

Shaping Futures

The newsletter for supporters of Nottingham Trent University

|

2008 Issue 2

Message from the Vice-Chancellor



Thank you for your generosity and contribution to Nottingham Trent University's Alumni Fund in the academic year 2007-2008. As a result of your support our students are benefiting directly from additional opportunities along with continuing improvements to our new learning resources.

Gifts to the Alumni Fund are also vital in helping us to attract further support for the University. In this issue of *Shaping Futures* we are pleased to report on a number of major gifts from charitable organisations that will help us to advance life-changing research, deliver a vibrant student support centre and create a new academic post.

I am delighted that NTU is now ranked as the top post-1992 University, and thanks to the support of our alumni community and friends, we will remain an excellent place from which to graduate with an outstanding record in graduate employment.

Please do continue to include NTU in your annual giving. There has never been a better time to give, with every donation attracting match funding from the government under a giving scheme for universities from August 2008.

Professor Neil Gorman DL
Vice-Chancellor

Matched giving increases impact

The importance of voluntary funding and investment in higher education has never been higher and a recent announcement will make your gifts to the Alumni Fund go even further.

From August 2008 every gift made to the Alumni Fund will be increased through a three-year scheme launched to promote giving to higher education.

Under the three-year scheme, announced by the Government's Department for Education and Skills (DfES) and Universities UK (UUK), DfES will match-fund gift income from private donations. So, for every £3 donated to the University we can claim another £1 from the Government, and in addition, the Gift Aid scheme also remains in place.

This means that a gift of £500 would ultimately be worth around £850 with both Gift Aid and match funding.

Tim Cobb, Head of Development and Alumni Relations, comments:

"The new matched giving scheme will strengthen both the impact and the reach of the University's fundraising efforts.

"NTU is fortunate to already have longstanding support from alumni and friends, and if we can encourage others in our networks to add their names to the donor list, we can make the most of this opportunity."



Connecting current and former students

Thank you!

To date, over £40,000 has been received for the Alumni Fund through the February telephone programme. Gifts made to the fund will support a wide range of additional student resources and opportunities, and pioneering research.

The Alumni Fund also aims to create special scholarships and bursaries for talented and commendable students.

NOTTINGHAM
TRENT UNIVERSITY 

Vital boost in battle against cancer

A £7.65 million donation which aims to significantly advance research in cancer diagnosis and therapy has been given to the University from the John and Lucille van Geest Foundation, sealing a highly successful nine-year relationship that has already resulted in the establishment of new cancer detection technologies and patents.

Professor Bob Rees, Dean of the School of Science and Technology and Director of Research for the new John van Geest Cancer Research Centre, will be leading the initiative. He said: "This is a fantastic donation that will help keep Nottingham and indeed Nottingham Trent University at the forefront of cancer research globally."

Brenda Ruysen, from the John and Lucille van Geest Foundation, commented: "Nottingham Trent University has a rich heritage in cancer research. We are very happy to be part of a programme that has the potential to transform many lives and that will significantly advance cancer detection worldwide!"



Professor Bob Rees leads the multimillion-pound initiative

A legacy for lace collection



Late 19th-century whitework embroidered woman's bonnet, and 18th-century man's smoking cap

The future development of the School of Art and Design's lace collection, comprising 75,000 items, has been given a significant boost from the Alumni Fund and a major grant from the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), allowing work to begin on setting up a database and making key parts of it web-accessible for NTU students and external scholars.

As a unique archive of the history and production of lace, with strong connections to Nottingham – a city famed for manufacturing the fabric – the collection is of international

importance, and will provide an incomparable resource for teaching and research in the field of Fashion, Textiles and Applied Design.

Money from the Alumni Fund will pay for electrical fittings, a computer, digital camera and external hard drive to support the digitisation of the collection, which includes pieces dating back to the 1600s.



Close-up of a bishop's chasuble, using Venetian gros point 17th-century lace

Nottingham Trent University attracts support from a wide range of organisations and charitable bodies and is pleased to recognise the generous support given by:

The Garfield Weston Foundation

One of the largest charitable trusts in the country, the Garfield Weston Foundation has made a significant donation to the University to create a one-stop shop for students which will be located within the vibrant heart of the Newton and Arkwright development on the City site when regeneration work is complete.

CSET (City Solicitors Educational Trust)

CSET has generously agreed to provide top-up funding for three years to enable Nottingham Law School to employ an experienced Senior Lecturer in Contract Law.

The Worshipful Company of Saddlers

Thanks to The Worshipful Company of Saddlers, the Equestrian Studies team will be able to develop a study tour into a core activity for students. The grant will be used to provide travel scholarships allowing students to gain important access to professional expertise.

Making a difference

A selection of some of the recent projects and resources made possible by former students through the Alumni Fund:



Electronic guides lead the way to study

Thanks to the Alumni Fund, the University has been able to trial the use of MP4 players for self-directed video induction tours of the libraries and latest IT facilities, allowing students to personalise their induction or have refreshers at time-critical moments during their period of study.



Teacher trainees bang the drum for education

A group of 30 secondary music teacher trainees showed their talent for Latin American music during a special day of activities with a group of Year 7 children, after being awarded money from the Alumni Fund to buy a complete samba band kit.

Tony Harris, Senior Lecturer in Music Education, said: "Samba is a truly inclusive music and children latch onto it very quickly. The purchase of the samba kit has allowed the University to train its music specialists in the basic skills and techniques and then allow them to develop these out in schools to enhance lessons and workshops."



Introducing intelligent design

The Alumni Fund has enabled the School of Architecture, Design and the Built Environment to acquire two mobile robots.

They will be fitted with ultra-sonic range finders, and a camera module will also be utilised to provide realistic simulations of human-driven decision-making processes.

The project is an initial step in establishing a mobile robotic environment for use by Product Design students.

Dr Phil Breedon, Senior Lecturer in Product Design explains:

"In part, this is driven by the need for designers to have an appreciation of technology and to be realistic when designing their product, and it will equip them with a broader range of skills to apply in the workplace.

"It also responds to a need to introduce students to the home intelligent toy market – an exciting growth area tipped by Microsoft CEO Bill Gates to be the next 'hot' arena for design, manufacture and consumer engagement."



Online theatre network

The creation of a new online space will enable Theatre Design students to share work and forge links with students from similar educational establishments.



Casting hot designs

The establishment of a low-melt alloy casting facility will open up the possibility of new applications for students of Art and Product Design.



Promoting classroom diversity

The School of Education has received funding to help students of Primary Education and Childhood Studies build confidence and skill in addressing sensitive communication issues in the classroom.

The purchase of persona dolls and responsive puppets will enable trainee teachers to build confidence and skill in addressing issues of social justice, diversity, inclusion and bullying in the classroom.



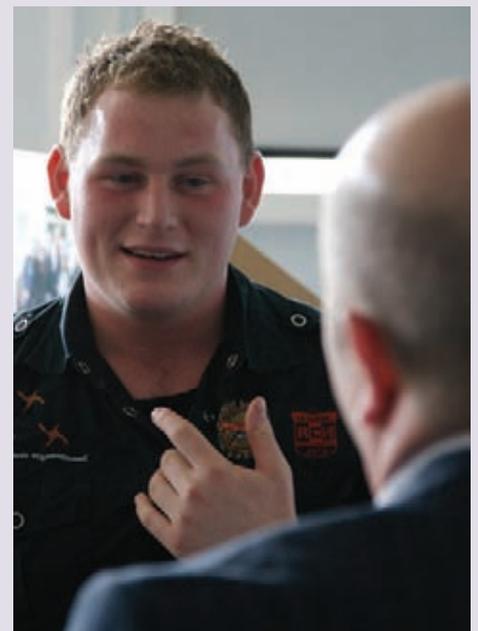
Teaching library boost

Improvements have been made to the University's teaching placement library, a resource for all students on initial teacher education courses (primary, secondary and post-compulsory).



Hands-on reactions

An electrochemical detector for the School of Biomedical and Natural Sciences will give students valuable hands-on experience of high-performance liquid chromatography.



Videos are a real sports highlight

Provision of practical consultation videos for Sport and Exercise Psychology students, based on key topics and issues, will enable the shift from theory to practice.

"The videos are a great learning tool and feature staff and student athletes in a number of consultation scenarios giving students a vision of how things operate in practice. They will be made use of across all years, being shown to more than 350 of our Sport Science students." (Toni Minnitti, Principal Lecturer in Sport Science)



Developing forensic skills

The purchase of an attenuated total reflectance (ATR) attachment for a Perkin-Elmer Fourier-transform infrared spectrometer will enable Forensic Science and Chemistry students to carry out laboratory work on solid forensic samples.

Giving back for a life-changing experience

Bob Stephens has struggled with dyslexia all his life and left school without any qualifications. In his late fifties, after being made redundant, he came to Nottingham Trent University to study as a mature student.



Bob explains how his experience has inspired him to leave a legacy for future generations of students:

“I came to Nottingham Trent after working for British Rail for 27

years and my time at the University changed my life. NTU arranged for me to be assessed for my dyslexia, something that had never been done for me at school. I wasn't made to feel different; instead I was given the support that I needed to achieve my potential and I graduated with a BA (Hons) in Human Services in 2003.

“My time at NTU took me out of my British Rail thinking and gave me a new lease of life. I would highly recommend Nottingham Trent to anyone and believe that if I can do it then anyone can.”

The opportunity that Bob feels Nottingham Trent gave him has spurred him on to want to give something back to the University by leaving a gift in his will.

“When my wife and I started to think about making a will, I requested some information about leaving a legacy to NTU on my alumni survey form. I knew I wanted to be able to give future students the opportunity to achieve their potential, an opportunity that I am grateful to Nottingham Trent for and without which I wouldn't be where I am today.”

Bob is now studying part-time at Bible college and is working towards ordination as an Anglican minister.

Legacy plays a part in NTU's future



Des Wiltshaw's gift will benefit generations of students

The University is grateful to have received a legacy of over £22,500 from former member of academic staff Des Wiltshaw who sadly passed away in December 2006.

Des started his career with the then Trent Polytechnic in the Town and Country Planning Department and continued as a member of staff in the Department of Surveying until his retirement.

He specified that his legacy should be used “for the enjoyment of students” and the University will fulfil his wishes by providing something very special for students in the new heart of the City site to be formed by the regeneration of the Newton and Arkwright buildings.

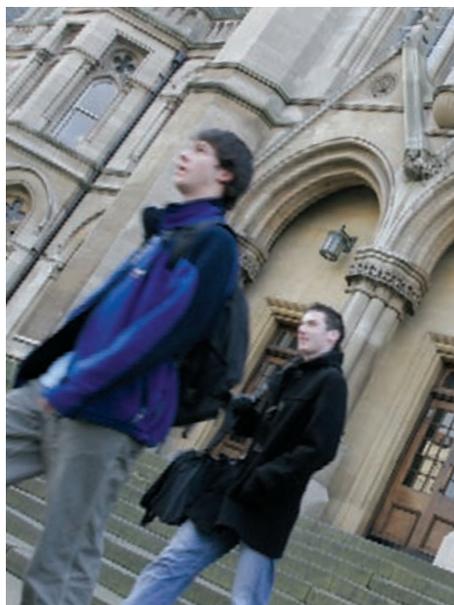
Professor Roy Morledge, Associate Dean in the School of Architecture, Design and the Built Environment, remembers Des with affection:

“Des was a very able economist with an enthusiasm for research who was able to contribute in his own unique style to both Property and Construction courses.

Living in the Park in Nottingham, Des enjoyed an enviable commute to work and he was particularly partial to good food. It was strongly rumoured that trips to London to eat at his favourite restaurants were one of Des's particular pleasures. Another passion was following the fortunes of Port Vale Football Club.

When long-standing colleagues retire they always leave a gap which is difficult to fill and this was so in Des's case. To learn of his death a few short years after his retirement was a great sadness.

This generous gift to our students will be a wonderful way to remember him and is a testament to the real legacy he has left in the lives and careers of many alumni.”



Leaving a legacy

If you would like more information about leaving a legacy to NTU, please contact the Fundraising Development Team on **0115 848 8809** or by emailing us at alumni@ntu.ac.uk

Making a will

One of the benefits and services available through the University's Alumni Association is a professional discounted will-writing service. Irwin Mitchell is the biggest will-writing company in the UK, processing in excess of 60,000 wills per year. For more information, please visit: www.extranet.irwinmitchell.com/willsandtrusts/nottingham_trent_university

