



## FROM THE CHAIRMAN

It was with great sadness that we heard in September of the sudden death of Larry Mulheirn whilst on holiday in France.

Larry was for many years a stalwart supporter of, and help to, the Stapley Trust – he referred to himself as one of the backroom boys - and his expertise in IT was particularly valuable to us. Then, for a regrettably short time, he became one of our council members and had a very positive influence. We extend our heartfelt condolences to his widow, Margaret.

After several changes in 2008 to the membership of Council, and the retirement of Christine Ford, we have found ourselves in the safe hands of Nancy Jachec, who is gently keeping us up-to-date.

Financially, this year has been one of relative stability, in contrast to the general economic climate. In spite of the considerable fall in the book value of our investments, our income available for grants was little affected.

We received a record 321 applications, and if current trends continue, we will have to apply our guillotine at the receipt of 300 applications next year or the year after.



We awarded 274 grants, of which 69 were to previous Stapley award-holders. The total value was £218,700, for subjects ranging from agriculture to zoology, via opera performance and financial management. The largest single category was, as is usual, medicine and dentistry.

Perhaps as a reflexion of current economic gloom, we have noticed over the last couple of years, an increase in the number of awards which are not taken up. We hope that this is a trend which does not continue.

**Mary Wheeler**

## CURRENT GRANT-HOLDERS

*This year, we asked a couple of our current grant holders to tell us about their studies:*

**BO HU**, second year PhD student, LSE, Social Policy Department, writes:

My research concerns education equality of rural-urban migrants' children in China. Since the 1980s, when the Chinese government started its reform and opening up policy, institutional control of rural-to-urban migration became relaxed, and a huge number of rural labourers flooded into cities. Meanwhile, increasing numbers of rural-urban migrants' children are now living in cities. Many rural-urban migrants bring the whole family with them, and more and more migrants hope to have their children better educated in urban schools.



Rural-urban migrants' children cannot, however, enjoy equal education as urban children. For example, rural families have to pay an extra amount not required by urban children in order to gain access to urban public schools. The dropout rate of rural-urban migrants' children is much higher than that of urban children. Against this background, a series of laws and regulations has been initiated by the central government since 2001 to ensure equal education for rural-urban migrants' children. However, it is observed that some migrants' children are still declined access to urban schools. Although some do have the opportunity to study in urban schools, they are not treated equally as their urban peers.

The aim of my research is threefold. First, it intends to reveal the education inequality rural-urban migrants' children are suffering in cities. Second, it will analyse why education reform which started in 2001 could not be implemented properly and failed to achieve its goal of ensuring education equality. Finally, the study plans to produce relevant policy suggestions which aim to provide rural-urban migrants' children with a better environment in which they can enjoy equal education.

The LSE, as one of the world's best higher-education institutions in the field of social science, is highly rated among the public for its ability to provide the students who are engaged in research work with strict and formal training. It is my dream that my research can one day benefit the whole society (especially the vulnerable groups), my home country and even people all around the world. I believe studying at LSE will draw me nearer to this goal.

**CATHY TAYLOR**, second year medical student, Oxford University, writes:

Before starting my medical degree, I trained as a molecular biologist at the University of Edinburgh and then completed a PhD in malaria research at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.



During my doctoral research, I was trying to disrupt particular genes in the malaria parasite with a view to finding out more about their role in the parasite life cycle.

I subsequently spent some time working at the Medical Research Council's Clinical Trials Unit in London. Here, I was part of a team whose aim was to find out more about the use of antiretroviral medicines in children with HIV.

I found my previous research extremely interesting, but I slowly began to see that without a medical degree, I would not be able to fulfil my ambition of connecting my research with clinical practice. I therefore decided to retrain as a doctor, for which I have been entirely dependent on grants and loans.

Among these sources of funding, the financial support of the Sir Richard Stapley Educational Trust over the past two years represents a very valuable contribution for which I am extremely grateful.

Now one year into the degree I am excited about the future possibilities that my career will hold. Although it is still difficult to predict exactly what direction my career will take, I have always been very interested in infectious diseases and hope one day to be able to combine clinical practice and medical research in order to learn more about some of the world's most devastating infections.

## FINANCIAL MATTERS

The recession has inevitably had an effect on the Trust.

As forecast by M & G Investments, which is responsible for the Trust's investment fund, the distribution of dividends was down by approximately 15% in 2009 (down £27,683.87 from £177,390.62 in 2008 to of £149,706.75 in 2009).

However, as Charifund's Chairman has noted, this is only the third reduction in Charifund's distribution since its foundation in 1960, and it remains competitive in the current economic climate.

Individual and corporate donations continue to be an important source of support for the Trust, and we take this opportunity to warmly thank the anonymous donor who gift-aided £1,500 to the Trust this summer, as well as those who continue to support our work through occasional and regular donations.

The Trust also thanks GlaxoSmithKline for its continued support of our work this year. GlaxoSmithKline's relationship with the Trust began in 1993, and its current, generous grant of £25,000 for 2009 meant that the Trust was able to support the work of 38 students whose work in the field of healthcare includes gerontology, nursing, physiotherapy and public health.

### Trustees

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BSc, PhD

## ALUMNI NEWS

*During the year, several former grant-holders have been in touch with the Trust reflecting on their time as Stapley scholars:*

**Dr. Mark Foulerton** (grant-holder 2008)  
Birmingham, 4th September 2009:

The generous grant which was awarded allowed me to concentrate wholly on my studies. My final dissertation looked at the long-term consequences of cerebral malaria in Kilifi, Kenya.

I have now begun plans, with my fiancée, for future work in Africa. We hope to undertake an audit of malnutrition in Rwanda, with a view to living out there for a few years and working with malnourished children.

My year at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine has been fantastic for making contacts, and I will hopefully draw on this wealth of experience and knowledge over the coming years as we plan our time in Africa.

**Dr. Shirley Moore** (grant-holder, 2001-4)  
Perth, 23rd July 2009:

I graduated from Aberdeen University in 2005 (with Honours) and commenced work as a Foundation Doctor at Dr. Gray's Hospital in Elgin.

This was a great year in a small district general hospital which gave me lots of valuable experience in Medicine and Surgery.

I moved to Tayside in 2006 and completed my Foundation Programme at Ninewells Hospital in Dundee with rotations to Psychiatry, Plastic Surgery and Medicine.

**Dr. Tim Yates** (grant-holder, 2005-07)  
Bury St. Edmunds, 3rd July 2009:

I was lucky enough to be awarded a grant by the Council for several years of my medical course at Cambridge until my graduation this year.

It has made a huge difference to my studies. In many ways, it was the award that made the course possible for me - I was required to provide a financial guarantee without which I may not have been able to take up the place.

In addition, it gave me some extra financial freedom, which I used to travel to extra meetings and conferences. Those extra activities paid off.

Last year, I was accepted on to the prestigious Neurosciences Academic Foundation Programme based at Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge, so

as part of my junior doctor training I'll have funding to undertake some clinical research.

In addition, I was one of the few students at Cambridge awarded a Distinction in the final medical examinations taken last month.

I remain, in short, eternally thankful for your support over the last four years. I hope that, given the prevailing financial conditions, the Trust is able to continue making these grants each year as I believe they make a tremendous difference.

**We hope that alumni will continue to keep in touch.**

## FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

2009 saw a big change in the Stapley Trust's operations - namely, the switching from paper to electronic applications. As the new administrator responsible for setting up and implementing this system, I'm happy - and relieved - to report that the new system works remarkably smoothly. Given the immediacy of communication between administrator and applicant that an electronic system permits, and the reduction in handling costs and environmental benefits that moving away from a paper-based system entails, it's safe to say that the new system is here to stay. But it is important to add that we still welcome paper applications from those of you who do not have regular access to on-line facilities.

The Trust has also decided to retire the practice of making grant payments by BACS. Piloted in 2008 for more or less the same reasons driving the change in application procedures, it was agreed at the May meeting that BACS was really more suitable for making serial payments. Therefore, for the foreseeable future, the Trust will be issuing grant payments by means of the slower, but dependable countersigned cheque.

Finally, competition for grants this year has been particularly fierce. Between 1st January and 17th March, when we reached our limit of 350 fully-completed applications, 864 application packs had sent out, and between 17th and 31st March, 267 requests for applications, and 56 completed applications were turned away. In short, demand has been heavy, and is likely to be so in the coming year. If you plan on applying again for funding for 2010/11, please ensure that you turn around your application, reference letter, and any other required supporting documentation as promptly as possible. Application packs will be available from Monday 4th January 2010, from [admin@stapleytrust.org](mailto:admin@stapleytrust.org)

**Nancy Jachec**

## LETTERS OF THANKS

*The Trust has had the pleasure of receiving a number of letters from this year's grant recipients, and from their tutors, from which are the following excerpts:*

### **Prof. Paul Croll**

University of Reading, 16th July 2009:

Professor Paul Croll has extended thanks on behalf of his PhD student who has just received his doctorate at Reading's Institute of Education, having completed 'a very worthwhile piece of research'.

The student, who has received Stapley grants in 2007 and 2008, will now be returning to Kenya 'to pursue an academic career where his research on teacher development in Kenya will be of great value'.

This student has already published three papers in refereed journals out of his thesis, which have appeared in the *Journal of In-service Education*, *Research in Education*, and in *Educational Research*.

### **Dr. Ray Godwin**

University of Cambridge, 13th August 2009:

Dr. Godwin, who has been Director of Studies in Medical Sciences and Vice President of Hughes Hall, Cambridge, and is now retiring, has kindly thanked the Trust for being: 'of significant help to a number of my students'.

One of them, having received grants from the Trust throughout his four-year Graduate Medical Course, qualified with a distinction in his finals, completed his foundation posts and has passed the Member of the Royal College of Physicians examinations.

Dr. Godwin notes that the student in question 'has always been an outstanding individual' and anticipates that he will 'be a very successful clinician of some standing within the profession'.

### **MA student**

Royal Academy of Music, London, 15th September 2009:

This grant is invaluable to me and will enable me to study with the top professors at the top conservatoire.

### **MSc student**

London School of Economics, 5th September 2009:

Your award has made the difference between my attending and not attending and I am most grateful.

### **4th year medical student**

Barts and the London Medical School, 7th September 2009:

This financial support makes a huge difference to me and will take some pressure off what will be my toughest year yet in medicine.

### **1st year medical student**

University of Oxford, undated:

I think it is fantastic that organisations like yourselves operate to provide assistance to students like me, without which we would face real obstacles in completing our education. Having recently completed my PhD, I'm really keen to make further contributions to medical research and clinical medicine, but I know there are options that would be much more financially rewarding than four years of debt-building student life! Your award will help me to concentrate my energies on academic matters, which I'm really looking forward to!

## SUPPORTING THE TRUST

Donations are vitally important in enabling us to support the work of hundreds of students from Britain and abroad that come to the UK to pursue degrees in medicine, veterinary studies, and higher degrees in all subjects.

The Trust extends its thanks to all of its past and current donors.

If you would like to support our work through regular, occasional, or a one-off donation, please contact the administrator:

via e-mail at [admin@stapleytrust.org](mailto:admin@stapleytrust.org)

or write to us at:

*The Stapley Trust*  
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Gift Aid forms are available from the administrator, and by 2010, from our website [www.stapleytrust.org](http://www.stapleytrust.org)