

The Difference

Donor Newsletter Spring 2010 Issue 6

Donors make music a reality



Instrumental role: (l-r) Major donors to the project Sir Dominic Cadbury with Liz and Terry Bramall

Music will fill the gap in the red-brick heart of the University campus thanks to the extraordinary generosity of donors.

The new music building to complete the Aston Webb semi-circle has received £5 million in gifts and pledges and it is hoped, with further funding, a custom-built organ will be included as an integral part of the project.

A transformational donation from the Liz and Terry Bramall Charitable Trust plus extremely generous gifts from trusts, companies and many individuals has made the historic building's completion possible. To reflect the magnitude of Liz and Terry's gift and the University's enduring gratitude, the new building will be called 'The Bramall Music Building'.

Liz and Terry (BSc Civil Engineering, 1964) say: 'We are thrilled that our donation has enabled the University to begin work on the new music building. We are proud to be associated with a project that completes the historic Aston Webb semi-circle and provides

showpiece facilities for the Department of Music. It is a wonderful opportunity for our trust, which has young people, music and education at the heart of its work.'

The Aston Webb building was originally built in 1909, but plans for a final dome were never realised due to a shortage of funding. When completed, the new building will house the University's renowned Department of Music, including extensive research, teaching and rehearsal facilities, plus the centrepiece 450-seat auditorium.

Preparation for the building work has already begun, with completion scheduled for autumn 2012. The plans continue a rich tradition of music at Birmingham, begun when Sir Edward Elgar became the University's first Professor of Music in 1905 and maintained to this day with a Music Department ranked joint second in the country for research*.

Vice-Chancellor Professor David Eastwood says: 'We are truly grateful to everyone who has played a part in funding this project, but particularly to Liz and Terry, who are truly playing a transformative role in securing the future of music at Birmingham. Their generosity, alongside that of everyone who has supported the project, will help to create a wonderful musical resource for the University and the city for generations to come.'

Lead donors to the project include:

- Sir Dominic Cadbury – Chancellor
- Professor David Eastwood – Vice-Chancellor
- Philip Eden (BA Geography, 1972)
- Dr Doug Ellis (DUniv, 2008)
- Simon Freakley (BCom Industrial Economics and Business Studies, 1983)
- Sir David Garrard
- John (BSocSc Economics, 1980) and Moyra Horseman
- Phyllida Lloyd (BA English and Drama, 1979; DUniv, 2009)

Lead foundation donors:

- The Allan and Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust
- The Charles Henry Foyle Trust
- The Edward Cadbury Charitable Trust
- The Garfield Weston Foundation
- The Liz and Terry (BSc Civil Engineering, 1964) Bramall Charitable Trust
- The Wolfson Foundation

Thank you for all your support!

Further donations for this project are welcome and will go towards funding an organ for the auditorium, which will help ensure the facility is among the best in the UK. There are also still opportunities for donors to get involved and to be a part of history by naming a seat in the auditorium.

For more information about naming a seat, please call Philip Addy on +44 (0)121 414 8641 or email p.w.j.addy@bham.ac.uk

*Source: Research Assessment Exercise 2008



Future: How the completed building will look

Did you know?

In 2009, *The Architects' Journal* rated the Aston Webb building sixth in its top ten examples of British academic architecture. Describing it as the 'focal point of the campus', the Journal praised the building and its surroundings in Chancellor's Court as 'exceptional'.

From the Vice-Chancellor:



Welcome to The Difference

It isn't long since I welcomed you to our last friends' and supporters' newsletter because, as you have no doubt noticed, we have moved its publication from summer to earlier in the year to help us share news with you in a more timely way.

I am delighted that this issue can celebrate the successful launch of our £60 million Circles of Influence fundraising campaign at the annual House of Lords reception last October. More than 300 alumni, friends and donors attended the event, which was both a celebration of everything we have already achieved and a catalyst for our ambitious plans in the coming years.

Thanks to your support, we have already raised £50 million and are confident that, with your continued help and generosity, we will achieve our ambitious £60 million target before the campaign's end in 2011. I am determined that we will succeed and I have joined you in pledging my own personal financial support with a gift of £40,000. How could I do otherwise when our projects are so compelling and their influence so far-reaching?

Circles of Influence is a major milestone for the University, representing our largest ever fundraising effort and a welcome return to our philanthropic heritage. It highlights the fact that every single gift we receive really does have the power to transform lives and so, whatever donation you have made, I would like to extend my most sincere thanks and hope that you will continue to give whatever you can.

Please be proud of your generosity to us. Tell your friends that you support the University and encourage them to do the same. Together we can make the campaign a success and make a real impact on the University and the world.

Professor David Eastwood
Vice-Chancellor

£60 million campaign launches at House of Lords



The 2009 House of Lords alumni reception was preceded by a very special event marking the official launch of the £60 million Circles of Influence campaign, the University's biggest ever fundraising effort.

More than 300 alumni, donors, staff and students of the University gathered in October for the annual reception in the distinguished surroundings of the Cholmondeley Room and its terrace with views over the River Thames.

At the launch, guests heard the campaign would tackle a range of practical challenges with global impact, from cancer research, brain injury rehabilitation and student scholarships to a new home for music in the Aston Webb building.

The event was an opportunity for the University to thank some of our most dedicated friends and supporters and to ask for continuing support as the campaign moves into its final, and most exciting, phase. To find out more about the campaign themes and projects, visit www.alumni.bham.ac.uk/circlesofinfluence



Shared interests: (l-r) Pro-Chancellor Dr Jim Glover (BSc Biological Sciences, 1973; DSc, 2008); Lord Hannay of Chiswick (DLitt, 2003); Cath Glover (BSc Biological Sciences, 1973) and Dr Doug Ellis (DUniv, 2008)



Generations: (l-r) Lisa Chuilon, née Able (BA Medieval and Modern History, 1998) shares memories of the University with Peggy Pontifex, née Randle (BSc Zoology, 1943)



Special occasion: (l-r) Siamak Karamiani (BEng Civil Engineering, 2006) with guest Christelle Maignan



Birmingham pride: (l-r) Chancellor Sir Dominic Cadbury; Dr Doug Ellis (DUniv, 2008) and Professor Paul Moss, Head of the School of Cancer Sciences



Insight: (l-r) Dr Simon Campbell CBE FRS (BSc Chemistry, 1962; PhD Chemistry, 1965; DSc, 2004) and Mrs Jill Campbell chat with scholarship recipient Adnan Shabir



Launch party: Alumni, friends and guests in the House of Lords' Cholmondeley Room celebrate the official launch of the Circles of Influence campaign



Enjoying the terrace: (l-r) Guest Mojama K Lansana with alumna Alice Lansana (PG Diploma Accounting and Finance, 1991; MSocSc Accounting and Auditing for Developing Countries, 1993)



Alumni and friends: (l-r) Professor Graham Parker (BSc Mechanical Engineering, 1957; PhD Mechanical Engineering, 1963); Susan Parker; Betty Evans (BA English Language and Literature, 1990); John Hart (BSc Mechanical Engineering, 1958) and Sheila Hart



Healthy: Leukaemia patient Michael Woolley in a cancer research lab at Birmingham

‘Clinical trial saved my life’

A drug made available through clinical trials at Birmingham has saved the lives of thousands of patients with leukaemia like Michael Woolley.

When Michael was diagnosed with blood cancer in 2000, he was told he had three to five years left to live. At the time he was too old to receive a bone marrow transplant and there were no other options.

He joined a clinical trial for a drug called imatinib in 2001 and eight years later is still in remission and was able to stop taking the drug two years ago. Imatinib is now recommended by the National Institute for Clinical Excellence as the first choice of treatment for patients with chronic myeloid leukaemia.

Clinical trials like Michael's are made possible through the hundreds of donors who have made gifts ranging from £200,000 to £2.22 a month to cancer research at Birmingham in recent years.

‘Cancer research at Birmingham saved my life,’ Michael says. ‘I was keen to take part in the trial because if it hadn't helped me it may have benefitted somebody else but it was of much more help to me than anybody had anticipated.’

Cancer develops when the DNA in a person's cells gets damaged so the longer they live, the more chance they have of acquiring the DNA mutations that lead to the illness.

Professor Paul Moss, Head of the School of Cancer Sciences, says: ‘Many of the traditional chemotherapy treatments for cancer are quite intensive and elderly people struggle to cope with this form of treatment. However, we're now seeing the introduction of ‘targeted’ drugs like imatinib that have a very specific action against cancer cells.’

For elderly patients who need intensive treatments such as bone marrow transplants, Birmingham researchers have developed the ability to control infections using appropriate blood transfusions.

‘This means we can perform these transplants on people in their 70s, which was previously impossible,’ Professor Moss says.

One of the main research interests of the University's new Centre for Healthy Ageing will

be how people's immune systems deteriorate with age. Scientists from different schools will work collaboratively to identify whether this deterioration in immune function contributes to susceptibility to cancer.

Cancer and Healthy Ageing are two of the projects the University's £60 million Circles of Influence campaign is supporting. For further information, see page 2 or visit www.alumni.bham.ac.uk/circlesofinfluence

What giving means to me

‘I was the first in my family to go to university and financially it was a struggle at times. I wanted to ensure no future students would be dissuaded from applying to Birmingham because of their personal circumstances.’

Donor, Martin Devenish (BCom Industrial Economics and Business Studies, 1986)



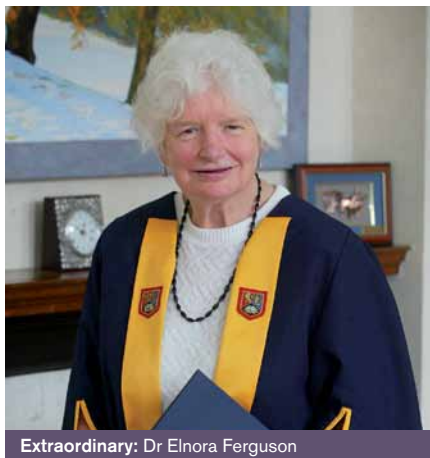
A lifetime of support

The Early Music Suite in Birmingham's new music building will be named after Dr Elnora Ferguson, who supported the University and numerous other regional, national and international causes for many years.

The Allan and Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust has made an additional donation of £250,000 in memory of Dr Elnora Ferguson (DUniv, 2003) who died aged 79 in December 2008. As chair of her family's Trust, Elnora supported many educational, religious and social causes financially and through an extraordinary personal time commitment. She was also a member of the Chancellor's Guild of Benefactors, an honour the University bestows on donors who make exceptional gifts in excess of £1 million in a lifetime.

As one of the vanguard supporters of the music building, the Trust had already committed £250,000. Elnora organised a £2.5 million gift towards the Centre for the Study of Global Ethics and the John Ferguson Chair, while other projects the Trust supported included the UNESCO Chair in Interfaith Studies.

At his inaugural lecture in November 2009, Tom Sorell, the current John Ferguson Professor of Global Ethics, said: 'Elnora



Extraordinary: Dr Elnora Ferguson

was one of the most energetic and resourceful people I have ever known. I want to acknowledge with gratitude the great force she was and the great support the Trust has been.'

During a colourful life, Elnora worked as a teacher in Nigeria and was banned from South Africa during apartheid due to her work to promote equality. Originally from Lancashire, she studied at Cambridge and it was there she met her husband, John. After living in Africa and the US, the couple came to Birmingham in 1979 when John became President of Selly Oak Colleges.

A deeply religious Quaker, Elnora was committed to interfaith relations and worked with Birmingham Churches Together. President of the central region of the United Nations Association, she loved to watch cricket when she had any spare time.

For information about leaving a legacy and in memoriam giving to the University, please contact Martha Cass via m.cass@bham.ac.uk or +44 (0)121 414 6679.

Festival makes maths fun

Magic, music and measuring were all part of the fun at a Mathematics Festival for teenagers hosted by the University.

Over two days in September, 482 pupils from 81 different schools took part in activities ranging from learning how maths can explain magic tricks to measuring the length of Charlie the skeleton's bones to determine his/her sex.

The festival was the second sponsored by alumna Nancy Blachman (BSc Applied Mathematics, 1978), co-founder of the Julia Robinson Mathematics Festivals in the US, who encouraged Birmingham to create a similar event.

What giving means to me

'I support the University because I believe the Circles of Influence campaign is an exciting opportunity to help change the world for the better. I could not, in all good conscience, ask for donations if I had not demonstrated my own personal commitment to Birmingham's future.'

Vice-Chancellor and donor,
Professor
David Eastwood



Stop press! Campaign reaches major milestone

The University's Circles of Influence campaign has reached £50 million thanks to the generosity of alumni, friends and charitable trusts all over the world. The milestone brings the total money raised a step closer to the £60 million target, to be reached by the campaign's end in 2011.

Vice-Chancellor Professor David Eastwood says: 'I would like to warmly thank every donor who has helped us reach this point. Our target of £60 million is ambitious but I firmly believe the strength of our projects and the enduring nature of our donors' support will enable us to reach it by the campaign's end.'

For further information or to make a gift, visit www.alumni.bham.ac.uk/circlesofinfluence

Matched funding

Until 2011, the University will receive £1 for every £3 donated from the UK government, so if you're thinking of giving to Birmingham...

strike now



Influencing innovation

Having the freedom to invest in creative and innovative ideas that have an immediate impact is crucial to a world-class university. Your generosity and loyal support through the Annual Giving programme (formerly known as the University of Birmingham Fund) has funded more than 100 extraordinary projects worth £1.3 million since 2002 that would otherwise not have been possible.

We are extremely grateful to every person who has made a gift to the programme. Through our Circles of Influence campaign, your gifts will be used to influence five key areas: health and lifestyle, society, heritage and culture, leaders of tomorrow and innovation.

Here are just a few examples of the projects funded as a result of your generosity in 2009. Visit www.alumni.bham.ac.uk/fund/annual/fundareas.shtml for a full list. Thank you.

Projects

Environmental water monitoring site

Alumni funding is helping the School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences to set up a water quality monitoring station on the Bourn Brook on campus, where we can introduce students to exciting developments in environmental monitoring technology.

The site will provide easy and secure access to students, enabling them to work closely with staff and learn how to use high-tech water quality and quantity monitoring equipment. The long-term data, generated by continuous monitoring, will be available on a dedicated, secure intranet site and compared with information from weather monitoring stations to assess surface and groundwater discharge and quality.

Water quantity and quality are important environmental issues worldwide, particularly in the context of climate change. The monitoring suite will add a valuable new dimension to environmental water studies, which is an important part of many courses within the school. Thank you.

Gilles Pinay, Professor of Hydroecology, and Senior Lecturer Dr Chris Kidd



Environmental monitoring: Students collecting water samples from Bourn Brook

Coaching and mentoring scheme

The UB Sport coaching/mentoring scheme is a personal development programme for students to achieve vocational experience on a voluntary basis with community sports clubs, schools or University sports clubs.

Currently 34 students are coaching in the local community, plus six third year student Volunteer Coordinators, who are receiving training on how to mentor other students. Participants have the opportunity to gain qualifications essential for those wishing to pursue a career in sport and leisure, or to develop transferable employment skills.

On average each student is delivering an hour per week of voluntary coaching and our relationships with external clubs are benefiting from students' involvement at grassroot level. Thank you.

Rachel Shepherd,
Sports Development Manager



Mentors: Students can gain coaching experience with community sports teams

BEAR Necessities outreach programme

New PhD students can take up to a year to familiarise themselves with specialist computer software applications before they can make an effective start to their research.

The BEAR Necessities programme recruits expert trainers from the student community to help new postgraduate students learn how to use the software they need, enabling them to begin productive research more rapidly. Trainers from BEAR (Birmingham Environment of Academic Research) give at least three training sessions per academic year on specialist software applications used widely throughout the University.

Trainer Andrea Gabriele says: 'The work that I've been doing, thanks to the generosity of alumni and friends, allowed hundreds of PhD students and young scientists to familiarise themselves with complex computational fluid dynamic tools fundamental for research, saving months of time in self-training. For this opportunity, all the PhDs that I have trained so far are extremely grateful.'

This programme will help us to continue the University's tradition of excellence and continue to increase our standing as one of the leading research-led universities. Thank you.

Aslam Ghumra,
Computer and IT Specialist

What giving means to me

'My reason for donating to the University was to pay back the institution that educated me and equipped me for my future career. Giving to the University is a form of saying thank you and also ensuring the future of a great and progressive institution. Hopefully, my small donation will contribute to the maintenance of existing and the creation of new facilities for the current and future students.'

Robert Moyle
(BSc Civil Engineering,
1973). Annual Giving programme donor since 2004



Biosciences undergraduate laboratory audio-visual project

A new digital display system has improved the learning experience of students working in the School of Biosciences' main first year laboratory.

The large laboratory can seat up to 160 students, making a display system essential, and alumni have helped fund a computer workstation from which the course leader can display information on 20 digital monitors mounted around the room.

High-resolution displays of microscope material, hands-on technique demonstrations and computer graphics can all be viewed on the monitors during practical classes. This is of enormous benefit to the students, contributing greatly to their learning outcomes and also their enjoyment of practical work.

Teaching staff have all commented on how beneficial the system is to their practical teaching. New practical work is being designed to take advantage of the excellent system we now enjoy, which will further benefit our students in the future. Thank you.

Dave Roach,
Manager of Teaching Services,
School of Biosciences

What giving means to me

'I'm really enjoying my course. The main reason I chose to study Chemical Engineering was the job opportunities it creates; I'm hoping to work with biofuels after I graduate. Without the scholarship I wouldn't have been able to live away from home. Being based on campus means I've made lots of friends, I've got involved with several different societies and I don't waste time travelling.'

Kalita Patel,
first year,
Chemical
Engineering
A2B scholarship
recipient



On stage: Drama and Theatre Arts students

20/20 project

A gift of £5,000 to the Drama and Theatre Arts Department has yielded a very exciting result – 20 new 10-minute plays. Written by the most successful graduates of the MA/MPhil(B) in Playwriting Studies, the plays will form the centrepiece of a conference being held at Birmingham to mark the course's 20th birthday on 13 and 14 March.

The 20/20 project will offer a fitting testimony to the enduring impact Britain's first postgraduate playwriting course has had on theatre. Thank you.

Steve Waters,
Lecturer in Playwriting

Corporate Benefactors

Every year, local businesses donate vouchers, tickets or merchandise as prizes to thank our student callers for their hard work throughout the annual telephone campaign. This year we would like to say a big thank you to Cadbury World, The Black Country Living Museum, The Glee Club and Domino's Pizza for their support.

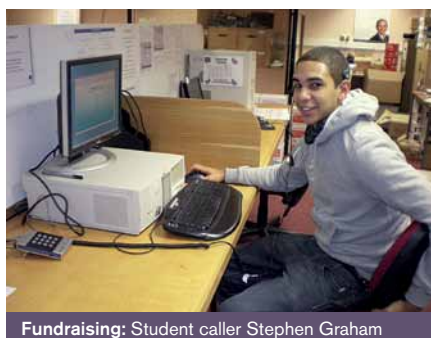
Student caller Stephen in profile

Giving something back to Birmingham was one of the reasons why Stephen Graham became a student caller for the Annual Giving programme.

Stephen (third year, English) has been telephone fundraising for the past 18 months and currently supervises other students in the call room.

Talking to alumni about life at Birmingham is what Stephen enjoys most about the job. 'It's fascinating to have interesting conversations with people I share common ground with and inspiring to talk to alumni who have done what I'm hoping to do,' he says.

The Circles of Influence campaign launch at the House of Lords was his favourite moment of working for the University so far. He thinks



Fundraising: Student caller Stephen Graham

his part-time job has given him strong communications and presentation skills that will be useful when he pursues a career as a journalist.

'When I'm an alumnus I'll certainly give student callers the time of day and when I'm in a position to give, I definitely will,' he says.

To find out more about the Annual Giving programme, visit www.alumni.bham.ac.uk/fund/annual

What giving means to me

'I'm involved in developing a zero emission canal boat running on a hybrid system of a hydrogen fuel cell and batteries. We've received financial assistance from many different sources, including generous support from alumni, and I felt I ought to "put my money where my mouth is", so I donated £5,000 as well as a lot of my time, to the project. I'm a passionate believer in sustainable technology and in the need to tackle climate change; I hope this project demonstrates my firm commitment to a sustainable future.'

Rex Harris, Professor
of Materials Science



Giving is a class act

Thank you for all your support!

Alumni who celebrated their anniversary reunions in 2009 have joined together to make class gifts to the University, for which we are extremely grateful.

A total of 168 donors from the classes of pre-1959, 1959, 1969, 1974, 1984 and 1989 gave more than £29,000 towards projects with an immediate impact.

Donald Sang (BSc Electronic and Electrical Engineering, 1969), ambassador for the 40th anniversary reunion class, says: 'I very much enjoyed the reunion and it was wonderful to be able to join with my classmates to give something back to the University. We proved that collective giving can raise an impressive total.'

This year's reunion, for the classes of pre-1960, 1960, 1970, 1975 and 1985, will be on Saturday 12 June and alumni have the opportunity to make a similar class gift.

For further details about class giving, visit www.alumni.bham.ac.uk/fund or call Natalie Elderfield on +44 (0)121 414 6879.



Classy: Collective giving enables alumni to support innovation at Birmingham

Gifts go global

From Albania to Jamaica, Korea to Zambia, alumni and friends from 105 different countries have given to the University since 1996. These gifts have helped fund a vast array of projects on campus and we are very grateful to our supporters around the globe.

Gaoning Kong (PhD Metallurgy and Materials, 1999) and Tony Ji (MBA Business Administration, 1997) from Shanghai are two far flung alumni who gave to Birmingham in 2009. 'For us, nine years of study and working experience at Birmingham was a life journey beginning from being immature students to now operating a successful consulting company with more than 150 staff and 12 branches across China,' Gaoning says.

'Birmingham did more than offer us a first-class education; it offered us enormous space to grow as individuals and incredible opportunities to meet people from all over the world, not to mention those friendly people around with lovely Brummie accents. We would never have imagined today's success without the valuable experience in Birmingham. As alumni, we would like to make our contribution to help more international students to fulfil their dream at the University of Birmingham.'

This year has seen the University strengthen its international links and mark a century of engagement with India by opening its first overseas office in New Delhi.

The US Foundation had a very exciting 2009, with the launch of a new website at www.bhamf.org. US supporters who made generous gifts included Derek and Margaret Hathaway, whose donation secured the Academic Enrichment Programme of summer schools for students from less conventional backgrounds for the next three years.

The first student to be supported by the Canadian Scholarship Fund has completed their degree and the fund is now looking at how it can develop in the future. Alumni relations are also strong in Greece, with a reception in Athens planned for March.

Wherever you are in the world, it's easy to give to Birmingham by donating online.

For further details visit www.alumni.bham.ac.uk/fund

Contact us

For more information about making a gift to the University, please contact Louise Binder in the Development and Alumni Office on +44 (0)121 414 8136 or l.binder@bham.ac.uk

To find out more about our fundraising projects and what your gifts have achieved, visit www.alumni.bham.ac.uk/fund