



**QUEEN'S  
UNIVERSITY  
BELFAST**

**THE LANYON  
SOCIETY  
NEWSLETTER**

# 15 YEARS OF THE LANYON SOCIETY.

## 15 STORIES OF INSPIRATION AND IMPACT.

### WELCOME

Welcome to a special edition of the Legacy Newsletter, celebrating 15 years of the Lanyon Society. You can read about graduates and friends of Queen's, past and present, who have chosen to support the University through a gift in their will, and what this means to students and staff.

The cumulative impact of legacies is amazing. In the last six years, legacy income of over £8 million has ensured that young people with talent can come to Queen's, regardless of their background, and benefit from the wealth of opportunities that a world-class education offers. This support has also meant that local families living with cancer can access cutting-edge treatments which offer them a better quality of life.

You are perhaps receiving this newsletter because, at some stage, you have considered a gift in your will to support Queen's University Belfast. Whatever stage of the process you are at, rest assured that a charitable legacy gift will make a difference.

It can fund research and education which will change lives in the years to come, irrespective of changing political structures and funding gaps.

One hundred per cent of your gift will go towards your chosen cause and, as the Queen's University of Belfast Foundation is a registered charity, your gift will be free from tax. What's more, allocating a percentage of your estate or lump sum in your will to Queen's, won't affect your finances in your lifetime.

After providing for your loved ones, and when the time is right for you, you can use a gift in your will to inspire the greatest minds, invest in life-changing research and build a brighter future.

As always, thank you for your continued support. If you have any feedback or questions, you can contact me directly on

**Tel:** +44 (0)28 9097 3162 or  
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Warmest regards

*Susan Wilson*

Susan Wilson  
Legacy Manager



## **DR LAVINIA BOYCE,** PHD 2010, MSSC 1992

In 2018, graduate and close friend of Queen's, Dr Lavinia Boyce BEM set up the Dr Lavinia Boyce Postgraduate Research Scholarship in memory of her parents, Annie Elizabeth and Thomas Henry. The annual £1,500 scholarship supports a Master's or PhD student researching Neurology, Medical Genetics or Immunology in the Wellcome-Wolfson Institute for Experimental Medicine at Queen's.

Lavinia has also chosen to support the University through a gift in her will, explaining: "I took time out from my career and studies in 1995 to care for my mother who suffered from epilepsy and heart problems. It was during her illness that we decided to leave a bequest to facilitate the world-class research carried out by Queen's University and Belfast City Hospital into neurological diseases, such as epilepsy. I am very proud to be associated with Queen's and I have chosen to support the continuing good work of the University through a legacy gift that will make a positive, lasting difference to future generations."



## DES CLARKE, BSC ENGINEERING, 1968

Des Clarke, now living in Australia, visits Queen's every few years, catching up on events and news around campus. As well as supporting Queen's through a gift in his will, Des has kindly helped to fund projects of particular interest to him over the years.

A recent gift enabled the School of Electronics, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science to develop an activity pack for local school pupils which helped demonstrate the basics of electricity. The schools were also delighted to have the opportunity to see the University's electric DeLorean car. Des, an avid car enthusiast, presented the activity pack to pupils from his former school, St Malachy's College, Belfast, saying:

"I am inspired to see how my gift is helping to bring together my old school and my alma mater. The pupils here will benefit from learning about the real-life application of engineering and electricity, and hopefully be inspired to consider an education and a career in this area."



## JEAN CRAWFORD COCHRANE

A legacy gift was established by Frances Carpenter through a deed of variation of Jean's will. Jean was a member of Queen's Women Graduates, attending regular meetings and events. She had a passionate ambition to support women's education, a subject area which Jean pursued through her own career – as a teacher, a head teacher and a representative of the National Association of Head Teachers. The award was granted to first-year student, Seanna Turner. Seanna said: "As a 25-year-old mother of two returning to education, I found the financial struggle to be greater than I imagined. Social work is something I have always wanted to do. I am passionate about promoting equality, helping others and empowering socially disadvantaged groups. I am determined that my financial situation will not unfairly dictate my future and I am thankful for this amazing support."



## CAROL CROZIER, BSC SCIENCE, 1951

A legacy gift from Queen's graduate and painter, Carol Crozier from Carrickfergus, is looking after hearts in Northern Ireland. When Carol passed away in 2016 she left a very generous gift in her will to support ground-breaking cardiovascular research at Queen's. Cardiovascular disease is one of the biggest causes of heart attacks and strokes worldwide. Carol's father, also a Queen's graduate, was an eminent physician, and during her childhood they lived in one of the staff houses on University Avenue.



## PROFESSOR EMERITUS JAMES DUNWOODY, BSC MECHANICAL ENGINEERING, 1957

Professor James Dunwoody studied and worked at Queen's for much of his life.

In 2010, he set up an entrance scholarship to support pupils from the Christian Brothers' Schools coming to Queen's to study Engineering, Maths or Physical Sciences. He explained: "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. I hope that those who can, will give a little to help support such individuals."

One recent student beneficiary of the Dunwoody Scholarship was Jubin Jomon from the School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, who said of the support: "It has helped me immensely, reducing my educational expenses and allowing me to devote more time to studying. I hope that the skills and knowledge I acquire will help me to contribute more fully to society and to the field of engineering."



## DR KATHLEEN HERRON, BSC MEDICINE, 1940



Dr Kathleen Herron graduated from Queen's with a medical degree in 1940 and went on to have a successful career as a GP. Kathleen was a life member of the Queen's University Association, subsequently renamed Queen's Graduates' Association (QGA). In her will she chose to generously support family and friends as well as many charities (24 in total) which were close to her heart. The QGA was one such grateful beneficiary. Her legacy will support the work of the QGA in keeping the Queen's family connected after their time at the University.

QGA President (2017-2019), Fergal McFerran (pictured) said: "Kathleen's gift means so much to the graduates and friends of Queen's. It reflects her connection to the University and what that meant to her during her lifetime. Through her gift, she is empowering us, the QGA, to ensure we can enable future generations of Queen's graduates to reap the benefits of friendship and a shared connection, long after their time on campus."

## CAROLINE JAMISON



Northern Ireland has one of the highest rates of Multiple Sclerosis (MS) in the world. Queen's academic, Professor Denise Fitzgerald, and her team, are undertaking innovative research into how parts of the immune system can help repair the damage to the central nervous system caused by MS attacks. This research is offering hope to thousands of people with MS, including Caroline Jamison from Carrickfergus, who explains the impact MS has had on her family life.

"My mother was diagnosed with MS at only 33. Mum bravely fought this cruel disease with courage and dignity before she passed away in 2007, aged just 70. Six years later I was also diagnosed with MS and it was then that I found out about the ground-breaking research Denise and her team are carrying out. It gave my dad and I hope that a cure will be found. The following year my dad passed away and in his will he left me his beautiful collection of vintage motorbikes, which he had lovingly and meticulously restored during his lifetime. I wanted to use the collection as a legacy gift in my will, to ensure funds are available to support MS research at the University in the future – helping to ensure research continues until a treatment is found. I also take confidence from the fact that I know any monies raised or gifted will be spent here in Northern Ireland, for the benefit of MS sufferers worldwide."

## MENDA LAMBRINUDI, CERTIFICATE IN PSYCHIATRY, 1960

One of three siblings, Menda (pictured with her mother and older sister) was born in 1930 in Bayswater, England and studied English at Girton College, Cambridge. After graduating in 1950 she worked at an interior design magazine, before deciding in 1959 on a change of career to support her interest in the human mind. Menda came to Queen's to complete a Certificate in Psychiatric Studies which enabled her to fulfil her ambition to be a social worker, counsellor and psychiatrist, finding employment at St George's Hospital and later, at St Guy's Hospital, London. Outside of work, she was a very talented artist until she suddenly became blind later in life and was forced to give up her passion. In her will Menda supported 13 charities, including those educational institutions that had supported her career. Her generous legacy gift to Queen's will be instrumental in supporting students in the School of Social Sciences, Education and Social Work to develop specialist knowledge, understanding and skills to equip them to undertake professional careers in mental health, education or social care settings.

BECOME PART OF THE SOLUTION



## AILEEN HAMILTON, BSC CHEMISTRY, 1969

An unassuming, hard-working and charitable lady, Aileen Hamilton initially enjoyed a local career in teaching before joining the School of Pharmacy at Queen's. Aileen's role included helping to mark student papers and write grant applications for financial support for global research in the School. It came as a surprise to staff when they learned that Aileen had left 30 per cent of her estate to support their research programmes.

Professor Carmel Hughes, Head of the School of Pharmacy said: "We are immensely grateful for Aileen's gift. It will be transformational in its impact – enabling our researchers to continue to lead the field as we focus on drugs to prevent, alleviate or cure diseases."

## DR RUTH IMRIE, BSC MEDICINE, 1964

"My husband, Alan Gurd and I are 1964 Queen's Medical School graduates, now living in Ohio. As we put together details for our will, we are interested in expressing our gratitude for the excellent training we received. Alan is now a retired paediatric orthopaedic surgeon and I am working as a general paediatrician, with a 25% time allocation for medical student education."







## ELLAYNE NEWELL, BA FRENCH, 1977

Born in County Down to English parents, Ellayne was brought up in Sunbury-on-Thames in the 1930s, before moving to Belfast aged 19 to marry Ulsterman, John Newell, in 1945.

Almost thirty years later she achieved a long-held ambition of gaining entry to Queen's, as a mature student, and studied under Professor Henri Godin, whom she found inspirational.

After providing for her family, Ellayne kindly chose to leave the University £1,000 to buy books for the library. Thanks to this thoughtful legacy, future generations of Queen's students will be able to follow in Ellayne's footsteps and fulfil their academic potential.



## TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH

Nearly 10,000 people are diagnosed with cancer every year in Northern Ireland.

Professor Joe O'Sullivan (pictured) leads a clinical prostate research team

in the Centre for Cell Biology and Cancer Research (CCRCB) at Queen's. The team works hand-in-hand with the NHS to translate their research into a comprehensive clinical trial portfolio for the prostate cancer population of Northern Ireland.

Local patient, James Greene was the sixth person to take part in a research trial which is only available to patients in Northern Ireland. James said: "I was offered a high-dose, five treatment course of radiotherapy instead of enduring three months of treatment. The trial was really successful in getting rid of the tumour. I even ran a 10k marathon recently, along with my two sons, to fundraise for the life-saving research taking place at CCRCB so that more patients can benefit from this work."

Professor O'Sullivan said: "At the Northern Ireland Cancer Centre, we see more than 1,000 prostate cancer patients per year. Our mission is simple - to translate our scientific discoveries into a process which will inform how best to treat patients in the clinics. This has a direct impact on improving outcomes and quality of life. Legacy gifts are an important part of funding this research."



## TOM SIMMS

One in two people will suffer from cancer in their lifetime. So it was remarkable when local businessman Tom Simms left a legacy gift of £2 million to Queen's for cancer research trials. His hugely generous gift has offered hope to thousands of individuals with cancer. Tom's family met up with The Tom Simms Research Team in the Cancer Centre at Belfast City Hospital, to learn more about the impact of their late uncle's gift, and to recognise the bequest by erecting a plaque in Tom's name. The group is currently working on research which offers more targeted individual treatments, a higher cure rate, longer life expectancy and a better quality of life. The team is also behind the trial of the first ever anti-cancer drug developed entirely in Northern Ireland.



## MURRAY TYRELL, BA GERMAN, 1973

Murray studied at Queen's during a time of intense civil unrest in Northern Ireland and this experience sparked an interest in the dynamics of conflicting societies. In his will he left £1,000 to support a student studying conflict.

Professor Hastings Donnan (pictured above), Director of The Senator George J. Mitchell Institute for Global Peace, Security and Justice presented Angela Narbano Irazo with the Dr and Mrs Tyrrell Prize for Conflict Transformation and Social Justice.

Angela, from Valencia in Spain, won the prize for her Master's dissertation entitled 'Post conflict intervention with female ex-combatants in Sierra Leone'. Angela has since secured employment with NI Alternatives, looking at restorative practices in different high schools in North Belfast. Murray's sister Helen was delighted to learn that her late brother's legacy has had such an impact. She said: "I feel privileged in having a chance to read Angela's prizewinning essay and I know it will add to the growing body of literature in this important area."

## JOHN SMITH

John wasn't an alumnus of Queen's but in his will he left a quarter of his estate to support medical research into diabetes. Diabetes is progressive and incurable. It can lead to major complications such as kidney failure, heart attacks, strokes and eye disease. Thanks to gifts from supporters like John, we have a team of gifted local and international academics tackling the challenge of diabetes head-on, establishing a reputation as leaders in the field of research into this debilitating disease.