



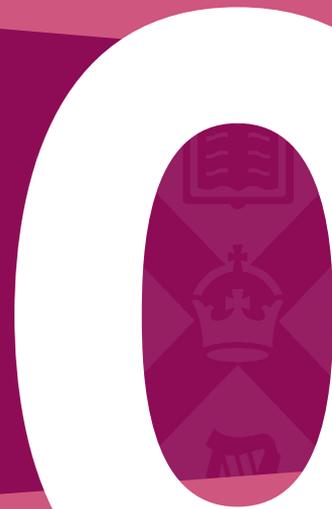
# The Lanyon Society

## Newsletter

## Celebrating 10 years of The Lanyon Society

The Legacy Newsletter from The Queen's University of Belfast Foundation

2004 - 2014



## Welcome



You are perhaps reading this Lanyon Society newsletter because at some stage you have considered a gift to Queen's University Belfast in your will. Whatever stage of the process you are at, and whenever the time is right for you, a charitable legacy gift will make a difference.

Leaving a legacy to Queen's is so much more than a gift in your will, it's an opportunity to make a personal impact on the future of higher education and research in Northern Ireland.

Your gift could help research into diseases in which you have an interest. It could

offer a world-class education to a gifted student, who otherwise would not be able to afford one. It could ensure future generations can benefit from the knowledge of world-class academics or help us conserve our outstanding campus and exceptional facilities.

It may surprise you how much students and researchers at Queen's depend on gifts in wills, which accounted for nearly 20% of our philanthropic income in 2014.

As the Queen's Foundation is a registered charity, your gift will be free of tax and can reduce the inheritance tax burden on your estate. Additionally, 100% of your gift will go towards your chosen cause.

After providing for your loved-ones, and when the time is right for you, please consider leaving a gift in your will to Queen's and join us as we inspire the greatest minds, invest in world-class

excellence and build a brighter and stronger future for Northern Ireland.

In this edition of your legacy newsletter, we celebrate 10 years of The Lanyon Society through 10 stories - of graduates and friends of Queen's, past and present, and what their gifts mean to students and staff.

As always, please feel free to contact me with your thoughts or with any queries you may have.

Warm wishes,

*Susan Wilson*

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## 10 Years. 10 Stories.

### Sharing the impact of legacy gifts



#### Darlene McCormick

Darlene is an *Ulster Tatler* Businesswoman of the Year and co-founder of That Protein Superfoods. She describes why she has chosen to leave a gift to Queen's in her will.

"When I went to Queen's I had the great fortune to be taught by motivational tutors who guided me,

not just with my education but also with my personal development, ultimately driving me to expect success and achievement. They were positive, upbeat, informed and important role models and when you meet people like that their influence stays with you for life. I wanted to pay that back in some small way and this was a means of doing so."



### Caroline Jamison

Northern Ireland has one of the highest rates of Multiple Sclerosis (MS) in the world, with approximately 1 in every 500 people affected.

MS disrupts the ability of nerve cells in the brain, spinal cord and eye, to communicate with each other effectively, resulting in vision problems, numbness and tingling, problems with mobility and balance, and muscle weakness.

Dr Denise Fitzgerald, based in Queen's Centre for Infection and Immunity, is undertaking ground-breaking research into how parts of the immune system can help repair the damage caused by MS attacks.

This research is offering a beacon of hope to

thousands of people with MS, like Caroline Jamison from Carrickfergus. A passionate supporter of Dr Fitzgerald's research, Caroline is actively fundraising and helping to raise awareness of MS research at Queen's.

In addition, Caroline has chosen to leave a gift in her will to support this hugely important area of medical research. "My late mother had MS and I have recently been diagnosed with it. It is an issue that has had a huge impact on my family. I want to help raise the profile of MS research at Queen's and I am supporting the University with a gift in my will to ensure research continues until a cure is found. I also take confidence from the fact that my gift will be spent here in Northern Ireland."

### Leslie and Hilary Morrison

Leslie and Hilary Morrison are both graduates and explain why they've decided to make a legacy gift.

"As graduates ourselves, we feel fortunate to have obtained a Queen's education. For us, it represents a world of opportunities, lifelong friendships and treasured memories – all of which have stayed with us long beyond our graduation day.

"Queen's plays a pivotal role in Northern Ireland through its world-class teaching and research and its direct contribution to the cultural, social and economic development of the region. Every day Queen's is helping to improve lives.



"As patrons of The Lanyon Society, we understand how legacies are an increasingly vital source of funding that helps secure the future of our University. We have decided to support Queen's through a legacy gift and are proud to be members of the growing Queen's family and to watch the University assume its rightful place in the world."



### Professor Emeritus James Dunwoody (1935-2012)

Born in October 1935, James Dunwoody was a pupil at St Mary's Christian Brothers' School in Belfast and graduated from Queen's in Mechanical Engineering in 1957. He began his career as Senior Scientific Officer in the Mathematics Division of the National Physical Laboratory in Teddington, Middlesex, returning to Queen's to work in the Mechanical Engineering Department in 1965. Here he enjoyed many years of continued success, retiring as Professor Emeritus of Theoretical Mechanics in 1998.

In 2010, Professor Dunwoody set up a new entrance scholarship which recognises the two educational institutions which most influenced his professional life – the network of Christian Brothers' Schools and Queen's University. Known as the Dunwoody Scholarships, awards are made to the top scholars from the Christian Brothers' Schools entering the Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences at Queen's.

"I wanted to inspire pupils from my old school to think about a career in Engineering, Mathematics or Physical Science. In addition, Queen's played a very large part in my professional and personal life. As the beneficiary of a scholarship myself, I understand first-hand the benefits of helping gifted students who may not have the resources to support a university education, so I wanted to give something back. I hope that those who can, will give a little to help support such individuals."

### Jonathan Hill

Jonny is a History and Politics graduate who has chosen to make a transformational gift to Queen's in his will, supporting those areas that positively shaped his own experiences as a student: a capital building project, the GAA Academy and travel scholarships. He says, "Queen's has played a hugely influential role in my life. As a student, I took advantage of the huge range of opportunities that are only on offer at world-class institutions such as Queen's.

"During my time as a student, I experienced first-hand the benefits of a scholarship which funded my Masters and offered me the unique opportunity to travel to, and work within, the United States Congress. In addition, as Students' Union

President, I represented the voice of the student body during a time of considerable change and evolution at Queen's.

"I believe that it is these life experiences that shape a Queen's student, offering not only the long-term advantages of an exceptional education, but also nurturing ambition and a competitive spirit.

"I feel privileged to have enjoyed these opportunities and want to offer the same to future generations of Queen's students. I also hope that, others will feel the same pride, and be inspired to do something similar in return."

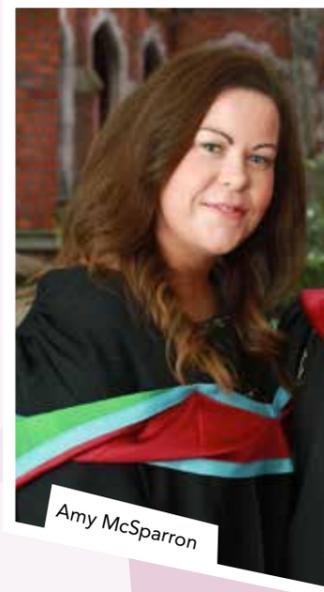


### Katharine Mary Harris (1915-2012)

Katharine Harris graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Botany in 1937, going on to receive her Masters in the same subject in 1938. In her will, Mary left a gift of £5,000, which funded the K Harris Scholarship Fund.

Amy McSparron (pictured) is the beneficiary student of this generous scholarship. Having undertaken an MSc in Advanced Food Safety in the Centre for Global Food Security at Queen's, Katharine's gift enabled Amy, a talented research student, to complete her research through this crucial legacy funding.

"This support allowed me to broaden my career skills in the continually changing field of Food Safety. Through studying modules such as Food Safety and Disease and Advanced Food Bioanalysis, I have built upon a variety of skills such as independent working, time management and using my own initiative. The research project aspect enabled me to get hands-on experience in a laboratory setting. Thanks to the skills and experience which I gained throughout the course, I have now secured gainful employment working for a technical advisory company," said Amy.



### Dr Mary MacWilliam (1917-2012)

The name of Dr Mary MacWilliam will be remembered by students as they enjoy the benefit of exceptional educational facilities and internationally-renowned researchers and academics. In her will, Mary generously donated 20% of her estate to Queen's to be used to fund the area of most need at the time of her gift.

It is thanks to gifts such as this that we can maintain our reputation as a world-class University through investing in first-class facilities and teaching and providing life-changing opportunities for our students.

With family links to Northern Ireland, Dr MacWilliam was born and raised in California, USA. Professionally very accomplished, Mary earned a doctorate in the field of Education and enjoyed a career as the assistant director librarian at the San Francisco State University Library for over 40 years.



### Tom Simms (1930-2010)

"When Mr Thomas Simms received world-class care at the Cancer Centre at Belfast City Hospital in 2010, he decided to leave a significant legacy to Queen's to support clinical cancer research. His generous bequest enables our researchers to choose better individual treatments that lead to a higher cure rate. His legacy has been instrumental in the level of treatment and care of patients."

Professor Richard Wilson Consultant, Centre for Cancer Research and Cell Biology.



### Dr Lavinia Boyce

Dr Boyce is a familiar face and friend to many around campus. She states her reasons for choosing to leave a legacy gift to Queen's:

"I can see first-hand the transformational impact that the University has in the areas of education, healthcare, business and arts and culture, not only locally, but also on a global scale.

"I am very proud to be associated with Queen's and I want to support the continuing good work of the University through a legacy gift that will make a positive and lasting difference."



## Alan McKelvey

Following a secondary education at Methodist College Belfast, Alan McKelvey graduated from Queen's with a degree in Economics and Accounting. During his years at Queen's Alan acted in the University Dramatic Society production for the Queen's Festival, edited *Qubist*, the University news magazine, and was elected Treasurer of the Students' Union. He continues to be a keen supporter of Queen's and outlines his reasons for leaving a legacy gift to support his alma mater:

"I consider my generation to be extremely fortunate. We didn't have to fight in a world war, we had free university education with a government grant each

term, at least five really good jobs to choose from when we graduated and I have never received unemployment benefit in my life.

"I want to give something back to Queen's as an expression of my personal gratitude for the enormously happy years I enjoyed there. I made a donation to the Queen's Annual Fund when I was working and now I am retired I have left Queen's a lump sum in my will. I think I will increase the amount because my children, who are the other beneficiaries, are now well-established in life and wouldn't miss what they have never had!"

## TAX UPDATE

### Spouses will inherit their partner's ISA benefits after death

In his Autumn 2014 statement, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced some changes to Individual Savings Accounts (ISAs).

From 3 December 2014, when an individual dies leaving money in an ISA, those savings can continue to benefit from the favourable tax rules applicable to ISAs, if they pass to the surviving spouse. This helpful change in the regulations means that a couple's combined ISA savings can be held within one tax-free wrapper.

### Increased ISA allowance for 2015/2016

In addition, the annual ISA threshold will

increase to £15,240 from 6 April 2015 (an increase from the £15,000 limit for the 2014/15 tax year).

### And don't forget...

The current inheritance tax threshold is £325,000 and 40% of anything above that is claimed by the taxman on the death of the owner. This can mean huge tax bills.

However, where 10% or more (of the taxable balance of the estate over the threshold) is left to charity in your will, you can reduce the amount of tax payable on your estate from 40% to 36%.

Speak to your tax advisor for further information or advice.

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 Officer, Susan Wilson, on +44 (0)28 9097 3162 or email [susan.wilson@qub.ac.uk](mailto:susan.wilson@qub.ac.uk)

## Dates for your diary

**Event:** QGA Wine Tasting Evening

**Date:** 20th February 2015

**Venue:** Senate Room, Queen's Lanyon Building

**Event:** Centre for Experimental Medicine Diabetes Information Evening

**Date:** 24th March 2015

**Venue:** Great Hall, Queen's Lanyon Building

**Event:** Queen's Graduates' Association Annual General Meeting

**Date:** 14th April 2015

**Venue:** Canada Room/ Council Chamber, Queen's Lanyon Building

**Event:** 1965 Law Reunion

**Date:** 29th – 30th May 2015

**Venue:** Canada Room/ Council Chamber, Queen's Lanyon Building

**Event:** 1955 Medical Reunion

**Date:** 9th June 2015

**Venue:** Stormont Hotel, Belfast

For further information on these events, or for a full listing of campus activities, please contact Susan Wilson, Legacy Officer, on +44 (0)28 9097 3162 or Adele Ward, Events & Reunions Officer on +44 (0)28 9097 5289.

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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