

Stapley News - Summer 2005.

As it may be some years since you applied to the Trust for financial assistance during your postgraduate studies we would like to bring you up-to-date with our news.

Selection and Award Procedures used by Council

Application forms are sent out and received during the first three months of the year. The returned application forms are reviewed by the Administrator to ensure that they are complete with academic reference and meet the criteria established by Council. Any doubtful cases are discussed at this point with the Chairman.

All applications are reviewed by at least three members of Council, including the Chairman and Deputy Chairman, using a dual marking scheme.

Applications are graded 1-5 on academic merit taking into account past record, proposed course and the referee's comments. Particular attention is paid to the personal statement by the applicant. A second score (A-D) is based on a student's anticipated financial shortfall in funds during the year for which the application has been made and takes into account student loans, evidence of self-help and financial commitments. Cases for special consideration are earmarked for discussion at the May Council meeting.

The independent scores are forwarded to the Administrator who averages them and organises the Council meeting at which awards are made. No application is rejected without a full discussion at the meeting. The level of individual awards may be modulated to keep them within the overall budget.

Since 1993 Council has been grateful to GlaxoSmithKline for a generous annual grant, which has been regularly increased, to support health-care and, more recently, medical students. It also administers Victor Ford and Judith Mathews Scholarships based on earmarked bequests and endowments. These are awarded on academic merit in keeping with the donors' wishes. Award letters are sent out in June and are followed by a cheque when attendance on the course, and a continuing shortfall in funds, is confirmed.

Financial Issues

The Trust was established in 1919 based on an endowment by Sir Richard Stapley. Currently the value of the endowment is approximately £3,000,000 invested in charity-based funds yielding approximately £150,000 per annum for distribution as grants and scholarships. This amount includes the £20,000 currently granted each year by GlaxoSmithKline., In 2004 the amount was less because of the adverse financial climate.

In 2005, because of the annual increase in the number of applications and Council's wish to increase the value of individual awards, Council advertised that it would only consider the first 350 applications received. This was successful in limiting the number of applicants from 369 in 2004 to 280 in 2005.

The table below lists the number and level of grants awarded in 2004 and 2005 and shows that both the level of individual awards and total amount awarded increased in 2005.

Award	2004	2005
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A	£900 (34)	£1000(44)
B	£550 (130)	£700 (100)
C	£300 (88)	£500 (61)
D	£200 (26)	£300 (14)

Totals £133,700(278) £148,700(220)

The Trust is very keen to further increase the level of awards it is able to make. With the decision by Chancellor Brown to remove the tax relief on our dividends, the income of the Trust fell by 20%. We have, however, been able to maintain the level of grants by moving funds to high interest, rather than capital enhancing, investments. The Trust has always striven to minimise over-head costs and Council members do not receive any payment for their services other than essential travel costs. The financial pressure on students with increasing University fees, top-up fees and other charges is becoming intolerable and several students were unable to take up their University offers for financial reasons alone. Some students are incurring debts of up to £100,000 on graduation. This is a particular problem for the graduate entry schemes into the medical, veterinary and allied health-care professions.

The Trust had a particularly successful 75th Anniversary appeal and bequests and donations, including Gift-Aid, have allowed us to increase the level of awards. If alumni are able to make donations to the Trust, however small, these are most valuable. Bequests can be linked to particular areas of educational interest including medicine, veterinary medicine, the performing arts, environmental sciences, research degrees, etc. and offer an opportunity to establish a named award. Where this has been done the successful student is encouraged to maintain contact with the donor with regular progress reports.

If you would like to help the Trust's objectives in any of these ways, or if you can suggest other ways in which we might increase our funds, please contact our Administrator, Mrs Christine Ford, who will be delighted to give you further information and help.

PROFESSOR HRV ARNSTEIN - Professor Henry Arnstein joined Council in November 1983 at the invitation of his colleague at King's College, London, Professor George Brownlee. George Brownlee's contribution to the Trust as Bursar and Chairman is recorded in the History of the Trust (free copies available from the Administrator). Henry Arnstein was to serve with the same dedication until 2004. As Chairman (1988-2004) he was responsible for steering the Trust through challenging times.



There was a surge in applications in the 1980s and an urgent need to increase income. Council was led to consider the most effective use of its limited resources. Postgraduate students in financial need for second degree courses were identified as those most in need. It then became necessary to increase grants for these students to a realistic level, and to provide for the loss of income which the phasing out of tax credits for charities by the Government would bring at the

turn of the century. This led the Chairman to commit the Trust to three appeals for funds : a pilot one in 1991 to medical and veterinary alumni, followed by a major 75 th Anniversary Appeal in 1994. Professor Timothy Peters and Professor Arnstein personally approached nine distinguished academics to be Patrons of the Appeal, and the Chairman 'topped and tailed' one thousand two hundred letters to trusts, companies and alumni. Over £57,000 was raised, the income from which was available to raise the level of grants. A smaller Millennium Appeal to alumni was launched in 2000 – also the initiative of the Chairman.

In the last years of his Chairmanship, Council revised the management structure of the Trust to provide for greater continuity and a broader range of academic experience within Council. These measures have guaranteed that the Trust is well equipped to fulfil its mission statement of "working to support excellence in the postgraduate education of mature students" in the 21 st century.

The above initiatives were achieved by his wise and patient Chairmanship of Council. There has, throughout his connection with the Trust, been a less obvious aspect of his contributions. As Professor of Biochemistry and Dean of Life Sciences at King's in the 1980s he had had several years of experiencing the aspirations and anxieties of students, and he brought this sensitivity to the consideration of all applications. Both Michael Bushby and Christine Ford knew that Henry was ready at any time to discuss on the 'phone a student whose application troubled them. He loved reading letters from alumni and, with Council, rejoiced in their academic successes and their career developments. One experience which meant a lot to him was to have the privilege of being present when an alumnus received his Masters degree in prison. Applicants and alumni were not mere names to him, and it gave him great pleasure that three alumni – representatives of the thousands of students whom the Trust had assisted during his time – were able to attend a lunch to mark his retirement in November, 2004.

Henry Arnstein served the Trust with tireless and unselfish devotion and we all know that he will continue to have its affairs close to his heart.

Michael Bushby

Below are extracts from some of the recent letters that we have received from alumni:-

I am just writing to let you know that I am working as a GP registrar, having survived my hospital jobs. I am enjoying the work very much. It is also very nice to have a good salary and I am steadily getting through my debts now. Looking back I have no idea how I managed without an income for so long. I certainly could not have done so without the generous donations from your trust and other charities. It also gave a sense of encouragement. *(Medicine)*

I am pleased to inform you that I have successfully completed my final year at vet school. I have just graduated and am now a fully qualified vet. I still cannot believe that I have finished – however it is slowly sinking in. I am now ready for the next stage, which is finding a job. This is exciting but nerve racking at the same time. I will be fine once I start and I am looking forward to the challenge. I would like to thank the trust for their support over the last five years. *(Veterinary Science)*

I am overwhelmed with your offer of assistance, received this morning. My dilemma – better offer received from Queens University Belfast – also likely to receive from Loughborough for similar degree. So grateful. *(MA - Economics & Finance)*

During the MA Theatre and International Development course I undertook a work placement in West Bengal, India, using theatre to look at social change with local tribes and communities. I am now Youth Arts Development Officer at the Chichester Festival Theatre (Educational Department – focusing on social exclusion – young offenders/refugees and asylum seekers and other vulnerable groups). Thank you so much for the grant! The MA really helped me get these

jobs. I hope to embark on some international project as well.

(MA Theatre & International Development)

I am pleased to tell you that I have successfully passed my viva and have been awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. I just want to, once again, say a big thank you to the Trust. I attach the acknowledgement I have given you in my dissertation for you to look at. Enjoy the summer!

(PhD Criminal Justice)

For the third consecutive year I write, once again, to express my most sincere thanks to you. Of the many, seemingly countless applications that I submitted for funding since the commencement of my studies, only one Foundation has responded – and that is the Sir Richard Stapley Foundation. Somehow writing to you to express my thanks seems wholly insufficient; a letter, such as this, simply cannot capture the depth of my gratitude. I remain indebted to your kindness and shall never forget your support. Your kindness has sparked a sense of philanthropy in me and, I assure you, that sometime (in the not too distant future) I hope to be in a position where I shall repay your kindness. I am most grateful to the committee – for this is the third year in a row that I have been fortunate to receive a grant. I don't think the committee will ever truly know how much their help means to me.

(DPhil - Legal Studies)

I was awarded an MSc in Science Communication & Diploma of Imperial College in November 2004. I am now working full-time as a Communications Office for Queen Mary, University of London. Many thanks to the Trust for their financial assistance last year, which has helped me successfully pursue a career in science communication.

(MSc- Science Communication)

Your support means a great deal to me, without which I would have found it impossible to have reached this stage in the veterinary course. Thank you very much for your generosity, I really appreciate it.

(Veterinary Medicine)

In the year 2002-3 I was awarded a scholarship to complete my PhD by your foundation. I just wanted to let you know that I could not have made it without your help. Thanks! I was awarded my doctorate in June 2003, and that same summer I obtained a postdoctoral fellowship of the Swedish Institute to research and work at the University of Stockholm. Thanks once again.

(PhD in History)

The last term at RCM was busy as usual but this time was mostly full with external engagements, starting in October with the revival of L'Orfeo in Beijing Music Festival. The Monteverdi opera was very warmly received also in that part of the world. I had a short glance of the Forbidden City and enjoyed a fantastic Peking duck after the concert. It was also my first experience of signing programs and posters (almost a real celebrity..!). Two weeks later I have sung in the 20 th birthday celebration of the Israeli Opera. Future engagements include a concert of Mozart arias with the I Maestri Orchestra in St Anns, Highgate Hill, and an Opera scene from Monteverdi's L'Incoronazione di Poppea at the RCM. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you again for the trust, faith and support you have so kindly given me.

(Post-grad. Diploma – Singing)

I am writing to thank you and members of Council for your generous support of my studies this year through making me a GlaxoSmithKline Healthcare Scholar. I will also be writing to GlaxoSmithKline. The one year graduate course in psychology which I am undertaking is the first step on the road to me becoming a clinical psychologist – a dream which I am now closer to achieving, thanks to your support. The course has already begun in earnest and so far has proved to be very enjoyable, with its inevitable challenging moments! I do thank you all again for your support.

(Graduate Dip. - Psychology)

I have now commenced my 4th year of study which is largely clinically based and therefore very interesting. I would like to thank yourselves for being so generous over the course of my studies, you have definitely reduced the financial concern that I have had studying for a second degree.

(Medicine)



The Council - November 2004

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL from MAY 2005

**Professor Timothy Peters PhD, DSc, FRCP, FRCPath, FRSA
(Chairman and Trustee)**

Dr Mary Wheeler MA, PhD, MRCP (Deputy Chairman)

Mr Mark Spurdens BSc, MRCVS (Honorary Treasurer)

Professor Colin Seymour-Ure BA, MA, DPhil

Dr Muriel Buxton-Thomas MBBS, MRCP, MSc, FRCP

Professor Ralph Penny MA, PhD

Mr Jeremy Jackman

Professor Keith Smith BSc, PhD



Professor Peters



Dr. Wheeler

NON-COUNCIL TRUSTEES

**Professor Henry Arnstein PhD,
DSc, FIBiol**

Mr Michael Bushby BA

**ADMINISTRATOR: Mrs Christine
Ford JP**

