A message from our Chancellor

As a graduate of the University, I have always had a special place in my heart for Essex. Whenever I visit, I feel a surge of excitement and a sense of pride in the institution I am associated with. Philanthropy allows us to offer opportunities to students not just from the UK, but from the rest of the world – opportunities they might not otherwise have.

Your generosity has helped us raise almost £1 million in 2017-18, and many of you have given more than this year, showing you value this resource for today’s students.

Thank you for your support. I hope these examples of how philanthropy has made a difference over the last 12 months will be inspirational to you; help to demonstrate the type of impact that philanthropy can have; and encourage you to continue to support our work.

THE Rt. Hon John Bercow MP
Chancellor
Thank you from our Women of the Future

Thanks to the generosity and support of our community, thirty inspirational women from across the globe were awarded a Masters scholarship to study at Essex.

The Women of the Future Appeal, which raised over £605,000, made the dreams of thirty young women come true. We'll be staying in touch with our scholars as they progress and will report back on their future achievements and successes. In the meantime, here are a few words from some of our scholars on what your support has meant to them.

“Essex was one of the few UK universities to grant scholarships to international students. In a time of Brexit, this proves that Essex is a university for literally everybody, regardless of your economic, social, or religious background.”

RAÍZA PONTICELLI
MA AMERICAN LITERATURE

“I have always considered studying to be the most genuine form of women’s emancipation and I firmly believe that we, as educated women, can make as much difference as our male counterparts. I want to use the tools I’m acquiring to address serious economic issues like inequality and the gender gap.”

ANNA LIVIA POLSELLI
MASTER OF RESEARCH (MRES) ECONOMICS

“This scholarship is the best opportunity to empower women to become leaders and drivers of change. I will utilise the knowledge acquired at Essex to mobilise, teach and engage people in progressive policies such as building infrastructure for quality education, health, business and leadership.”

TUBA AHMADZAI
MA ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTICS

“I learned lots of things, both academically and personally. Essex is a university that grants every student an opportunity to develop to our best potential. With all of the knowledge I acquired, I want to embrace the moral and ethical responsibility that I now have, to contribute to society as a passionate professional human rights lawyer.”

REBECA NADER LÓPEZ
LLM INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW

“My first year of my journey at the University of Essex has been rewarding and absolutely amazing. I am truly thankful for every opportunity that has been given to me and I can promise I will do my best to learn, to give back and to continue to inspire.”

MARINA LUCIC
MA MOLECULAR MEDICINE

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MARINA LUCIC
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As a trauma specialist within the NHS, Dr Mark Wheeler has been working with the survivors of trauma for many years. During this work, it became evident to Mark that engagement in formal therapies was especially challenging for the client group of military veterans.

"For me to be able to take my research project to a level that the normal research budget would not enable was both exciting and significant. The generous support of others has opened doors to levels of research that were previously unobtainable and raised the level of awareness for the project too. I will be for-ever grateful for the opportunities it has presented me."

DR MARK WHEELER
IMAGE CO-OP DONATION

In 2012, Mark joined the University to undertake a PhD with the aim of finding a way to help more veterans, supported with a part scholarship from Rethink Health in Mind, a national mental health charity, and the University’s Silberrad Scholarship fund.

Mark drew on psychological theory and research from the University’s Green Exercise team, which has shown the enormous benefits to a person’s health and wellness of being outside, to develop the Peer Outdoor Exposure Therapy (POET) programme.

Participants are taken on two-day fishing trips, during which they are encouraged to open up about their experiences and provide support to each other. The programme brings together green exercise (particularly fishing), encouragement for veterans to share their experiences and on-going peer support.

The trips have been made possible thanks to the generous support of a number of individuals, businesses and organisations.

"The bursary has fully paid for my headshots and vital things I’ve needed for school, especially books. It’s been amazing to have my own copies. We also need to see as many productions as possible, which is not easy on a student budget, but this year I haven’t had to worry. I cannot tell you how much of a relief it has been not worrying about money running low. Not only have the Grahams helped me financially, in doing so they have also helped my anxiety and for that I’m not sure there are words grateful enough. Thank you both so much."

MAX READER
CURRENT STUDENT, EAST15 ACTING SCHOOL

At Essex, we admit students based on their potential not their background. Our continued commitment to providing a transformational education which adds value for all our students is crucial.

Your support for students through scholarships and bursaries is invaluable as it provides exceptional students with the best possible experience at Essex, and in their future lives. It also enables students, who would struggle due to financial hardship, to complete their degrees.

This year we would like to thank those who have continued to give so generously to scholarships and student bursaries and highlight the impact of this support on our students.

In 2017, Chris and Angela Graham renewed their support for the Jacob’s Ladder Bursary, for students studying at East 15. Almost 40 students have benefited from the Grahams generosity so far and their support is making a huge difference to those students.

"This is a ground-breaking initiative. Students become part of our university community. They have the chance to learn and work like a university student and benefit from our facilities. We hope they will also be inspired by our ethos of challenging convention."

PROFESSOR JULES PRETTY
DEPUTY VICE CHANCELLOR

Supporting the next generation of students

Andy Leslau, BA Russian Studies, 1980, supported a scholarship for a VI6 student who will be able to study at the University this year. VI6 is a unique partnership developed with sixth forms at a number of local schools – Clacton Coastal Academy, Clacton County High School, The Colne Community School, The Philip Morant School and Thurstable School.

The partnership enables the schools to offer A-level subjects that they could not offer individually.

Participants also get to experience life at university with undergraduate taster sessions, invitations to lectures and enrichment activities, and sessions to raise aspirations about going to university.
SPOTLIGHT ON YOUR SUPPORT

A few pennies can go a very long way

Our award winning staff giving scheme, Donate your Pennies, now in its third year, continues to grow from strength to strength, with 750 current staff signed up. The scheme is all about participation, and the power of everyone’s pennies (the remainder pennies on net monthly salary) adding up to a whole far greater than the sum of its parts. The scheme raises around £3,000 per year, all of which goes to student scholarships and is a great way for staff at all levels to show their support.

New for this year, we’ve been thanking those donors contributing for one year or more with a Penny Pig desktop piggybank. She’s proven a real hit with staff, as Chloe Mayhew from our National Collaborative Outreach Programme explains: “I was so excited to get my pig, I was literally counting down the months! Now Penny has got pride of place on my desk, a daily reminder of how my pennies are helping our students.”

Since the scheme launched in 2015, a total of 1,028 staff have taken a part placing us 2nd out of all universities in the UK for staff giving participation.

Giving Essex 5!

In November 2017, Essex marked #GivingTuesday, the worldwide celebration of philanthropy, with a special day of activities. This was our third year participating and our best yet, with record numbers of engagement from staff, students, alumni and friends of the University.

We asked our supporters to ‘Give Essex 5’ by donating £5 to support student projects on Click. The day raised over £2,000 providing a valuable boost to a whole range of student-led projects.

Changing lives through partnerships

In 2007, Essex entered into a partnership with Santander Universities that provides support for students in a number of areas. Initially the partnership provided a number of scholarships and travel bursaries, offering students the opportunity to study at Essex and undertake research projects and activities internationally.

More recently, the partnership has developed to include support for students to take up internships with small and medium sized enterprises, student entrepreneurship activities and academic exchanges. Members of Santander’s senior team, including the Head of UK Banking, have also held prestigious lectures for our staff and students.

Santander Universities have now supported more than £1 million of scholarships and students activities at Essex, and we continue to look at ways to grow and further develop our partnership in the future.

When Bouygues UK built our new student accommodation, they organised a Christmas present for our students.

The Bouygues UK staff Christmas raffle raised £1,700, and they chose to give that money to Click, to help us match the funds our students had raised themselves. Their generosity helped to make seven projects successful – including research trips to protect fragile coral reefs, new kit for our Lacrosse Club, equipment for St John Ambulance and a theatre festival.

Christina Garini, a Law student at Essex, raised £510 for a volunteering mission to Cambodia, where she helped at a community school, and with rehabilitating elephants whose habitat had been destroyed. The Bouygues UK support added £250 to her total, making the trip easier to manage. “The Cambodia Mission is one of the greatest opportunities in my life,” she says, “and I want to thank Bouygues UK for their generosity.”

“We are thrilled to see the incredibly varied impact that our donation to the Click crowdfunding platform has had. We are passionate about innovation, entrepreneurialism and giving back to the communities in which we work, so supporting Click was a fitting choice. It’s great to see that the money has been put to such good use, supporting diverse activities that enrich student life at Essex.”

MATHIAS TALPAERT
CONSTRUCTION DIRECTOR FOR LONDON AND THE SOUTH EAST AT BOUYGUES UK
Christine Destiny was a talented chemist, graduated with a degree from Essex with a BSc in Biochemistry in 1975. Sadly, she died a few years later. Her mother Doreen, the wife of the late scientist and inventor Denis Desty, chose to pay tribute to her daughter Christine's cousin, Graham Martin, is the executor of Doreen's estate. He says, "My aunt was predeceased by her husband, and children, so in the last years of our life we had to consider how the funds from her estate could be used in a way that my cousin was sadly never able to."