

# Non Nobis Solum

*Thank you for your support in 2023*

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## Welcome

- Professor Wendy Powers

Welcome to this third edition of *Non Nobis Solum* which recognises the generous contributions of our alumni and friends of the University College community.

2023 has been another dynamic and exciting year here at Castle. We broadened our horizons with lectures on such fascinating topics as the James Webb Telescope and Racism in Antiquity, hosted an international musician in residence, created an Early Career Research Fellowship program, and expanded Castle Outreach volunteering efforts.

Living in a building with medieval foundations is not without its challenges and we have been working hard to preserve it for the generations of Castle students to come. This work has included the continuation of extensive efforts to conserve and restore the Norman Chapel, ongoing restoration to the exterior stonework and windows on the North Range which will culminate in the North Terrace redevelopment, and structural restoration to many areas of the college such as the Tunstall Chapel Organ Loft, the Senior Common Room and the Norman Gallery.

It is delightful to share the diverse impacts your generosity has on the life of the college through this newsletter. This is a snapshot of the ways our alumni and friends impact student learning and experience through their donations of time, expertise and financial resources. On behalf of all of us here at Castle, many thanks for your continued involvement!



# Introducing the Bell Scholarships

Funded through the generous donation of a Castle Alumnus, this award will support two undergraduates and two postgraduate researchers throughout the course of their degrees, helping to ensure that those from disadvantaged or underrepresented backgrounds can make the most of their Castle experience.

In their own words:

“The type of music I’m particularly interested in writing is sacred music that involves a heightened level of interpretation and improvisation, both because it presents new possibilities for musicians and because I believe it can impact the spiritual dimension of the music. My research involves music as far-ranging as Gregorian chant and jazz, and letting those influence my music and commentary.”

~ Chris Massa, PGR Music

“Through the joint honours Anthropology and Archaeology programme here at Durham I hope to become a specialist in the field of cultural heritage and one day open up my own heritage foundation. This degree is my first step towards this dream. Studying this degree and living in the city of Durham for its duration will open up the world for me beyond the limitations of my own upbringing.”

~ Nesryn Ikram Cali, UG Anthropology & Archaeology

“My passion propels me to contribute to both the field of philosophy and real-world changes, fostering awareness of gender power relations, understanding diverse social groups, and providing solutions to the issue of online hate speech.”

~ Shaoyu Han, PGR Philosophy

“Although I have lived here the entirety of my life, I have found many places that I have never been to and I am excited to visit.

I am studying Business and Management and I am really enjoying my course so far. I am finding it extremely interesting to not only learn about the theory side of the course but also the real-life examples that are included.”

~ Jessica Daily, UG Business & Management



In 2023-24 the Wilshaw Fund has supported two paid Consent Interns at University College to develop and lead crucial training for new undergraduate first-year students. Our student interns worked with the University Sexual Misconduct & Violence Training Officer to plan and lead interactive workshops for students to explore what consent means, healthy relationships and boundaries at University to support wellbeing. In the process vital information has been shared with new students whilst also giving an invaluable learning and development opportunity for student leaders.

# Internships: Consent Interns



“I have loved my Consent at Castle internship this year; it has allowed me to feel like I can make a difference in our community that will help keep people safe which was my main reason for applying. This internship has also helped me gain and develop important skills such as public speaking, communication, organisation and leadership which I know will be beneficial for any career I choose to pursue in the future. I believe this internship is really important as, when holding the workshops, it was clear to me that everyone comes to University with a different understanding of consent and it's vital to provide everyone with the education needed to keep people safe and create a consent culture here in Durham.”

~ Alexa Thanni UG Biological Science

“My role allowed me to present workshops and consistent information on social media about consent, healthy relationships and offer tools to get help if a student needs it. I have been fortunate enough to see first hand how much this donation has helped students and made them feel more comfortable about consent. As a member of the welfare team, I have had people tell me that they recognise me from the workshops and they feel more comfortable talking to me about any issues because of this. I have also had people tell me about the positive impact the workshops had on them and some of them even asked how they could volunteer to be a part of such a project. Our workshops reached large numbers of first years and Castle has been so fortunate to be able to present this to students.

Once again, we thank you so much for allowing this brilliant project to go ahead as we feel it has made such a significant impact on our Castle community.”

~ Bella Rossington UG Music





# Internships: Social Media

Scott Hickman and Jhanvi Parekh, our 2023-24 Social Media interns, have taken on the responsibility to create and publish engaging posts to update Castle students about upcoming events and activities both inside and outside the College. They have each shared one of their favourite projects from the internship so far and a little about what they have gained from this experience.



“During my internship, I was given the opportunity to design a Christmas card for University College, which was a major highlight for me. As someone who has always enjoyed creating visually appealing content, this project pushed me to explore different graphic design techniques and produce a card that was both aesthetically pleasing and engaging. I am truly grateful to University College for entrusting me with the role of social media intern this academic year. This experience has helped me improve my interpersonal skills, and hosting events for the College, like the one mentioned by my colleague, “Castle to Careers”, which has played a key role in boosting my confidence.”  
~ Jhanvi Parekh, MSc Marketing

“This Instagram post was to highlight one of the “Castle to Careers” events held to improve students’ knowledge of different career paths. As you may have spotted, Jhanvi and I had the opportunity to co-chair the panel! Not only was this an invaluable experience in public speaking, I also had the opportunity to network with successful Castle alumni in the Journalism and Media industry and learned a lot in the process. This internship has provided my whole host of skills, from public speaking to marketing and design, all while engaging with Castle’s learning community and deepening my connection to the College.”  
~ Scott Hickman, UG Law



You can follow Castle  
@universitycollegedurham



# Castle to Careers



Through our Castle to Careers series, current students have the chance to connect with Alumni from diverse fields and explore where their career journey might lead after graduation. This year has featured such topics as *Women in Business*: Jennifer Dell (2010-2013), Emma Hamlett & Susannah Mansfield; *Social Entrepreneurship*: David Irwin (1974-1977) and *Media & Journalism*: David Knowles (2010-2014), Oliver Jervis (2020-2023) & Eleanor Smith (2018-2021). If you'd like to take part in future instalments of the series we would love to hear from you!

"I was delighted to be asked to describe my work (mostly international development work supporting entrepreneurship and private sector advocacy) to undergraduate and post-graduate students. The evening started with dinner and a chance to talk to some of the students about their interests and aspirations - allowing the linking of at least some of the presentation to those interests - followed by my presentation and then questions. The students seemed to be genuinely interested and asked some great questions."

~ David Irwin (1974-1977)



"I really enjoyed coming back to Castle to talk about careers in journalism. It was great to be able to give back to a place that gave so much to me. The students asked lots of interesting questions and being able to share my experience with them felt very rewarding. I really recommend it!"

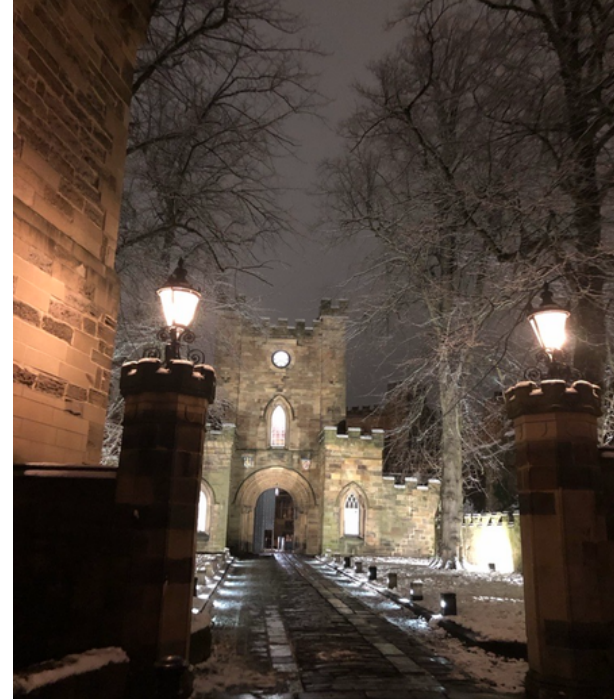
~Eleanor Smith (2018-2021)

CASTLE TO CAREERS EVENT



# Access Funding

In the current economic climate, many Castle students routinely struggle to make ends meet and face serious financial barriers to completing their studies. In the past two academic terms alone, University College has received over 90 applications for Access Funding from students seeking help to cover unexpected medical costs, replace much needed equipment or secure accommodation to allow them to continue to pursue their studies. Thanks to the generous support of our Castle community, we have been able to offer over £11,000 of financial support for Access Funding in Easter and Michaelmas 2023. It is deeply moving to hear how this support has helped students in extremely adverse circumstance. We would love to be able to extend this support even further as currently around half of all applications are successful. We would be delighted to hear from you if you are in a position to help.



# Opportunity Funding

Being a Castle student offers an unmatched opportunity to try new things, broaden your outlook and explore the world around you both near and far. However many of these opportunities come with a price tag which would put them out of reach for some. Opportunity Funding has helped over 40 students make the most of their time at Castle this year including Jessica Harker whose 4th year geography field work took her to Nepal.

“Thanks to your generous support I was able to afford to go on this field trip; it was the most amazing and enriching experience. Not only do I feel like I learnt so much about the geography of the landscape but also I have never had the chance to visit a place like that before and probably never will again. On the fieldtrip, we spent the first few days in Kathmandu trying to understand the surroundings and get our ‘geographical eye’ in, so to speak! We visited non-governmental organisations including the United Nations and National Society for Earthquake Technology (NSET). We began to understand the complex interactions of human livelihoods with the acceptability of risk and hazards. These themes also carried through to my dissertation regarding wildfire risk in British Columbia. Therefore, this trip was incredibly rewarding and an amazing opportunity for me – I am especially grateful that this scholarship allowed me to attend this trip.”  
- Jessica Harker







# Final Thoughts

- Katie Bertram, Alumni Engagement Coordinator

Since joining the College Office team in August, I have had the wonderful opportunity to meet many of Castle's brilliant Alumni. As a University College PhD student, I know what a unique experience and privilege it is to call Castle home and it has been deeply moving to see how this feeling of belonging can continue far beyond graduation.

One of the most impactful aspects of this role has been facilitating alumni visits to Castle. These visits have allowed me to learn so much about the ways Castle has changed and even more about how its community and traditions have carried on. It has been a true pleasure to see the many different ways that the Castle community comes together with alumni freely giving their time, energy and expertise to help current and future students.

This year we have continued to move forward on the North Terrace and Fellows' Gardens projects both of which will allow us to make the most of our available real estate here in the heart of Durham City Centre. Once completed, the North Terrace will offer a meaningful retreat from the often-hectic pace of university life and provide students an opportunity to reconnect with nature. Meanwhile the Fellows' Garden Project, designed with accessibility and sustainability at its heart, will allow us to share the talents of our students more broadly and be even more welcoming to the wider community. The enthusiasm for these projects has been inspiring as it is only through community support that we will be able to make them a reality.

Seeing first hand the lasting impact that Castle experiences can have even years after leaving Durham makes the importance of access and opportunity funding all the more evident. In 2023, we were able to provide over 130 grants to help students overcome financial difficulty and take advantage of the unique opportunities Castle has to offer. At least two of these grants helped to outfit students with office appropriate attire so they could take on internship opportunities with confidence. What a wonderful example of how our community's support can truly allow students to flourish and set the first building blocks in establishing a firm foundation to build on.

Thank you so much for your generous contributions. I look forward to meeting many more of you throughout the coming months, including at our upcoming Castle reunion in April.

I can't wait to see what we can achieve together in 2024!



**103**

Gifts to the North Terrace Restoration



**14**

Internship Opportunities for students at University College



**21**

Dedicated volunteers supporting students and the alumni community



**131**

Awards made to Castle students in the last year



**7**

Philanthropically funded Scholar positions available to Castle students through the duration of their degree course



**£11,475**

In Access Funding in Easter and Michaelmas 2023