



The Sir Richard Stapley Educational Trust Newsletter

Autumn 2007

This Year's Grants

The most noteworthy event this year is that for the first time the total grant award has exceeded £200,000. Strong performance of our investments, generous donations, a bequest, and a successful grant application have allowed us to make 246 awards including 66 at £1200 for the academic year 2007-8.

2004-5	2005-6	2006-7	2007-8
£1200 x 2	£1000 x 44	£1000 x 42	£1200 x 66
£900 x 32	£700 x 99	£800 x 104	£800 x 111
£550 x 119	£500 x 61	£500 x 70	£600 x 49
£500 x 11	£300 x 17	£300 x 23	£300 x 20
£300 x 88	£145 x 1		
£200 x 26			
Awards:			
278	222	239	246
Totals:			
£133,750	£149,045	£167,100	£203,400

The table shows the grants awarded over the past four years.

Whilst we are very pleased that our income is continuing to increase we still have to make difficult decisions each year because we receive many more applications than we are able to support. Every year we have to disappoint deserving applicants because there is insufficient money to go around. We cannot stress strongly enough how much difference a small regular gift, a one-off donation, or a bequest means to the Trust. If you have benefited from a grant in the past and are now in a position to help us we would urge

you to consider this Trust as a very worthy cause

As an organisation that awards grants for post-graduate degrees, the Trust receives requests from Colleges about course content, viability and opportunities for new courses. A recent request concerned an MSc in Technology Enhanced Learning and Communication with particular reference to

overseas and newly-industrialising countries.

Recent Bequest

The Trust recently received a bequest from a former grant holder who was awarded grants of £50 in 1968 and 1969 at the age of 48. She was a graduate of University College, London and, after obtaining a post-graduate degree in French supported by the Trust, joined the Open University at its foundation in 1970 where she taught courses in Philosophy and the Romantic movement for many years before finally retiring in

1997. We are particularly grateful for this bequest : Sir Richard would have strongly approved of this award and his philosophy continues to this day. It is proposed to award a Pamela Bulmer scholarship to acknowledge this bequest.

Sir Richard Stapley Genealogy

Our website has continued to receive many visitors but one of the unexpected requests has been from family history enthusiasts who are asking for details of Sir Richard Stapley's genealogy. In response to these requests the Chairman, with the assistance of a colleague who specialises in family tree research, has embarked on such a study. It is proposed to provide more details in the next issue of the Trust's history booklet, but useful progress has been made.

Richard Stapley (1842-1920) was the fourth and youngest

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son of Robert Stapley (1806-1876), a farmer living in Twineham in Sussex, and his wife Anne (nee Trower; 1805-1885). Their ancestors also were from Sussex. Sir Richard had four sisters, none of whom appeared to have married. Sir Richard and his wife were also childless but his brothers had off-spring. We have so far been unable to contact any living relatives. A copy of the family tree, as available to date, may be obtained from our Administrator. Sir Richard died at sea on 20th May 1920 returning from Jamaica on the Glasgow-registered passenger ship, Camito. The absence of a latitude and longitude from the Captain's log indicate that



he was not buried at sea and his funeral service and cremation was held at Golders Green on 25th May. The cause of death is given as: "Malignant disease of the gall bladder and dilated heart, exhaustion following causing death." In his Will (Probate granted: £360,000) Sir Richard made bequests to various nephews and nieces with the residue passing to the Sir Richard Stapley Educational Trust (which he had founded, with friends, in 1919).

Sir Richard Stapley was the founder of the textile firm of Stapley and Smith, which according to Companies House in Cardiff was incorporated in

1908 and again in 1919, and dissolved on 3rd October, 1963. There are suggestions that the Company had a shirt factory in Strabane, Northern Ireland but this is the subject of ongoing research. Amongst his many accomplishments was membership of the Rainbow Circle, a dining club for progressive politicians, which met between 1894 and 1920. It had a strong influence on the philosophy of the Liberal party and included amongst its members Ramsay Macdonald, C.P. Trevelyan and Viscount Haldane. Sir Richard stood unsuccessfully as a Liberal parliamentary candidate on several occasions. He was also a Liveryman and a past Master of the Gold and Silver Wyre Drawers Company.

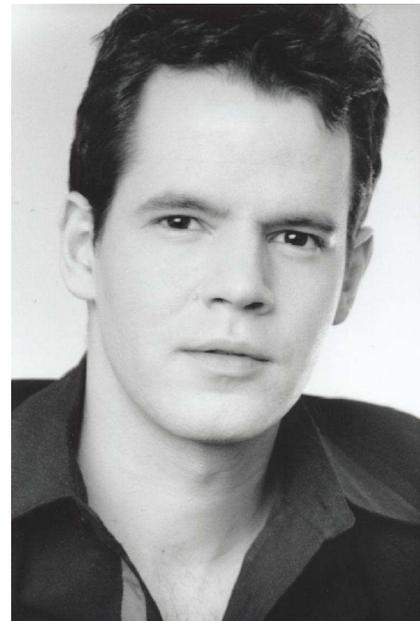
Support for Musicians

A theme of this Newsletter is our support for post-graduate students in Music and Polly Jackman, the daughter of Council member Jeremy Jackman, has written an article for this Newsletter on her experiences when studying for an MA in Music. This is a relatively new area for the Trust and we were pleased to be invited to the Inaugural Concert for the Charities Philharmonia at St John's, Smith Square in November last. A splendid performance of Rachmaninov's Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini by Luis Pares opened the concert. Luis is a post-graduate student supported by the Trust at the Royal College of Music and already is a major prize-winner on the international piano circuit.

His programme notes state: Venezuelan/Italian pianist Luis Pares is in much demand as a soloist and chamber musician having performed in many countries such as the USA, UK,

Spain, Venezuela, Italy and Croatia. He has appeared with some of the most distinguished Venezuelan orchestras as well as performing in prestigious halls in the UK in London and the Bridgewater Hall in Manchester.

Concerts this season have included his solo debut in Catalo-



nia performing Bartok Third Concerto with the Valles Symphony Orchestra in Barcelona, Lerida Girona and Sabadell, Rachmaninov's Paganini Rhapsody at St John's Smith Square and recitals in Croatia, Italy, Venezuela, England and Spain. He was a finalist at the YCAT Final Auditions at the Wigmore Hall this year and he was recently awarded the Mills Williams Junior Fellowship at the Royal College of Music for 2007-8.

Funding an MA in Music

Polly Jackman

Like most students in the country I finished my undergraduate degree maxed-out on my overdraft and with a hefty student loan to pay off. I had recently decided that I wasn't quite ready to leave university and

applied to study for an MA in Music. So when I was offered a place in June 2006 I had to start thinking about how on earth I was going to finance it. I already had a temp job lined up which meant I earned a salary for the duration of the summer break. In the past my summer earnings combined with my student loan had been just about enough to see me through the year, but you can't get a student loan for an MA so I had to look elsewhere.

Sadly, applying for one of the Arts & Humanities Research Council's generous grants was not an option for me. Firstly, the deadline was in May: at that time I hadn't absolutely decided that I wanted to do an MA and was also in the thick of dissertating, so the prospect of filling in a mammoth application form was unrealistic. Furthermore, AHRC funding targets people who plan to progress to a PhD, and I couldn't even begin to pretend that was my intention. A number of the other research bodies I could have applied to would have required me to commit myself to a specific course of study for the whole year (e.g. theory and analysis), but one of the attractions of the course I had chosen was that it allowed me to mix-and-match a combination of different disciplines, so this was also out of the question. I applied for all the scholarships that were available from the University, but the trouble with going to a really good university is that there are far more clever people around than there are scholarships and I wasn't lucky enough to get one. I trawled the internet for charities whose funding criteria I met and sent off countless applications but in the end the only funding I received was a total of £1000 from two local trust funds. Aside from this my MA would have to be entirely self-funded (with a little bit of help from my parents).

Meanwhile, over the summer I had already had to start paying rent to ensure I had somewhere to live in the autumn. My first week back at university really put financial matters in perspective when I had to pay tuition fees of over £3000 – that's pretty much all the money I had earned working full time over the summer. In the end my living costs were funded by peripatetic violin teaching two days a week, a choral scholarship, a handful of out-of-hours shifts in the University's music library each term and occasional pocket money from string quartet gigs, singing at weddings etc. I'm lucky that I managed to find work that was both enjoyable and relevant to my studies, but however you do it, earning money is time consuming. Trying to fit a degree around all this as well as practical music-making (which I was not prepared to sacrifice) and any kind of a social life is very hard work.

Ultimately it was all worth it. I had a great time doing my MA and it helped me to get a job with a music publishing company which I love, but it's been a pretty exhausting year. After being a student for four years earning a proper salary is a massive relief and I'm looking forward to rewarding myself with an extremely decadent holiday in October!

If you're planning to apply for a postgraduate course apply for funding as early as you possibly can to every organisation you can think of – it doesn't hurt to ask. Try to be philosophical about it if you don't get funding. At the end of the day if you really want to continue studying you've got to be prepared to work hard for it (and not just on your academic work), anything else is a bonus.

Polly Jackman has just completed her MA at Nottingham University (and did not apply for a grant from the Stapley Trust!)

Student News



Three Edinburgh medics (and a prospective one?) got together and sent us this photo to thank us for their awards.

Recent Letters of thanks
received from students
throughout the year include:-

I am proud to finally be able to write to you at the end of my time in Cambridge, having graduated from the veterinary course and having been admitted to the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. I am writing to thank your organisation and all involved in the vital and generous help that has been extended to me over the past five years in the form of educational grants. Without this help it would not have been possible to fulfil my lifelong ambition of getting to this stage of my career. Despite the inevitable stresses and strains of my time at University, particularly throughout the final year and the final exams; reaching this point has made it all that so worthwhile. I am taking up a position at the RSPCA animal hospital in Birmingham. I am now in the position to embark on what I hope will be a challenging and rewarding career where I can start to pass on the fruits of the charitable help that I have received, to the benefit of many deserving animals and their

owners. For this opportunity I owe you a great debt of thanks. If at some point in the future I am in a position to help other students in the same situation I will remember the help that I have received and hope that I may be able to contribute in some way to the invaluable work that you continue to do.

£650 - 2002-3, £300 - 2004-5, £700 - 2005-6, £800 - 2006-7

I am writing to you to thank you very much for the generous awards I have been lucky enough to receive. They have helped me enormously and in the future I would like to be able to give a donation (just need to clear my student loans!). I sat my finals in June and am just about to start a two year job in London. I am on a 2 year academic rotation with the 1st year at Northwick Park and the 2nd at Chelsea and Westminster and the Royal Marsden. Many thanks!

Cambridge, Medicine, £500 - 2003-4, £550 - 2004-5, £800 - 2005-6

I am delighted to inform you that I have been fortunate enough to qualify as a Veterinary Surgeon from the University of Liverpool. Thank you for your financial support that I received throughout my degree programme - I really could

not have got through it without your assistance. I now face the new challenges of learning how to be a vet and, of course, paying back all the money I borrowed to achieve my ambition! I hope that in the future I can help other students, like you helped me, by supporting the Trust fund. I regret that this will not be possible immediately, but I hope that you understand that I have to get my own financial problems under control first. Thank you again for your support.

£550 - 2004-5, £700 - 2005-6, £800 - 2006-7

I have just returned from my field-work trip in China and was truly delighted at receiving the good news. Thank you so much for awarding this grant for my 7th last year of graduate studies. I truly appreciate the aid which the Trust has granted me during the whole of my DPhil dissertation course.

Oxford. DPhil in Chinese Studies. £1000 - 2005-6, £1000 - 2006-7, £1200 - 2007-8

I take this opportunity to thank Council for the award of £1200 towards my studies at Lancaster University. The award came at a time when I'd lost all hope of getting

any grant, so I'm grateful for the privilege of being considered. I wish to assure you that the plans for completing my research are on course.

Lancaster University PhD in Linguistics £1200 - 2007-8

Thank you for your recent letter informing me that I have been awarded a grant towards my fees for my final year. This is just brilliant news and very generous. What a good week it has been - I also found out that I passed my two latest exams with Credit and Distinction! This money will be a huge help towards my fees for next year so I would like to thank the Trustees for their generous support, and for all your help. I look forward to getting on with my final year, and will keep you updated as to my progress. Enjoy the summer!

Edinburgh University Vet. Science £550 - £2004-5, £700 - 2005-6, £800 - 2006-7, £1200 - 2007-8

I am very pleased to write to you in order to express my sincere appreciation and thanks for generously awarding me again a grant to help me in my postgraduate research. The news of the award has been very much welcomed with praise and gratitude by my family and myself. I am so encouraged by it and can now focus more on the studies. I can't wait to be contributing towards the needs of the Trust, once I am done with the studies and get a job, for enabling the Trust to continue to help others.

University of Aberdeen. PhD in Divinity & Religious Studies. £1000 - 2006-7, £1200 - 2007-8

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For further information about the Trust please visit our website at:

www.stapleytrust.org