A year of success at Essex

The last year has been one of tremendous success for Essex. Ranked 22nd in the world for universities founded in the last 50 years, 31st in the World for our international outlook, 32nd in the Times Good University Guide and ranked in the top four in the UK for our Social Science research, we feel optimistic about the future. We are also mindful that our success would not have been possible without the help of our friends and supporters.

Our research, education and the experiences we give our students all thrive on philanthropy. Through your kindness you helped us to raise over £1.7 million in 2013-14 and our supporters have given freely of your time and expertise, creating amazing opportunities for our students to excel. Here are some of the stories we have to tell about the scholarships and research you helped to fund – and the sports, clubs, arts and societies you make possible.

Thank you.

Professor Anthony Forster
Vice-Chancellor

Philanthropy is so important. It sounds like something rich people do to help rich institutions, but really it’s about changing lives. Essex gives people opportunities to get somewhere in life they might not otherwise have reached. If you’ve been able to do that, and you’re now in a position to help, it’s good to give the same opportunity to others. It’s your chance to transform someone else’s life.

Thank you.

Chantel Le Carpentier, SU President 2014-15

Powerful ideas backed by grants

Latonia Siler-Holman moved from North Carolina to study for a Masters degree in Sociology and Management at Essex’s world-renowned Department of Sociology, producing research on diversity management.

“All of my growth has been a direct result of the Edge scholarship. Without it, my journey at Essex would still be a dream rather than a reality.”

Latonia was able to study at Essex thanks to a scholarship from the Edge Foundation. The research produced by the Edge scholars contributes towards the development of the Edge Hotel School. Gifts like those are vital in allowing us to engage the best and brightest minds from around the world, irrespective of their financial situation, and to help them achieve their best.

Thank you.

Inspiring a new generation

Geoff Lunn’s BSc in Electronic Engineering from Essex led to a career in specialist LED lighting, where he is a business leader today. He is one of over 120 alumni who have given up their time to share expert career advice with 150 students at our speed networking events.

“As I start to think about retirement, I feel a strong sense of wanting to give something back. My hope is that I am able to help just a few prospective graduates find their way forward in this difficult job market.”

Since 1984, over 80,000 alumni from across the world have graduated from our University. We are proud of our alumni and their achievements are invaluable. From teaching, to Rebel Without a Cause, to Oscar-winning films to space travel. By giving up their time to mentor our students and by providing internships, our alumni are helping the next generation of Essex students to secure their future.

Thank you.

Sport England energises Essex’s sporting spirit

Essex was founded on a vision to break down the boundaries between living and learning and thanks to the support of organisations like Sport England, we’re still doing it. This gift has enabled us to expand our Just Play sports programme – which enables students and staff to enjoy a wide range of sports activities free of charge – across all campuses, and to develop employability skills amongst students.

“Just Play will benefit around 4,000 students and staff who aren’t currently involved in sport.”
Dominic King, Students’ Union Sports Development Manager

The support of Sport England reaffirms our status as a University that can foster the most talented young athletes in the country, with services ranging from strength and conditioning coaching to lifestyle support.

Thank you.

We are Essex

Our Registrar and Secretary Bryn Morris is one of the many staff members who donate to Essex through regular gifts. As a member of our community, there are several ways for staff to support Essex, including helping to make scholarships, societies and our life-changing research happen.

“It’s important to me to support the University. I’m a member of Essex. I love working here and get a lot out of my work here, so I think I have a responsibility to give something back.”

In this last year, our staff have gone the extra mile to support Essex, from gifts to volunteering to running in marathons in the UK and internationally. Staff giving has supported initiatives including scholarships for young people learning caring, free legal advice for our local community, and financial support for local hospices in Goldcastle.

Thank you.

Legacies transforming lives

In the early 1960s, local residents Lilian and Oswald Silbermann joined over 700 members of the public in supporting our founding appeal. Oswald, a world famous industrial chemist whose own university education had been funded by his uncle, the famous actor Sir Charles Wyndham. He understood the importance of funding education and so, when a new university was being founded on his doorstep, pledged his support.

“My great-uncle Oswald’s education and success was funded by somebody else, and this was his way of carrying on that philanthropy and giving back to his local community” Hugh Silbermann

The generosity of the Silbermanns continues to this day through their son John’s legacy gift of more than £2 million for PhD scholarships – generously which we have recognised by naming our new Student Centre in the Silbermann’s honour. With the help of gifts like this we awarded 378 scholarships in 2013/14 alone, ensuring that people who want to learn with us can achieve their full potential whatever their background.

Thank you.

Record year for the Essex Fund thanks to our global community

In November each year, a small group of students joins our Alumni Team to call alumni with updates on the University and to seek support for our Essex Fund for student projects. University members are invited to apply to the Fund, with applications considered by a committee of donors and staff chaired by our Deputy Vice-Chancellor.

We said our Essex Fund Reception the following year as a chance for donors to meet the students that have benefitted from their gifts. Neil Serougi (Government, 1978) is one of the many alumni that regularly support the Essex Fund.

“When I saw how the money had been used, I couldn’t help but be impressed by what they had achieved and had planned for the future. Seeing my gift in action made it all the more worthwhile.”

Since 2002, more than 1,300 alumni have pledged over £500,000 to fund the societies, sports, arts and events that make campus life at Essex special – and 2013 was a record year. Projects funded include resources for the American Football, capoeira and archery clubs; a student community service project in Ghana, and an insight into Business programmes at the Essex Business School.

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