

"The move to university was daunting for me at 41, I found I was not as IT literate as some of my younger classmates, so I had to take a few online courses in Microsoft Office to get up to speed!"

The Gateway Scholarship awarded to Catherine from the Student Fund helped to cover childcare for her young children, allowing her additional time to study and reach her target of a first class honours degree. Catherine is very grateful and is excited about her future:

"I am very grateful to all who contributed to the Student Fund which enabled me to receive the Gateway scholarship. It really was great to have that extra money for books and lots of other necessities in final year. I have secured two job interviews in the area of finance and I intend to complete professional exams and become a chartered accountant."

Badminton player serves up academic ace

Ciaran Chambers is a past Sports Scholar who recently graduated with a First Class Honours in Sport and Exercise Science.

He explained that the Sports Scholarship from the Ulster University Student Fund allowed him the freedom to train as an athlete whilst aiming to maintain the highest standards in his degree. He added:

"Without this scholarship, I would not have been able to attend some key badminton competitions which were very important, especially given that during 2014 I was building up to the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games. This scholarship was invaluable in allowing me to get the balance needed between focussing on my performance and my studies, allowing me to progress in both. As well as securing my First Class Honours, I am now aiming to qualify for the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games and have undertaken a graduate internship with the NI Commonwealth Games Council. Thank you to the Student Fund for helping me get to this point."



Ciaran Chambers

Congratulations to all our scholars who have graduated in 2016!

Good luck with whatever the future holds, we are sure you will all succeed in your chosen field.

Top Engineering scholar takes to the phones

Aideen Traynor from Strabane was delighted to be selected as a McColgan Innovation Award winner in her final year and she proved herself further by graduating in July with a first class honours degree in Biomedical Engineering.

The McColgan Innovation Award is just one of the awards generously provided by graduate Gillian McColgan. Gillian and her husband are based in Florida and are still passionate about supporting students at Ulster. Gillian is currently Chief Technology Officer at Marquis Technologies, having previously worked as Chief Technology Officer for the Rockstar Consortium.

Gillian who graduated in Engineering, still keeps strong connections with Northern Ireland, and was in Belfast recently to present her scholars with their certificates at the Scholarships and Awards Ceremony.

She believes in the power of education and is always seeking new and innovative ways to encourage the next generation: "There is always an example in giving and with education costs mounting it is very meaningful to give a helping hand, especially to those who face challenges," she said.

Aideen said the benefits of the McColgan Innovation Award are numerous.

"The recognition and generosity of this award not only increased my confidence during a crucial time in my studies, but provided me with the motivation and facilities to graduate at the very top level within my degree. I now look forward to using my education to excel in any future job I secure."

Earlier this year Aideen was among the group of Ulster students who spent three weeks phoning a number of our graduates around the world, an experience she thoroughly enjoyed:

"Participation in the telephone campaign only further heightened my admiration for all those who donate to the Student Fund. Everyone I spoke to showed interest in and enthusiasm towards the University and this sense of pride was reflected massively in the generosity of our graduates. I was enlightened with some great conversations and career advice making the experience both enjoyable and rewarding for me as a student!"



Aideen Traynor (right) and Adam Coulter (centre) with Gillian McColgan

Momentous launch of John Hume and Thomas P. O'Neill Chair in Peace



From left: Dr Arun Gandhi with Professor Brandon Hamber, the John Hume and Thomas P. O'Neill Chair in Peace and Dr Adrian Johnston, Chairman of the International Fund for Ireland and Ulster University graduate.

Dr Arun Gandhi visits Magee

The grandson of India's legendary leader Mohandes K. 'Mahatma' Gandhi captivated and inspired his audience at Ulster's Magee campus in June when he spoke about his lessons in building a 'culture of peace' during the inaugural lecture under the John Hume and Thomas P. O'Neill Chair in Peace.

Dr Gandhi grew up in his grandfather's home in Durban, South Africa where he experienced first-hand discriminatory apartheid laws. In his lecture, he drew lessons from his parents' and grandparents' teachings, which insist that justice does not mean revenge; it means transforming the opponent through love and suffering.

Dr Gandhi's message was that ending wars is in itself not enough:

“We must then purge our minds of hate. We must respond to our moral obligations. The more materialistic we become, the less moral we become. Ultimately, we ourselves have to become the change that we want in the world;”

Professor Brandon Hamber, the inaugural John Hume and Thomas P. O'Neill Chair in Peace, an esteemed peacebuilder and academic who was also born and educated in South Africa, said:

“I was immensely proud to welcome Dr Arun Gandhi to Ulster University. His visit is a huge endorsement of the University's international peace and conflict centre INCORE, which is linked to the John Hume and Thomas P. O'Neill Chair in Peace. Ulster University has pioneered research into peacebuilding and supporting communities through conflict since the 1970s and is frequently called upon to help build peace in conflict zones all over the world. As Chair I have ambitious plans to further the impact of our work both locally and internationally and further enhance INCORE's reputation as a centre of international excellence in peace and conflict studies.”

The John Hume and Thomas P. O'Neill Chair in Peace is the first ever fully endowed Chair at Ulster University, thanks to significant support from the International Fund for Ireland as well as individual donors. It honours Nobel peace prize winner and Gandhi prize for peace winner, John Hume, and Speaker of the House of Representatives, Thomas P. O'Neill, for their roles in advancing peace in Northern Ireland. Both the Hume and O'Neill families, including Speaker O'Neill's son Thomas, who lives in Boston, joined the audience for the occasion.

Dr Roma Downey, Ulster University Honorary Graduate and a close friend of the Hume family, made the occasion even more memorable when she spoke via video message, highlighting the fact that John Hume was inspired by Martin Luther King, when she quoted:

“Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that.”

During his visit, Dr Gandhi also met with Ulster University students and staff as well as community leaders.

Inaugural donor delighted to attend launch



From left: Gillian McColgan, Dr Adrian Johnston, Professor Brandon Hamber, Dr Arun Gandhi, Dr Neville Isdell, Professor Paddy Nixon and Caroline Armstrong at the launch event.

We were delighted that Dr Neville Isdell, Ulster University Honorary Graduate and the inaugural donor to the John Hume and Thomas P. O'Neill Chair in Peace, was able to join us to celebrate the launch of the Chair.

Dr Isdell, who now resides in Barbados, joined Vice-Chancellor Professor Paddy Nixon, Dr Arun Gandhi, Professor Brandon Hamber and other University staff at a dinner for donors and members of the Hume and O'Neill families.

Dr Isdell, a native of Downpatrick, moved to Zambia at the age of 10 with his family and is the former chairman and CEO of The Coca-Cola Company where he worked for 43 years, taking the world's largest beverage company to new heights during his tenure.

He joined the company in 1966 in Zambia and worked around the globe, retiring in 2001 as vice chairman of Coca-Cola HBC. He worked as an international consultant to The Coca-Cola Company between 2002 and 2004 and in June 2004 he came out of retirement to lead The Coca-Cola Company as Chairman and CEO until 2009.

As part of his legacy, he expanded Coca-Cola's reputation for corporate responsibility, with a strong focus on improving the well-being of the communities in which it operates around the world. He was awarded an honorary degree from Ulster University in 2007 in recognition of his services to international business.

Keeping strong links with his home country, Dr Isdell was delighted to be the inaugural donor to the John Hume and Thomas P. O'Neill Chair in Peace and was especially pleased to be able to attend this official launch event, saying:

“Having lived in five continents I have witnessed independence struggles, dictators falling, communist guerrilla warfare, and brutal religious divides often with despair, but always with the hope that sensible people from the different sides can be persuaded that victory is only achieved in a true sense when the needs and desires of all the combatants are answered to a degree where both sides benefit and understand and accommodate each other. The Chair in Peace, I believe will not just memorialize the work of two great men but point the way to how the ravages of confrontation can be put aside and workable long term frameworks for peace put in place.”

Inspirational John J. Sweeney scholar



Jennifer Johnson,

Jennifer J. Johnson, from the United States of America, was the first recipient of the John J. Sweeney Scholarship in 2015-16. Jennifer's background is diverse – semi-raised by a drug addict and an alcoholic, relinquished to foster care, and then left to become a ward of the state.

Despite these early-year challenges, Jennifer was able to graduate high school, join the United States Navy, go to college and graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice, work for an Article III Judge in the United States Federal Court, and finally, leave mid-career to change the course of her working path by being accepted onto INCORE's MSc Applied Peace and Conflict Studies programme at Ulster University.

Funded by the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO), the John J. Sweeney Scholarship covers the entire expenses for a US student's tuition.

Jennifer has made the most of her time in Northern Ireland, undertaking an unpaid internship with the FabLab, digital fabrication laboratories based at the Nerve Centre, set up to inspire people and entrepreneurs to turn their ideas into new products and prototypes by giving them access to a range of advanced digital manufacturing technology.

Jennifer was humbled to have been chosen to be the first ever John J. Sweeney Scholar and believes the experiences it has offered have been transformational:

“My diverse personal history, I believe, makes me uniquely qualified to share the benefits of being a scholarship recipient. After all, being a scholarship recipient is not just about securing money to pay for an academic education, it is also about gaining a personal education through travel, culture, and being exposed to ideologies other than your own that you can infuse back into the local, national, and if you are lucky, global community.”

Rotary Club of Londonderry encourages peace scholars



From left: Rotary Club President Peter O'Connor, Rotary Club of Londonderry Peace Scholars Garry Lynn and Hugo Maguire, and Professor Brandon Hamber, Ulster University.

The Rotary Club of Londonderry Peace Scholarships were established in 2015 by the club members as a legacy of the Rotary Global Peace Forum held in Derry-Londonderry in 2013. Over a three-year period, the scholarships provide generous financial support for four home students and one international student undertaking the MSc Applied Peace and Conflict Studies at Ulster University.

Garry Lynn, studying the MSc in Applied Peace and Conflict Studies at the International Conflict Research Institute (INCORE) on the Magee campus, was delighted to be one of two students awarded with the Rotary Club of Londonderry Peace Scholarship:

“I am very grateful that such a world renowned organisation as the Rotary Club saw fit to support students like me. This funding helped me achieve something that would have been otherwise out of my reach, and helped me progress exponentially over the past year. Through the support provided to me by the Rotary Club of Londonderry, and the staff at Ulster University, I believe I am ready to successfully forge a career where I can be of benefit to Northern Irish society. The support I have received has impacted me greatly, and for that I am appreciative beyond words.”

Thank you to our corporate supporters

Ulster University engages with a range of corporate partners to enhance opportunities for our students.

We are enormously grateful for the profound impact this makes on the lives of students across our four campuses, their communities and the Northern Ireland economy.

Allen & Overy leads the way on Justice Scholarships

Through the generosity of leading global law firm Allen & Overy, additional scholarships are now available for LLM Clinical Legal Education students, which has enabled three high-calibre students to take up the offer of places on the programme.

Grainne McKeever, Reader in Law and Director of the Ulster University Law Clinic, is delighted with the benefits this partnership brings to our students:

“Client feedback has been extremely positive and the work of the students has been recognised by the recent UK LawWorks and Attorney General awards, which shortlisted the Ulster University Law Clinic for the best pro bono student activity by a Law School in the UK in 2016. The A&O scholarships have been central to the ability to progress client cases and student learning, providing the necessary financial support to enable students to concentrate on their pro bono and academic work, and to develop the Ulster University Law Clinic’s reputation for high quality casework that responds directly to unmet legal need in the community.”

Niall Byrne, pictured, said of his scholarship: “Thank you for this prestigious and generous scholarship. This scholarship has motivated me to succeed and has also allowed me to spend more time focusing on putting my studies into action.”

Jane Townsend, Partner and Head of Allen & Overy’s Legal Services Centre in Belfast, said:

“Encouraging young, promising talent and improving access to justice are important right across our law firm. We are following our scholars’ progress with great interest and are delighted with the latest recognitions bestowed on their work.”



Niall Byrne (centre) receiving his Allen & Overy Scholarship from Ciaran McCallion and Jane Townsend, Allen & Overy.

SSE Airtricity Scholarships energise STEM students



Vicky Boden from SSE Airtricity with Darren Toner, 2015 SSE Airtricity Scholar

Energy company SSE Airtricity launched its scholarship scheme in 2014 as an innovative way of supporting Ulster University’s students through their undergraduate or postgraduate programmes.

The scholarships, funded by the Slieve Kirk Wind Park Regional Fund, were established to support people with home addresses in Counties Tyrone and Derry-Londonderry wishing to study at Ulster University. The scholarships, which are open to entrants of a large number of STEM-related courses across the University, provide funding support of approximately 50% of tuition fees, a huge benefit which enables students to focus on their studies. 2015-16 Scholar Darren Toner (BEng Hons Clean Technology) said:

“I am proud to be an SSE Airtricity Scholar. The prestige associated with the scholarship will help me as I progress on to my professional career and the funding support allows me to spend all of my time developing my academic skills and abilities. I would like to thank SSE Airtricity sincerely for their support and would recommend that any students coming to Ulster University seek out scholarship opportunities of this kind.”

Graduation just the right medicine for Actavis scholar

Charlotte Kane, recipient of the Actavis Scholarship in Pharmacy, has recently graduated with First Class Honours. Charlotte received funding support throughout her degree and, as the Actavis Scholar, also benefited enormously from work experience with the company.

“Attaining this scholarship has enhanced my employability in an extremely competitive field and will help in securing future employment within pharmaceuticals. I really cannot express my gratitude enough and will continue to act as proud ambassador of the scholarship.”

The Guardian league table has for the third year running, ranked Ulster University as the top university in the UK to study pharmacy and pharmaceutical sciences.

Mutual focus on employability, mobility and internationalisation

Santander Universities provides funding support for entrepreneurship, internship and mobility scholarships as well as for a range of special projects. The relationship between Ulster University and Santander Universities continues to benefit both staff and students who have travelled to countries across the globe including Kenya, the USA and Poland. During a recent visit to the University, Matt Hutnell, Director of Santander Universities UK, said:

“We are delighted with our partnership with Ulster University and see a real synergy between our mutual focus on employability, mobility and internationalisation. Working with Ulster University is a great experience. The University staff are professional, friendly and accessible at all times. I would thoroughly recommend the experience to any organisation which is considering establishing a scholarship.”

Paul McNally received Santander Universities entrepreneurship support for his Five Things Project and he said

“The funding support provided by Santander Universities allowed me to take my idea to the next level,” Paul explained. “It gave me the confidence to believe that my concept could become a reality. I am enormously proud to be a Santander Scholar and will always be grateful for the opportunities that this has brought me.”



Matt Hutnell, Director Santander Universities UK, chats with Santander Universities Scholars Siofra Caherty and Paul McNally on his recent visit to Ulster University

Third Barnett Scholar says thank you

The Barnett Pharmaceutical Sciences Scholarship supports students entering the MSc in Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University.

The scholarship is supported by Norbrook Laboratories and is named in recognition of former Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir Richard Barnett and sits alongside the Norbrook Chair in Pharmaceutical Science. The current Barnett Scholar is Adam Johnston who thanked Norbrook for establishing the scholarship:

“I am honoured to be the third Barnett Scholar. The scholarship has enabled me to focus 100% of my energy on my studies and it will enhance my career prospects enormously. I am so pleased that I applied and am honoured to have been selected.”



Richard Pringle, Norbrook Laboratories (left) with the current Scholar Adam Johnston

PwC helps to give Ulster University students the edge

Leading professional services firm PwC is helping to give Ulster University students the competitive edge in the job market after signing up to support the EDGE Award, a coveted recognition of students’ commitment to both personal and professional development.

The award helps to boost graduates’ career opportunities through evidence of key transferable skills that are highly sought after by employers.

Over the next three years, PwC will support the Award with the development of new EDGE activities such as student mentoring, work experience opportunities, employability workshops and the creation of a new student ambassador network. Stephanie Gowdy, Student Recruitment Senior Manager from PwC said:

“Employers like PwC value drive, commitment, ability to work as a team and leadership capabilities. Supporting the EDGE award reinforces our commitment to helping students develop and build these skills, helping them to become more competent, confident and career ready.”

Former academic's generous gift leaves a lasting legacy

The late Dr John Springhall was Emeritus Reader in History at Ulster University and a pioneer in the field of youth studies who also wrote widely on imperialism, decolonisation and British and US popular culture. He was a highly respected scholar who had a particular skill for bringing history to wide audiences through an approachable style.

John joined the then New University of Ulster at Coleraine (now Ulster University) in 1970, where he remained for the rest of his career. He published six books and retired as a reader in 2004.

Dr Springhall sadly passed away in 2015, but had made the decision to leave a legacy in his will to Ulster University, specifically for the purpose of supporting the work in the School of English and History.

This is an incredibly personal and meaningful way to give back to the University, and means a huge amount to the School where he worked.

The legacy will be split between reaching all levels of work in modern History, to include undergraduate, postgraduate, early career scholars, staff and the wider public. An annual Dr John Springhall lecture will be held, delivered by a distinguished scholar, as well as an annual prize for best undergraduate performance in Modern History. A bursary for a postgraduate research degree in the field of Modern History will also be established.

In addition a portion of the generous legacy will be used to appoint a fixed term Springhall Fellow in Modern History. This would be a significant career break for a young and emerging scholar, which fits perfectly with the spirit of Dr Springhall's legacy of investing in career development. The School will also have an amount set aside for which staff can apply for investment in the field of Modern History, for example to fund a crucial research trip or for the purchase of research materials which would transform the student experience. Professor Ian Thatcher, Head of School of English and History, says:

“John's passion for and knowledge of History was evident to all and I am delighted that he chose to celebrate his long association with History at Ulster with this generous gift. It will have a significant impact on the students and staff, being used to promote the knowledge that John clearly cared so dearly about, and ensure that his contribution and memory lives on for many, many years to come.”



Will to Give

A lasting gift to Northern Ireland charities

Leaving gifts in our wills allows us to plan for the people and causes we care about most. After making provision for your family and friends, legacy giving is a very special way to support Ulster University long into the future.

It's easy to leave a legacy, and it ensures that our world-class research and teaching continues well beyond your lifetime. A legacy can be the most meaningful and personal gift you can make.

Ulster University is a member of Will to Give, a group of Northern Ireland charities which have come together to promote charitable gifts in wills. It is fair to say that the people of Northern Ireland are extremely generous in showing their support for good causes and do so in many ways. It comes as a surprise therefore that only 3% of the people in Northern Ireland who make a will, leave a gift to charity. Will to Give are working to increase the number of gifts made to charity in this way.

By choosing to leave a gift to your University, you can be assured that 100% will be directed to your chosen area, no administrative fees will be taken, and as a registered charity your legacy may reduce the inheritance tax on your estate. Ulster University plays a uniquely important role in building a better Northern Ireland; one that is prosperous, inclusive, self-reliant and confident, with much to offer the wider world.

We are an essential engine for the economic, social and cultural development of Northern Ireland and so any amount left in your will is sure to impact on future generations.

For more information, or to speak in confidence about leaving a gift in your will to Ulster University, please contact our office for a private conversation on 028 9536 7513.

Showing support in memory

We would like to express a very special thank you to the family of the late Mr Harold Patterson who decided to support Ulster University's research on treating pancreatic cancer in his memory.

Born in 1945, near Lisnaskea, Co. Fermanagh, Harold left Northern Ireland in 1964 to reside in Canada in the province of Alberta, returning briefly to Fermanagh in 1967 to marry his childhood sweetheart, Olive Little. He was responsible for the electrical installations on Imperial Oil oil-fields where he worked for 32 years.

Harold sadly passed away in December 2015 following a diagnosis of pancreatic cancer the previous October. His niece, an Ulster University graduate, had heard about the ground-breaking research being carried out at the University on treating pancreatic cancer, and she and her family decided to support this work in memory of Harold.

Professor John Callan, the Norbrook Chair in Pharmaceutical Science at Ulster University, is leading a team which has revealed the potential of a new, minimally invasive treatment for pancreatic cancer. It is activated by harmless sound waves, also known as ultrasound. Professor Callan's role is generously funded by Norbrook Laboratories.

Initial tests on the most common type of pancreatic tumour called Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma (PDAC), undertaken at the University's Biomedical Sciences Research Institute in Coleraine, have shown a five-fold reduction in tumour size, making it potentially one of the most significant breakthroughs in the treatment of pancreatic cancer in recent years.

We are incredibly grateful to Mr Patterson's family for their generous support of this area and choosing to remember their loved one in this positive way.

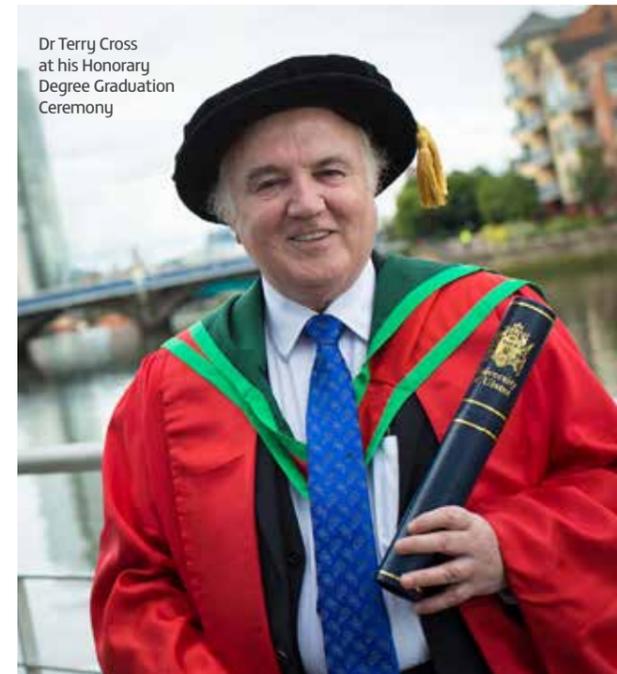


Harold Patterson

Why our donors support Ulster

Part of what makes Ulster University an outstanding institution is the commitment that donors like you make to support students, scholarships and research. Your gifts provide crucial support to innovative learning, world-leading discovery and students in difficult circumstances.

Personal reasons for backing cancer research



Dr Terry Cross at his Honorary Degree Graduation Ceremony

Dr Terry Cross served with the Merchant Navy across the world before coming home to Northern Ireland. He returned to studies through a business course at Ulster University and then worked in roles with several companies, including FG Wilson, before starting his own company, Delta Print and Packaging Ltd, in West Belfast in 1981.

Terry led the company which employed more than 400 people between Belfast and Poland, producing packaging for companies such as McDonald's and Kellogg's, until its recent sale.

Outside of his business world, Terry's personal experiences have recently led him to support Ulster University's research in melanoma. His support is motivated by the fact that his younger brother died from throat cancer and his son David also tragically died from a malignant melanoma, aged just 33.

Terry's support and generosity is incredibly important in funding this vital research, helping to accelerate and improve treatment and diagnosis for melanoma.

“My support for the University comes from knowing its reputation for on-time and on-budget delivery in challenging fields of research”

Giving to help students



Anne Rowe, Limavady BA (Hons) English, Coleraine, 1974

“I came to Ulster University as a mature student and am deeply grateful for the opportunity I was given to gain a degree which opened up a rewarding career. At that time third level education was grant aided and I graduated debt free. That is not the case today and by donating to the Student Fund I can make a small contribution to helping current students who are less fortunate than I was.”

Donating from the heart



Nada Khalaf-Jones, Florida BA Hons Modern Studies in Humanities, 1992, Jordanstown

“Studying for a degree is a challenge. Supporting the Ulster University Student Fund comes from the heart, it's so students who need financial assistance can focus and study without the burden of working at the same time. Being able to sit and immerse yourself in your studies is such a great pleasure and produces infinitely more rewarding results.”

You are supporting Ulster's excellence

In 2016, Ulster University yet again achieved consistently high levels of satisfaction in the annual National Student Survey.

The census of nearly half a million students across the UK, aimed primarily at final-year undergraduates, garners opinions about various aspects of their courses – from the quality of teaching, feedback and learning resources, to the study support and advice they received to enrich their overall learning experience.

In all, **88% of respondents** expressed their overall **satisfaction** with Ulster University. For the **third consecutive year**, **Ophthalmic** students recorded a **100% satisfaction rating**.

The University also continues to improve its ranking in all three domestic league tables, **climbing more than 10 places** in the Complete University Guide, The Guardian and the Good University Guide assessments. At an international level, the University now sits in the **top 3% of global universities**, highlighting that Ulster graduates are making an impact, **both locally and globally** in areas such as **teaching, research and knowledge transfer**.

It was rewarding to note that Ulster University was named in **The Guardian** league table as the **top university in the UK for studying pharmacy and pharmacology for the third year in a row**. Ulster University also featured as one of the top 10 universities in the UK to study courses in **civil engineering, biosciences and film production and photography**.

Ulster University's impact in medical research

Ulster University scientists are:

- working in a **£750,000** international study that aims to identify treatment options for cystic fibrosis patients with diabetes
- leading a **major international research project** to assess the impact of the Zika virus in Latin America, and globally
- working along with Avellino Labs, a global leader in **genetic science for eye health**, to revolutionise personalised treatments for eye diseases around the world
- seeing a **breakthrough** in research around why many men may suffer a relapse of prostate cancer within two years of starting one of the most frequently used treatments for the disease
- making a major breakthrough in the **global fight** against **pancreatic cancer**, the fourth most common cause of cancer-related deaths globally.



Our promise to you

Following recent reports in the media regarding fundraising practices, we promise you that our graduates and supporters are at the heart of everything we do.

Giving back to your University should be a great experience, and so to ensure this we can assure you that:

- We do not share your personal details with anyone else;
- You (or any of our graduates) can tell us at any time if you wish to opt out of future communications;
- We do not hire external telephone agencies to make our graduate phone calls. Rather we use professional consultants to fully train our own students and provide specialised software;
- 100% of every donation goes directly to support our students - donations are not used to cover our fundraising or administrative costs.

Your ongoing support is having tremendous impact throughout Ulster University as you can see.

Thank you.

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**Development and Alumni
Relations Office**

Shaping bright futures



100% of all gifts
to the Student Fund go
**directly to
students**