The Little Book of

BIG THANK

YOU

2018

WARWICK

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK
Over £12m donated in total (£12,613,868.33) including:
- £9.13m for research
- £2.68m for Scholarships and the Student Experience

Dear Donor

The University of Warwick has always been a place of exciting collaboration. And a vital thread in this fabric is the involvement of our alumni and friends.

Your generosity enriches the lives of our students and the work of our faculty in so many ways – and we’re extremely grateful.

In the past few months, you’ve enabled talented scholars to thrive (p4); allowed our scientists to explore new ways of detecting cancer (p6) and made it possible for students to teach at partner schools across Africa (p8). Your collective impact is extraordinary – and I must also credit a few people individually.

Alumnus Rui Fernandes made a hugely generous gift of £250,000 to give European researchers the opportunity to come to Warwick; alumnus Jonathan Feuer donated £500,000 - to create a series of landmark scholarships - the Feuer International Scholarships in Artificial Intelligence (p10-p12); while gifts totalling £1.5 million from the estate of Dr Jim Brewster and The Elizabeth Creak Charitable Trust will also prove transformative (p14).

Across the remaining pages, you’ll see how support from Trusts and foundations has enabled us to embark on ambitious plans for Warwick Arts Centre and to continue our ground-breaking Islamic Education Project. Plus there’s news of how your ongoing gifts are making an impact in areas as diverse as Greek tragedy and female leadership.

This is just a taster of what you’ve been part of, but I hope you’ll find it an interesting read.

With thanks and best wishes

Stuart Croft
Vice Chancellor and President

Financial year 2017/18

- 2,056 donors
- 4806 donations
- 71 new scholars joined the current scholarship programme(s)
- 992 first time donors
- £884k in legacy donations

- £12m
- £9.13m
- £2.68m
THANK YOU…
…FOR GIVING A HUGE BOOST TO TALENTED YOUNG PEOPLE LIKE DANIELA

Thanks to your support for scholarships Daniela has benefited from the help of the Warwick Scholars’ Programme, and she recently graduated with a First Class degree in Biochemistry. She will now go on to study for a PhD in antimicrobial resistance under the guidance of world leading microbiologist, Professor Chris Dowson.

For students from non-traditional backgrounds, the financial assistance and confidence boost that come with a scholarship are vital. It means they can bring greater focus to their studies, to map out a more ambitious career path and begin to see a place for themselves alongside established leaders in their field.

Daniela will be bringing her talents to the challenge of antibiotic resistance; an issue that matters to us all. She says:

“Antibiotics underpin modern medicine, from chemotherapy and organ transplants to recovering from infections. But we’re getting too used to them, and experts think that resistance to antibiotics will kill more people than cancer by 2050.”

“The financial aspect of my scholarship was invaluable, but so were the personal development days. Alumni who shared their own stories and experiences gave me confidence to be fearless in my future.”

Daniela Sordillo
Scholarship recipient

To help even more students, please visit warwick.ac.uk/giving/scholarship

A CATALYST FOR NOVEL RESEARCH AND COLLABORATION

Most excitingly, the course of Daniela’s PhD coincides with the University’s plan to open a new state of the art Interdisciplinary Biomedical Research Building (IBRB). The IBRB will bring together a multi-disciplinary team of around 300 researchers from across the School of Life Sciences and Warwick Medical School, who will focus their expertise on understanding human disease and finding new ways to extend healthy life spans.

It will also provide us with a world-class environment in which to train future generations of biomedical researchers. And we know that with your support, those places will continue to be filled by the brightest and most talented; thank you.
THANK YOU…

…FOR ENABLING OUR BRILLIANT RESEARCHERS TO ADD TO THE WORLD’S UNDERSTANDING OF CANCER

At Warwick, our clinicians, chemists, mathematicians, engineers and other researchers continue to make impressive progress against cancer, thanks to your support.

With our Cancer Research Centre as the lynchpin, we’ve been able to make some significant - and unusual - advances. For example, our researchers have recently created ‘electronic noses’ to ‘sniff out’ pancreatic cancer.

Inspired by traditional doctors who employed all the senses in their consultations, this new sniff test is used to screen the urine of high-risk patients with the aim of catching pancreatic cancer at an early stage.

The test is still in its development phase, but results are incredibly encouraging.

This is particularly pertinent in the case of pancreatic cancer, which has the worst survival rate of all common cancers, with 80% of patients going undiagnosed until their cancer is at an advanced stage.

If you would like to take a positive step to help improve healthcare, please visit warwick.ac.uk/giving/health and select Cancer research, Dementia research or Miscarriage research

1 Figures from Pancreatic Cancer UK

IMPROVING DETECTION, TREATMENT AND PATIENT CARE

Other researchers at the Centre are looking at innovative ways to avoid killing healthy cells along with cancer cells to optimise drug efficiency while reducing side-effects. We’re even investigating the circadian rhythm, with the aim of delivering a drug at the time when it’s least toxic to healthy cells.

We hope you’ll agree, with cancer affecting so many of us, it’s good to know there’s a centre of excellence right here on the Warwick campus, bringing new insights to the table.

6 7
I’d like to say thank you to all of the donors; you’re supporting a really great thing. None of this would be possible without you.

CHANGING THE WORLD BY TRANSFORMING EDUCATION

While students often describe Warwick in Africa as the best thing they have ever done, the real benefit is seen in the aspirations of the children who participate. As Charlotte who taught in Ghana explains:

“Thank you so much for giving these children more hope than they ever thought possible. Children who wanted to be market workers now want to be doctors. Those who didn’t come to school now value their education and future.”

The University would like to add our own thanks to the volunteers – and of course, to you.

In the past 12 months, your donations made it possible for us to train 67 talented and committed Warwick students and enabled them to spend their summer in our partner schools across Africa, teaching Maths and English to over 15,000 learners. You also helped us to train over 700 local teachers to ensure the benefits are felt in the classroom long after the volunteers have returned home.

The high-energy lessons our students deliver are designed to equip young people with the means to do better in their exams and inspire them with a love for Maths and English that will set them in good stead for the future.

In this way, the impact of your support will be seen for many years to come. Our volunteers also worked alongside local teachers and experienced education professionals from the UK to deliver teacher training workshops. These enhanced the skills of over 700 local teachers across Ghana, Tanzania and South Africa.

To make a global impact visit warwick.ac.uk/warwickinafrica

THANK YOU...

...FOR HELPING OUR STUDENTS INSPIRE LASTING CHANGE IN CLASSROOMS ACROSS GHANA, TANZANIA AND SOUTH AFRICA

Dion
who taught in Accra, Ghana

“I’d like to say thank you to all of the donors; you’re supporting a really great thing. None of this would be possible without you.”

To make a global impact visit warwick.ac.uk/warwickinafrica
We’re delighted that a generous gift of £250,000 from Warwick alumnus Rui Fernandes has enabled us to launch the Fernandes Fellowships programme, in support of Early Career Researchers from Europe.

Recipients will each spend three months at Warwick, collaborating across disciplines and bringing fresh perspectives to fields such as human disease, healthcare technologies, artificial intelligence, energy and sustainability.

Professor Seán Hand, Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Europe) praised Rui for his commitment, energy and enthusiasm – as well as his generosity:

“With this investment, Warwick will be able to create new and exciting interdisciplinary research collaborations with universities and institutes in Europe. I hope this gift will also mobilise further philanthropic support from our alumni and friends.”

If you’re inspired to make a similar (or entirely different) contribution, please contact our team on benefactors@warwick.ac.uk
THANK YOU…  
…FOR KEEPING  
WARWICK MINDS  
AT THE CUTTING  
EDGE OF ARTIFICIAL  
INTELLIGENCE

Thanks to the generosity of Warwick graduate and AI technology entrepreneur Jonathan Feuer, the University of Warwick has just launched the prestigious Feuer International Scholarships in AI, specifically for MPhil or PhD research students.

Jonathan’s £500,000 gift will be topped up with additional funding by the University to give highly talented researchers the very best start to their careers.

Feuer scholars will be based in Warwick’s new Mathematical Sciences building, but they will also have the chance to work alongside some of the world’s sharpest minds in data science and AI at the Alan Turing Institute in London. Plus they’ll enjoy access to industry partners and mentoring, with the potential to explore investment opportunities for their projects.

If you are interested in making a gift to Warwick, please call Luke Taylor on 024 7615 1969 to arrange a meeting, or email luke.taylor@warwick.ac.uk

INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS AND PROBLEM-SOLVERS

Jonathan, who graduated from Warwick in 1983 with a BSc in Mathematics, Operational Research, Statistics, and Economics (MORSE) said:

“My experience at Warwick offered a fantastic academic basis for my career. Now that I can give something back, I am delighted to fund this programme. I believe it will help establish Warwick as a leading university in the field of AI not just in the UK but also globally.”

Professor Stephen Jarvis, Deputy Pro Vice Chancellor (Research), University of Warwick and member of the Programme Committee, Alan Turing Institute

“Feuer International Scholarships in AI create an amazing opportunity for young people to excel in this field. We are very excited to launch the programme and grateful to Jonathan for making it happen.”
THANK YOU...

...FOR MAKING FAR-SIGHTED GIFTS THAT ENABLE KNOWLEDGE AND PEOPLE TO FLOURISH

A joint £1.5m gift from the estate of Dr Jim Brewster and The Elizabeth Creak Charitable Trust is set to make an invaluable contribution to crop research at our Wellesbourne campus; already home to the UK Vegetable Gene Bank.

Specifically, we’ll be able to establish the Elizabeth Creak Horticultural Technology Centre, housing the Jim Brewster Horticultural Technology Laboratory. This new Centre will focus on improving the yield and adaptability of vegetable crops, while contributing to globally significant research in areas such as climate change and population growth.

In addition, Jim Brewster Scholarships will give talented PhD students working in crop science a much-needed annual top-up award, to help fund expenses such as travel to conferences, helping to keep them at the top of their game.

The Elizabeth Creak Horticultural Technology Centre will accelerate the translation of mankind’s understanding of plant productivity and responses to stress into resilient and more sustainable crop varieties.

To find out more about supporting Warwick through a gift in your Will, please visit warwick.ac.uk/legacies or email legacies@warwick.ac.uk

WE ARE GREATLY INDEBTED TO BOTH OF OUR DISTINGUISHED BENEFACeORS.

After years of working alongside her uncle, the innovative dairy farmer Clyde Higgs, Elizabeth Creak inherited his thriving two-thousand-acre farm in Warwickshire, which she ran with great creativity - and success. She went on to become first female chairman of the Warwickshire branch of the NFU and the first woman to hold the office of High Sheriff of Warwickshire.

Dr Jim Brewster was a world expert on onions and the author of ‘Onions and Other Vegetable Alliums’, still the standard reference for many. He studied in London and Oxford before moving to the National Vegetable Research Station at our Wellesbourne campus as a plant physiologist, later becoming Principal Scientific Officer.
THANK YOU…

…FOR MAKING WARWICK ARTS CENTRE EVEN MORE OF A CULTURAL LANDMARK

We’re delighted to report that the first phase of our 2020 Project to revitalise Warwick Arts Centre is now complete. Thanks to the generosity of The Garfield Weston Foundation, CHK Charities Ltd, The Peter Stormonth Darling Charitable Trust, Saintsbury Trust and the 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust, we have been able to ‘make good’ our 44-year-old building, to refurbish our theatre, install better lighting and sound insulation, and create new spaces for creative learning – which you’re welcome to come in and explore. This gives us a sound platform for phase two, where the real transformation will be seen.

If you would like to support Warwick Arts Centre to achieve its ambitious capital plans and help us to inspire future generations with the Arts please visit warwick.ac.uk/donate

A FITTING NEW LOOK FOR THE REGION’S LEADING CULTURAL CENTRE

As part of our expansion and upgrade plans, the current Cinema and Mead Gallery will be remodelled to make way for a light and welcoming new building, more in keeping with our leading role and reputation. This will include a large accessible gallery on the ground floor, three new cinema screens and a double-height café.

Works are scheduled to be complete by winter 2020, ahead of Coventry’s year as UK City of Culture in 2021. However, our doors will remain open throughout, and we’ll continue to bring some of the world’s greatest performers from across the arts to Warwickshire. Along the way, there will also be plenty of opportunity for alumni and friends to contribute and make their mark on this landmark new building – and we look forward to telling you more.
THANK YOU...

...FOR HELPING WARWICK EMERGE AS A HUB OF EXCELLENCE IN ISLAMIC EDUCATION

With support from the Randeree Charitable Trust, our first-of-its-kind Warwick Islamic Education Project continues to go from strength to strength. The Project aspires to bridge the gap between the educational cultures of traditional Islamic seminaries and modern higher education and is open to anyone with an interest in exploring Muslim faith and its diverse traditions of education.

Now in its third year, the Project has enabled us to welcome our second intake to the MA in Islamic Education and more PhD student researchers in the field, alongside a large cohort of new students on our pioneering PGA access course. We also ran the third successful Summer School, which attracted researchers and practitioners from around the world, including delegates from Japan, Singapore and Indonesia and a widely attended Islam Day event.

If you would like to help grow the impact of this project, and help shape society’s image of Islam and Muslims, please contact Charlotte Wilkes at Charlotte.Wilkes@warwick.ac.uk

A MEETING POINT OF SCHOLARLY AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

As well as developing collaborations with organisations and universities and publishing research, the Warwick Islamic Education Project has a wide range of community stakeholders including community leaders, Muslim parents and interfaith activists.
THANK YOU...

...FOR IGNITING PASSION, VENGEANCE AND A LOVE OF GREEK DRAMA

With the help of our alumni and friends, we were able to support Warwick Classics Society in bringing their own interpretation of the ancient Greek drama, Medea, to The Belgrade Theatre in Coventry. Euripides’ tragedy about love, betrayal and revenge was performed by talented students, both as part of the Annual Ancient Drama Festival for Schools and for the general public. And thanks to your generosity, they were able to produce original music and lighting design for their production and to have vocal training.

70 students were involved in total and more than 1,000 people saw the performance. It was also captured on film as a teaching resource, adding an extra layer to its impact.

The Warwick Classics Drama Festival opens up the wonders of ancient Greek theatre to a whole new audience. Those who come often speak of the powerful impact it has had on their lives.

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS BEHIND THE SCENES

Supporting the arts in this way is not just about creative opportunity and fulfilment. According to the Cultural Learning Alliance, learning through arts and culture improves attainments in all subjects, makes students three times more likely to get a degree, twice as likely to volunteer and 20% more likely to vote as young adults.

So as you can see, your gifts really do make an impact.
THANK YOU...

...FOR EMPOWERING OUR FEMALE STUDENTS TO ACHIEVE THEIR FULL POTENTIAL

Recent Sprint participants

“I really appreciate this opportunity. It is a truly valuable and enlightening experience.”

“Not only have I learnt how to reflect on myself and make improvements, but I’ve also made new friends and networked with other inspiring women.”

“I’ve found a mentor with a similar background to me who has expertise in the industry I want to be in.”

“Since completing the programme, I have secured an internship in Brussels.”

Your ongoing support also underpins the fantastic Sprint personal development programme at Warwick, which aims to support female students in developing confidence and assertiveness as a springboard to realising their ambitions.

This year, you helped 36 students attend the four-day immersive programme, which is delivered in partnership with employers.

As well as helping these individuals to identify their core values and ‘personal branding’, and to build strategies for managing stress and change, you’ve also supported the longer term aim of the programme - to close the gender pay gap and ultimately put an end to disparity between men and women’s pay.

Thank you so much for all you do to inspire our students and to help the University of Warwick blaze a trail in this and so many other areas.
Thank you for the support you have given to help enrich lives. If you would like to continue making a great impact, please donate online at www.warwick.ac.uk/giving