



The Lanyon Society

DO YOU REMEMBER THE EXCITEMENT OF YOUR GRADUATION DAY?

What did graduation day mean for you? The culmination and celebration of years of hard work? The anticipation of opportunities ahead? The memories created and friendships formed? Where did the road take you after Queen's?

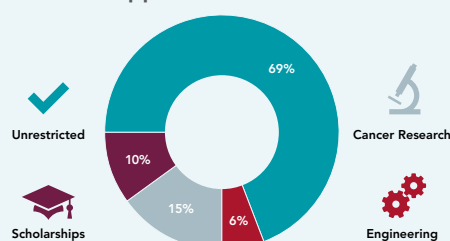
This year a total of 4,200 Queen's students graduated during ceremonies held in December and July. Research tells us that 94 per cent of each cohort will be in employment or further study by Christmas 2015.

This steady stream of high quality graduates into the marketplace is the number one attraction for foreign direct investment in Northern Ireland and, on a local level, 80 of the top 100 companies employ Queen's graduates in senior leadership positions. Further afield, our alumni go out into the world – making a real difference in more than 120 countries around the globe.

A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Led by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Patrick Johnston, Queen's has embarked upon an ambitious journey. 'Vision 2020' aims to create "a world-class international University that supports outstanding students and staff, working in world-class facilities, conducting leading edge education and research, focused on the needs of society."

Legacy gifts received in 2014-15 supported:



To support this Vision, the Development and Alumni Relations Office aims to inspire and engage individuals and organisations across the world to support the University in its efforts to become a world-leading institution. Our work focuses on securing philanthropic income from trusts and foundations, businesses, and alumni and friends, to support outstanding facilities, world-class research and the student experience.

THE CHANGING FACE OF FUNDING

The backdrop to these plans makes them all the more ambitious, as the funding landscape for Queen's has dramatically changed. Currently less than one third of the funding that the University needs comes from government. Given the uncertain future of Higher Education funding in Northern Ireland it is now, more than ever, that philanthropic support is needed.

OUR FIRST KNOWN LEGACY DONOR

Philanthropy has, of course, been in existence for many generations and Queen's has been the proud beneficiary of donations from alumni and friends for over 150 years. Our earliest legator on record is John Porter of Cromac Lodge, Belfast. John died in 1865, leaving a gift in his will to Queen's (College) to support future Arts Faculty students. We are honoured to report that John's gift is still supporting our students today!

I hope you enjoy reading about the impact of legacy gifts, and, whatever stage of the process you are at, whether you are considering a legacy gift or if you have already pledged a gift in your will, may I convey my sincere thanks on behalf of the staff and students of Queen's for your support.

Please do get in touch to let us know where 'the road' took you after your days at Queen's or just to take a trip down 'memory lane'!

Warmest regards

Susan Wilson

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My dad and I on my Graduation day at Queen's.

QUEEN'S PLEDGERS: CAROLINE'S DRIVE TO BOOST MS RESEARCH

Northern Ireland has one of the highest rates of Multiple Sclerosis (MS) in the world, with approximately one in every 500 people affected. It is the second most common cause of neurological disability in young adults and is usually diagnosed between the ages of 20 and 40. There is currently no cure for MS and patients live with this debilitating condition for many years.

Queen's academic, Dr Denise Fitzgerald, and her team, are undertaking innovative research into how parts of the immune system can help repair the damage to the central nervous system caused by MS attacks. This research is offering a beacon of hope to thousands of people with MS, including Caroline Jamison from Carrickfergus.

A passionate supporter of Dr Fitzgerald's research, Caroline explains the impact this disease has had on her family life.

"My mother was diagnosed with MS at only 33, while I was still at school. She had always been a very active person, who loved life

and her family. Mum bravely fought this cruel disease with courage and dignity before she passed away in 2007, aged just 70. Six years later I was also diagnosed with MS and it was then that I found out about the ground-breaking research Denise and her team are carrying out. It gave my dad and I hope that a cure will be found.

"The following year my dad passed away and in his will he left me his beautiful collection of vintage motorbikes which he had lovingly and meticulously restored during his lifetime. I decided to use the bikes to help fundraise for the MS research team at Queen's. I also wanted to use the collection as a legacy gift in my own will, to ensure funds are available to support MS research at the University in the future. I am proud to be associated with the team – helping, in my own way, to ensure research continues until a treatment is found. I also take confidence from the fact that I know any monies raised or gifted will be spent here in Northern Ireland, for the benefit of MS sufferers worldwide."



^ Caroline as a child with her mother.



^ Caroline meets Queen's academic, Dr Denise Fitzgerald.

WHAT YOUR SUPPORT MEANS TO US:



^ Annual Donor 'Thank You' Day.

GIFTS TO SUPPORT THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

THE DONOR

Murray Tyrrell came to Queen's from Edinburgh to study German in the early 1970s. It was a period of tense civil disturbance, however Murray recalled how the students and staff at Queen's during his time there showed him nothing but good humour and care. It was for this reason that he decided to leave a gift of £1,000 in his will to support a prize in memory of his late parents – The Dr and Mrs Tyrrell Prize for Conflict Transformation and Social Justice.

THE IMPACT

Murray's gift will provide financial assistance for a post-graduate student like Dr Fiona Murphy, a research fellow in the Institute for the Study of Conflict Transformation and Social Justice, enabling the Institute to research conflict resolution in the developing world.



^ Dr Fiona Murphy, a research fellow in the Institute for the Study of Conflict Transformation and Social Justice.

LEGACY PLEDGER: ALAN McKELVEY INSPIRES QUEEN'S SUPPORTERS



In recognition of the impact of philanthropy at Queen's, more than 120 donors and legacy pledgers attended the annual Donor 'Thank You' Day in June. Graduate Alan McKelvey delighted guests

with recollections of his time at Queen's in the 1960s. He explained how he felt privileged to have received such a wonderful education and how his experiences influenced his decision to include Queen's in his will. He said:

"Looking back it didn't seem that difficult to get a degree. When I graduated I had five job offers from which to choose. I've never been unemployed. I've never been hungry. I enjoyed the best music – ever. I saw live Bill Haley, The Beatles, Van Morrison and Them, the Rolling Stones, The Beach Boys, Jimmy Hendrix, Cream. The best!

We have all benefitted enormously from being here. Now it's time to give something back.

'Pro Tanto Quid Retribuamus': for so much what shall we give back? What will you give back?"

GIFTS TO SUPPORT RESEARCH

THE DONOR

In 2007, local artist and Queen's graduate Carol Crozier was the main beneficiary of her brother's estate. Given the family's strong links with Queen's, Carol decided to vary the terms of her brother's will to include a legacy gift to the School of Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences for the benefit of cardiovascular research. The gift was made in memory of their late father, Dr Thomas Howard Crozier, an eminent physician at both the Royal Victoria and the City Hospitals in Belfast.

THE IMPACT

The Crozier gift was used to support the appointment of leading academic, Professor Triantafyllos Chavakis, (pictured left) as Chair in Cardiovascular Research, in Queen's Centre for Experimental Medicine. His international expertise is in immunology and vascular biology.



^ Carol pictured as a child with her father outside their home in University Square.



5%

of our legacy
pledgers live
outside the UK

"I want to give my kids just enough so that they would feel that they could do anything, but not so much that they would feel like doing nothing."

Warren Edward Buffet
(born 1930)

American business magnate, investor and philanthropist, having pledged to give away 99 percent of his fortune to philanthropic causes.

ADOPT-A-BENCH – AN UPDATE

This year we successfully launched the Adopt-A-Bench programme at Queen's, offering individuals and families the opportunity to have a personal and tangible place on campus to remember a loved one or preserve a family name.

In the last year, 13 benches have been adopted which, along with Gift Aid, raised

more than £15,000 to support students through the Scholarship Fund at Queen's. There are still many more benches on campus waiting to be adopted in the beautiful settings of The McClay Library plaza and at Riddel Hall.

If you are interested in 'adopting' a bench, contact: **Susan Wilson** on +44 (0)28 9097 3162



"THINGS ARE NOT WHAT THEY USED TO BE" – A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE!



Alf McCreary

BA Modern History 1963, DipEd 1964

"My main memories of Queen's in the early Sixties are of the social life, rather than studies. One of the highlights each week was 'The Hop' in the old Students' Union, and the prospect of inviting a dancing partner to move to the more intimate atmosphere in the 'Drill Hall' which later became the

Postgraduate and International Student Centre.

"The Students' Union in those days was dark and despite the heavy odours of food from the dining-hall it was a major meeting place. Here the members of various Queen's societies and sporting groups, ranging from the Men's and Women's Hockey Clubs to the GAA and Camogie Clubs, met every day for coffee, usually at their own tables, however there was a lively sharing atmosphere. There was also much enjoyment, challenge and hard work on the sports field, and I was thrilled to be awarded a hockey 'Blue' in my first year."



David Cunningham

BSc Civil Engineering 1968

"The old Union (now the School of Music) and the all-pervading homely smell of old cooking fat; the Friday Formals, going directly on to Saturday morning lectures and then Van Buren for photographs; the Union or, if lucky, the Drill Hall at the hops; the long David Keir evening coffee breaks; doing the

problems for Professor Crossland's next book. It was a great time, or was it just that we were young?"

Donna McDonnell

BA Business Administration 1990

"Crushing huge leaves in the autumn term as I made my way down University Road towards the French department, feeling like I could take on the world with my huge sense of privilege for being able to study my favourite subjects."

TAX UPDATE

SUMMER BUDGET

In the Summer Budget, Chancellor George Osborne announced a major change to inheritance tax (IHT) which allows people to pass on their family home free of so-called 'death tax', providing it's not worth more than £1m.

HOW IT WORKS NOW

Currently, your family will have to pay a rate of 40 per cent if your estate is valued above the IHT threshold when you die. The threshold currently stands at £325,000 for individuals or £650,000 for couples. This is known as the nil-rate band. There's also a reduced rate of inheritance tax of 36 per cent for those who leave 10 per cent or more of their estate to charity.

WHAT ARE THE CHANGES?

From April 2017, a new transferable nil-rate band will be introduced – known as the main residence nil-rate band – which only applies when a main residence is passed to children or grandchildren after death. The allowance will be worth up to £100,000 in 2017-18, rising each year up to £175,000 in 2020-21. This new band sits on top of the existing inheritance tax threshold, so creates an effective threshold of £500,000 for individuals and £1m for couples by 2020-21.

Legacy gifts to Queen's are wholly exempt from UK Inheritance Tax. The Foundation has charitable status for all UK tax purposes and its unique charity number is XR22432.

If you would like to come back to see around your old department, visit a new building, or speak to someone in confidence about leaving a gift in your will, please contact the University's Legacy Marketing Officer.



If you have any feedback about this newsletter which you would like to share, or suggestions for topics you would like to see covered in future editions, please contact Susan Wilson.

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The information contained in this newsletter is general in nature. It does not constitute legal or financial advice and should not be relied upon as a substitute for professional advice.

QUEEN'S VISION 2020 JOIN US ON OUR JOURNEY

Leaving a gift in your will to Queen's is an exceptional way to acknowledge the role the University has played in your education, career, family lives or in wider society. Your gift will be free of tax and 100 per cent of your bequest will support your chosen area.

We realise it is very easy to put off making or changing a will but it is one of the most important things you will ever do. It's the only way to be sure that your loved ones will benefit in accordance with your wishes. It's also far less complicated than you might think.

Although it is possible to write a will by yourself, we suggest using a solicitor who does this every day – to give you peace of mind that your will is valid.

So whatever stage of the decision you are at – whether you are thinking about a gift in your will to Queen's, or would like more information on your options, please contact us or return the form attached. We appreciate that the details of your will are private, so if you do share your plans with us, rest assured that details will remain confidential and a pledge is not considered binding.

- I have left/intend to leave a gift to Queen's University Belfast in my will
- I would like more information about leaving a gift to Queen's in my will
- I would like someone to contact me to discuss leaving a gift to Queen's in my will

(Please note that we are unable to give legal advice)

PERSONAL DETAILS

Title:
Forename:
Surname:
Address:
Postcode:
Tel:
Email:

My preferred method of contact (if applicable) is:

- Post
- Telephone
- Email

To return this form please cut out and post in the pre-paid return envelope provided.

