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Professor Susan Lea, Vice-Chancellor

THANK YOU

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

I am delighted to share with you our latest news and hope that you enjoy reading about our activities in recent months.

In October, we were honoured to host the return of an inspirational group of alumni donors who have been raising money over the last three years in memory of their good friend Wiseman Khuzwayo. A tremendous £90,000 was pledged by this group of friends and graduates from the late 1970s. Monies raised will fund a PhD student and visiting fellowship programme, both of which directly and positively influence outcomes for refugees. We are working closely with the group as they plan their next project, and we thank them for their sterling efforts.

A number of you will have received a letter from my colleague, Dr Angela Gardiner, asking for your support as we look to provide the best possible wellbeing resources for our students. You will be able to read more about the project in the newsletter, but I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you and let you know that your contributions have allowed us to make a real difference to our students' experience.

The second meeting of the All Party Political Group (APPG) was held in November when Professor Dan Parsons, Director of the Energy and Environment Institute, gave a rousing and very well received talk around the University's partnership with global businesses in the Humber region

to deliver an industrial strategy aimed at combating climate change. I am sure that many of you will have seen that the University has made a public pledge to become carbon neutral by its centenary year of 2027. We firmly believe that all individuals and organisations have a responsibility to preserve our planet for future generations and certainly the University of Hull is doing its best to help in that effort.

We also held our annual donor 'thank you event' in November when Professor Brad Gibson, Director of the E.A. Milne Centre in Astrophysics, gave a unique and fascinating insight into the Wonders of the Universe. His Trip Adviser style guide featured some of the scariest, loudest and smelliest places in the Universe!

May I again extend my sincere thanks to those of you who were able to join us for our Annual Supporter Thank You Event – and, indeed, those who could not but have given their time or have donated. Your generosity enables us to achieve so much and impacts positively on so many.

Please know that you are always welcome to visit us in Hull, and I hope that many of you will be able to do just that over the coming year.

With my very best wishes to you for the Holiday Season and the New Year,

Professor Susan Lea

“YOU STAND WHERE I ONCE STOOD”

Following on from last year’s campaign, our 2019 telephone appeal maintained a focus on funding student wellbeing and mental health support. Alongside our student callers reaching out to you by phone we sent a direct mail asking 10,000 selected alumni to ‘light up a student’s day’.

We received an incredible response, with support pouring in in the form of both donations and messages of strength

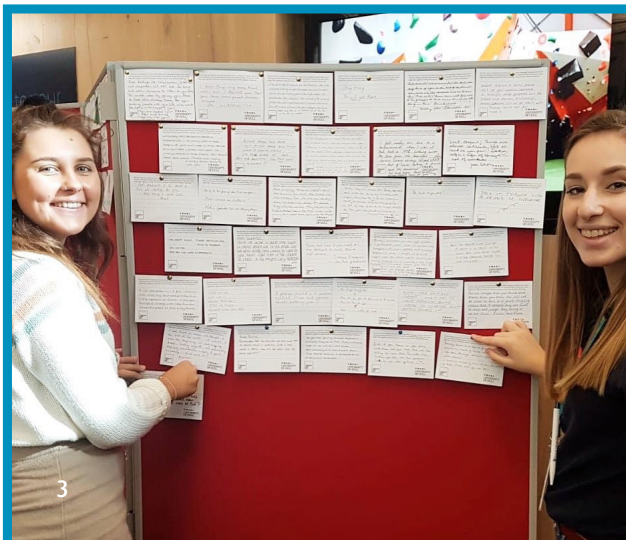
“I chose to become a Wellbeing Champion because I wanted to increase student awareness of the importance of good mental health and ensure that students are aware of the services available to them on campus so that all students can have a positive experience at university.”

Lisa

and support. Your kind words included personal wisdom, motivational quotes and practical advice on how to keep going when things are tough.

Around World Mental Health Day (held annually on 10th October) we set to displaying the postcards in the Students’ Union for everyone to see. While no card is the same, the bottom line is clear – people care.

Reading through the messages is truly moving especially when you consider that these words could reach someone just when they need them. A strong recurring theme was advice not to suffer alone but to ‘reach out’ to friends, family or support services.



Your generosity during our annual telephone and direct mail campaigns, means that when someone does reach out the right people can be there ready to help them.

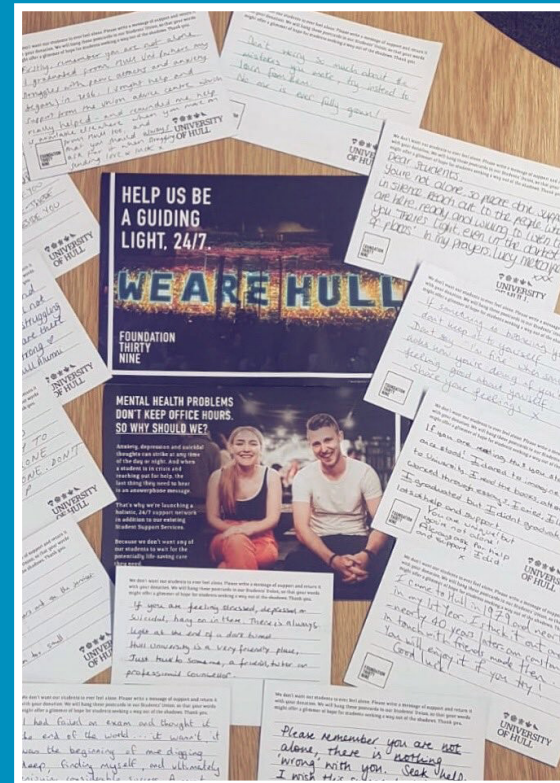
For students struggling financially, or for care-leavers embarking on their university journey, we are able to provide hardship packages, food vouchers, bus cards and UniKitOut codes.

To ensure our staff are prepared to provide crucial support we have introduced suicide awareness and prevention training. Thirty-eight staff members, across a range of roles and departments, have completed the course so far and this training will become mandatory for certain student facing roles.

For many students it can be easier to approach their peers for support, this is evident anecdotally but is also supported by research. Our student Wellbeing Champions are trained to provide an approachable on-the-ground service, looking out for new and returning students who may need a helping hand.

Outside of daylight hours the Hull University Angels are recognisable in their blue jackets, ready to help students who may be vulnerable during night-time activities. Whether the issue is related to mental health, intoxication or simply a general concern for safety – such as walking alone – the Angels are there to ensure that everyone ends the night safely.

This year, with funding from our alumni, we have also been able to launch our Big



White Wall, an online initiative that our students can access at any time 24/7 to talk about their problems and get the support they urgently need.

Thank you for providing these valuable resources for students to access, to ensure that they have the support available to make the most of their time at university.

“If you are reading this, you stand where I once stood. I graduated, but I didn’t graduate without help and support. Ask for help. I did.”

Postcard from a graduate

WOMEN IN STEM CHALLENGING PERCEPTIONS, CREATING OPPORTUNITY



“It’s proper hands-on research, things have gone wrong and I’ve fixed them. I’m even working on a paper that may be published before I graduate – that’s a big deal! This experience makes me so much more employable”.

**– Kate Womack (pictured)
BSc Physics**

You might think that a sign stating ‘women welcome here’ wouldn’t be necessary anywhere in today’s society. However, there are still a number of invisible signs and barriers that divert women away from the study of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). The reasons behind this reality are complex, but one contributing factor is a lack of overt representation of women within the STEM sector.

Hull has a history of advocating for the underrepresented and we believe that championing talented and passionate women in STEM is a step towards addressing the gender inequality within these subject areas. Our Breaking Barriers: Women in STEM and Changing the Face of Physics fundraising has helped us to do just that – thank you.

With your help we have been able to provide additional encouragement and support to women and girls in schools and 6th form colleges as well as those coming towards the end of their university degrees.

School outreach programmes, headed by women in STEM, challenge preconceptions early on and encourage young women to consider STEM subjects for further study.

Summer school scholarships for 6th formers provide an opportunity for students to gain hands-on experience of what undertaking a STEM degree entails. Sian from New College, Doncaster spent her summer holiday gaining insight into degree level Astrophysics and improving her coding skills. Sian had initially doubted her abilities but left the programme feeling excited and enthused about her future choices.

Summer Internship placements facilitate 3rd year degree students in honing the skills required to successfully transition into STEM sector employment or a career in research.

With your support we are breaking barriers and making a difference. Thank you once again. Next year we want to continue and grow this support to encourage more and more girls and women into STEM subjects.

“I really wanted to improve my programming skills, and this internship has not only allowed me to do that but it has also improved my confidence with the software”.

**– Kiri Newson
BSc Physics**

THANKS FOR AN AMAZING OPPORTUNITY - I WOULDN'T HAVE HAD IT WITHOUT YOU



Agrawal Scholar and recipient of a Women in STEM Internship, Kiri Newson

AGRAWAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Celebrating the achievements of Foundation Year Students

Exams can be stressful. Especially when there's a lot riding on them. Sometimes one bad day during an exam period can mean that a student's grades don't reflect their true passion and drive for a subject. This is typically

the case for students who embark on a course via a Foundation Year programme. Foundation Year courses allow students who do not meet the standard A-level entry requirements to embark on their chosen course through

Kiri Newson is a shining example of how alumni donations are supporting ambitious, driven and talented students to huge success.

Her pathway to academic success has come via the non-traditional 'Foundation Year' route. Driven to succeed and make a difference, Kiri has been rewarded for her hard work with an Agrawal Scholarship (story below) and with a Women in STEM summer internship. Here, she tells us her story:

"I really wanted to improve my programming skills, and this internship has not only allowed me to do that but it has also improved my confidence with the software, which will really support my ability to undertake modules in my final year. After this summer I am better able to undertake the work accurately; I've been able to get things wrong, spend

time learning why, and then fix it.

"Being based in the PhD lab means I've been able to make connections and networks with postgraduate students. The lecturers were able to spend more time with us, and allowed me to make my own mistakes, learn from them and figure things out for myself. Normally there would have been far more people and therefore less time. This experience was more flexible and relaxed. I could lead rather than it being too prescriptive, it was a much less pressured environment. I travel over an hour to get here, so if I hadn't been supported financially to do this internship, then I just couldn't have done it.

I'm now exploring my future options, but either way my experience this summer will certainly help to open doors. So thanks for an amazing opportunity - I simply wouldn't have had it without you."

the completion of an additional pre-degree year.

Many Foundation Year students do not take this opportunity lightly and go on to achieve wonderful things. Thanks to the generosity of Dr Jagdish Agrawal we have been able to recognise the outstanding achievements of five Foundation Year Physics students.

These students have all demonstrated consistently high performance, self-motivation and the drive and passion that their A-level results did not reflect. Past recipient Stephen Wilkinson has

gone on to gain a full PhD scholarship, Nicole Farrier published a lead-authored paper in the European Journal of Physics as an undergraduate student and 2019 joint recipient Kiri Newson has become an active advocate of gender equality in STEM. Kiri and her team's contributions were named 'Best Practice in the Country' by the UK Equality Challenge Unit.

Congratulations to all our scholarship recipients:

- 2016 Stephen Wilkinson**
- 2017 Tamsin Barnard**
- 2018 Nicole Farrier**
- 2019 Kiri Newson & Jessica McDermott**

CULTURAL TRANSFORMATIONS



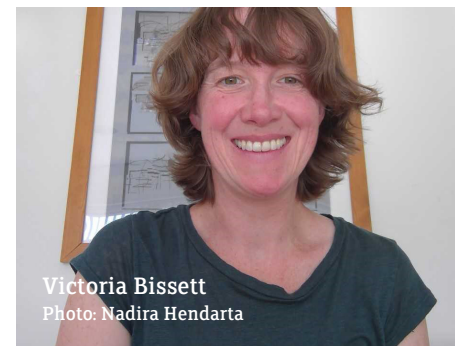
Photos: Nadira Hendarta (lower centre)

How can a cultural mega-event transform a city's image? What happens when the party leaves town? And how can cultural investment be used as an effective tool for urban development and regeneration?

These were some of the questions asked at the Cultural Transformations, What's Next? Hull UK City of Culture 2017: Evaluation Conference.

The Culture, Place and Policy Institute (CPPI) at the University of Hull were tasked with delivering a full evaluation of the impacts and processes of Hull City of Culture 2017. Cultural Transformations served as the stage to deliver these findings, with reflections, reports and debate presented alongside creative performances from local artists.

Thanks to "The Alumni Fund: Breaking Barriers" we were able to award bursaries, to cover the costs of conference attendance, to 20 students. This allowed them to join in the three-day event alongside a diverse cross section of academics, policy makers, creatives and cultural specialists.



Victoria Bissett
Photo: Nadira Hendarta

Lee Fallin is a PhD student with a focus on how libraries are defined and experienced by people.

"I loved the focus on the intersections between wellbeing, learning and culture. As someone working in a library, it was great to reflect on the benefits of culture not just for individuals, but for communities and the city as a whole."

Lee Fallin
Photo: Nadira Hendarta



Victoria Bissett is a PhD student looking at how socially engaged arts can influence a city's development and regeneration.

"It has benefitted me by broadening my networks and enabling me to think about the impacts of Hull 2017 on the artists' community further, by talking to them at the conference."

Nadira Hendarta is an MSc student currently researching the human and nature values of Hull's urban green spaces.

"Networking in the event has helped me to meet new people from different backgrounds and exchange contacts for further meetings. Before coming to the conference, I was not even aware of some of the attendees' professions. I had the opportunity to understand their roles and how they make an impact in the community."

ATHLETIC TALENT WITH ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

The Talented Athlete Programme (TAP) is funded by donations from alumni and friends. All prospective and current students who compete at a regional, national or international level in their sport can apply. Awards are based on evidence of past achievements and future potential.

“The Talented Athlete Programme has benefitted me in many ways. From giving me access to outstanding facilities like the new strength and conditioning suite, to physiotherapy support that has allowed me to return back to form following a serious injury in my 2nd year at university. All of which will hopefully culminate in me achieving my short-term goals and being part of the journey in achieving Olympic status. My ultimate goal is to be selected for the 2024 Olympics, which my coach thinks is realistic based on my current performances and the progression I am showing.”

**Andy,
60m, 100m and 200m Runner**

“I got into American Football by watching YouTube clips of highlights from games when I was 15 years old. Then one Sunday at the age of 16 I saw the Huddersfield Uni team play against the Leicester Uni team, we talked to one of the parents of the players and they gave us a contact for the local team, the Leeds Assassins and from there the rest is history! So far this year has been interesting. I have represented Great Britain twice this year, travelling to play France and playing at home against Norway. In addition I won Defensive player of the year for my local club.”

Luke, American Football

“I am half Greek half British and I grew up on the island of Lesvos. I was inspired by Olympic champion Kostas Kenteris who is also from Lesvos and quickly started to evolve in my chosen event. The talented athlete programme has benefitted me by giving me the chance to continue training whilst studying with the guidance of qualified experts who are there to help and advise me on all aspects of my sport.”

Malliaka, 100m and 200m Runner

“This season has gone really well so far. I qualified for the most nationals I ever had and managed to get a silver medal at the swim England summer meet in 50-meter butterfly in a new personal best time. This year I have also qualified for the Olympic trials in April next year which are taking place in the London Olympic swimming pool.”

Holly, Swimmer



Luke



Malliaka

BOOST FOR STUDENTS

Boost is the official University of Hull crowdfunding platform where students plan and write their pitch, direct, edit and upload a video and oversee their own projects from conception to completion.

The principle concept of crowdfunding is that a large number of people each donate a small amount. This means that once a page goes live fundraisers have to flex their promotion skills – usually through harnessing the power of social media – to ensure the donations keep coming in. At this point, the pressure is on, and it's important that our fundraisers have demonstrated realistic budgeting skills because in order to get a penny the project has to reach its target. When a successful project reaches its deadline our fundraisers gain the obvious – money. They also walk away with something a bit less tangible but a lot more long term - clear examples of skills, gained whilst overseeing their project, that are essential for building a stand-out CV.

The most recent Boost bids were launched by Torch TV, our student-led television station and University of Hull Greenpower, a group of engineers enthusiastic about electric motorsport. To find out more about these projects, including what they are raising money for, visit: www.hull.hubbub.net

E-MENTORING

BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN DEGREE AND JOB MARKET

Support comes in many forms and for some, giving their time is most rewarding. This is the case for those involved in our mentorship programme. Mentors share their experience and expertise so that when our students come to the end of their degree programme they are already one step ahead towards achieving their career goals.

“Having an e-mentor helps bridge the gap between your degree and the job market. It has allowed me to better envisage and plan for my future. Lambros has taught me so much about the documentary production industry.”

– Molly

“Her confidence has soared in the time I’ve known her. She now has convincing arguments about her ability and passion for the media. She’s taken on work experience which will ultimately help her in a very competitive industry.”

– Lambros



Alumni Mentor Lambros Atteshlis with student mentee Molly McNamara Langton

MOLLY

What have you gained from your mentorship so far? How has Lambros helped you?

Lambros was able to help me tailor my CV based on what he looks for in prospective employees. This helped me secure work experience at two different documentary post-production companies in central London during my summer holidays. He also put me in contact with a production company in Hull which works with the university, so I was able to go on shoots with them, gaining practical experience.

Have there been any other highlights of your mentorship? Anything you’re proud of or have particularly enjoyed?

While in London, I visited the head of BAFTA (British Academy of Film and Television Arts) which was quite intimidating, but very useful to experience a working environment in the industry I aspire to enter. I also particularly enjoyed my work experience, which I could not have acquired without Lambros’s help. I talked to people in all levels of the industry and took on board their advice. I hope to apply for a job at one of these post-production houses in the near future.

LAMBROS

What does it take to be a mentor?

How has being a mentor worked for you?

From the mentor’s point of view my expectations are geared around being able to help University of Hull students progress in their chosen careers. I owe a great deal to the University for the opportunities it gave me and this is basically my way of returning something back to the University and its students. It’s been a thoroughly rewarding and enjoyable experience so far and I’ll continue to mentor as long as it’s useful to the students.

The scale of the commitment depends on how much the mentee wants to engage. Some like to talk once a month and others want advice on their CV and the best way to approach a potential employer (which doesn’t need much time commitment). I’ve been happy to use my contacts in the media to open doors where possible. So the scale of the commitment depends on what works for the mentee. It might be just a few hours discussing CV’s and the merits of applying to certain organisations or a much greater commitment with regular contact via phone and email.

For more information on mentoring contact m.beecroft2@hull.ac.uk

ALUMNI EVENTS

Over the last twelve months we've been delighted to meet with so many alumni at some fantastic events.

You joined us in the House of Commons as we advocated for our work on Climate Change; at Lord's Cricket Ground a week after England won the World Cup; at receptions in Kuala Lumpur and Singapore; and at our Women in Leadership event as we unveiled six lecture theatres named after alumni.

In coming months, we have some exciting events coming up that we'd love to give you a taster of:

The Alumni Engagement Team
at the House of Commons



Alumni Reception at Seacontainers



Legal Professional Network Sackers | London | 26 February

Lord Norton of Louth joins our panel of speakers for a discussion on the relationship between the courts of law and Britain's famously unwritten constitution.

Science & Engineering Network Institute of Engineering and Technology | London | 26 March

We'll be launching our Science and Engineering Professional Network in London with a discussion about combatting climate change.

For more details: alumni@hull.ac.uk