



# THANK YOU

"THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING TO SUPPORT AND WORK WITH US AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HULL THIS YEAR"

### A MESSAGE FROM THE VC

In these challenging times it gives me great hope to be writing to you, a supporter of the University of Hull, to thank you for the contribution you have made to our community. Our annual supporter newsletter is an opportunity to reflect on the difference made by our donors, volunteers and friends, and there is always much to celebrate and be grateful for as we share with you the stories of the impact that you have made.

Your support has a real impact in our community. It means we have students who have been able to navigate a difficult period, or who have been able to take advantage of a life changing opportunity. We have staff who have been able to pursue research, the impact of which will ripple into the future, because of you. Across campus there are students who have turned to you for advice, mentoring, or to learn from your personal and career stories.

When COVID-19 first hit us this year, I was filled with pride at the way colleagues across campus responded to ensure our students could continue to study, learn and access resources safely. I was also immensely proud of the way that we, both as an institution and on an individual level, took our responsibilities to our communities; with staff, students and alumni volunteering to support those in need, and the University offering its expertise and resources to tackle some of the biggest problems.

Some of those returning to the NHS to fight COVID-19 on the frontline were given training at the University of Hull. Our staff and students also took their place at the frontline, working in our hospitals, helping to set up a Nightingale Hospital in Yorkshire, and providing care for those who were suffering.

When the NHS faced a shortage of personal protective equipment, staff in our Faculty of Science and Engineering worked with NHS consultants to design a new Face Shield that would provide effective protection for nurses, carers and doctors. Our staff used 3D printing equipment on campus to produce the shields, and then worked with industry partners to ramp up production. When they needed help to secure a pipeline of materials, over 1,000 of you responded to their call for support. Because of you, we were able to donate tens of thousands of face shields to hospitals and care homes in the region.

The crisis that we have faced collectively has demanded that we look afresh at how we do things, that we re-evaluate our priorities, that we rethink how to best serve those who rely on us. Though there have been great difficulties this year, there has been hope in the way that we have shared, collaborated and worked together as we tackle those difficulties. Thank you for choosing to support, and work, with us at the University of Hull this year.

### **COLLABORATIVE EFFORT**

### 1,000 DONORS SUPPORTED OUR NHS PPE PROJECT

Over 1,000 Alumni, Staff, Students, and friends of the University all pulled together and showed their generosity earlier this year when COVID-19 struck the UK.

When the Development and Alumni Relations Office launched our Face Shield crowdfunding campaign in March this year, we had no idea that over 1,000 donors would support it. Initially our target was set at £5,000 to make around 6,000 face shields - that could be delivered free of charge to key workers on the front line. We wanted to set a target that was achievable, but would help us to make a big difference. Within a few hours we had to double it to £10,000!

Your kind donations meant that we were able to secure a reliable supply of the materials required to produce the masks, which ensured that we were able to guarantee a supply of face shields for nurses, care workers and doctors at a time when they were so desperately needed. Without your support, we would not have been able to provide this protective equipment to the key workers whose contribution we all value, and who we wanted to help keep safe.

The Campaign received a huge boost when the University received a very generous donation of £50,000 from a trust fund established by A B Graphic International Ltd, a Bridlington company. This significant grant directly funded materials to produce 25,000 face shields, donated free to NHS and healthcare workers across the region.





A second very generous donation, from the Sir James Reckitt Charity, for £7,500, further bolstered the campaign - leading to thousands more face shields being produced to protect local healthcare workers in the Hull and East Riding area.

With over £30,000 raised from our BOOST crowdfunding site and almost £60,000 brought in from companies and trusts, the University was able to provide thousands of free face shields to support NHS and Social Care workers, GP surgeries, charities, residential homes, and other essential front-line workers.

However much you donated you made a difference to our NHS and Social Care workers who needed this essential PPE during such frightening times. YOU put us in the position that we were able to provide it for them. Without your support these workers would have been under more pressure than they already were, so thank you once again.

We are extremely proud to contribute in this way. It was a real collaborative effort, from the dedication and hard work of our team of engineers who recognised early on the opportunity to really make a difference in helping the NHS and other healthcare organisations, to our generous donors, and local community, who supported us in achieving such extraordinary results.





For international students, COVID-19 has presented some unique challenges. From being separated from support networks to visa complications, reduced access to facilities and restrictions or disruption to travel; few groups have felt more disruption.

For Pakistani students Afshan and Fatima the disruption has been exacerbated by financial difficulties. Economic uncertainty led to the premature withdrawal of their Pakistan-based financial sponsor, leaving them unable to cover their tuition fees and continue their doctoral studies in the field of Applied Physics.

Thankfully, with the generous support of the Northern Dairies Educational Trust, the Bestway Foundation and our own alumni-funded scholarship programme, Afshan and Fatima have been able to continue their studies and, more importantly, keep their burgeoning careers on track.

Both are experienced college lecturers, having previously worked at St Joseph's College for Women and later at the All Pakistan Women's Association College, both in Karachi. The next logical career step for both was to gain research experience internationally.

When we recently met up with Afshan and Fatima over Zoom, they both recalled enthusiastically how they had selected Hull from a number of offers. Whilst both being attracted to a strong research based study environment, it was their experience of Hull as a uniquely 'friendly', 'welcoming', 'productive' and 'supportive' environment that really tipped the balance. When asked to summarise her experience of Hull, Fatima was unequivocal:

"In one word, 'Brilliant', I have never known this level of support before. At Hull research feels like research. I would recommend Hull to all researchers." This was echoed by Afshan who is aiming to become a full-time researcher after her studies at Hull:

"In Hull, we were made to feel part of the faculty, not just students. The facilities are world-class...and the health and safety of students is taken care of."

Both students are pursuing diverse, but interconnected projects. Fatima is working towards the production of a polymer from marine and plant materials that can act as a biodegradable plastic substitute. Afshan is seeking to develop a microfluidic chip to be used inside the body that can separate micro-materials including cancer cells from the body of a liquid. The projects will intersect at the point where the microfluidic chip can be manufactured from the very polymer that Fatima's work seeks to develop.

Though their lives, careers and their research have intersected in many ways, Fatima and Afshan tend to diverge on their interests (or rather on the level at which they pursue them). Fatima is a keen painter and is also active in karate,

mixed martial arts (MMA), cricket, basketball and volleyball. Afshan also enjoys sports, but confines her participation to spectating. A speaker of four languages; she has a passion for language learning which reflects a deeper interest in understanding and connecting with people.

This passion for helping others is where they really come together. This has been reinforced by their experience of being supported through philanthropy at a difficult time in their lives. When asked about their future plans, both indicted that they have committed themselves to building projects that support people at a vulnerable point in their lives. Fatima plans to develop a research facility to support international students in their early career development and Afshan is determined to commit herself to building better mental health support services in Pakistan.

After experiencing the generosity and support of the alumni network, both are looking forward to playing an active part in the Hull alumni community. As Fatima put it:

"I want to light the candle further and carry the legacy forward. It made me realise that, because they have limited funding opportunities available here there should be a scholarship and support programme to help international students who suffer an unexpected withdrawal of their funding. The support of alumni has given me inspiration and I would like to be a part of it in future."

### "I WANT TO LIGHT THE CANDLE FURTHER AND CARRY THE LEGACY FORWARD"

- FATIMA

### **GATEWAY TO MEDICINE**

### DONOR PROFESSOR CHRISTINE LOH OBE & SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT KOMALPREET KAUR DISCUSS ACCESSIBILITY IN MEDICINE

"The goal of the Gateway to Medicine programme is to help students from lower socio-economic backgrounds who would not usually have found a path to higher education and it has been a fundamental component of my medical education thus far.

The programme helps to improve knowledge, interpersonal skills and study skills to ensure students are at a high standard, prepared and confident before beginning the MBBS course. I have felt more prepared than students coming from A-levels, as the Gateway course helped ease me in. The students that have been a part of the course have progressed a lot throughout the year and have great potential.

Becoming a recipient of the Gateway scholarship has acted as a steppingstone in supporting me to achieve my goals. The scholarship has helped me to become financially independent and responsible as I am a first-generation university goer.

This scholarship has given me the funds for medical textbooks and equipment to better my learning. In addition, it has helped to finance living away from home and going home to see my family. I am very grateful for the support Christine has provided me to facilitate my education. Having had the opportunity to speak to her has allowed me to convey how much I value and appreciate the support she has given me. Contributions like this help to act as a driving force towards becoming a better doctor as you realise that you have a huge support network that wants you to excel."

## **KOMALPREET**





### **CHRISTINE**

"I was attracted right away to the Gateway to Medicine Programme because it presented a rare opportunity to support good students from more deprived backgrounds who might not ordinarily have found a route into medicine.

As an alumna of the University of Hull, with positive memories of the region, I was keen to help lower income regions retain talent, which is essential for socio-economic development. The study of medicine encourages the retention of skills in the area and would help to promote local solutions to local problems.

As Komalpreet neared the end of her Foundation Year, I was delighted to have the opportunity to meet her online, together with academic and professional staff of HYMS. Komalpreet had a great experience in her Foundation year and has decided to progress to the full degree programme in order to pursue a career in medicine. She spoke with great enthusiasm about the quality of the programme, the teaching and her own personal development through the year.

Given her intelligence and ambition, I'm sure that Komalpreet will be successful in life. I am pleased that she has chosen to do medicine — a hard subject — and that the Foundation year has prepared her for the full degree programme. I am happy that my contribution has, and will continue to, ease her passage through her study. The removal of financial barriers to study is critical to smart and hardworking students like her and I'm very glad to have played some part in creating a pathway for Komalpreet to thrive in her chosen field.

I would fully encourage other potential donors to consider offering scholarships or bursaries to foundation year medical students. This will not only support the individual to achieve their goals but it will also help the medical school to build the health workforce of tomorrow. Your contribution will not only make a significant difference to the life of a talented young person, but also produce a huge dividend for the wider community."

### **INVESTING IN SUCCESS**

#### KIRI WINS PHD SCHOLARSHIP AFTER ALUMNI SUPPORT HELPS HER THROUGH HER STUDIES

In last year's Supporter
Newsletter we updated you on
one of our students Kiri Newson
who had been awarded an Agrawal
Scholarship (after her 1st year) and
also a Women in STEM Summer
Internship at the end of her 3rd year
studying Physics.

The Agrawal Scholarships were awarded to Foundation Year students studying Physics who had excelled in their 1st year. Foundation Year courses allow students who do not meet the standard A-level entry requirements to embark on their chosen course through the completion of an additional pre-degree year.

We are now incredibly proud to share with you Kiri's success of being awarded the prestigious Bell Burnell Graduate Scholarship to study a PhD. Kiri will now extend her studies through a PhD focused on medical physics, exploring adaptive radiotherapy techniques through machine learning here at Hull.

Kiri said: "I am incredibly grateful to have an amazing opportunity I know so many people dream of."

The scholarship has been made possible by the generous support of one of the world's most notable female astronomers, Professor Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell, who received an honorary doctorate from Hull in 2015. Dame Jocelyn kindly chose to donate £2.3m to set up the Scholarships, administered by the Institute of Physics, hopeful that it "will send a signal to those that are bright enough to become researchers but lack the confidence". We will keep you updated on how Kiri progresses in her PhD and her future career.

Kiri has always been exceptionally appreciative of the support our alumni have shown her and recognises that the assistance she has received has given her the confidence to achieve her goals/dreams.

A SIGNAL TO THOSE
WHO ARE BRIGHT
ENOUGH TO BECOME
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### E-MENTORING

# SHARING YOUR INSIDE KNOWLEDGE OF YOUR CAREER CAN SHAPE A STUDENT'S FUTURE

Our E-Mentoring Scheme allows students to pose their questions to alumni so that they can learn more about the jobs they want to go into. In this article we find out more about what mentoring entails from student Devon Van der Westhuizen, and his mentor Steven Turner, a solicitor at Hull City Council.

### **STEVEN**

I spent 5 years at the University of Hull as a student on the first ever Part-Time Law Degree Course. Throughout those years I was also holding down a full-time job. That is history and I thoroughly enjoyed my time of intense academic exercise.

I was asked a few years ago to join the University E-mentoring scheme. Since then I have successfully (I think) mentored either one or two students per year. I did not like the idea of an 'E-only' relationship with someone I had never met so, being based in Hull, I decided that my mentoring efforts would be both 'E' and 'in person'. I called my offer E-Mentoring Plus and determined to give

each student real experience of what it is like to practice law without straying too far from their academic needs. This enabled face-to-face discussions of course topics and problems, experience of legal case work and practice orientate research, drafting and Court work across all fields of my local government practice. I have been suitably impressed with all those I have mentored and have been frankly amazed by their in-depth knowledge following hour-upon-hour of study and research.

I believe that to be a mentor all you need is a good ear, some patience, particularly when they are definitely backing the wrong horse, and an understanding of what each student needs out of the mentoring relationship. You also need to be able to respond when being questioned, nay cross examined, by your mentee on obscure points of law which you have not thought of since your student days and certainly never used in practice!

### **DEVON**

#### Why did you take part in the mentoring program?

The approach I have taken to my time spent at the university has been predicated on a desire to squeeze as much out of the experience as possible. I wanted to join everything I could and try as many things as possible. I can honestly say that joining the E-mentor scheme has been one of the most profound and beneficial parts of my time at University.

When I found the E-mentor scheme I was excited about the prospect of talking to a professional in the field I was interested in pursuing. I had a chance to pose questions to someone who had carved their own way into a successful career. I found answers to these questions and so much more.

## What have you gained from your mentorship so far, how has Steve helped you?

I have been able to develop a personal relationship with my mentor. Not only am I able to discuss interesting areas of the content I study, I can see how those apply to the life of a working professional. Our discussions put the content I am learning into a perspective I would otherwise be missing. My mentor has been incredibly helpful in developing my writing ability for assessments. He has also exposed me to

areas of the profession I would otherwise have no clue about.

### If you could only ask your mentor one question, what would it be?

I want to know if they enjoy their job. By asking this question I would hope to gain insight into their work-life balance. What the job entails. What parts are fun? What parts are definitely not fun? How rewarding is the work? These are incredibly important questions for someone considering a career in any field. The E-Mentor program is a fantastic way to find those answers. I am very grateful for the scheme and all the benefits it has given me.



## TALENTED ATHLETES

#### **ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT, SPORTING EXCELLENCE**

Each year it gives us great pleasure to tell you about our students who are also incredibly accomplished athletes, competing at regional, national or international levels in their sport. Our Talented Athlete Programme is funded by donations from alumni and friends and offers additional support to these committed students to help them excel in their sport alongside continuing their education through a tailored package of support.

Here are just a few of their stories:

### **ANDREW**

Andy Morgan-Harrison – BSc Sport Rehabilitation

"This was my first BUCS Indoor Championships due to missing out on the previous year's due to injuries so I went into the Championships with a point to prove.

I was confident going into the Championships due to the fact I was ranked 1st in the UK this year, however I knew that it was going to be a very competitive final competing against the World U20 Champion and the European U23 Champion. I executed my race well and I ended up stopping the clock at 20.66 seconds to win Gold and become



BUCS Champion, breaking the BUCS record in the process by almost 0.4 seconds. I was ecstatic with the result as this ranked me 1st in Europe and 5th in the World. But with the British Indoor Championships in Glasgow the following weekend I had to refocus to try and emulate the previous weekend's performance.

I went through the heats and semi-finals comfortably trying to save as much energy for the final as possible. When I came out of the blocks in the final I felt a pain in my hamstring immediately, but I was determined to try and claim the British title. I tried to run fairly reserved to minimise damage to my hamstring and I managed to cross the line first and win Gold and be crowned the British 200m Champion."

## KARIM

#### Karim Marcelle – BA Business Management – Final Year

"This year has been a very productive and positive year for me. I have been able to take the next steps in regards to my sport. I signed my first professional contract with East Grinstead (EG), a club based in Sussex that plays in the English National Premier League. In regards to International news, before the abrupt arrival of COVID-19, I had most recently been selected to be part of Trinidad and Tobago National Men's Senior Squad and was in preparation to travel over to the Caribbean island to prepare for an upcoming Senior Tournament, the Pan American Cup hosted by Trinidad and Tobago Hockey Board. My current focus is to prepare for an International U21's tournament, the Junior Pan American Championship.

The Talented Athlete Programme fund allowed me to balance out my academic studies while still being able to train and compete at a professional level."

### **ERIN**

#### Erin Minton-Branfoot - Hockey and Athletics - PhD Psychology

"I have really enjoyed my time on the Talented Athlete Programme so far and feel the support and facilities available to me have been extremely valuable in helping me to improve and achieve my potential in my sporting disciplines. The funds I receive have been vital to allow me to continue to train and compete at a high level. The funding also allowed me to travel to Glasgow last year for the Home Nations Hockey to compete against the Welsh and Scottish Universities teams.

Despite competition restrictions due to COVID-19, this past year was one of my most successful, not only in hockey, where I made it onto the England Universities hockey team for the second year, but also in athletics. I was a BUCS Indoor National semi-finalist in both the 60m and the 400m, and recorded new personal bests across these distances as well as the 200m."



### **VOLUNTEERING STORIES**

# OUR ALUMNI ARE THE BEST ADVOCATES TO TEACH AND INSPIRE OUR CURRENT STUDENTS

Many of our alumni like yourselves choose to give back to their alma mater through becoming a Hull Alumni Ambassador. We are delighted when our graduates choose to do this to inspire the next cohort of students or graduates, before they enter the workplace. We know that our alumni never fail to impress us through the diverse industries and occupations they enter and we enjoy every moment of being able to celebrate their success as an institution. This year we find ourselves in a very challenging and unprecedented environment as so much of our activity at Hull turns to a virtual world, including our events.

### MATT

The ivy clad buildings at Hull turn deep oranges and reds as we enter the winter months and students continue with the blended teaching approach for this year. We have been busy working with the faculties to arrange a line-up of virtual events to inspire and educate them. One graduate we were very excited to welcome back is Matt Ritchie (Geography & Sociology, 2000) who is now the Customer Fulfilment & Customer Engagement Manager at Inter IKEA Systems BV. Matt kindly gave up some

time to do two TED style talks; one focussing on his career and one on how moments at Hull shaped his future.

They were two great sessions and over 60 students attended and were able to hear about Matt's journey to management, how to understand your best skills and apply that to your career journey. Matt told the story of how IKEA grew to the success it is today and what it is like working for one of the most well-loved home furnishing companies. He even told guests how IKEA's famous meatballs are actually manufactured in Hull - fame at last!

We have also introduced Matt to the Logistics Department and Matt will be working to give students a real-world problem at IKEA to solve.

### CHARLOTTE

Over the last few year's raising awareness for mental health has definitely increased and we are starting to make breakthroughs from the once 'taboo' subject, yet there is still a long way to go.

The University has been no different in trying to bridge this gap and these past few years have seen us work hard to



improve the services we offer students when they are most vulnerable. This year is like no other and as we enter a winter with more uncertainty and less freedom, cases are likely to increase even further.

We have been working with alumni and academics to plan a series of events which can support students and we really appreciate all those that gave up some time for us. This October for the second year in a row we invited back alumna Charlotte Houghton (English, 2009). She works for Burberry as a Store Manager and has a passion to help others so has become Burberry's Health & Wellbeing Ambassador, alongside working closely to support the Samaritans with any spare time she has.

Charlotte gave a really interactive session titled 'Manage your Wellbeing, Maximise your Learning'. Her warm, approachable and true-to-self relaxed enough to ask questions. Charlotte gave the students tips like; have a break from social media, take plenty of exercise, listen to your body when you need a break and to be honest with your boss or tutors if you cannot make the session that day. She spoke with passion to students about finding out what really makes you happy and to not worry about the materialistic things that bring you short-term happiness. She gave some helpful advice for clearing your mind in a morning and suggested writing down three daily thoughts of things you are grateful for.

WE ARE REALLY GRATEFUL TO ALUMNI WHO VOLUNTEER WITH US. IF YOU HAVE A STORY TO SHARE, PLEASE EMAIL: jeni.bird@hull.ac.uk

### **SOLID FOUNDATIONS**

# TRUSTS AND FOUNDATIONS OFFER VALUABLE SUPPORT THAT TRANSFORMS OUR CAMPUS

Alongside gifts from individuals, support from Trusts and Foundations have had a huge impact in transforming our University. Through grants supporting scholarships, buildings, ground-breaking research, and our community outreach work, local and national Trusts have left their mark here at Hull.

Funding gives our researchers freedom to identify challenges and respond to them with new ideas, it raises aspirations and ambitions for our students, and helps to take our teaching experiences to the next level. Below are just a few examples of how Trusts and Foundations have impacted our work.

### FIGHTING COVID-19

The University of Hull has been committed to providing expertise and resources to help equip Hull and the East Riding of Yorkshire in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

While student nurses and medics prepared to join the frontline of the NHS, the University has been conducting clinical trials, providing free critical care training to healthcare professionals, producing free specialist 3D face shields for NHS and care workers, and supporting research into the best possible palliative care practices. Several local and national Trusts and Foundations generously contributed towards this life-saving work.

One example is a Trust established by AB Graphic International in Bridlington, which donated £60,000 towards our work in the fight against COVID-19. £10,000 of this award enabled the University to purchase a piece of clinical simulation teaching equipment called an ISim. This was put to excellent use, enabling health workers in Hull and the East Yorkshire region to receive remote critical care training for patients with COVID-19. This equipment is invaluable to support clinical scenario training for frontline staff who will be caring for critically ill patients suffering from the virus.

£50,000 of the award was used to secure materials to produce 25,000 NHS approved visors to protect NHS and care workers. Thousands of the specialist face shields were supplied free of charge to care homes, hospitals, charities and many more front-line workers.



## **PLACE OF SANCTUARY**

The University of Hull is proud to be part of the growing network of Universities of Sanctuary. We offer good practice in welcoming asylum seekers and refugees into the university community and foster a culture of welcome and inclusion for all.

As part of this, the University offers Sanctuary Scholarships aiming to provide financial support to three entrants per year, seeking asylum in the UK. The Northern Dairies Education Trust has been a generous supporter of the University, providing grants for student hardship for local and international students, over many years.

Last year the Trust granted an additional £12,000 to support a Masters scholarship, MA in TESOL with Translation Studies, for one refugee student, for one year. The chosen student benefitted the local community by teaching English as a second language to other refugee and asylum seekers, alongside working with local support groups.

£3,000 was also kindly given by the Trust to support a 'migrant fund'. This is an 'open pot' available for Sanctuary Scholarship recipients and other asylum seekers and refugees who can apply for support for the additional resources needed for their studies; including documents, equipment, books, and sometimes 'crisis funding' in unexpected times of need.

IF YOU CAN SUPPORT THE UNIVERSITY BY CONNECTING US WITH A TRUST OR FOUNDATION PLEASE DO GET IN TOUCH: jonathan.greenwood@hull.ac.uk



#### **YOUR SUPPORT**

This newsletter has been produced by the University of Hull Development and Alumni Relations Office to celebrate the contributions made to our work by the University's alumni, staff, students and friends. We are very grateful to you for your support of our community at the University of Hull, and we hope that this newsletter goes some way to showcasing the impact your contribution has made.

If you would like to find out more about how you can support our work, you can reach us on alumni@hull ac uk

If you would like to make a further donation to support our students or the work of our staff, you can visit: www.hull.ac.uk/givingtohull

#### GET INVOLVED IN THE CONVERSATION

Keep in touch with your fellow alumni, build your professional network, share your career stories or swap Hull memories across a variety of different platforms:

FACEBOOK/HULLALUMNI

TWITTER/HULLALUMNI

HULLALUMNI.ME

HULLALUMNICONNECTS.ME

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