

Press release

October 2006

DAVID WILSON ANNOUNCED AS PREMIER BENEFACTOR OF UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER LIBRARY

David Wilson has agreed to become the Premier Benefactor of the new Library at the University of Leicester with a substantial donation of £2 million as flagship funding for the iconic building to be created at the heart of the campus.

The landmark building, which is being named the **David Wilson Library** after its Premier Benefactor, heralds a new era in the life of the University and underpins the University's commitment to academic excellence.

The Library is the centrepiece of the University of Leicester's development plan and will result in a Library that is twice the size of the old building and provide a wealth of new facilities that will inspire future generations of learners.

Stunning contemporary design combined with state-of-the-art technology will transform the Library's physical environment to create a light, welcoming space and a dramatic place to study for 1,500 students at any one time.

At the announcement of his donation, David Wilson said: "The whole of my childhood and adult life has been spent living and working in Leicestershire. I am a great believer in creating one's own opportunities in life and I hope that the success of my own company is testament to that.

“However, nothing can substitute for a good grounding in life – both through your family and your education. I believe that the facilities being offered through the new Library will greatly enhance the University’s impact on students’ lives and be a valuable aid to the University’s long term ambitions; I am delighted to be involved at the outset.”

Librarian Christine Fyfe said: “David Wilson’s generous funding will provide a range of wonderful new facilities that will improve educational opportunities for future generations of students at the University.

“We are very excited about building a Library for the 21st century which is both innovative and accessible. The Library is at the heart of the University’s intellectual life. What we are creating is a landmark building in tune with the aspirations of the University, with access to study space, printed collections and the latest digital information. We believe it will enjoy a real sense of place right at the heart of the University.”