

Queen's Donor Newsletter Summer 2004

News from The Queen's University of Belfast Foundation

Issue No.1

Welcome to the first issue of our Donor Newsletter – produced for donors and friends of the Campaign for Queen's.

£1 million pledged by graduates Your participation counts!



In less than five years over 4000 graduates have pledged more than £1 million to the *Campaign for Queen's* through the Alumni Fund (projects of urgent student need), the Great Hall Appeal, the Seamus Heaney Centre for Poetry, the New Library Capital Appeal, the Book Fund Appeal, the Jack Kyle Bursary Fund, the GAA Academy and the Boat Club Fund. Graduates have also remembered loved ones through the in-memoriam programme.

In May 1999 the first telethon was launched with a degree of trepidation. To our delight the majority of alumni

welcomed the call, enjoyed their conversation with the student and supported the University's ambitious development programme. Spurred on by this endorsement The Queen's University of Belfast Foundation launched the *Campaign for Queen's* in November 2001.

Nobel laureate and fellow alumnus, Seamus Heaney spoke on this occasion, calling all to action with the Latin phrase *Pro Tanto Quid Retribuamus* – In return for so much, what shall we give back? He said: 'Now Queen's feels itself at a turn. Call it millennial, call it historical, call it

whatever you like, the turn's calling us. The Campaign will be asking alumni and others, foundations, philanthropic individuals, every good friend that Queen's has, asking them to regard the pattern of achievement already established as the guarantee of new achievement in the Queen's of the future'.

Why does your participation count?

Contributions from graduates are especially valued as an expression of confidence in the University. The percentage of alumni who give back is a critical measure used by many sources of funding when assessing applications for support. Without the support of the Queen's graduate family the Foundation could not have achieved its outstanding success (see below). We thank all our donors for helping us preserve the University and transform it for future generations. We invite you to continue to support our mission by investing in our future, offering your involvement and lending your voice in support of the Campaign. Together we will go from strength to strength.

Kerry Bryson

Alan Gillespie pays tribute to outgoing Vice-Chancellor

The Queen's University of Belfast Foundation celebrated the contribution Professor Sir George Bain has made to the University and to Northern Ireland at a dinner to mark his retirement in June in Parliament Buildings.

Dr Alan Gillespie, Honorary Patron of the Foundation, acknowledged the inspirational leadership of Sir George Bain and the role that he, and his wife, Gwynneth, had played not only in the life of the University but in the wider society of Northern Ireland. He reminded the audience that when George came to Queen's in 1997 the University, in spite of its distinguished heritage, had suffered in part from "the troubles" and had slipped in its status and contribution to the community.

"George brought leadership, vision and an enthusiasm for transformation. He set demanding targets which could have taken over a decade to complete but under his leadership, Queen's has already secured its position as a top 20 United Kingdom university for teaching and research, and as the premier research university in Ireland.

"George created a vision of Queen's as a far better place but he knew that this would require financial expenditure way beyond what could be available from the public purse for higher education. He saw the need for a major appeal and in November 2001 launched the *Campaign for Queen's*."

Allen McClay pays tribute to donors

Dr Allen McClay, Chairman of the Foundation Board has paid



tribute to his fellow Board members and everyone who so generously supported the *Campaign for Queen's*. "In less than four years, the Foundation has raised £40 million for Campaign projects and leveraged £60 million from government and University sources. It is an impressive feat by any standards and one which owes much to George Bain's energy and commitment".

Pro Tanto Quid Retribuamus

The New Library: Campaign for Queen's Flagship Project

Building for the future

Why is the need for a new library so urgent?

- the present library accommodation is basically unchanged since 1969
- since then the number of students has increased from 4300 to 24000
- shelf space has remained the same but the number of books, pamphlets and periodicals has doubled
- the number of reader spaces has decreased due to fire regulations and increased space for books
- the inadequacy of the present library facilities has gone beyond inconvenience: it diminishes the student experience; it stifles academic innovation; it limits our contribution to the local community; it has put a ceiling on Queen's programme of teaching and research.
- In short, the buildings are an eyesore, the facilities outdated, space is limited and borrowing restricted. The library is the soul of a University. Queen's must invest in its library infrastructure.



Expand or Build?

- Expansion is possible but would fail to address the future needs of an institution that aspires to be an international research-led university
- Library services today are based on several sites stretched across a three mile radius. The new library will provide, in one location, an integrated learning environment for academic staff and students. It will achieve a seamless range of service and support for users, and an environment that will encourage multi-disciplinary learning and collaboration.



Learning from history

For the first hundred years and more there was only one library building at Queen's, the Lynn Library, where engineers and students of medicine and philosophy studied together and learned from each other. Conceived on distinctly ecclesiastical lines, it was in the form of a high rectangular nave, with a steeply pitched roof, flanked on either side by five gabled bays in two storeys.

It provided ample study space for staff and students until 1914 when expansion led to the building of an extension in the same style. In addition, the David Keir Building housed a small

science library and a medical library was located in the Royal Victoria Hospital. As the University grew, so did the library. The thirteen-storey Library Tower was constructed in 1967 and was joined to the renovated original library in the early 1980s. The Tower was never designed to be a place of study, yet is used for this purpose because of the shortage of space.

The Queen's library is unique in Northern Ireland for the collections it has



assembled over the years. Included is part of the library of the economic theorist Adam Smith; the Savoy Collection of Huguenot material; the Hamilton Harty Music Collection; the Ross-Rosenzweig collection of material on Jewish theology and on the Dead Sea Scrolls. The manuscript section contains the papers of Somerville and Ross and the Bunting Irish Folk Melody. The existence of collections such as these ensures that the role of the library extends beyond that of its service to the University and into the wider community in Northern Ireland.

Respecting the past

Queen's recognises it has a unique responsibility to preserve its historic fabric. As custodian of much of Belfast's architectural heritage, the University has invested millions in the conservation of its built environment.

The new library at Queen's will respect the architectural environment in which it will be located and reflect the architectural concepts and building practices of the times. Architecturally it will be a flagship building that demonstrates commitment to scholarship, and be a building of distinction.

The library will be central to the life of the University and will provide students, staff and the community with technologically advanced facilities in a cherished environment.



Donation of £4m for Queen's New Library

Every graduate who has contributed to the New Library Appeal or Adopt a Book scheme will know that Queen's plans to build a new library at a cost of £39.5 million. A donation from Sir Anthony O'Reilly of £4 million, announced in June, will ensure the new world-class library project can proceed.

The construction of the state-of-the art library is due to commence next year and will be completed in 2008, the 100th anniversary of Queen's establishment as a university in its own right. The library will ensure that Queen's will have world-class facilities to continue to provide the highest standard of education for over 24,000 students and maintain its position as one of the leading civic universities in the United Kingdom.

The £4m gift involves a large personal contribution from Sir Anthony, a guarantee through the Ireland Funds and a gift from Independent News & Media (Northern Ireland), publishers of the *Belfast Telegraph*.

The new library will become a central hub of the University and, as more and more people engage in lifelong learning, it will take into account the needs of an increasingly diverse range of users, providing research and teaching facilities for part-time and full-time students, the local community and businesses.

Speaking at the announcement, Vice-Chancellor Sir George Bain, paid tribute to Sir Anthony O'Reilly and said: "Sir Anthony's personal dedication to the advancement of society is to be much admired - he is passionate about education as demonstrated by his support for universities throughout the island of Ireland.

"The constant improvement of facilities at Queen's University is paramount to the development of our institution as one of the leading third level education providers in the world. Sir Anthony's generous donation will allow Queen's to proceed with this ambitious project that will ensure the academic needs of the University can be provided for into the next century."

Speaking on behalf of her father, Mrs Susan O'Reilly Wildman, said: "My father has a great affinity with Northern Ireland, and our family have

dedicated themselves to the cause of peace and prosperity on our island, particularly through the Ireland Funds, which he, along with Dan Rooney of Pittsburgh fame, established almost 30 years ago.

"The need for Queen's to have state of the art library facilities cannot be underestimated. The decision to support the project was to ensure these facilities would be made available to students, the local community and businesses. We are confident that this new library will enable Queen's to continue its development as one of the leading educational and research institutions in Europe."



Aine Gibbons, Lord Rogan, Susan O'Reilly Wildman and Sir George Bain

First Images of The Vision



Feedback

Throughout the design process the University is consulting widely to gain feedback from its many stakeholders. If you would like to register for a presentation on the new library please contact Kerry Bryson on 028 9097 5009.

The Library Book Fund Appeal

"Books constitute capital. A library book lasts as long as a house, for hundreds of years. It is not, then, an article of mere consumption but fairly of capital."
Thomas Jefferson

Over the last year 1500 library books have been adopted by graduates and friends of the University. For every £30 donated the University records the support by placing a bookplate in a book relating to a subject of your choice. Dedications can also be made in memory of a loved one. Graduates may choose to personally inscribe their bookplate or have one electronically generated for them by the Development and Alumni Relations Office. Please contact Kerry Bryson on 028 9097 5009 for further information.



Meet the student callers



Ryan McGovern, Final Year, Chemical Engineering

My four years at Queen's have been a fantastic experience - University life offers so many possibilities. Working for the Alumni Fund showed me how proud most graduates are of Queen's and has fostered that bond in me also. Chatting to people on the phone often turns into a bit of craic so I guess I can say I laugh my way through the job!



Bronagh O'Kane, 2nd Year, Environmental Planning

Working on the Alumni Fund campaigns is a great experience and great fun. I've met new people who I wouldn't have otherwise and I've improved my communication skills. I've also learnt so much about Queen's and how much it has changed over the years!



Noomi Lundgren, Final Year, Social Anthropology

I have really enjoyed my time here and will be sad to leave at the end of this year. The people I have met and the opportunities opened up to me have made it a fantastic experience!



Lizzie Rea, Final Year, Medicine

I was convinced to apply for a job as a student caller by my friend Rachele. Although my first couple of shifts were a bit scary, I gradually got the hang of it. I especially appreciated the chance to get to know students I might not have met (medicine tends to be a bit cliquey!). My only regret is that I didn't apply for a job in earlier years!



Claire Grills, 3rd Year, Applied Maths

I've been a student caller for the Alumni Fund for two years now and really enjoy it. I think the most satisfying aspects are getting to talk to graduates, meeting new people and gaining good experience.



Katie Mulholland,

Final year, Electrical and Electronic Engineering

Working with the Alumni Office has been one of the best opportunities I've had at Queen's, so far. It has helped me to learn so much about my university and given me the chance to meet, and work with, a diverse group of students and make many new friends along the way.



David Leemon, 3rd Year, Engineering

My time with the Alumni Fund has been great! Not only do I get to speak to graduates, I have met lots of new people and had a really good laugh. Most people I speak with are very friendly and pleased to hear from us which makes it quite rewarding!



Aisling Campbell, 2nd Year, Psychology

I'm really enjoying my time at Queen's, it has been really interesting to speak to graduates in the telephone fundraising campaigns and they have given me great study and career advice. There is always a great atmosphere in the call centre and it's good to meet students from other departments. I'll remember working for the Alumni Fund, I'd recommend it to anyone!

Projects that have benefited from graduate support

Queen's Alumni Fund supports projects of urgent student need that enhance the Queen's student experience. This year over half of the funds raised were allocated to the new library but in addition there were a number of student projects supported which included scholarships, student safety, career workshops, redevelopment of "Gown", the student newspaper, and additional laptops for use by students in Queen's Elms accommodation. New applications for student funding will be sought in the Autumn.

Travel Broadens the Mind

Queen's Alumni Fund helped 22 students this year through the travel scholarship programme. Projects ranged from assisting local workers in Argentina to help street children, volunteering in a Brazilian HIV and AIDS centre and the composition of a piece. Recipient, Laura Buchanan, also won the First Trust Bank Student of the Year Award for her work in Bolivia through Habitat for Humanity. She is pictured here with Senator George Mitchell.



Sub-Aqua Club - New Boat

Queen's University Sub-Aqua Club received funding to purchase a new 5 - metre Humber Assault Rigid Inflatable Boat. The new vessel will facilitate marine research expeditions and access to a range of open water dive sites for at least the next decade. As the only dive club in Northern Ireland to be involved in scientific diving, they are currently assisting Seasearch, a project involving the survey of marine life. The new boat, recently christened GONZO, serves Queen's University Boat Club events for rescue purposes and undertook its maiden voyage in the guise of an official carriage, taxiing the Lord Mayor along the Lagan to the Lomac Tiles University Boat Race on June 12th 2004.



Gliding Club - New Glider

Queen's Gliding Club acquired a new K13 tandem 2-seater glider with money from the Alumni Fund. The new glider was needed to meet legislative training standards but has the added benefit of being able to undergo longer flights enabling all members to enjoy the spectacular scenery Ireland has to offer whilst perfecting their flying skills. All club members are delighted with their new aircraft, which took part in the opening ceremony of the Portrush air show in June 2004, and have planned a summer filled of high activity!



Artist in Residence

Over the last few months students en route to the Beech Room were surprised to find an artist's studio on the second floor of the Students' Union. He Weimen, originally from Northeast China, received up to 20 students at a time dropping in to sit for portraits and find out more about his work. Weimen concentrated on capturing the Student Experience at Queen's using Chinese Ink and Woodcut Printmaking. His work has been on display in the Students' Union and in the Linenhall Library. He also held open ink painting workshops in the Union, woodcut printmaking workshops at a local Youth Club and calligraphy workshops in Newcastle. His residency has been immortalised with five large panel paintings, permanently displayed in the Students' Union, which reflect the five key elements of student life, study, sport, the library, the campus and graduation. The Alumni Fund, in conjunction with the Creativity Seed Fund, made possible this ground-breaking art project.



Requests for further information on articles covered in this newsletter, as well as views and comments should be sent to:

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