

Thank you

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The magazine for supporters of De Montfort University



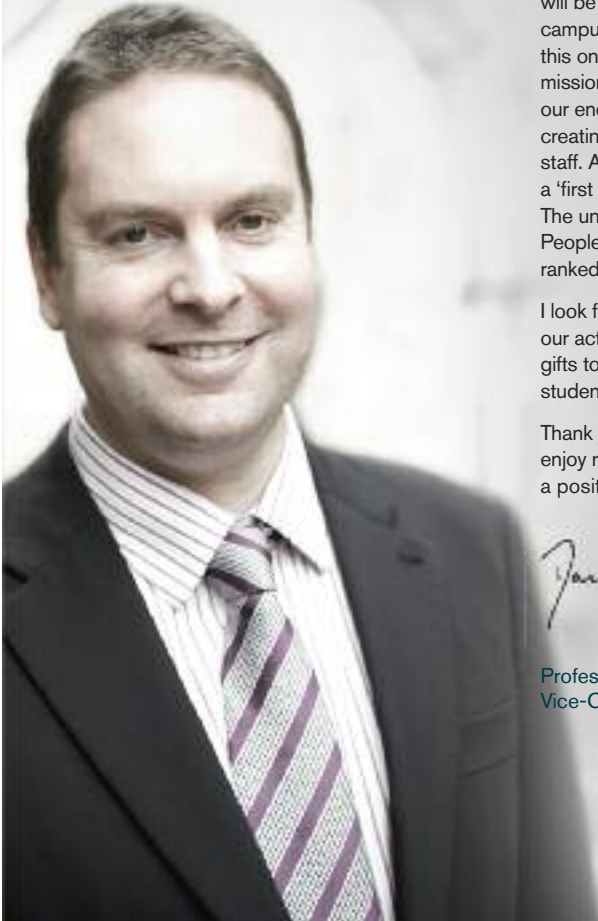
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Thank you from the Vice-Chancellor

A very warm welcome to *Thank You*, De Montfort University's (DMU) first publication to focus entirely on donor-related news. Since joining the university, I have already had the pleasure of meeting a number of our donors at various events and I have been struck by both your enthusiasm for DMU, and keen interest in our future.



Your generosity makes possible so many activities that enhance every aspect of the university's work – our teaching and learning programmes, cutting-edge research into some of society's most pressing issues, and quite simply, helping the most talented students to get the most out of themselves and their time. These efforts combined, help us to achieve our mission to be a university of quality and distinctiveness.

As we continue to evolve as a university, I am delighted that our School of Nursing and Midwifery will be able to join the rest of the university on campus in September – you can read more about this on page 4. We are also particularly proud of our mission to be a greener university, striving to reduce our energy costs and carbon emissions together with creating a new greener campus for students and staff. As a result of our work we have been awarded a 'first class' honours in a national green league table. The university received the top award in the annual People and Planet Green League 2011 and was ranked 14th overall out of 138 universities.

I look forward to keeping you updated and involved in our activities in the future, and showing you how your gifts to the university are making a real impact on students, staff and our society at large.

Thank you again for your support – I hope that you enjoy reading about how you and others are making a positive difference.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, which appears to read "Dominic Shellard". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light background.

Professor Dominic Shellard
Vice-Chancellor

Your contributions make a real difference

DMU would not be a leading university without its supporters. Here at DMU we believe that it is essential to recognise and thank donors who have openly supported and helped the university in a very special way. We feel that it is appropriate, and crucial, to inform you of the variety of gifts the university receives and how these help shape academic excellence at DMU.

The Wilson Fellowship; ensuring creativity for the future

You may recognise the name James Bond but the name Michael Wilson may not be so familiar. Michael Wilson, an honorary DMU Doctor of Arts graduate, has forged an incredibly successful career in film production, most famously for his production of the James Bond films since 1985. Michael is also a supporter and donor to DMU who recently set up the Wilson Fellowship. This fellowship awards £5,000 to MA students in Photographic History and Practice who have the potential to contribute and excel in their degree. By setting up such an award, Michael is helping to shape the future of photographic history and ensuring there is a wealth of future talent to support this profession.

Provost Derek Hole Lecture Series

DMU may speak highly of its status as a national and global university, but without the support of people within the local community we would not be able to make such claims. The Very Reverend Derek Hole, an assiduous worker for the citizens of Leicester and a key believer that community matters, has helped DMU attain such a status.

Derek has been involved with Leicester for many years – he was Provost of Leicester Cathedral between 1992 and 1999 and has been heavily involved with charitable work in the local community. He has also supported DMU for many years. He kindly set up an academic prize recognising and rewarding excellent work undertaken by nursing students. The prize of £150 is awarded annually to the 'best' year one student based on academic results. More recently, Derek gave an incredibly generous donation of £8,000. This gift will enable DMU to hold a distinguished lecture series, starting February 2012, on faith, ethics and society. Both donations will help DMU to continue to enhance the university's profile and reputation for quality and distinctiveness.

It is through supporters like The Very Reverend Derek Hole that DMU is able to make a positive difference to the lives of our students.

The Worshipful Company of Cordwainers; inspiring footwear of the future

It is not just individuals who support DMU, livery companies do too. The Cordwainers, one of the oldest livery companies in London, supports aspiring footwear designers across the country through scholarships and bursaries. The Cordwainers have recognised that DMU's faculty of Art and Design fosters great talent for the footwear industry by highlighting the very successful contribution it makes to the world of footwear design. The company has done this by sponsoring two £1,500 scholarships in the hope that this funding will support and help promising first and second year Footwear Design students to excel. By supporting such talent, DMU and Cordwainers are helping to cultivate footwear designers for the future.



Edith Murphy: supporting medical research

A pioneering combination – philanthropy and medical research

Edith Murphy, who sadly passed away in October 2005, was a local businesswoman and philanthropist. Edith, through her charity – The Edith Murphy Foundation – donated hundreds of thousands of pounds to support the university and other charitable organisations that focused on medical research. Through this support the university, over time, has built an invaluable and pioneering relationship with Edith, who in 2002 accepted an honorary fellowship from the university.

The financial support from the Edith Murphy Foundation has helped fund groundbreaking medical research. Edith had a particular interest in supporting diabetes research as a result of her own condition.

Professor Taylor has been able, due to financial support by the Edith Murphy Foundation, to invent an artificial implantable pancreas which can deliver insulin to the patient in response to an increase in the patient's blood glucose level, thus mimicking the action of a healthy pancreas.

Her pioneering work has led to collaborations with other major research groups and companies to undertake the medical engineering and pre-clinical work, leading to production of a prototype suitable for regulatory approval for human use.



Edith Murphy House a new home for Health and Life Sciences

This work now has the potential, thanks to the Edith Murphy Foundation, to revolutionise the treatment of diabetes and put a stop to daily injections for millions of people.

Without the incredibly kind and generous support of the Edith Murphy Foundation, which to date has given in excess of £1 million, this project and many others would not have been possible. As a way of recognising this wonderful gift and the continuing relationship, the university felt it would be appropriate to name the newly renovated Bosworth House 'Edith Murphy House'.

Preserving history with the National Youth Work Collection

The Youth and Community division at DMU, established more than 50 years ago, is now one of the UK's leading providers of high quality professional training in youth and community work. Complementing this exceptional department is a truly unique resource – the National Youth Work Collection. This collection is an essential resource for future generations to learn from as well as a critical part of history.

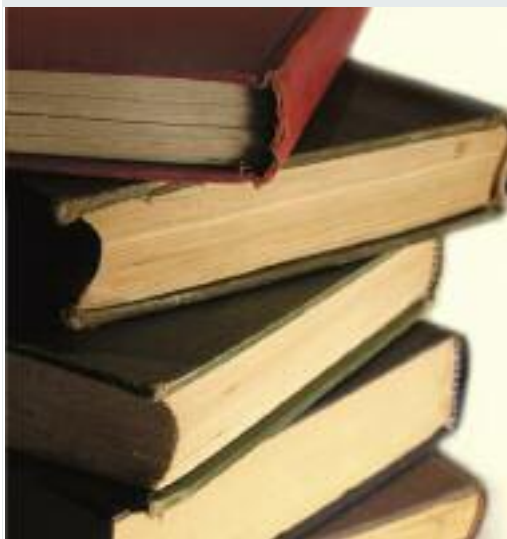
With the initial collection kindly donated by Bernard Davies, a highly respected visiting professor at DMU, the expanding National Youth Work Collection now consists of specialist and significant youth work materials and publications. These publications are rare or unique and relevant to the history and development of youth work policy in the UK.

Never before has a university had such a significant collection and we are extremely honoured to be its custodian. We are also working closely with the National Youth Agency to form a valuable resource of lasting national significance. This work will be invaluable to DMU. Head of Youth and Community at De Montfort University, Sarah Hargreaves, comments:

“Historians might argue that we are formed by our past and can learn from it. Certainly this is the thinking behind the launch of the National Youth Work Collection at DMU. The safeguarding of this historic collection would not be possible without DMU supporters. Your support maintains this collection and, without it, the university would not be able to provide such unique and world leading resources, and ultimately preserve history – we are eternally grateful for this.

The collection will be important for the future of youth work. The impact of this collection cannot be overstated. The opportunity for researchers, students and policy makers to continue to shape the direction of youth work policy is something I know we all strive for, and we intend to employ a research associate to assist the archivist with cataloguing documents, to make it into a working collection for study for years to come.”

Thank you for all donations so far, with your continued support we can preserve this collection for many years to come.



Supporting education for all with the Annual Fund

Thank you from the fundraising team!

The Annual Fund is designed to generate funds to financially support students and research in all areas at DMU. Currently, the School of Pharmacy, and faculties of Business and Law, and Art and Design are benefiting from the generosity of our alumni. DMU has been hugely successful in generating funds for scholarships and research in these crucial areas, through our telephone campaigns.

The fundraising team would like to say thank you to everyone who has pledged their support, and to all alumni who were able to speak to our current students during our spring and autumn campaigns. Without this support the Annual Fund would not be able to have such an impact on student lives.

From the past two campaigns, 50 student callers have helped raise almost £40,000 in gifts and a further £30,000 in pledges, and have spoken to more than 3,000 alumni. We want to thank everyone who has given or pledged during the campaigns, and are keen to recognise gifts of all levels. Participation really matters, collectively the support from our alumni can have extraordinary results.

“As one of more than 600 alumni, staff and friends who have made a gift to the DMU Fund over the past 12 months, I would like to thank you for your generosity and support.

Since DMU established the Annual Fund it has raised more than £90,000. This support has helped fuel the achievement of some of the world’s most gifted and talented students at DMU. Without your ongoing support this would not have been possible.

Thank you.”

Rachel Beard, Annual Fund Officer



Our scholarships change lives

Education has the potential to lay strong and transformational foundations; the ability to shape lives and fulfil hopes and ambitions. This is why all funds raised through the Annual Fund go directly to the students that need them most, ensuring higher education is accessible for all.

The Annual Fund currently provides research funding in the School of Pharmacy and scholarships in the faculties of Business and Law and Art and Design. Over the last academic year scholarship funds have provided financial support to 20 students. A further 15 students will be supported with £1,000 scholarships towards their studies for the 2011/12 academic year.

Without the generosity of Annual Fund supporters, these scholarships would not have been possible. Because of this, we want you to accept our thanks. You have, and continue to, shape the lives of many deserving DMU students.

We would like to show just how these scholarships are benefiting students in a very real way.

Stanley Zvekare, a mature student studying Human Rights and Social Justice, and Anna Kamila Rog, a second year Public Policy, Government and Management student, have both received scholarships from the Annual Fund.

Stanley was awarded his scholarship through the Business and Law campaign. When asked how this scholarship has helped him, he replied:

“I would firstly like to thank the organisers and donors of this scheme that is of immense benefit to students, especially mature students like me who have to study and work in order to maintain their status quo. It was the mere encouragement it added, for me to face this daunting and diverse line of study that initially helped. The award obviously also provided a financial aid – this allowed me to attend a wide array of conferences, such as Students Action for Refugees (STAR), to supplement my studies.”

We asked Anna the same question and she responded by saying:

“Along with the financial benefit, receiving the scholarship also improved my self-esteem as a student, giving me a reason to direct my study more efficiently and aspire to be better than average.”

These scholarships really are pivotal and inspirational; they make a huge difference to the recipients, thank you.



Why philanthropy is important



A donor's perspective – Vijay Patel, major donor to the Gunn and Carter Research Fellowship and Pharmacy graduate 1973

Do you feel a strong connection with the university?

Yes – a very strong connection. I came to university with nothing and came out with a certificate – a professional qualification – which helped to kick-start my life and career.

What did you do after leaving university?

I took a very unique path – I went straight into retail owning my first shop, then into distribution, from there to manufacturing, and then to global pharma – I have spanned the entire industry. My motto is 'In life, do as much as you can'.

How do you think you have been influenced by your years at DMU?

I saw the dedication of some of my tutors. There was an open approach to any difficulty, you could go and get help at any time, and they were prepared to help me as I needed it. I got from them, a sense of dedication and professionalism which are traits I like to pass on to my staff.

Do you consider yourself a philanthropist?

What is a philanthropist? A practical benevolence? If that is the case then, yes, I am a philanthropist. I have always said if you are fortunate in life and can help others then you should do your part.

What inspired/motivated you to start donating to the university?

It's the institution where I studied. It gave me my new life, a career, it's where I met my wife. I want DMU to grow and continue to achieve its ambitions and I know my support can help achieve this.

Why did you choose to make your donation?

In particular, it was because of an individual – Sydney Carter, my tutor. He was very helpful and inspirational, even on personal matters. He was very kind and gave me direction. He made a magnificent contribution to the world of pharmacy, he encouraged talent and took a personal interest in all his students. He stayed in touch with me and my wife right up to the end. Most of all, I wanted to play a part in continuing his legacy.

Toby Moores – a catalyst for creativity

In a modern world, technology and creativity can be a powerful combination, as Toby Moores discovered. The founder of the company Sleepydog Ltd has achieved incredible things. One of his visions for technology and creativity transformed into a PlayStation 2 game named *Buzz! The Music Quiz*. This became Sony's fastest-selling original game to reach \$100 million in worldwide sales, spawn six sequels and become a global franchise winning numerous awards including a BAFTA for Best Casual and Social Game in 2006.

Toby is aware of how important it is to ensure boundaries are pushed and new initiatives are forged. This is why he has been the generous sponsor of the Creative Thinking Awards at DMU for the past three years. This competition is a catalyst for identifying new products and opportunities existing in the gap between academia and industry, and provides the financial support to develop these.

Toby is providing real opportunities for DMU students to forge a career post-university in the creative arena. Without industry links from supporters such as Toby, our students would not become industry leaders. We would like to say thank you to Toby and all our industry supporters.

Enhancing quality and distinctiveness with the new Vice-Chancellor's Fund

University funding as we know it has been put into a state of flux; new challenges and questions are being directed our way. What to do – respond or procrastinate? DMU chooses to respond.

Following both the *Browne Report* and the *Comprehensive Spending Review*, there has been fundamental change in the funding base of higher education. DMU has had to adjust. The university is trying to adapt to this change and movement in a positive and constructive way. Raising fees to £9,000 has been an inevitable move for the university, enabling it to maintain and secure its provision of academic excellence and outstanding opportunities. DMU is also very aware of the potential negative effects the increased fee may have on students and the university, this is why we have established the Vice-Chancellor's Fund.

Launched in May with a lunch hosted by Vice-Chancellor Professor Dominic Shellard, this new initiative has been set up to ensure DMU remains accessible to all students regardless of financial background. The vice-chancellor has set an ambitious target to raise £45,000 in its first year. This will provide scholarships to students who demonstrate academic excellence and financial hardship and will provide the resources these students need to maximise their potential.

Financial aid is not new to DMU, an assortment of schemes are already in place.

These range from DMU's bursary scheme of £1 million, which awards £3,000 every year for three years to students from families whose income is less than £25,000, to £0.5 million for DMU's Academic Scholarship. This awards £1,000 to students in their first year who have achieved 340+ UCAS points.

Alongside these schemes, the new Vice-Chancellor's Fund had to be created to ensure DMU's future, and further enhance opportunities for our future students. Our views have been echoed in the astonishing response to the fund. So far the fund has already received leadership support from the Executive Board and Board of Governors – totalling over £25,000.

We want to thank everyone who has already supported this fund and we look forward to updating you about the effect this is having on the lives of DMU students.



Donor list

Many thanks to all the donors listed below who chose to make a gift to the university during the 2009/2010 and 2010/11 academic years. We would also like to extend our thanks to our anonymous donors.

This list was compiled on 4 July 2011. If you have made a gift to DMU since this date please accept our thanks – your name will appear in next year's donor list.

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Thank you to the following individuals who have made donations of £500 or more to support DMU since 2009

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De Montfort University
The Gateway
Leicester, LE1 9BH

T: (0116) 257 7012

E: development@dmu.ac.uk

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