



# THE SIR RICHARD STAPLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2019

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Sir Richard Stapley

## One Hundred Years of Educational Grant Making

2019 marks a hundred years of grant making by The Sir Richard Stapley Educational Trust. We celebrated this landmark with a Centenary Concert on 20 November at St Ethelburga's Centre in London, hosted by choral director and composer Jeremy Jackman, a former trustee of the Trust. There were superb performances by our alumni and other friends. Pictures of their performances are featured in the pages that follow.

What better way to mark this centenary than by reviewing the life of the man behind it all – Sir Richard Stapley?

### *Family Background*

Richard Stapley was born on 23 October 1842 into a

## Letters of Thanks

*'I am eternally grateful for your supporting words and generosity and even more, thank you for your belief in me.'*

*'I am a blind student who was awarded a grant from the Sir Richard Stapley Educational Trust in 2012 and 2013 to support me financially in undertaking PhD research at the School of Oriental and African Studies. I wanted to write and inform the Trust that I have successfully completed my PhD and am in the process of being awarded the doctorate. This would not have been possible without the support of the Trust and I would like to thank you.'*

*'I would like to thank the Trust for awarding me this very generous grant and for being able to make my dream of studying veterinary medicine a reality. Without your very kind continued support I would be unable to continue with this next year of my studies.'*

*'As a self-funded PhD student, I can't even begin to express how much of a difference this money will make to my living costs. Thank you!'*

*'Thanks to the Trust for your generosity, I am extremely grateful and cannot express enough how much this grant will help this academic year'.*

farming family in Twineham, Sussex. He was educated at a day school in Sussex, near Lewes, and never acquired any university education. The year of his birth marked the passing of the 'hungry forties', as well as the start of the trade revival and the rising tide of Victorian prosperity. In 1866 at the age of 24 years, he married Elizabeth (Annie) Jenner. They lived at 33 Bloomsbury Square, London.



Host Jeremy Jackson leads the cake cutting at the Centenary Concert

## *Political, religious and business interests*

Sir Richard was a British businessman, politician and a philanthropist. He was also a JP and a member of Council of the City of London representing the Cripplegate Ward Within. Philosophically, he was connected to the Baha'i Movement, and was also known to have hosted the Christo-Theosophical Society and organised numerous lectures to fill the gap he had in tertiary education. He was also involved with the publication of the Asiatic Quarterly Review.

As a businessman, he was the co-founder and director of Stapley & Smith of London Wall (Henry Smith being the other co-founder), manufacturers of foundation and undergarments such as bustles and corsets. He was also a Past Master of the Gold & Silver Wyre Drawers Company.

As a politician, he supported the Liberal Party, which was one of the two major parties in the UK in the 19th and early 20th centuries. In the 1890's, progressive Liberals began to meet in groups to discuss social reform and progressive thinking at the Rainbow Tavern, and later moved permanently to the home of Richard. In the 1892 General Election, he stood as a Liberal candidate for the Brixton

*'I would like to send my gratitude for all the help you have provided over the course of my medical degree. Your grants have been an exceptional aid in helping me complete my degree thus far. I really appreciate all the help and would definitely keep in touch so that when I am in a financially better position, then I can hopefully give back and aid with your charity work. Thank you once again!'*

*'I am currently in my third year in the History Faculty at Oxford working on the philosopher and mathematician Gottfried Leibniz. I will be finishing my doctorate next year after having taken up various doctoral fellowships including at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin. I am extremely grateful to the Trust for providing me with financial assistance which enabled me to pursue my studies in serenity and hope it continues its excellent work. Kindest regards and once again, with all my thanks'*

*'I thought you would like to know, as you supported me for my Open University MSc in Mathematics, that I won the Leslie Walshaw Award for the best result in the MSc. I gained distinctions in every module and 95% in my dissertation. I would not have been able to afford to do the course had it not been for your very generous help and so I am pleased not to have wasted the money you gave me. The OU MSc in mathematics is a very large cohort so being the best student is particularly pleasing. Many thanks again!'*

division of Lambeth, where he secured 44.1% of the votes, but lost. Due to his contributions to the Liberal Party, he was then knighted in 1908. In the 1910 General Election, he stood again as a Liberal candidate for the Holborn division of Finsbury, securing 31.8% of the votes, and lost again. He no longer contested any elections afterwards.



Michael Poll performs at the Centenary Concert

### *Establishing the Trust*

On the 13 January 1919, and in failing health, Sir Richard founded the Sir Richard Stapley Educational Trust using funds from his capital investments. The first monthly meeting was held on 30 January 1919 at Sir Richard's home in London with Sir Richard and four other council members in attendance. The first four grants were two of £20 and two of £10.

Sir Richard died on 20 May 1920 at the age of 77 years, having shared his intention of dedicating the residue of his estate to an educational trust in his name.

The Trust has helped countless students over the last hundred years. It remains today an expression of Sir Richard's lifelong concern to advance educational and philanthropic causes.

*Dr Tekena Fubara, Vice-Chair*



*'I would like to say a huge thank you for supporting my education by awarding me a grant. This will be hugely helpful, allowing me to complete my compulsory placements in vet practices across the UK without having a financial burden holding me back'.*

*'I am indebted to the trust for many years for the help and support they have given me. I hope when I graduate to support the trust to help others who need it just like myself.'*

*'Thank you for your decision to award me this generous grant. I am currently at the stage of completing my First Formal Progression Review, and the news that I will be receiving support from the Trust was an incredible boost. By awarding me this grant, you will set me in good stead for the upcoming academic year and allow me the opportunity to attend courses and symposia key to my academic development. I am incredibly grateful for this opportunity!'*

*'Thank you very much for my grant. It will go a long way in helping me to complete my medical course. Becoming a doctor and improving the health of others has been my ambition for many years. Your help means I can focus more on developing my skillset to become the best doctor I can be and take on more opportunities to get involved in mentoring others and contributing to medical research. I am very grateful to you all. Once again thank you for your tremendous generosity.'*

## Greetings from our Chair, Dr Jane Dancer



Dr Jane Dancer, Chair

Throughout our centenary year, the current trustees continued the work of our predecessors over the past one hundred years to deliver Sir Richard Stapley's vision of advancing education. This work has benefitted thousands of students who, through the financial support provided by the Trust, have been able to complete their studies and gone on to pursue a vast variety of different careers. While the Trust's fundamental objectives have remained the same it has seen many changes over the years. The introduction of new technologies and regulations has had a particular impact on our work as highlighted in the interviews starting on page 9 below.

### *Ring the Changes*

While we look back over the past one hundred years, the trustees are committed to moving with the times and equipping the Trust for the future. For example, last year we launched our new website and have since introduced additional functionality including a link for online donations.

This year, the Trust saw the departure of our administrator, Nancy Jachec. Having played a key role in the delivery of



**Venkatesh Mallikarjun**, who recently completed his PhD at the University of Manchester, describes his published research in the field of computational and molecular biology.

*"Big Data" approaches to studying mechanical changes that occur during ageing and age-related diseases:*

*Regenerative medicine involves using cells or whole tissues grown in a lab to replace cells lost or damaged due to injury or illness. Many age-related diseases such as sarcopenia (loss of skeletal muscle mass) and osteoporosis (loss of bone density) could be reversed by regenerative medicine. However, recent evidence has demonstrated that implanting healthy cells into an aged environment severely limits their therapeutic potential.*

*One poorly understood aspect of ageing is how it modifies the mechanical properties of tissues (e.g. stiffness or tensile strength), making them more susceptible to damage. These changes in tissue mechanics can affect mechano-sensitive cellular signalling pathways that regulate stem cell growth, proliferation and differentiation – processes important for determining how tissues regenerate following injury or disease.*

our grants for over ten years she is now able to fulfill her own academic interests having received a prestigious award of her own. The trustees are grateful to Nancy for her support over so many years and wish her every success with her research. Nancy is succeeded by Colin Nee, who joined us as Clerk to the Trustees in July. Colin brings 20 years' experience of senior roles within the charity sector having led the development of a number of national and international charities, most recently as Chief Executive of The British Geriatrics Society. The Clerk role is the Trust's sole employee and is part-time. The role is critical, not only in our day-to-day operations but also in advising the trustees on governance and future strategy. In his first 6 months Colin has already made a significant contribution to the Trust and we look forward to working with him.

We have also seen changes in the Trustee body; Ralph Penny left us in May after 10 years with the Trust and had served as our Treasurer. Our trustees give up their time for free; while the oversight of the Trust and assessment of grant applications is already a significant commitment the role of Treasurer brings additional responsibilities. I am therefore particularly grateful to Ralph for his many years of support. Our Board is composed of up to ten Trustees and our two most recent recruits are Dr Sarah Othner and Dr James Jones who joined us in May. Both Sarah and James are Stapley alumni and their experience of having had to finance their own studies through grant funding will be very valuable to the Trust.

### *Celebrating our Centenary*

I was delighted to meet with former officers and trustees as well as current and past students at our Centenary Concert in November. The concert was a wonderful evening as can be seen from the photos throughout this Newsletter. We are especially grateful to Jeremy Jackman for hosting, our musicians for entertaining us and those friends and family who helped with the catering. The concert not only allowed us to celebrate the Trust's 100th birthday but has also provided an opportunity to continue to raise the Trust's profile and make people aware of our work.

### *Our core work and impact*

Turning now to the main work of the Trust, this year we awarded 159 grants totalling £161,000; 112 of these were to new applicants and 47 to re-applicants. The successful applicants represent 30 different nationalities and are studying a wide range of subjects with medicine and music being the most popular. The results of our annual Impact Survey (reported on page 6) and letters of thanks demonstrate that our grants continue to make a real difference. From the many applications we receive it is

*To better understand how ageing impairs the efficacy of regenerative medicine, we analysed global changes to tissue composition that occur during ageing. My thesis work showed that changes in protein composition are associated with changes in tissue mechanical properties. Furthermore, we also found that cellular senescence (a causative feature of many age-related diseases) was associated with impaired ability of stem cells to sense changes in the mechanical properties of their surroundings.*

*Results from this thesis will be used to design subsequent experiments that will determine the reasons why cell therapies fail when implanted into an aged body. Applications in regenerative medicine will require an understanding and control of the chemical and mechanical signals that govern cell behaviour. This research will aid development of therapeutics to reverse age-related disease, leading to improved quality of life.*

*My PhD at the University of Manchester was a fascinating fusion of computational and molecular biology and a unique opportunity to supplement my molecular biology skill set with strong programming and statistics skills. During my PhD project, I developed computational methods to analyse large biological datasets to better characterise features of ageing in tissues and cells. This experience equipped me for a career in the life sciences where computational skills are increasingly in demand (in addition to traditional "wet-lab" skills). I am currently about to undertake a post-doctoral position in the USA that will focus on developing state-of-the-art computational methods to interrogate how ageing alters the regulation of key molecules that determine tissue mechanical properties.*

clear that students today face significant financial hardship. Our existing funds only allow us to help a proportion of those in need and we are therefore particularly grateful to our donors whose generosity allows us to help more students. With your support the Trust can look forward to continuing to fulfil Sir Richard's vision over the next one hundred years.



Bernadette Johns at the Centenary Concert

## Impact Survey 2019

Each year, the Trust conducts a survey to help us evaluate our effectiveness as a grant maker. This year, our third annual survey, we had a 70% reply rate (65% in 2018; 50% in 2017) from recipients of grants for the 2018/19 academic year. Students completing the survey came from 39 universities. The highest number of applicants responding were from Oxbridge. However, there was a higher than average number from Southampton, Aberdeen and Birmingham.

Fifty-two percent (51% in 2018; 48% in 2017) were studying for a PhD. The majority receiving grants were studying science related subjects; 28% (24% in 2018; 20% in 2017) were studying medicine. The remaining recipients were studying a diverse range of subjects. Recipients were from all years of study, but the majority were 2nd or 3rd years.





**Heather Ryall: MMus Music Graduate with distinction, Guildhall School of Music and Drama**

*I graduated from Guildhall School of Music and Drama with a Distinction last November. It was a brilliant two years and I was offered a Junior Fellowship at the School for the following year which recently finished.*

*I am currently a member of NEXT Ensemble, a contemporary music ensemble of recent graduates affiliated with Birmingham Contemporary Music Group. In our first project, I played Birtwistle's Verses and also Roddy's Reel for solo bass clarinet with audience participation! It was an interesting performance!*

*Recently, I was in Berlin for two concerts and a recording session of contemporary music with a Koto player and later participated in a project with Riot Ensemble in London.*

*I was accepted on to the PPCM Post-Masters with Klangforum Wien in Vienna starting this semester but as all the project dates clashed with Birmingham I have deferred until next autumn. I recently started a collaboration with two artists on a project called 'Until you Became Me' and we will be performing / collaborating over the coming year on the Isle of Wight and in London.*

## *Students' financial shortfall*

The majority financial shortfall was between £2001 - £5000, 38% (between £751 - £2000, 43%, in 2018; and between £2001 - £5000, 45%, in 2017). Eighty-five percent of recipients said grant funding was essential for their studies. No one had to stop their course this year and only two students transferred to part-time, and this was not for reasons of hardship.

Our grants cannot cover a student's total shortfall, so students still had to apply for more grants (64%) and take on more work (67%). Forty-eight percent reduced living expenses and 34% borrowed from family or took on larger loans (7%).



Ellen Falconer performs at the Centenary Concert

However, it was good to see that 55% (51) of the responding students managed to secure further funding. Major benefits gained as a result of the grants received included being able to focus more on their subjects (90%) and a reduction in stress levels (88%). Reducing extra jobs required to finance study (48%) and reductions in borrowing (42%) were also noted. Twenty-eight percent were able to enjoy extra curricula activities as well.

It is always a delight to learn of wider benefits of study and 62% of students published or presented their work to others. Forty-three percent taught other students.

## *Achievements*

Achievements this year have been many. International and conference presentations, publicising research papers, performing with renowned orchestras and passing crucial exams. Several students passed with distinction. Students

*Other than that, I am freelancing in London, doing bass clarinet auditions when jobs come up and teaching, and am very happy with how everything is going.*

*I am ever so grateful to the Trust for supporting me during my masters at Guildhall. Without the support from the Trust none of this would have been possible so once again, thank you!*

have completed this year's studies and progressed to the next year in their courses (77%) or to higher levels of qualifications (9%) or employment (14%).



Rebecca Speller performs at the Centenary Concert

There were some who had financial obstacles: for 13% (12 students), the main reasons for struggles were usually unexpected happenings, e.g. becoming pregnant, health and wellbeing issues or changes in work and finance arrangements. All these students progressed despite their difficulties.

It is hoped that in the coming years the Trust may help develop a community of alumni who can support each other. It is therefore exciting to see the offers of support for the Trust. Eighty percent of responders said they were likely to donate to the Trust in the future; 64% would help with fundraising, and 76% might consider joining the Board of Trustees.

In conclusion, our annual survey in 2019 validates the Trust's current strategy of supporting postgraduate education for people from all backgrounds who have a financial need.

*Dr Debbie Marsden, Trustee*





**Mahtab Farahbakhsh is completing her PhD at University College London Child Vision Lab in Visual Neuroscience.**

*Here she summarises her research into statistical procedures to detect visual impairments in children.*

*Can we improve upon current methods for assessing how well children see? Early treatment of visual impairment is crucial for maximum recovery. However, clinically reliable diagnostic procedures for young children are limited. Such rapid, reliable tests are vital for detecting disease, evaluating the effectiveness of novel interventions, and studying how the visual system develops with age. Even with the use of wonderfully efficient methods, however, most measurements will still require several minutes of sustained testing.*

*Researchers at the UCL Child Vision Lab have been working on methods that allow for the rapid assessment of visual function. I have recently published the results of one of our studies in the Journal of Vision (June 2019), in which we explored how recent advances in statistical procedures can improve our ability to study sensory processes and detect impairments in children.*

*Rapid measures of sensory function are vital, both for basic research and clinical practice. To quantify sensory abilities or*

## Reflections on the work of the Trust

To help us reflect on the development of the Trust over the last decade, we interviewed our outgoing Administrator Nancy Jachec, former Chairman Dr Mary Wheeler, and current Chair Dr Jane Dancer.

***Nancy Jachec** was our Administrator for over 10 years until July this year. She believes the Trust is a very different organisation now compared to when she started. Investment income is still used to provide grants for postgraduate students. However, there have been many changes due to external factors.*

### *Increasing compliance responsibilities*

Guidance from our regulator, the Charity Commission, encourages the sector to develop more transparency of its work, aims and objectives and its correspondence with the wider community via charity accounts and reports. Scrutiny of charities is to be commended, and Nancy and the Trustees worked tirelessly over the past few years with the aim of achieving compliance with respect to policies as well as financial reports, the Annual Report and the requirement of reserve funds. There is an increased need to evidence the impact that the charity makes. An annual online survey has been developed to provide evidence of the impact the Trust's grants have on students and their studies.

Correspondence and Charity Commission recommended regulations are almost weekly emails now, and achieving full compliance is a challenge especially for small charities. Around eighty percent of charities are run solely by volunteers.

The introduction of the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) has added further complexities. The practicalities of data collection and secure record keeping take up considerable time and energies. As much personal data must be regularly wiped from databases and other records, there is a risk of loss of useful information which would benefit the Trust and future students.

### *On the bright side*

On a very positive note, ten years ago all correspondence was via post. Our new website, increased direction by universities as well as more online funding guides for students are spreading information about the Trust fund to a much larger group of students and opening a speedier

*detect impairments, we may, for example, wish to know the smallest increment in luminance a child can see (Contrast Sensitivity), or the faintest intensity of sound they can hear (Audiometry). The most straightforward way to find a solution for such questions is to present a full range of stimulus intensities, from high to low, and to afterwards determine the smallest intensity below which the child responded correctly. This approach is often impractical, however, as the required number of stimulus presentations quickly exceeds both the child's patience and the experimenter or the clinician's time.*

*Using recent computational advances in visual neuroscience, we have optimised a new vision test that can be used for evaluation of visual function in children aged 4 to 14 years old. Our findings show that this method can greatly improve our ability to study visual sensitivity and detect impairments in children. These measures are particularly well suited to situations where testing speed is imperative, such as clinical trials.*

*The grant from The Sir Richard Stapley Educational Trust was used to cover my studentship, which allowed me to focus 100% on advancing my research and completing my PhD.*

application system with many possibilities. More people are aware of the Trust and over the last couple of years the number of applicants has increased four-fold. This year there were enquiries from over 1100 students and we had fulfilled our required 300 applications by mid to late February. This was unimaginable ten years ago. Clarity via the website is helping to reduce the number of ineligible applications.

There are still many students who need support. The increase in applicant numbers has necessarily required a more detached relationship between applicant and Administrator which Nancy was sad about. However, she is pleased to see that several prisoners have applied this year, a vulnerable group that Nancy was very supportive of.

Nancy feels there are many more opportunities to develop the Trust and make a difference to students. The new online donation page on our website will we hope encourage more donations from individuals. It is hoped that in future an increase in donations will grow the funds enabling more grants to help more students. Whatever the size of grant provided students are incredibly grateful and Nancy says it has been a great pleasure to receive so many cards and letters of thanks. Nancy has greatly enjoyed her time as Administrator and will miss the contact with students, investors and trustees. We wish her lots of luck in her new studies exploring the works of Jean Paul Sartre made possible by being awarded a fellowship herself.



Drs Mary Wheeler and Jane Dancer, former and current Chair

***Dr Mary Wheeler*** was Chairman of the Trust from 2009 until May 2018. She was herself supported with a Stapley Trust grant during her medical studies at Cambridge. She



**Tim Middleton DPhil Theology student, Lincoln College Oxford**

*I have very much enjoyed studying for the MPhil in Modern Theology at Harris Manchester College, Oxford during the 2018/19 academic year and I am absolutely delighted to have been awarded a distinction (72%) for this degree.*

*The MPhil has proved to be a hugely rewarding and fruitful step towards my long-term ambition to pursue an academic career at the interface between science and religion. I am very excited that I will now be progressing to the DPhil (PhD) in Theology and Religion at Lincoln College, Oxford this coming academic year (2019/20). My research will be focussing on ecotheology—exploring the relationship between religion and the environment. I will also be part of the new Laudato Si' Research Institute in Oxford, which aims to follow up on the agenda set out in Pope Francis's 2015 encyclical letter about climate change.*

*Over the course of the last academic year, I set up and helped to run a new postgraduate reading group in the faculty on 'Religious Ecologies and the New Materialisms' where we looked at the work of some contemporary philosophers and theologians who work on ecological issues.*

*is herself an alumna.*

After qualifying she was approached by the Chair of the Trust at the time, Henry Arnstein, and was encouraged to become a trustee in October 1996. Mary jokingly suggests she is still awaiting a pre-appointment lunch!

### *Early days*

In her early days as a trustee Mary recalls meetings were held in a room in the building next to the Royal College of Physicians, London. She remembers each March being sent a large box of applications to be assessed for the May meeting. These large boxes, with copious paper applications and supporting documents, were brought to the meeting by each trustee and left for the Secretary Michael Bushby to sort out!

Mary was appointed Chair in 2009, and Christine Ford took over from Michael Bushby as secretary. Around this time for various reasons there was a change of a good number of trustees. Prof Ralph Penny, Mr Jeremy Jackman and Prof Keith Smith joined the council.

During her time as Chair, Mary encouraged all trustees to be involved in the discussion and running of the Trust as well as assessing applications. Two revisions to the Trust deed increased the number of trustees allowed to sit on the council to ten members, as it is today. The time possible as a trustee was also limited to a maximum of two periods of five years. These changes brought in new blood, regularly introducing trustees with new and possibly more modern experiences or different specialisms and interests.

### *Reviewing grant making*

Discussion often focused on interpreting the broad aims of the Trust and who would best benefit from our grants. Early records show that grants used to be for school children, students taking first degrees and even lecturers themselves. The beneficiaries during Mary's Chairmanship were those struggling with financing second qualifications as it was perceived there was little financial help available for this group. The grant size didn't change from the smaller grants of around £500 and larger around £1200. Mary felt that regular review of amounts provided as a grant was needed.

Challenges experienced were in recruiting trustees and the discussions about donation size and impact on the recipients. On retiring after over 20 years with the Trust, Mary had concerns about whether the introduction of the £10,000 government loan would impact on applications and whether going forward, we were still supporting the neediest students. The current trustees group aims to act on Mary's advice and undertake a grant making review



*I also completed two major pieces of written work during the MPhil degree. My 15,000-word coursework essay was entitled 'Giving birth to the impossible: theology and deconstruction in Søren Kierkegaard's indirect communication'. I was thrilled to be awarded a final mark of 80% for this essay and I am now in the process of turning this into an article for an academic journal.*

*Meanwhile, my 30,000-word thesis was entitled 'The Wounded Body of God: Ecological Trauma and the Theology of Sallie McFague'. This thesis was awarded a distinction (70%) and will form the basis for my ongoing doctoral research at the intersection of ecotheology, trauma studies, and contemporary philosophy.*

*In March 2019 I was fortunate to be able to attend the 'Theology from Below' conference at the University of Stellenbosch in Cape Town, South Africa. This was a fantastic experience, and a great opportunity to learn a little bit about both the theology that is done in this context and the political tensions that play into these theologies. I also presented my own paper, 'Bearing Witness to Ecological Trauma: A Theology from Below', which summarised some of the main findings of my MPhil thesis research. This was my first experience of giving a theological paper at an international conference, and it was very enjoyable.*

*Alongside my main academic work, I have reviewed Facing Gaia by Bruno Latour for the journal Reviews in Science and Religion and Entangled Worlds. I am currently reviewing Bethany Sollereder's book God, Evolution and Animal Suffering for Science and Christian Belief and Theology in a Suffering World by Christopher Southgate for Modern Believing.*

during 2020.

## *Achievements*

Mary suggests her best achievements as Chairman were stabilising the Trust both by increasing the number, areas of expertise and diversity of trustees as well as maintaining the capital value of the Stapley fund despite turbulent financial conditions. In summary, ensuring the Sir Richard Stapley Educational Trust was as 'future-proofed' as possible.

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***Dr Jane Dancer*** is Chair of the Trust today. After serving as a trustee for five years she spent a brief spell as Treasurer which provided insight into the workings of the Trust and then a short period as Vice-Chair which led to her appointment as Chair in 2018.

Jane is a natural scientist with a BA, MBA and PhD from Cambridge with expertise in business and drug development. Jane was known to Mary and was encouraged to join the trustees due to her scientific background adding to the Trust board's expertise in a popular area of grant applications. Jane also feels strongly about the potential offered by education and the need to make it available to everyone whatever their background. A belief developed within a family background of educators.

Jane agrees with Mary that regular reviews of the aims and objectives of the Trust in the light of many national and global changes is vital. She and the trustees work to identify and confirm where the grants will be most beneficial. Discussions are always ongoing.

## *Modernising communications and processes*

Jane's encouragement of the development of a new website and larger social media presence have increased awareness of the Trust. Applications are received faster and maximum application numbers obtained much sooner than in previous years. Online donations and event ticket purchases are now possible via the website and new challenges may involve future growth of online student and Trust interactions.

The Centenary Concert this year has also enabled the trustees and grant recipients to meet and for some alumni to showcase their achievements. Jane and other Trustees feel that the increasing social media forums should develop more of a community feel among alumni with a sense of belonging to the Trust. An event makes those online connections real.

*Outside of my studies, I have spoken at God and the Big Bang events, exploring either theological responses to artificial intelligence or how the occurrence of earthquakes might fit with the existence of a good God (Earthquakes and Evil). I am also very pleased to have been asked to speak at a number God and the Big Bang Continuing Professional Development (CPD) workshops for KS2 teachers over the coming academic year.*

*I am extremely grateful to the Sir Richard Stapley Educational Trust for enabling me to pursue my studies in theology. I hope to be able to continue with these activities over the coming year.*

The Trust strives to provide financial assistance for students and the size and numbers of grants awarded will depend on funds available. Globally there is financial uncertainty. Jane and the trustees have carefully managed the funds to preserve capital and reduce risk while providing sufficient funds for grant making. Care is taken to protect funds so the beneficiaries receive as much as possible.

### *New challenges*

Jane's longer-term aims would be to grow the funds through fundraising donations from personal and corporate sources which would allow more students to be supported and may enable more significant grant amounts.

The increasing regulatory burden such as GDPR and increased Charity Commission requirements bring new challenges to our work. Legal aspects of security and confidentiality must be respected. Jane and trustees are delighted to have recruited our new Clerk to the Trustees, Colin Nee who has had many years of experience on boards of various charities.

Jane sees great potential for the Trust and is excited to work with her fellow trustees to ensure equality, diversity and fairness for all students whatever their background, encouraging development through education and supporting those most in need. In so doing, Jane is continuing Mary's work to future-proof the Trust.

## **The work of the trustees**

The Sir Richard Stapley Educational Trust trustees are ten in number. The trustees are a diverse group who come from many different areas of the country, recruited through word of mouth or via our website and alumni. Drs Sarah Othner and James Jones who joined us in 2019 are recent grant recipients and applied to join the trustees having seen that there were vacancies in last year's annual Newsletter.

The Trust has a rigorous recruitment process to assess the suitability of candidates and to ensure that they understand what is involved in becoming a trustee. We now have a broad range of age, experience and speciality knowledge as well as up to date information about student life today.

We meet in London twice a year, in May to consider grant applications and in November for a business meeting. There is frequent contact between the trustees between meetings.

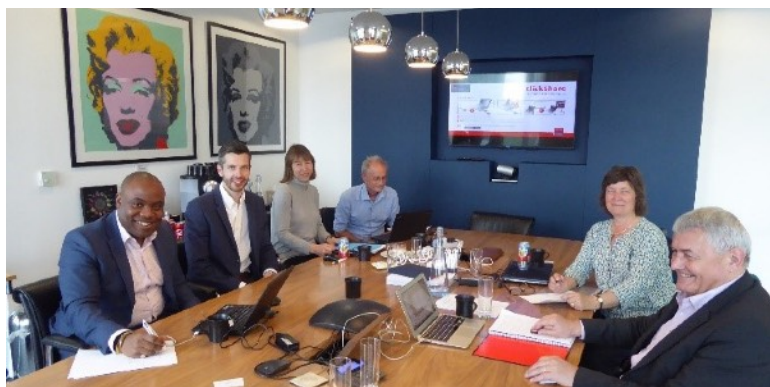


**Truc Pham** Imaging Sciences  
PhD student, King's College  
London

*As the end of the year is approaching, I'd like to take this opportunity to reflect and thank you for the generous grant from the Sir Richard Stapley Trust during my hard time back in 2018.*

*I was entering my third year when I applied for the funding. Now I am in my fourth and final year as the PhD Plus, enabling one extra year of research. My research aims to develop tri-functional dual-modality bioconjugation reagents for Positron Emission Tomography (PET) and fluorescence imaging. The two main applications are for cancer diagnosis with PET imaging and fluorescence-guided surgery, and for in vivo cell tracking.*

*Thanks to your support, I was able to focus on my study again and managed to secure the Rosetree Trust PhD Plus Award in March 2019 to continue with the final stage of my PhD. Particularly, I was selected to present my work at the STEM for Britain at the House of Common in March 2019 and at several national and international conferences. STEM for Britain raises awareness of MPs and other policymakers about the role of science.*

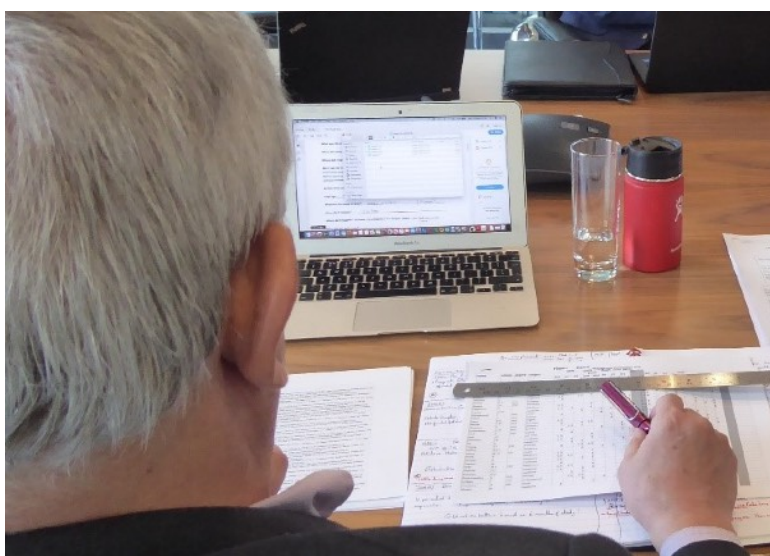


Trustees meeting

## *Assessing grant applications*

Each trustee has an area of expertise, and students' grant applications are divided accordingly. Each application is marked by three trustees enabling each student's case to be scrutinised fairly. Grades are given for academic excellence and financial need. There is always more demand than grants available. On average a total of 150 grants, divided between three different amounts, are awarded each year. Each trustee considers about 130 student applications over a period of six weeks. The May meeting is busy, usually lasting all day.

Each autumn, we organise an annual survey to help assess our effectiveness as a grant maker and assess future student requirements.



Scrutinising the finances

## *Safeguarding the Trust*

The November meeting each year is where our policies are reviewed, and investment strategies discussed. We have



**Edwin Schreeche-Powell PhD  
in Criminology, University of  
Kent**

*I attend university on day release from a prison in England. I am extremely fortunate to be supported by the Trust as I study for my PhD in Criminology at The University of Kent, and I wanted to update you on my progress so far.*

*Firstly, I am excited to tell you that I recently contributed a chapter about higher learning in prisons to an academic book entitled 'Degrees of Freedom' which is due for release through Policy Press in December 2019.*

*I have also recently been appointed as a peer reviewer for The European Journal of Probation, which is an important role in shaping, developing and selecting academic publications, which is a huge accolade at this stage of my career in academia.*

*I also currently have a journal entitled 'Peer Support and Mental Health in Open Prisons' under review at The Howard Journal of Crime and Justice and it has been accepted for publication pending some minor revisions - so it should find its way into the journal in 2020. I also have had a journal article accepted for The Journal of Prisoners on Prisons, an American based publication, and again this should be published sometime in 2020. I am also scheduled to be presenting at the Criminology Conference held at Middlesex University in December and the British Society of Criminology in Liverpool in 2020. The PhD itself is progressing well and I have received exemplary reports as to my progress so far and am ahead of plan with my first two chapters of the thesis being submitted for proofing before Christmas 2019.*

*Without your support this would not be possible so I am extremely grateful.*

presentations from our investment managers so we can assess the performance of our investments. In recent turbulent times, to maintain the value of our capital we have reduced risk by diversifying the portfolio and sharing the capital between different investment companies. The trustees as a group deploy their skills and experience to maintain a careful balance between maximising the funds available for grant making while safeguarding our assets and avoiding undue risk.

*Dr Debbie Marsden, Trustee*

## Please support us!

The Trust is a registered charity dedicated to advancing education in line with Sir Richard Stapley's vision. We keep our administrative costs as low as we possibly can, and for example employ only one part-time staff member. All of our trustees donate their time free of charge.

Our charitable work is entirely funded by legacies and donations and the income we derive from investing them.

With your support we could do so much more! Please consider making a one-off or regular donation, or remembering the Trust in your Will. Below we explain how to do both:

### *Make a one-off or regular donation:*

Donations help us to advance education, currently by supporting the work of mature students in the UK pursuing further degrees in medicine, veterinary studies, and postgraduate degrees in all other subjects. The Trust takes this opportunity to extend its sincere thanks to its regular and occasional donors.

If you would like to make a donation, please use the link below. This will take you to our online payment facility through CAF Donate. Donations can be made either by credit or debit card, or via PayPal. There are options to make either one-off donations or to set up a regular donation, depending on your preference.

<http://bit.ly/Stapley-Donate>

### *Remember the Trust in your Will:*

If you decide to include the Trust in your Will, you can ask your solicitor or professional advisor to do this by giving them the following details:

The Sir Richard Stapley Educational Trust  
PO Box 76132  
London  
E8 9HE  
Registered charity number: 313812

It is entirely up to you whether you tell us that you are remembering the Trust in your Will. You simply have to tell your solicitor or professional adviser how much you would like to leave to the Trust. You could choose to leave the Trust a specific cash sum or alternatively a percentage of your estate.

Depending on your circumstances it is possible that your estate will save up to £400 inheritance tax for every £1,000 you leave us.

### *Your Gift, Our Promise:*

We recognise that when you prepare your Will, your family and close ones must come first.

If you tell us you have left a gift in your Will to the Trust, we would love to say a simple 'thank you'.

We will never ask you to share information about the value or type of gift you have chosen to leave to the Trust. That is a private matter for you.

We know that personal circumstances change and there might be a time when you decide you need to take the Trust out of your Will.

We promise to use your gift wisely.

If you want the Trust to dedicate your gift to an area of our work that's special to you, we are happy to discuss this with you.

### *Any queries?*

If you have any questions about making a donation or remembering the Trust in your Will, please contact our Clerk at [admin@stapleytrust.org](mailto:admin@stapleytrust.org)

### *Our thanks for your Gift*

Finally, if you do choose to remember the Trust with a gift in your Will – thank you - we will use it wisely!