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The Effect of Giving

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The University of London's report *The Effect of Giving* is published once a year and distributed to donors and volunteers in either hard copy or digital format. The report is also available for download from the University of London website: london.ac.uk/support. University of London is an exempt charity and statutory corporation in England and Wales (Company No RC000661)/HMRC Charities Reference X422.

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Welcome

from Vice-Chancellor Professor Wendy Thomson CBE



I am delighted to share with you the 2019-20 edition of *The Effect of Giving*, the University's annual publication for donors and volunteers.

The past year was extraordinary, not only for the University but also for all those affected by the unprecedented global events of 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic has altered the way so many of us experience the world and forced us to innovate and reinvent many of our usual ways of working.

I am immensely proud of the way the institution has been able to adapt so quickly to these new circumstances, moving the majority of our workforce to home working and transitioning to online exams for our distance and flexible learning students. We have also been able to share our unparalleled experience as providers of distance learning to support many of our world-class member institutions as they transition to online teaching at very short notice.

I would like to thank all 305 donors who supported the University's Student Support Appeal in July 2020. This digital fundraising initiative raised in excess of £20,000, enough to provide bursaries for more than 40 distance and flexible learning students experiencing financial hardship as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of these students feared that a change in their financial circumstances would mean they would be forced to postpone or even abandon their studies. Thankfully, this is not the case thanks to the generosity of our global community of alumni and friends.

We have also been delighted to announce a landmark gift of £1.2 million from University of London LLM alumnus József Váradi, co-founder and CEO of Wizz Air. This gift – the largest of its kind in support of scholarships in the University's 184-year history – will directly support up to 100 students through a full-tuition scholarship, as well as in turn benefitting their families and communities. This is an incredibly generous contribution and I would like to express my sincere gratitude to József for his belief in our cause.

This academic year, we are excited to look ahead and launch the University's next five-year strategy. Our new strategy will help us enhance our position as the UK's leading provider of distance learning; it will support the stimulation of innovative intellectual exchange and effective public engagement; and will guide us as we work closely with our member institutions in the pursuit of issues of common interest. Harnessing the power of collaboration across the University, we will develop networks and partnerships that further the federation's goals across London, the UK and internationally.

As we progress the University's mission, particularly during these challenging times in which we all find ourselves, the importance of the role played by our alumni, friends and donors to the University cannot be overstated. The year 2019-20 saw us double our donor numbers from the previous year; we relaunched our Alumni Ambassador programme, which supports current and prospective students; and we raised a total of £2.7 million in support of the University's mission and strategic priorities.

Thank you for all of your support.



Highlights of the year

The Warburg Renaissance project gains further support

A fundraising campaign seeking to raise £5 million towards a visionary redevelopment of the Warburg Institute at the University of London has reached new milestones, thanks to generous philanthropic support from a number of trusts and foundations. To date, the project has raised £2.6 million, with £2.4 million left to raise.

In October 2019, the Warburg Renaissance capital redevelopment project received a donation of £150,000 from the Garfield Weston Foundation, one of the UK's largest charitable foundations. This was followed in January 2020 by a gift of £500,000 from the Marie-Louise von Motesiczky Charitable Trust. The Warburg Institute was and still is a hub for émigré scholars, curators and artists, one of whom was Marie-Louise von Motesiczky (1906-96), a Vienna-born artist. The Institute is honoured to recognise the grant with the planned creation of the 'Marie-Louise von Motesiczky Teaching Suite'.

The Warburg Renaissance will transform the Warburg Institute by restoring its original vision and making it ready for future generations, enhancing the Institute's academic resources, teaching facilities and public

offerings, and creating new facilities for special collections, exhibitions, and events. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in a temporary pause of the project, whilst the project reached a natural hiatus halfway through RIBA Stage 4: Technical Design, after an inspiring mid-stage review from the project architects, Haworth Tompkins. However, the Warburg Renaissance remains a top priority for the Warburg Institute and the University of London, and the project will proceed as planned as soon as normal operations can resume.



For more information about supporting the Warburg Renaissance, please visit warburg.sas.ac.uk/warburg-renaissance or contact Maja Vukicevic, Head of Development, at maja.vukicevic@london.ac.uk

University of London Convocation Trust benefits from kind support of the London Members' Group

Donations to the Convocation Trust play a vital role in supporting initiatives across the University: from student scholarships and academic prizes, to innovative research and the creation of world-class facilities. Recent grants made by the Convocation Trust have supported research initiatives such as a project by the University's Institute of Commonwealth Studies into the oral history of the 'Windrush Generation', and a project by the University's Institute of English Studies to support a Toolkit for Inclusivity and Diversity in English Studies (TIDE). In an endorsement of the University's access to education mission, the Trust has also provided 10 fully-funded scholarships and other grants to academics and students across the federal University, including support to member institutions.

In early 2019-20, the [Convocation Trust](#) received a generous gift of £5,000 from the University of London Graduates London Members' Group.

The group, which was formerly a branch of the University of London Convocation, continued to be active once [Convocation closed in 2003](#), and gives former Convocation members based near London an opportunity to meet together, enjoy social outings and provide support for the University.

Our thanks go to the University of London Graduates London Members' Group, as well as all those alumni and former Convocation members who continue to support the University and its students via the Convocation Trust.

Vice-Chancellor's Circle continues to play a crucial role in supporting the University's mission

The Vice-Chancellor's Circle, an exclusive community of philanthropists who make gifts of over £1,000 towards the University, has gone from strength to strength over the past year, raising £132,750 in support of University initiatives and welcoming 14 new members.

Donations received from these generous individuals have a tremendous impact on the University and our communities: from supporting important research and public engagement initiatives, to providing scholarship support to students who otherwise would be unable to access higher education.

In January, we were delighted to welcome new and existing members of the [Vice-Chancellor's Circle](#) to a special event in Hong Kong, hosted by Vice-Chancellor Professor Wendy Thomson CBE and alumnus Tony Neoh.



Vice-Chancellor Professor Wendy Thomson CBE meets with alumni David Lan GBS, ISO, JP (left) and Tony Neoh QC, SC, JP in Hong Kong (right)

Alumni career insights enrich the first Common Employability Module for distance learning students

In March 2020, the University in collaboration with The Careers Group, University of London, launched the first online Common Employability Module, available to all 50,000 University of London distance and flexible learning students. Six alumni generously volunteered their time to provide careers insights on topics such as digital disruption and fast-changing graduate skills requirements. These have helped to ensure the module content is timely and effective in equipping our students to succeed.

What I look for in a graduate CV

“Ask yourself this question: can I find out the following thing in less than 30 seconds in reading this resume? Who is this person? What has this person done? Why do I want to talk to him/her? Why him/her and not the hundreds of people with similar backgrounds?”

Advice from alumnus Aaron Lai, BSc Management, Director of Strategic Analytics at Castlight Health

The module has been positively received, with 22,000 views and 7,000 posts in the first six months, and a 32% rate of sustained engagement through the four core topics (Global Employment Trends, Career Planning and

Decision Making, Developing Future-Facing Graduate Competencies and Self-Presentation). Students have praised the relevance of the topics, especially in a rapidly changing world of work. One student commented:

“I was motivated to apply myself to virtual internships during lockdown thanks to the insights I gained from this module, and actively engaged in the process of career planning, reaching out to my network on LinkedIn and discussing career plans with my college seniors as mentors.”



The contributions made by our alumni community to this module will continue to be a valuable component of our innovative online careers education. Thank you to all those who have supported the successful launch of this new module.

To find out more about how you can volunteer your time to support the University, please contact us by emailing us at alumni@london.ac.uk or calling us on +44 (0)20 7862 8012.

History in the making: the University receives a landmark gift in support of scholarships

As the University of London embarks on its next five-year strategy, we recommit to our mission to promote access to education and ensure those who have the skill, aptitude and desire to study for a world-class degree are able to do so, regardless of their personal or financial circumstances. These values have always been at the very heart of the University, as we were founded to provide access to education for those who were excluded from higher education at that time.

In April 2020, the University announced a historic pledge of £1.2 million in support of scholarships for distance and flexible learning students from generous University of London LLM alumnus József Váradi, co-founder and CEO of Wizz Air. This substantial gift, the largest of its kind in the University's history, will directly support up to 100 students to access education by providing a full scholarship to cover the cost of their tuition fees. The Váradi Scholarships will be awarded over a 10-year period, with the first scholarships now already supporting those students who commenced their courses in autumn 2020.

When asked about his motivation to give back to the University, József said: "Similarly to my professional life, I wanted to find the highest return on investment. I want people to live a better life and I'm eager to contribute to it with my intellectual and financial capacity." A believer in the University's mission to widen access to education, József decided to donate towards student scholarships and give others the opportunity to follow in his footsteps by studying for a University of London degree. "The scholarship is an enabler to make a difference for those who are keen to learn and develop themselves", said József. "In my mind, there is no better investment than investing in the education of people who are naturally driven. As the saying goes, you give a man a fish and you feed him for a day, or you teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime."



University of London alumnus József Váradi, co-founder and CEO of Wizz Air.



“Learning about the Internet of Things has been a passion to me, but I was limited financially. Thanks to the Váradi Scholarship, my aspirations are becoming reality.”

**Olawale Juwon, BSc
Computer Science
student and recipient
of a Váradi Scholarship.**



In a University of London survey of applicants who did not register or complete their programme, 33% stated they could not afford their course fees and 42% were unable to secure funding to cover the course costs. Through the generosity of alumni and friends, students around the world can access opportunities that would otherwise have been closed to them and grow to be future leaders, shaping the world of tomorrow.

The University received in the region of 1,500 applications for the 10 Váradi Scholarships on offer in the 2020-21 academic year, highlighting just how much need there is for scholarship support. The first Váradi Scholarship recipients are all undergraduate students, studying BSc Computer Science, BSc Psychology and BSc Business and Law, and hail from Bangladesh, Brazil, Czech Republic, Kenya, Kosovo, Malawi, Nigeria, Venezuela and Zimbabwe. Thank you again to József for his most generous support.

Speaking about the Váradi Scholarships, Bill Abraham, Director of Development, said:

“It is wonderful to see the University’s alumni and friends supporting our students – especially with such uncertainty in the world right now. József’s generous support will enable 100 students to better themselves and make a valuable contribution to society. The long-term impact of this ground-breaking donation cannot be overestimated. I hope that József’s vision will inspire others to support the University in whatever way they can.”



To find out more about how you can support students in their pursuit of education, contact development@london.ac.uk or visit london.ac.uk/support

Spotlight on our volunteers

Asha Menon (LLB 1994) and Kon Yin Tong (BSc Economics 1987)

In June 2020, the University of London was proud to present its first digital event for alumni and friends – *Surviving and Thriving in a Pandemic: Wellbeing in a Time of Crisis*.

In 2020, the University increased its offering of digital events, providing opportunities to engage with our alumni community across the world, including with many who may have not had the opportunity to attend other alumni events. We greatly appreciate the support given by our speakers in volunteering their time and insights. Without our volunteer speakers, we would be unable to deliver many of our events.

The event featured a panel discussion chaired by Professor Peter Kopelman (President of Development, University of London and Professor of Medicine) and included insightful comments from our four panellists. Professor Kopelman was joined by two alumni of the University, Kon Yin Tong (Chairman, Sport Singapore; President, Institute of Singapore Chartered Accounts (ISCA); MP, Foo Kon Tan LLP) and Asha Menon (Founder/Principal HR Consultant, AMTalent Partners). They were joined by Zee Yoong Kang (Chief Executive Officer, Singapore Health Promotion Board (HPB)) and Professor Barry Smith (Director of the Institute of Philosophy, University of London).

It was an enlightening and wide-ranging discussion that included comments on how the Singapore Health Promotion Board has maintained the importance of general wellbeing in a time of great stress and illness, as well as how Sport Singapore has adapted to the Singapore 'circuit breaker' and the impact this has had on national events. The discussion also included points regarding the humanities' place in the decision making of government, as well as how the 'Class of COVID-19' should prepare for the job market in what will become a 'new normal'.



You can view the full panel discussion online at bit.ly/UoLWellbeingEvent2020

“The University takes pride in the truly global character of its alumni. Our volunteering community is central to our success, allowing us to grow and develop our alumni engagement programmes, and supporting our students through their educational journey. In 2019-20, over 300 people volunteered their time in support of the University. I would like to extend my personal thanks to Asha, Yin Tong and all those who have given their valuable time.”

Professor Peter Kopelman
President of Development,
University of London



We caught up with event speakers Asha and Yin Tong to find out more about their experience volunteering with the University.



Asha Menon
Founder/Principal HR Consultant,
AMTalent Partners

Asha - as an alumna of the University of London, why did you volunteer to speak at this event?

I was approached by Bill Abraham and Professor Kopelman. I thought the topic was interesting and relevant to the current times. It is my way of 'paying it forward' to the alumni network.

What did you learn from the panel discussion?

It was interesting and informative to hear different perspectives from the panel members and their take on COVID-19. I was intrigued by Professor Smith sharing his findings on how our senses, especially taste, smell and flavour, are affected by the virus and also Yin Tong's predictions on the future of the sporting world (at least from the lens of Singapore) once normality returns (if ever).

What advice would you give to those currently struggling in the job market?

The future of work has accelerated significantly with this pandemic. Organisations are forced to become more agile and nimble which inevitably poses challenges to navigate and stay on top of the game. The demand for

digital skills and transferrable skills such as creativity, critical thinking, interpersonal communication skills and leadership skills will become more important as technology advances and virtual working becomes a lot more common. While waiting to enter or re-enter the job market, it's best to leverage on the downtime and acquire an extra skill or two which could easily be done through various online learning platforms.

How has a University of London degree impacted your career path?

Though my degree from UoL is in law, it has given me a solid footing to be a trusted human resources leader and a credible advisor on people and employment matters.

Yin Tong - why do you think it is important for alumni to volunteer for the University?

Volunteering for the University will open your mind to new perspectives, the possibility (or reality) that we know very little, and that there is still much to learn. Alumni can enjoy a range of social and professional networking events, organised locally and around the world, to help them keep in touch with peers and with the University, and to receive support and advice. Volunteering completes that cycle of receiving and giving back. It is very fulfilling.

What did you learn from the panel discussion?

Many hands make light work, and there is a lot of talent and diversity amongst our alumni and faculty to make things happen. The world is more than the issues, including COVID-19, that sometimes divide us. We cannot overcome these issues without everyone cooperating. The panel discussion showed just that, especially during the Q&A. We had different people from diverse backgrounds contributing to the discussion. The event was richer for it.

How has a University of London degree impacted your career path?

Uncertainty besets today's world as well as yesterday's - it is the norm, and we need to be prepared for it. One of the best ways to prepare for uncertainty is to be agile, to think critically, to be flexible and adapt constantly. My University of London degree has given me strong foundations, especially in critical thinking, on which I have been fortunate enough to build. My career path has been steady because of it, weathering the vagaries of the corporate world.



Kon Yin Tong
Chairman, Sport Singapore; President,
Institute of Singapore Chartered
Accounts (ISCA); MP, Foo Kon Tan LLP

Our thanks go to Asha and Yin Tong for the support they have shown as part of our global volunteer community. To find out more about volunteering opportunities, please contact the Development Office at alumni@london.ac.uk or by calling +44 (0)20 7862 8012.

The University's Refugee Law Clinic is made possible thanks to generous philanthropic support

The Refugee Law Initiative (RLI), part of the University's School of Advanced Study, is delighted to have secured major philanthropic grants totalling £155,000 which will support a new and vital programme providing free legal services to asylum seekers in London.

The [Refugee Law Clinic](#) will offer much-needed pro bono legal services to asylum seekers in an underserved area of asylum law: Further Submissions for Asylum ('fresh claims'): the process by which a refused asylum seeker seeks to advance further representations to make a fresh claim on the basis of important new factors (such as changed circumstances or additional evidence). Many who seek to submit fresh claims have particular difficulties in accessing legal services, leaving large numbers of asylum seekers without representation. Figures from Refugee Action show a greater than 50% reduction in the number of providers offering legal aid or not-for-profit representation for immigration and asylum law over the last decade. While there are other London-based legal practises who take on fresh claims, these are minimal and often charge high fees to their clients.

By offering legal services free of charge, the Refugee Law Clinic will not only bridge the gap in existing service provision, enabling asylum seekers to benefit from high-quality and free legal advice, but will also engage and train students and volunteers in this area of law. As a Clinical Legal Education programme, the positive impact that the Refugee Law Clinic will have on both the students and wider society is clear. The programme will enable the University's students to develop experience and interest in social justice work, whilst the Clinic will also make an important contribution to the legal landscape through its research, test cases and reflection of law practice and reform. Through its outreach activities the Clinic will also seek to support a number of organisations through developing referral systems and providing legal awareness-raising.

The Refugee Law Initiative is the UK's leading academic centre for the promotion of research in international refugee law. It works to integrate the shared interests of refugee law scholars and practitioners, stimulate collaboration between academics and non-academics, and achieve policy impact at the national and international level.



The University has also partnered with two commercial law firms, Macfarlanes LLP and Clifford Chance LLP, who will offer their lawyers an opportunity to undertake pro bono work with the Clinic.

The Refugee Law Clinic has been developed with support from many of the University of London's member institutions, including: Birkbeck, University of London; City, University of London; Goldsmiths, University of London; King's College London; London Business School; London School of Economics (LSE); Queen Mary University of London; Royal Holloway, University of London; SOAS University of London and University College London (UCL). As an inter-collegiate project, the Clinic will enable students from these institutions to benefit from this valuable volunteering experience. The Clinic operates from the newly-refurbished Institute of Advanced Legal Studies at the School of Advanced Study.

The University is sincerely grateful to Macfarlanes LLP, Clifford Chance LLP, and the Migration Foundation, as well as a charitable foundation which made an anonymous gift, for their generous support of this important initiative.



Charles Clore House, home to the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies and the Refugee Law Clinic



For more information about the Refugee Law Clinic, please visit rli.sas.ac.uk/refugee-law-clinic

Professor David Cantor, RLI Director, said:

“The opening of this new clinic is the fruit of several years of collaborative work by many dedicated colleagues across the University, partner law firms, NGOs and charitable trusts. With their ongoing support, and under the leadership of Susan Reardon-Smith as the clinic coordinator and Frances Trevena as its supervising lawyer, we now have a wonderful opportunity to further strengthen these important institutional alliances as we work together to provide a vital service to one of the most marginalised and underserved sectors of the wider London community: refugees needing legal representation in fresh claims for asylum. Special thanks to Maja Vukicevic in the Development Office for all that she has done to make the new clinic a reality!”

2019-20: The year in review

This year has brought a number of significant challenges to organisations across the globe, including the University of London. Given the challenging circumstances, the Development Office is proud to report on a number of key successes that have supported the University's strategic priorities.

The University raised a total of
£2.7million
in philanthropic gifts.



More than



friends and alumni chose to make a gift to the University; this is more than **double** the number of donors who supported the University in 2018-19.

Up to **100 students** will benefit from a scholarship over the next 10 years, thanks to a donation of

£1.2million



from alumnus József Váradi, co-founder and CEO of Wizz Air.

In June, the Student Support Appeal raised over

£20,000

and supported more than **40** students who had been financially affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.



The Development Office directly engaged with approximately **2,000** individuals and provided regular updates to over **88,000** alumni and friends through our email newsletters.

Update
your details

Your Email



Globally, **330** individuals living in **46** countries generously gave their time in support of both the University and our students. This is an increase of more than **50%** from the previous year.

The Development Office held its first virtual event for alumni in June 2020, engaging with **hundreds** of alumni across the world.



The University sincerely thanks all those who have supported its mission by so generously contributing their time or making a donation.

The 2020 Student Support Appeal

The 2020 Student Support Appeal, which took place over two weeks in July as a digital fundraising campaign, was an opportunity for the University's global community to come together in support of our current distance and flexible learning students.

Thanks to the generosity of our alumni community, the Student Support Appeal raised enough to support more than 40 current distance and flexible learning students who had been financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, and were at risk of being forced to postpone or even abandon their studies.

The donations received have been used to provide bursaries of up to £500 to support students, enabling them to overcome the financial challenges they are facing and continue with their studies.

In addition to the kind donations received to the appeal, many of our alumni shared messages of support for current students. One generous alumnus said:

“Good luck to all students who face economic difficulties. This is an extraordinary initiative and we must all commit to reducing barriers to accessing education.”

Financial support from the University's alumni and friends makes a huge difference to students in times of need. The University would like to offer its sincere thanks to all who have donated towards the appeal, helping to raise over £20,000. The impact of these donations will be far reaching and have a transformative effect on enabling our students to continue with their education.

One student who received a bursary said:

“It is such a relief to hear this news from you. I am really grateful for your help and I am looking forwards towards completing my degree this year. My family is relieved to hear this.”

Thank you to all those who supported this initiative, enabling students from around the world to stay enrolled in their programmes and progress towards their ultimate goal of graduating.

Gifts were received from alumni living in 31 countries, including, but not limited to: the UK, Singapore, Hong Kong, Trinidad and Tobago, Ghana, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Japan, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia.



To find out more about how you can support University of London students, please contact **Lindsay Triggs, Regular Giving and Stewardship Manager**, at development@london.ac.uk or visit london.ac.uk/support



A lasting legacy

Throughout our history, the University of London has been honoured and privileged to receive a number of gifts in Wills from generous alumni and friends. To this day, many different parts of the institution continue to receive these kinds of gifts, which make a substantial and long-lasting difference. We meet Dr Jill Pellew, who has kindly left a donation to the Institute of Historical Research (IHR) Trust in her Will. The IHR is a part of the University's School of Advanced Study.

Jill, firstly, thank you so much for remembering the IHR Trust in your Will. What is your connection to the IHR?

I have been connected to the IHR since the days of working on my University of London PhD in History, awarded in 1976. Indeed, the viva for my PhD was held at the IHR.

I reconnected with the IHR in the 1990s during a period when I had a career as a university fundraiser. This led to my becoming a member of the IHR Advisory Council and Trustee of the IHR Trust. From 2009, I have been a Senior Research Fellow. As such, I have been involved in putting on conferences, some of which have led to publications. I have long been a Friend of the IHR and value its outreach programme.

What inspired you to support the IHR in this way?

For many years, the IHR has been my academic 'home'. Because I took my PhD as an External candidate, I had no University of London college base and effectively little academic supervision. That was supplied by the IHR with its ambience of support for young post-graduates: its library, the seminars, the camaraderie – not least the informal discussions around eminent academics. I might well have lost my way at that period without the IHR.

How did you find the process of leaving a gift to the IHR Trust in your Will?

Perfectly simple. I have always believed in leaving bequests, as far as is financially possible, to institutions that have been important in my life. These are mostly academic (or musical); and the IHR was naturally high on the list. Having been a university fundraiser, I know well the importance of leaving such a bequest without specific limitations about how the money should be allocated – that is, trusting the institution to use it wisely.

What impact do you hope your gift to the IHR will have?

I know well that small, excellent academic institutions are often concerned about their endowment and income. I hope that my legacy will either help specifically in one of its on-going endeavours – such as post-graduate student support; funding for one of the seminars – or else, in a small way, will add to the endowment. If my commitment to a legacy can influence others, that would be an added bonus.

Legacy donations have a significant impact across all parts of the University's central academic bodies and are a meaningful way to make a lasting difference to future generations. For further information on how to support the University of London in this way, please contact Lindsay Triggs, Regular Giving and Stewardship Manager, at development@london.ac.uk or on +44 (0)20 7863 1036. Alternatively, please visit our dedicated legacy webpage - london.ac.uk/legacy-giving



Dr Jill Pellew, Institute of Historical Research Trust legacy donor



Final thoughts

Bill Abraham, Director of Development



As I am sure is true for many of you reading this, 2020 was not the year we had all planned. It has undoubtedly been a year of real upheaval with the COVID-19 pandemic continuing to have an enormous impact on everyone's lives. This has focused all our efforts on our core mission: to provide access to education and deliver academic excellence.

The University of London - as with so many organisations - has changed the way it delivers this mission. From the student perspective, this meant moving all our examinations online and adapting our halls of residence, and for our alumni it has meant looking at how we engage with our global alumni community. For my colleagues and me, at a basic level, it meant delivering our work whilst working from home and interacting in a virtual manner. In all of this, we have received so many heartening messages of support from our alumni and friends. I would like to say 'thank you' for all that you have done to support our work for the University of London this year.

My colleagues in the Development Office have learned to adapt the ways in which we work, maintaining our engagement with all of our supporters and hosting our first virtual event for alumni in June, which showed the truly global nature of our alumni and the issues facing us all this year.

The positive response from our alumni, to this event and our communications during the pandemic itself, gave us the impetus to undertake our first global appeal to ask alumni and friends to consider supporting our current students and especially those suffering financial hardship

as a direct result of COVID-19. Concluding on 18 July on Mandela Day (acknowledging one of our most famous alumni), we were supported by donations from more than 300 alumni and friends. At a time when so many people around the world were facing personal challenges, I am incredibly proud to work for an institution that is able to garner support which allowed us to provide more than 40 bursaries to students enabling them to continue with their studies. You can read more about this on page 13 of this report. Thank you to everyone who supported this appeal.

Yet despite it being a year of challenges, in April we celebrated a landmark donation from alumnus József Váradi (LLM 2014). József generously pledged the largest donation in the University's history from a living individual in support of scholarships. As a result, the University has now established the Váradi Scholarships programme, which will support up to 100 students over the next 10 years. The impact of these scholarships on our students and their families will be felt for decades to come. You can read more about this inspiring gift on page six.

With support from József and the many individual supporters around the world, I was heartened to see our donor numbers continue to rise - doubling for the fourth consecutive year to more than 600 donors for the past financial year. In total, we raised £2.7million in philanthropic support, which included generous donations in support of the Warburg Institute's Renaissance capital redevelopment project (see page four) and our Refugee Law Clinic initiative (see page 10). We have also started to build on our Alumni Ambassador programme, which relaunched in autumn 2020, and now has more than 100 alumni volunteering as Ambassadors.

None of our achievements would have been possible without your support - whether in terms of giving your time, money or advice. It is a privilege to work for the University of London and with so many resilient and driven colleagues who really do appreciate the support you give to us. On behalf of the entire Development Office team and my colleagues around the University, thank you for your continued commitment - you play a vital role in the University's mission to enable access to education and deliver academic excellence. We all wish you well for the year ahead.

If you would like more information or wish to discuss how you could support the University of London, please visit london.ac.uk/support or contact us.

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