

Spring News 2018

# giving



LEEDS  
BECKETT  
UNIVERSITY

AN UPDATE ON THE IMPACT  
OF YOUR GIFT TO STUDENTS AT  
LEEDS BECKETT UNIVERSITY

## WELCOME

**Jackie Holden**  
Alumni Relations Manager

Welcome to the Spring edition of our donor newsletter to recognise and thank you, our valued donors.

I'm delighted to share with you the stories of the students that your invaluable gift supports, as well as those from fellow donors who told us why they chose Leeds Beckett students as the recipients of their philanthropic giving.

At the end of last year, we awarded the Bright Futures Scholarship to seven outstanding first year students who are already using the funds to benefit their studies and student experience. Without your generosity these young adults, who often face complex social challenges affecting their education, might not be able to pursue a university education.

As you will know yourself, a Leeds Beckett education can transform lives. University graduates are more likely to be employed, earning a higher annual wage which reaches a peak at a later age than non-graduates, and are more likely to work in high-skilled posts. Indeed, 97% of all of our UK students are in work or further study six months after they graduate.

Thank you for your continued support and for the inspiration you provide to our students.



## FROM THE VICE CHANCELLOR

**Professor Peter Slee**  
Vice Chancellor

I simply want to thank you for your generous support and to explain what a difference your contribution is making to our university and to helping students who face significant disadvantages to flourish.

Recent research shows that our university is one of the very few in the UK which is fully representative of the community we serve.

It demonstrates very clearly that our talents and resources are helping people of all backgrounds to develop their abilities, and enabling them to make a strong and positive contribution to the communities they will serve over their lifetimes.

Many of our students deal with complex personal, educational and social challenges. Without your help many would struggle to cope with the pressures they face.

Your support has made a real difference to their ability to thrive and to do justice to their talents.

Thank you for your commitment to them, and to what our university stands for. It means a great deal to us all.

## ASPIRING BIOMEDICAL SCIENTIST SUPPORTED BY PROFESSOR BLYGH SCHOLARSHIP

This year Professor Bligh chose second-year Biomedical Sciences (Human Biology) student Sheree Smith to receive his support, saying "This scholarship is for students with an independence of mind. I look forward to mentoring Sheree in the coming year. She is only 21 but I've already thrown her challenging ideas and she has responded with her own. She has a remarkable breadth of understanding in

science and arts disciplines."

Professor Donald Bligh graduated in Teacher Training from City of Leeds Training College in 1958 and has since enjoyed a rewarding career as an educator, holding various higher education positions, as well as enjoying a 10-year period as a special advisor to the Home Office.

On being awarded the Scholarship Sheree said "Receiving the Professor Bligh Scholarship will help to eliminate some of the financial worries associated with studying and help to put my mind at ease. The scholarship will not only be a brilliant investment in my future, it will also help to instil some confidence in myself knowing that Professor Bligh has given me the best possible opportunity. I hope to go on to represent each of them proudly in my scientific research career."



ABOVE  
Arthur Briggs  
OPPOSITE  
Paul Briggs

# LEGACY GIFT TO MAKE LASTING IMPACT ON LIVES OF STUDENTS



Paul Anthony Neal Briggs, the son and grandson of two Leeds Beckett alumni, who passed away in 2016, has left a legacy gift of £293,000 to the university to be used for student support and hardship.

Whilst not an alumnus of Leeds Beckett University himself, Paul's grandfather William Selby Briggs and his father Arthur Briggs, both attended Leeds College of Technology in 1902 and 1920 respectively, which later merged with City of Leeds and Carnegie College and James Graham College to form Leeds Polytechnic.

William Selby Briggs trained as a Technical Chemist, enjoying a career in the local area before retiring to Scunthorpe. William's son Arthur, trained as a Chemical Engineer and worked for the Central Electricity Generating Board at Ferrybridge Power Station until he and his wife Olive retired to Bognor Regis in 1965.

Paul Briggs himself grew up with his parents in Knottingley and attended The King's School, Pontefract. He always valued the local government scholarship which had enabled him to attend Wadham College, Oxford, following which he began a career as a senior mathematician at the government's

National Physical Laboratory and Warren Spring Laboratory. Not only a scientist, Paul also had a keen interest in media and was a member of the experiment film group The Grasshopper Group.

Dr Melvyn Draper CBE, executor of Paul's will, said: "As a long term friend, I was extremely pleased to be instrumental in passing Paul's gift to the university. By making this gift he wanted to give students the opportunity of Higher Education in West Yorkshire. Like Paul, I grew up in the area and appreciate the opportunity of gaining a higher education. I hope that Paul's gift, through the university's support programme will help others, in similar circumstances, to achieve great things."

To discuss how a gift in your will can make a difference, get in touch with Philip Goose at [p.a.goose@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:p.a.goose@leedsbeckett.ac.uk) or 0113 812 3145

# HOW YOUR GIFT IS TRANSFORMING THE LIVES OF CURRENT STUDENTS

Over the past academic year your support has made an incredible difference to the lives of an aspiring Speech and Language Therapist, Social Worker and Filmmaker who are among seven first year students to have been awarded the £1,000 scholarship.

BSc (Hons) Speech & Language Therapy student, Kit Hollingsworth, chose her course after undertaking work experience and shadowing a Speech & Language Therapist. Kit explains: "I just loved it and thought it would be the most rewarding career - to know that you're helping somebody every day, was just a massive attraction to the course."

Undergraduate BA (Hons) Social Work student Jenna Edwards, was previously supported by social services herself, something which inspired her to strive for a career as a social worker. She says: "I've been a service user in the past as I was homeless when I was 16, so I've got that insight into what my caseworkers did for me. I got to go through college which I shouldn't have been able to do, and I saw how rewarding it was for them to see us grow and achieve."

Bethany Goode a BA (Hons) Filmmaking student, has always been passionate about filmmaking and is striving for a career as a producer in the film industry. Bethany plans to use the scholarship to support her in undertaking co-curricular activities, such as university trips and attending film festivals. She explains: "The scholarship will make the world of difference to me. I work a lot of hours as a waitress, as my mum can only work part-time and struggles to support me. It means a lot, and will help me to do things that I wouldn't necessarily have been able to do at university."

This year, Bright Futures Scholarships have also been awarded to BSc (Hons) Adult Nursing student Rebecca Harding; BA (Hons) Sport and Social Sciences student Shannon Page; BA (Hons) English and Media student Alanya Wilson; and BA (Hons) Criminology student Nicole Wightman.



**£68,000**

of Bright Futures Scholarships  
distributed since 2012

**38%**

more applications for a Bright  
Futures Scholarship were  
received this year than in 2016

**175**

applications for Bright  
Futures Scholarships were  
received this year

# SIR BOB MURRAY CBE HELPS STUDENTS TO BALANCE THE BOOKS

Our Chancellor Sir Bob Murray CBE, who himself studied Accounting at our university, has been supporting students financially at Leeds Beckett since 2012. This year first year BA (Hons) Accounting & Finance students Umar Farooq, Aamna Bahadar, Abusufiyan Kalam and Mohammad Sohail Iqbal will all benefit from his generosity to help them during their studies.

We caught up with Sir Bob to find out why he's so passionate about education, the transformative power it can have and why it's so important to him to support the students following in his footsteps.

"I left school at sixteen with just one O-level," explains Sir Bob. "It took me another ten years of working full-time and studying part-time to finally qualify as an accountant and graduate from this great university.

"I didn't get the opportunity to progress straight to university and so I know it can be onerous for a lot of students and their families.

He added: "I'm delighted to award the Scholarships to Umar, Aamna, Abusufiyan and Mohammad. I have always believed in the power of education to change lives and help people fulfil their true potential.

"Over the past five years, I have enjoyed following the progress of so many scholars, as they develop their knowledge, widen their experience, and take their first steps into, what I am sure will be, very successful careers.

"I am extremely proud and honoured to be able to support these talented young people throughout their education at Leeds Beckett."



"Attending university opens so many different doors and will provide a pathway into accounting, as well as helping me learn valuable life lessons, such as budgeting and planning. As the first in my family to attend university, I hope that the faith Sir Bob has put in me will inspire my siblings to go to university as well."

**Aamna Bahadar,**  
Sir Bob Murray CBE  
Scholarship Recipient

# CLAIRE MASCALL PR PRIZE KICK-STARTS RECIPIENT'S CAREER

Chelsea Galpin (BA (Hons) Public Relations with Marketing 2015) was awarded the Claire Mascall PR Prize during her final year and went on to become Communications Officer at the Motor Neurone Disease Association – the charity best-known as being the main beneficiary on the Ice Bucket Challenge in the UK. She is now a Communications Executive at MK College Offender Learning, an education provider for learners within 28 prisons, having started at the beginning of 2018.

Receiving the Prize provided Chelsea with invaluable in-house Public Relations experience at Welcome to Yorkshire – the official tourism agency for Yorkshire. She says “This added to my already strong portfolio and gave me the much-needed in-house experience I was looking for. In my final year I had decided I wanted to work in-house and preferably for a charity so I felt like I was giving something back, and my time at Welcome to Yorkshire supported this.”

In her role at MK College, Chelsea works across 28 prisons supporting their marketing requests in order to engage prisoners in education. Chelsea explains “Going into prisons for the first time and meeting learners has been an eye opening experience, as well as hearing about what a crucial role education plays in the rehabilitation of offenders. Seeing learners celebrate their achievements, and ultimately find employment upon release through MK College’s Employment

Academies, is really inspiring and shows that people can change with the right support pre and post release.”

“The Claire Mascall PR Prize played a huge part in helping me to get to where I am in my career today. My education and qualifications from Leeds Beckett were one thing, but being able to have hands on experience offered by the Prize really helped me stand out and prepared me for going into my career.”

The Prize was established by Graham Rimmer, in memory of his wife and public relations pioneer Claire Mascall, one of the very first women to enter into public relations in a senior position in the 1970s. Graham said: “I’m delighted to be involved in this prize in memory of Claire. I love to see how the students get on after their experience and it’s great to have a hand in helping support the careers of such bright young people.”



# RECOGNISING OUR DONORS

Our donors are remarkable people who appreciate how an education at Leeds Beckett University can transform the lives of our students, the communities they live in and society as a whole.

They make a huge difference, and without them, we wouldn't be able to offer the financial support that we do. We're delighted to formally recognise the contribution that our donors make, and share some of their motivations to support students at our university.

We would like to thank the following donors for their generous gifts in the current financial year:

**Alexandra Aylward,**  
class of 1992

**Peter Rice,**  
class of 1974

**Graham Bell,**  
class of 1992

**Tomas Shanahan,**  
class of 2011

**Eve Blackwell,**  
class of 2006

**Joseph Sheerin,**  
class of 2012

**William Cormack,**  
class of 1968

**Christine Sherlock,**  
class of 1983

**Thomas Duerden,**  
class of 2017

**Christina Smith,**  
class of 1976

**Stephen Evans,**  
class of 1993

**Anthony Snowdon,**  
class of 1999

**Aaron Goddard,**  
class of 2001

**Ian Stevens,**  
class of 2004

**Christine Hunter,**  
class of 1978

**Bernd Stottok,**  
class of 2016

**Luisa Lyons,**  
class of 2001

**Robert Thompson,**  
class of 2004

**Bob Mitchell,**  
class of 1976

**Hugh Wellesley-Smith,**  
class of 2012

If you would like to be included in our donor honour roll then please contact Philip Goose at [p.a.goose@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:p.a.goose@leedsbeckett.ac.uk)