



UNIVERSITY  
OF HULL

ANNUAL FUND DONORS 2018



# BUILDING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER

FOUNDATION  
THIRTY  
NINE



Professor Susan Lea, Vice-Chancellor

# THANK YOU

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support of the University.

It was my absolute pleasure to host the annual donor reception last month. Although not all of you were able to attend, I do hope, nevertheless, that you all feel welcome here on campus and genuinely appreciated. I very much enjoy having the opportunity to meet with you, our supporters, face to face and being able to thank you in person. Realising that this may not always be feasible, I am delighted, therefore, to have this opportunity to write to you and share with you some of our recent successes.

I would like to say a special thank you to our alumni who talked with our current students during our 2018 telephone campaign and chose to contribute generously to the Annual Fund. It is wonderful that so many of our students had the opportunity to engage with you and I am told that they thoroughly enjoyed hearing stories of your time here.

I would also like to thank those of you who chose to donate after receiving a letter from Nicola Beech detailing how we are focussing on alleviating student hardship. Your contributions helped us to raise more than £120,000 during these two fundraising appeals, and the impact of that will be significant. Thank you.

Your donations will be spent on three key areas: student wellbeing and mental health support, alleviating student hardship, and academic research. As you know, coming to University is a significant event in a person's life, and one that can be very challenging. We feel, therefore, that supporting student mental health and wellbeing is not only critical to ensuring that students have a fulfilling experience at the University of Hull, but are strongly placed to achieve success both before and after graduation.

Some of you have also chosen to support our sports scholarships programme. Your donations form part of a wider investment by the University and national partners into our sports facilities (including the Premier League and FA and the Rugby Football Union), enabling a £17 million world-class transformation. This investment will give us the capacity to run international competitions, train top athletes and increase the health and well-being of our students. It will also allow us to expand our community outreach programmes aimed at raising the aspirations and future prospects of local young people through participation in sport.

I hope you enjoy reading about the impact that your donations are having and still feel a strong sense of belonging here at your alma mater. You are making such a positive difference to today's students, your successors. I encourage you wholeheartedly to come back to campus, if you have not done so recently, and rediscover the magic of this great University and its wonderful students and staff. The Alumni Team (contactable at [alumni@hull.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@hull.ac.uk)) will be delighted to welcome you and support you on your visit.

With Festive Greetings and sincere gratitude,

**Professor Susan J Lea**  
Vice-Chancellor

# THANK YOU, YOU'VE MADE SUCH A DIFFERENCE

In the summer of 2018 we sent out a Direct Mail to a select group of our graduates to ask them to help us support some of our students in financial hardship. Our aim is to ensure all our students have the best chance to complete their studies and get the best experience whilst studying at Hull. Often financial hardship can mean that this isn't possible, but by providing more hardship funding we are able to support more of our students to become the best that they can be.

Once again our graduates showed their generosity and around **150** graduates donated over **£16,000** to the appeal. Thank you

This has made a vast difference to our students. Below are just a few excerpts from the thank you letters they have written. Without **YOUR** gifts most of these students would have been forced to withdraw from their dreams of completing their studies here at Hull, so thank you once again.

“It has given me the confidence I needed to carry on with my studies and gain a degree in Nursing, something I have always dreamed of doing”  
Joanne



“I would like to thank all the individuals who have invested the money and effort into the Hardship Fund to help students such as myself. In the last 2 years I have had 4 surgical procedures to fix the alignment, structure, and tissue damage within and around both of my hip joints. It was estimated that without the procedures I would have needed a hip replacement within the next ten to fifteen years and I would have struggled significantly within my chosen career path: nursing. I am now nineteen years old. After the final procedure I was unable to work for many weeks and I had to use my savings. As a result, I started university with little money and I am still recovering, meaning I am little use to my employer. It's amazing how a small financial aid can truly impact an individual.”

**Hollie**

“I would like to share how exceedingly grateful I am for the funding and how it's going to help me.”

“I found myself in financial burden due to illnesses with both myself and my son. The worry of it was making me even more ill and I didn't know how I was going to get myself out of it. The money is going to help me substantially as I can pay off debts and remove the stress that having them has caused me.”

“I will be able to focus more on my studies and ensure no more distractions. I have dyspraxia so the grant will also allow me to purchase all the necessary equipment and books I need in order to help me with studying.”

“I am so grateful and thankful for this grant. And cannot express how much it means and how much it's going to help.”

**Shannon**

“May I thank you again for your donation, this money will help me a great deal and hopefully when I become a paramedic and earn a paramedic wage I, like yourself, can donate to the University of Hull's trust fund and help financially support other students pursue their career choice.”

**David**

“I cannot express my gratitude enough for your kind donation.”

“I am currently in my first year studying Midwifery. In June 2016, I took suspension of studies due to mental health illness. I returned March 2018. However, there was a very long delay with the reinstatement of my NHS bursary, which put me in serious financial difficulties, especially with having a young son.”

“I cannot express how thankful I am, especially because it has meant I was able to carry on with my studies, something I am so passionate about and a career in which I am able to give and contribute to society.”

“Once again, thank you, from the bottom of my heart.”

**Natasha**

“Before I started university in Sept 2017 I had been living in supported living and under the support of the mental health teams after a long period of mental health conditions had taken its toll on me. At the start of university I departed from all services helping me and got back into a general needs flat so I could regain my independence in life.

Unfortunately the accommodation I moved into was unsuitable and my home life became unbearable which affected my emotional and mental state of mind. My anxieties worsened making my university life a real struggle both academically and socially as the situation rapidly declined into chaos. I had no choice to terminate my tenancy and seek student accommodation which all came at a cost that I couldn't afford.

Being awarded some financial support from the Hardship Fund, I feel a huge weight lift from me and I can honestly say it has relieved my emotional state of mind considerably. A few weeks back I was overwhelmed with financial pressures and now I see a way forward thanks to the generosity of yourself and others like you. I cannot really put into words how much I appreciate the decision of a helping hand. I can now focus on my current studies as opposed to constantly falling into despair with my situation. So, thank you so much for your kind gesture I will be forever grateful to this generosity at such a lonely isolating time for myself.”

**Karl**



# STUDENT WELLBEING AND MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

Our 2018 telephone appeal focused on funding student wellbeing and mental health support.

Coming to University for the first time can be the most exciting and also challenging time in a person's life. Many of our students are living independently for the first time, managing tight budgets, making new friends, adapting to a new environment and new ways of learning. This transition can reveal concerns about their mental health and put further pressure on any existing conditions.

It is hugely important that students know who they can turn to if they are struggling and can feel confident they will be listened to. We know from research that students are more likely to talk to their peers or the member of staff with whom they have most contact, typically their Academic Support Tutor or Supervisor. We are therefore continually looking at ways in which we can raise awareness to encourage people to talk and to effectively signpost students to useful resources on campus.

The 'Wellbeing Champion Project', which trains student volunteers in listening skills and develops their understanding of the services available, has been hugely beneficial in reaching out to our student community. The 'Hull University Angels Project', one of the first of its kind, has made a significant contribution to ensuring our students have a safe night out and has helped develop a positive relationship between the Hull University Union and Security Staff on Wednesday nights. All our volunteers have become ambassadors for positive wellbeing and have also contributed to the review and development of our service.

Your donations have allowed us to deliver a multi-level campus-wide suicide awareness and safe talk programme. This encourages volunteers and staff to be more prepared and confident when talking about some of the most difficult and sensitive subjects, particularly around depression, self-worth and suicidal thoughts.

As a University we are committed to the delivery of a positive student experience. Your gifts will ensure that we are able to continue to provide this invaluable extra support for our students.



Matt Nelson



Holly Williams

## UNIVERSITY OF HULL'S TALENTED ATHLETE PROGRAMME (TAP)

The University of Hull Talented Athlete Programme supports elite athletes to combine academic and sporting excellence during their time at University. Athletes are provided with a tailored package of core services including strength and conditioning rehab and sport experience support.

Matt Nelson, a triathlete who competes for Team GB, is currently studying Sport Rehabilitation at Hull. In December 2017, he was the recipient of a TAP Scholarship in his first year to support him to train and compete in triathlons during his period of study.

Matt was awarded a further TAP Scholarship in his second year and this support has enabled him to achieve a significant breakthrough in his sporting career. In May 2018, he won the BUCS Olympic distance triathlon, the National Triathlon Championships and took the overall winners title at the PRO race at 5150 Warsaw.

In 2018, Matt was selected for two top-level races - the London Triathlon where he finished 20th and the Beijing International Triathlon where he placed 14th. The Beijing event in particular is regarded as one of the most elite events in the triathlon calendar, last year it only had 6 male

professional athletes and the race has been won by Olympic medallists for the last 4 years.

Matt has said "I'm making the transition from sprint and Olympic distance racing to middle distance racing, known as 70.3 or half iron man racing in the next 12 months, and from there my aims will be set on the World championships in 2019."

"The Talented Athlete Programme has helped me with the massive expenditure that my sport requires, it costs me several thousand pounds a year to compete at this top international level, so any money which helps shave the cost of this for me is a big help and I really appreciate the support."

We will look forward to reporting back on Matt's continued success in the next newsletter.

"Hi, I'm Holly, I'm a swimmer and have been swimming since I was four years old. I compete for Cleethorpes and District swimming club alongside the University of Hull swimming team. I'm currently training to compete in the British Championships and trying to qualify for the Olympic Trials in 2019. Greatest sporting achievement: Getting a silver medal at last year's summer nationals and qualifying for this year's commonwealth trails."

"I'm Marc, I race cross country mountain bikes and cyclocross, competing in national and regional races. I am a proud member of Sherwood Pines Cycles race team and have competed at the most challenging courses that the UK has to offer. Greatest sporting achievement: *Winning Mountain Mayhem 24hour mountain bike race. As a team of four 17-year olds, we managed to defeat 50+ other teams which included pro racers from all over the world. Our prizes and trophies were presented to us by Princess Anne which is a memory that I will never forget.*"

"I'm Andy, I am an international sprinter in the 100m and 200m. Currently no.1 in the UK for indoor 200m. Greatest sporting achievement: Representing England but this will be topped when I represent Team GB at the 2020 and/or 2024 Olympics. Selections are not until months before, but it will happen!"



## OUR NEW SPORTS CENTRE – THE BEACON

A new international standard sports arena has opened on campus as part of a transformational investment in sporting facilities. Named “The Beacon”, the new arena will become the home of sport at the University forming the centrepiece of a £17m investment in sporting facilities at the University.

The Beacon is home to a 12-court sports hall, which includes international-standard netball courts and bleacher-style seating for 700 spectators. One of our aims is to make the University the regional hub for netball. The University has been selected as a potential “Regional Training Hub” for the Netball World Cup 2019 on the back of the new facilities. The versatile space will be used for a multitude of sports, including Basketball, Badminton, Futsal and Volleyball.



## THE VICE-CHANCELLOR’S CIRCLE

The Vice-Chancellor’s Circle (VCC) recognises the significant support that donors have given in the past or have committed to donate in the future starting with a threshold of £10,000 in donations to the University.

The purpose of the VCC is to be:

- A convivial, network of peers and influencers
- A sounding board for University strategy and objectives
- A critical friend of the University giving an external perspective on fundraising projects and plans
- A group of facilitators and introducers bringing others into the University’s orbit
- A group of Leadership Givers to strategic fundraising priorities

The VCC meets twice a year in an enjoyable setting and each meeting includes a clear focus on strategic fundraising issues.

There are currently 38 members giving at a range of levels from £10,000 to several millions. Our aim is to increase membership to 50 this year.

**For more information please contact [helenduncan@hull.ac.uk](mailto:helenduncan@hull.ac.uk), 01482 465080.**

## WOMEN IN ENGINEERING



**Catching up with Isabel Garnsey who was awarded a Women in Engineering Scholarship.**

“I’ve just completed the second year of my Biomedical Engineering degree. It has been more challenging than the first year, and yet more intriguing in the areas I have been allowed to explore.”

“I led a team of five students to design and manufacture an automated pipetting system (referred to as the Robot Arm). I have learnt a great deal from this project which will help me progress with my degree this academic year. I was also involved in a project involving solutions for plastic waste. I was heartened to hear everyone on our course talking so animatedly about the things we as students could do to help save the world.”

“The Women in Engineering bursary inspired me to take up leadership of the team building the robot arm, even when I would normally have shied away from such responsibility. I am glad I had the opportunity to learn how to motivate a team and ensure everyone is on the right track. It was good to see that in our mostly male year group, I was not the only girl who accepted the role of team leader. It can be daunting to be in a position where colleagues who may be older and more confident than yourself are looking to you for a final decision, and it is important that women continue to be allowed that opportunity.”

# ALUMNI EVENTS

Over the last twelve months, we are proud to have welcomed alumni to a diverse range of events that have demonstrated the exceptional stories and talents of our University of Hull community.

Alumni who have spoken at events have included leading playwright, James Graham, leading political commentator and comedian, Ayesha Hazarika, one of the nation's best loved radio personalities, Dame Jenni Murray, the BBC's Washington Bureau Chief, Paul Danahar, and the illustrator of JK Rowling's 'Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them', Olivia Lomenech Gill.

We have brought alumni, staff, students and friends of the University together for conversations on Brexit, the future of the workforce in the face of increasing automation, and the ways in which the changing technological landscape is leading to new opportunities and new dangers in media professions.

Over the coming months we will be announcing exciting new events featuring great alumni speakers at the top of their professions, conversations and debates at the cutting edge of recent research, and the opportunity to meet and network with fellow alumni.

If you do not currently receive our invitations to events, but would like to receive our monthly news bulletin and event details, be sure to share your email address with us by contacting [alumni@hull.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@hull.ac.uk).



## OUR PLANS FOR 2019 FUNDRAISING

In 2019, the Annual Appeal will continue to support the Student Wellbeing and Mental Health Support Fund to ensure that we are meeting all the emotional needs of our students.

We hope to be able to provide Exam Stress Workshops and increase the number of student drop-in sessions available, as well as providing materials to publicise mental health support events that will run throughout the year.

Women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) is also on our fundraising agenda. There is a huge discrepancy between the number of men and women currently in STEM professions with only 23% of the core STEM workforce being women. 24% of our students in STEM subjects are female; although this is an increase from 3 years ago when it was only 10%, we still have a long way to go to bring the STEM workforce up to gender parity. The Women in STEM Fund will help promote and support females applying to and studying STEM subjects at Hull.

**Please contact [n.j.wright@hull.ac.uk](mailto:n.j.wright@hull.ac.uk) if you would like more information or to support either of these funds.**

## A LEGACY DOESN'T HAVE TO BE LARGE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

**Did you know you could leave as little as 1% of your estate to your University in your Will? Any amount, no matter the size, will help us to continue our work with students and research here at the University of Hull, whilst ensuring your name lives on at your alma mater. Whether your passion is cancer research, supporting students from deprived backgrounds, enabling gifted students to excel or supporting the delivery of a sustainable environment free from single use plastics, we can work together to deliver it.**

In July 2011, the University received the sum of £500 from the executors of Dr Mary Casling's estate. Mary graduated with a Master's degree in Education in 1979, at the age of 63. Mary's passion had been for education, and in accordance with her wishes, her kind donation bought new books for the Adult and Continuing Education Department.

If you want your University to be a part of your legacy, please contact Legacy Officer Crystal Hindhaugh Ness (email [c.ness@hull.ac.uk](mailto:c.ness@hull.ac.uk) or tel 01482 465718) to discuss how you could make a difference to future generations of students.



## FOUNDATION THIRTY NINE

The University of Hull started out with only 39 students.

Those 39 were the start of something; they were the first to show what the University could help them achieve.

Now it's your turn. As a past or present member of the University, you can play a key role in furthering the legacy of the 39.

Welcome to Hull Alumni Connects

JOIN NOW

Contact with

LinkedIn

Facebook

Email

**Be inspired**  
Find out how to contribute your skills and experience to the University of Hull.

**Give back**  
Help us to improve our facilities and services by making a donation to the fundraising appeals.

**Expand**  
Leverage your professional network to get ahead in your career.

**Advance**  
Advance your career through mentorship and networking to help you succeed.

### Hull Alumni Connects

Making the most of your connections has never been more important. That's why we've created a safe, supportive online environment, exclusive to University of Hull alumni. Almost 3,000 alumni have already signed up to share stories, photographs and keep up-to-date with developments in the University of Hull's global community. You can connect with fellow alumni, offer or receive careers advice and mentoring, or make the most of your Hull connection to expand your professional network by signing up today at <https://hullalumnicconnects.me/>



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