

Annual Fund 2011

Donors' Report

Message from the Vice-Chancellor Professor Julius Weinberg



Kingston University's Annual Fund has now completed its fourth year of raising vital funds to support students and enhance learning facilities. The fund's remit of improving the student experience is clearly being fulfilled. However, a student's time at university is only one part of the story. What happens when a student completes their studies is just as important.

With the rising cost of a university education, our students need to know that their degree will count when they venture out into the wider world. Recent research, published in the Times Higher Education and which analysed the 'added value' of a university education, shows Kingston to be amongst the best institutions in the country when it comes to graduate salaries; a Kingston education certainly counts.

You, our alumni, are proving the value of a Kingston education by your successes and your generous donations. This year you have generously given over £91,000 in gifts and pledges, allowing us to provide life-changing scholarships for postgraduate studies, helping students who have encountered unforeseen financial difficulties, and supporting projects that are enhancing the student experience.

The fact that the students who have benefited from your generosity can look forward to bright futures is a testament to both our reputation as a fine institution, and to those alumni who continually, despite the troubled economic climate, give to the Annual Fund.

A huge thank you to you all!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'WEINBERG', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Through postgraduate scholarships, we are able to attract outstanding individuals to study at Kingston University.

For the academic year 2011/2012, the Annual Fund has been able to award eight scholarships - each worth 50 per cent of tuition fees (up to a maximum of £3,000) - to the following students. Owing to exceptionally high standards, we have, for the first time, awarded two scholarships in a single subject area.

- Amy Carrington MA Human Rights
- Rachel Ellis MA Human Rights and Genocide Studies
- Hanna Mal'ouf MSc Biomedical Science with Management Studies
- Shaun Miles MSc Leadership and Management in Health
- Veronika Moore MSc Environmental and Earth Resources Management
- Syed Shahid Misar MA Fashion
- Gabriella Reynolds MA Curating Contemporary Design
- Sarah Symons MSc Psychology

What your money has done Projects that you have helped

THIS YEAR'S POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARS



Amy Carrington described her award as “an honour, a relief and a huge confidence boost”. Her long-term aim is to specialise in women’s rights, working to support women both nationally and internationally. “This award means I can dedicate my time to learning and to volunteering in a social change organisation, which is a central part of my course,” Amy said. “I firmly believe my time at Kingston, where we are taught by some of the leading human rights practitioners, will deepen my knowledge and lay the foundations of my career, so I can best help women across the globe.”



Hanna Mal'ouf was “elated and surprised” by news of her award. “I’m unable to rely on my parents for financial support, and without the scholarship I would really struggle to manage financially,” Hanna said. “Now I will be able to focus fully on my studies and actually enjoy this intense year of higher education. I’m particularly keen on the course as it combines biomedical science with management, which will help me achieve my career goal of working as a marketing manager within a science-based firm.”

All of this year’s scholars would like to extend their sincere thanks to you, the donors. Rachel Ellis added that her scholarship will also allow her to continue to study a foreign language; Shaun Miles highlighted the benefits of “not being distracted” by financial problems; Veronika Moore said the scholarship would make a “huge difference” to her plans to work as a conservationist; Syed Shahid Misar will use his award to focus on research; Gabriella Reynolds will be able to continue with her voluntary work; and Sarah Symons, who aims to specialise in promoting mental health in schools when she graduates, described the award as “exceptionally helpful” to her long-term career goals.



FORMER POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARS' UPDATE



Karolina Nowakowska
MSc Cancer Biology,
2010/11

Karolina received an Annual Fund Postgraduate Scholarship in 2010 to study for an MSc in Cancer

Biology. She is now a Scientific Officer for the Institute of Cancer Research.

While completing her Masters’ project on prostate cancer, Karolina worked closely with the Institute of Cancer Research, and was absolutely delighted to be offered a job there as a result, where she will continue her vital research. “It’s a very competitive field, and having the scholarship directly helped me to land the job I wanted,” Karolina said. “Crucially, it meant I could focus fully on my Masters’ project. The scholarship has helped me achieve my dream of working in cancer research and to try to make a difference in the fight against the dreadful disease. I was honoured to be chosen as a scholar and I would like to thank the donors for their kind support.”



Jeyaram Deivachandran
MSc Information Technology
for Business Management,
2009/10

Jeyaram received an Annual Fund Postgraduate Scholarship in 2009 to study

for an MSc in Information Technology for Business Management. He is now a high-flying Technology Consultant, working on government projects.

“Having the scholarship meant I could get the very best out of my course, which was a terrific mix of business and technology,” Jeyaram said. “I could also study additional optional modules, and attend the extra lectures which were on offer. It gave me the time I needed, and this has given me a huge advantage in my work as a technology consultant. I’m so grateful to the donors for their support, and I want to let them know that their generosity has had a really positive impact on my career.”

STUDENT HARDSHIP FUND

The University’s Student Hardship Fund provides vital, additional financial support to students who would otherwise be unable to complete their studies and realise their full potential, as a result of unforeseen financial difficulties. Keith Houghton, Head of the University’s Student Funding Service, said: “This year we have assisted students who have been affected by natural disasters, the economic situation and where other funds were not sufficient to cover the students’ needs. We always tell students who receive help from the Annual Fund that these are from the generous donations of Kingston University alumni.”

Among the many students who benefited was a single parent with two children, one of whom is disabled. She faced a financial crisis during her final year, despite taking on two part-time jobs to try and make ends meet. Another, from Pakistan, was being financially supported by his parents until the severe flooding destroyed their family’s crops, while a third student, who had disabilities and a chronic medical condition, faced homelessness.

THE BUSINESS SCHOOL ARCHIVE

A team led by Professor Robert Blackburn, Director of Research, Faculty of Business and Law, is currently establishing The Kingston University Entrepreneurial Archive, with the help of a grant from the Annual Fund.

The archive is aimed at capturing the motivations, life events and experiences of people who are recognised as being entrepreneurial in their field.

Kingston researchers plan to undertake audio-recorded interviews of people to build up the archive, which will then be available for students and analysts of entrepreneurship. Professor Blackburn said: "I am delighted that we have been given the opportunity to launch this archive at a time when entrepreneurship and its contribution to the economy and society is becoming increasingly recognised."



THE OPPORTUNITIES FUND

The Opportunities Fund focuses on projects which help to enrich and widen students' experiences, thus better preparing them for life after university. This year the fund has helped to finance seven projects, providing grants of up to £1,000 to help with start-up costs, including the two detailed below.

Future Shape, at the University's Stanley Picker Gallery, linked third year Fine Art students with children from local schools. The students developed and ran educational workshops in which the children created their own artworks. These were later displayed in a public exhibition at the gallery.

"This project gave our students the opportunity to see how they could use their practice in an educational setting, beyond just selling their own art," Natalie Kay, the gallery's education co-ordinator, said. "Many students were wary at first, but they quickly grew in confidence, and the children saw them as inspirational role models."

Through working on the project, several students discovered that education was a career path they would consider, and two secured jobs in the field directly as a result of their hands-on experience. It's wonderful that the donations are helping our students to flourish beyond university."



THE OPPORTUNITIES FUND continued

The University's Science, Engineering and Computing Faculty purchased five Mindstorm robots, which are proving a major asset to Robot Club. Students from across the University can attend the club and learn to configure the Mindstorms to discover how robots can help them in their working lives. "One student has developed the basic unit into an all-terrain robot, and another built a system which could sort colours on a production line,"

Gordana Collier, course director, said. "These robots can be run with relatively simple software, but crucially we are using industry-standard software, which students will come across when they're out at work, and this is an impressive addition to their CVs. Through Robot Club, students also learn the value of collaborating in teams - a skill vital to their careers - and we are extremely grateful to all the donors for giving our students such a boost."



WHO DONATES?

Our donors come from all backgrounds and from all walks of life, and every single penny really does make a difference, going directly to people and projects who need it the most. Here, we introduce two very different donors, both of whom share a passion for education.



Caroline Cameron (née Brunt), an art psychotherapist from the Isle of Man. BA Fine Art, 1988.

Caroline's work for the Isle of Man government takes her to a wide range of places, from prisons to hospices. As an art psychotherapist, Caroline helps people with various difficulties such as depression and eating disorders. "My time at Kingston was an amazing experience I'll never forget," Caroline said. "I have a tremendous affection for Kingston, and as I've got older, I've realised just how important studying is. I'm so glad I had the opportunity, so I want to help others to do so."



Katherine Metcalf, teacher, PGCE Early Years, 1994.

Katherine is currently taking a career break to care for her four children. "I have a great belief in the wide-reaching benefits of higher education, so I'm keen to support it," Katherine said. "Also, I'm a strong believer in the importance of the University's Hardship Fund. I empathise with anyone who wants to benefit from higher education and finds they can't access it, or has to give up because they can't afford it. I wouldn't want that to happen to any of my children."

Below: Members of The Annual Fund's student fundraiser team



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Rose Theatre
Outside the Box Comedy Club

Kingston University would also like to thank 18 donors (staff and alumni) who wish to remain anonymous.

The donors listed are those whose gifts were received during the 2010/2011 academic year. Those gifts received after 31st July 2011 will be shown in next year's Donors' Report.



Tan Sri Dato' Francis Yeoh,
BSc Civil Engineering, 1978

Named as one of Asia's 24 most powerful and influential businessmen, Tan Sri Francis is donating half a million pounds over the next five years to establish a new post of Professor of Enterprise and Technology Management. A committed Christian, who became managing director of his family's construction firm YTL at the aged of 24, Tan Sri Francis has expanded it into a global utilities specialist with revenues of more than £3 billion pounds a year. He said: "This gift is a way of expressing my gratitude to the Lord Jesus Christ. At YTL, we believe in being stewards of God's wealth, as well as being a force for good. I will always be grateful to our Lord Jesus Christ for my time at Kingston. The key things I learned there are priceless and indispensable."

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