My last foreword

The theme of this year’s annual report is connection. Although ‘Crisis’ would also have been an option, with yet another year of lockdowns and the unpleasant consequences for our students. Another option would have been the way war is disrupting the world. But I find ‘Connection’ more striking. Because in 2021, the Amsterdam University Fund has achieved a lot. And that is something I can only be proud of.

For example, the corona emergency fund, which was already deployed in 2020, was used for Dutch and foreign students in 2021 as well, and was able to provide financial support to dozens of students. Now, we are using that same emergency fund to help Ukrainian students at UvA to continue their studies.

All the above is made possible by our donors. It is fantastic to see how many people feel involved and are willing to give. Both regular donors but also our students, with smaller donations of course.

That connection of forces, the willingness to help each other and the society; that is what the Amsterdam University Fund stands for. And the past few years have shown that this connection persists, even in times of adversity. At times like these, when regular funding is less available, support from the Amsterdam University Fund is particularly needed.

Thanks to the endless support of UvA alumni and donors, who made it possible for a large number of students to go on a study trip (p. 10). And wonderful scientific research projects on social issues. Read for example how Katrina Perehudoff is investigating legal possibilities that will also give poor countries access to medicines and vaccines (p. 12). But there are also new Named Funds established, such as the FMG Fund by the Faculty of Society and Behavior (p. 28).

To see the impact of our fund is inspiring. It therefore saddens me that this is my last foreword. This year I am stepping down as Chairman of the Board, a position which I have held with great pleasure.

Now, full of confidence in the Amsterdam University Fund, I am handing over the baton to an excellent successor.

My thanks to everyone. And to the Office Alumni Relations and University Fund in particular, who have supported me so well all these years.

Michaëls Ulrici
UvA alumna and chair of the board

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With a contribution from the Kuiper-Overpelt Study Fund, she is pursuing a master’s degree in Urban and Regional Planning, determined to use it to make ‘her’ India a little better. The entire system needs to be overhauled. She had only recently arrived in The Netherlands, when she heard how the dean of her faculty was informing students about the heavy requirements for a student scholarship. Recognizing her exceptional situation, Chidananda Arpita - with a full scholarship in her pocket - decided to express her gratitude once more. Because she knew: without the contributions from the Kuiper-Overpelt Study Fund, she would never have been able to study at the UvA.

The dean suggested that instead of being grateful, she should be proud, of her hard work and of her courage to go and study on another continent in the middle of a pandemic. But most of all of for the fact that she was the one chosen to receive this scholarship. Because it is not something everyone can get.
Arpita: ‘Suddenly I saw how all the steps in my life had brought me here. And that my struggles and quests had not been in vain. But also how the support of my parents and their sacrifices to allow me to study were cashed in here. It was so overwhelming. I couldn’t stop crying…’

Culture shock
When we speak to Arpita she has almost finished her master’s degree in Urban and Regional Planning where she has specialized in social housing. Because just like in the Netherlands, the housing shortage in India is a big problem! ‘There is a particular lack of affordable housing there,’ she says, ‘and there is huge social inequality.’ She discovered this when she started working as a graduate architect in Bangalore in 2016. Coming from a small rural town on the east coast, this was her first encounter with a big city. ‘And it was a big culture shock,’ she confesses. My personal problems soon became irrelevant compared to the poor conditions many people found themselves in here. ‘Often migrants who had left hearth and home to build a new life in the city. That could be much better, I thought. The social injustices she saw gnawed at her so much that, after designing luxury residences and villas for two years, she decided to apply to the Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS).

Here, out of 800 applications, she was admitted with 27 other ‘fellows’ admitted to the Urban Fellowship Program (UFP). For the first time in her life, she read books with radical ideas and was encouraged to think out-of-the-box. ‘Unlike my previous education, where I excelled at high scores, this place was not about grades. The teachers were interested in what questions you asked. It was great. I’ve learned so much there.’

Urban planning
A year later, then, she knew that India’s housing shortage could not be fixed by simply building houses, but that good urban planning is at least as important. And so the system needs to be redesigned,’ she says. Full of courage to contribute to this, Arpita went looking for a job in the project development sector. But as in so many other countries, it was stagnant because of corona. She decided to expand her knowledge at a foreign university.

Social housing
And so, with a full scholarship from the Kuiper-Overpelt Study Fund, she started her Master’s at the UvA in August 2021. Determined to look for housing solutions here, and at how she could translate them to Indian cities. There is no other country with as much social housing as in the Netherlands. And so I also found a lot of knowledge about the subject here.’ In October, she graduates with flying colours, because Arpita also showed herself to be an excellent student at the UvA. And with all the knowledge she gained in recent years, she wants to help India build that dream bridge to affordable housing through better land use planning systems. ‘In the future I also want to teach at the university to transfer my knowledge to other people. And maybe I want to do research and get a PhD…’

What is certain is that what she is doing will be a contribution to a better India, which has always been Arpita’s motive ever since she saw the unfair distribution of wealth in Indian cities. ‘The scholarship that I received makes it possible for me to make that contribution. And that is fantastic. I wish that more and more students will have access to such support in the future, so that we can make this world a better place. Not alone, but together. As a community.’
When Parvez Alam was forced to leave his country, he wanted that sacrifice to be worth something. He then decided to study at the UvA. With the help of a scholarship from the Fund Study without Borders he was able to start his studies. And he likes it. I am considering becoming a lecturer.

A lready in his first year of study, Parvez Alam knew what the topic of his thesis should be: building a bridge between the legal rights of humans and those of non-human entities by basing them on a shared ontology. Not knowing how relevant that topic would be a few years later. Because with the entry of Covid-19, it is not people who determine our politics, our social life and actually our whole society. Parvez: 'There is a non-visible virus that is indomitable in controlling our lives and in doing so, shows itself to be more powerful than people.'

F reedom His studies in Cultural Analysis have a lot in common with his interests. 'I love philosophy, culture and art. But I’m also very interested in politics and law. The UvA is basically the only university that gives me the freedom to combine all those subjects.’ Once Parvez finishes his studies, he wants to publish articles and books. ‘And I want to become a teacher, because I really have something to share.’

F orced departure That urge to share knowledge is something Parvez already felt in Bangladesh, where he lived until 2016. During a brief career as an IT specialist, he wrote controversial articles and books on the cultural and political background of Islam. ‘I was able to make a living out of that eventually. But those articles also caused my forced departure.’ At the time, The Netherlands proved to be the quickest option. Once here, he wished to spend his time wisely. ‘I was exiled from my partner, my dog, my family and my friends. That sacrifice had to be worth something.’ He decided to go to college. He received a Lifelong Learning Credit for his university fees. ‘And to support myself I worked at the PostNL. However, the night shifts there were difficult to combine with my education.’

F uture Thankfully the Amsterdam University Fund was able to help Parvez with a scholarship from the Fund Study without Borders. Parvez: ‘The scholarship has given my life a new meaning. In addition to my studies, I work several hours a week as a teaching assistant at the Humanities faculty. I can gain experience and get used to a career in the academic world. Another six months of college and then... who knows!’
Individual travel grants

Students and doctoral students who are temporarily studying, doing an internship or conducting research abroad can apply for a travel grant.

By doing so, the Amsterdam University Fund helps them explore corners of the world to gain experiences for their education. After a quiet corona year the applications recovered in 2021. 127 students received a scholarship and the fund provided €132,764 euros in individual travel grants.

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<td>South-America</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**SHEHRAGA VAN WETTEN**
Bonaire, Research Freshwater and Marine Biology
‘Through an opening in the mangrove forest I swam to the experimental site, on the way being observed by stingrays and Conch shells.’

**SASKIA DE MAN**
Bethesda, Cancer Research National Institutes of Health
‘My PhD is being so much enriched and broadened by new trials and techniques, as well as by amazing guidance.’

**ÖMER ARIKAN**
Semester Columbia University Law School
‘They expect much more dedication from students than they do at the UvA.’

**SHAFRAN MALOUKI**
Semester Michigan University Law School
‘I’d got to choose my own curriculum with law school subjects that I find really interesting.’

**OMER ARIKAN**
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**REINA VAN DER GOOT**
University of Cambridge, Research Brain and Cognitive Sciences
‘I made so many new contacts here which are very useful for my future field of work.’

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With support from the Mr. Henriëtte Jaarsma-Adolfs Fund, Dr. Katrina Perehudoff is exploring legal options to promote fair access to safe and affordable medicines worldwide. And in doing so, she is on top of current events. ‘The existing regulation leads to an unfair distribution of medicines worldwide, but because of Covid-19 we can no longer look the other way.’

When the corona crisis hit, Dr. Katrina Perehudoff felt the urge, both personally and professionally, to make a difference in this pandemic. Personally, because her father died in Canada in the middle of a lockdown and she could not visit him from her home in Ostend. On a professional level, because the pandemic touched so directly on a subject close to her heart, which is: promoting fair access to medicines through legislation and regulation. ‘It was clear that corona would dominate the front pages of newspapers for a long time,’ she says. ‘And since we had for some time seen from “the field” that current regulation leads to unfair distribution of medicines worldwide, such a visible crisis made it possible not to look away any longer from that problem.’

**Law Centre for Health and Life**
Katrina Perehudoff grew up in Canada and lived in Belgium for a long time before starting with the University of Amsterdam. With an grant from the Mr. Julia Henriëtte Jaarsma-Adolfs Fund from the Amsterdam University Fund (AUF), she joined Dr. Anniek de Ruijter and Prof. Johan Legemaate in Amsterdam, with whom she co-founded the Law Centre for Health and Life. Her interdisciplinary background in both health sciences and law fitted perfectly within this research center where questions and challenges are approached from an interaction between law, health and living environment. As a co-director, she decided to establish a research programme on accessibility of medicine at this center.

**Veni grant**
‘During my research, I saw how the large-scale procurement of Covid-19 vaccines by the European Union (EU) became a great example for the way the EU’s internal policies can influence the supply of medicines in countries outside the EU that have less to spend,’ Perehudoff explains. It was the prelude to a prestigious Veni grant from the NWO: 280,000 euros to study Europe’s role in the world with regard to the fair distribution of medicines over three years.

**Social relevance**
Perehudoff’s research is of direct social relevance. As such, she is regularly invited to advise policymakers from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the World Health Organization (WHO), among others. By proclaiming her findings, she hopes to make a positive impact on the system of global regulation of medicines. ‘Fortunately, sometimes the system itself changes along with it,’ she says, referring to the 2019 Health Declaration that already called for price transparency for health products. ‘Because fair prices also contribute to better accessibility.’
With the Annual Fund Campaign 2021, the Amsterdam University Fund (AUF) raised a whopping 236,000 euros. A fantastic result and sufficient to realize all the goals of 2021. Please find an overview of the projects that were supported in 2021 and the developments that have already been made possible thanks to the support of our donors.

**ANNUAL FUND CAMPAIGN**

**Allard Pierson - Ben van den Bercken**

**Animal Mummies in the light of day**

Last year Ben van den Bercken - curator of the Egypt and Sudan Collection at Allard Pierson - expressed his wish to subject 13 animal mummies to closer examination. Fish, birds, cats, a mouse, a scarab and a 1.07 meter long crocodile had been waiting behind the scenes in the museum depot, invisible to the visitor. And although in many cases the shape of these mummies did seem to give away the contents, it was never quite certain what was actually inside. And that was something Van den Bercken found unfortunate. ‘Objects like these can tell us a lot about their own history and the environment in which these animals lived,’ he explained.

With the help of the donors of the Annual Fund, the Amsterdam University Fund (AUF) was able to contribute to research of this type in which the Allard Pierson works closely with the Amsterdam UMC, Naturalis Biodiversity Center in Leiden, the Museu Emílio Goeldi in Brazil and the 4D Research Lab of the University of Amsterdam. At the UMC, the mummies were screened with a CT scanner and an X-ray machine.

Van den Bercken: ‘A nice next step would be DNA research, because this can provide even more information.’ Due to the interdisciplinary nature of this research, a lot of valuable information is coming to light that archaeologists, biologists and taxonomists can work with. Van den Bercken: ‘We will gain insight into the lives of the animals around the temples and the mummification techniques that were used. But we also learn which animal species we are dealing with, which is important for current nature conservation.’

With the mummies and ‘their’ scans, an exhibit was created in the Allard Pierson from December 2021 to March 2022. In doing so, Van den Bercken also appealed to the public. We encouraged every visitor to contribute ideas and ask questions. That was possible in a live setting, because I was in the exhibition room for a few days. But also by leaving little notes. Van den Bercken c.s. will map out these questions and include them in the follow-up research. ‘Such research is in fact never finished, but my goal is to eventually include the mummies in the permanent collection.’
Students whose first language is not Dutch are more likely to experience learning difficulties. They often have to make more of an effort to keep up at school because they are acquiring knowledge in a language they are still learning. At the same time, the talents and skills they have gained in their own language are used insufficiently. Dozens of scientific studies have now been published that show that multilingualism in the classroom has positive effects when it comes to promoting equal opportunities.

To investigate this, education expert Dr. Lisa Gaikhorst and special professor Joana Duarte from the University of Amsterdam started the Multiquity project in 2020: a study to determine how multilingualism in the classroom contributes to better learning performance. They will then provide teachers and other stakeholders with tools to deal with this.

In order to do so, they first of all wanted to gather existing scientific knowledge, and then they would also do case studies with the collection of data from practice. Thanks to the contribution from the Amsterdam University Fund, both phases could be completed, for which two researchers were hired. Edda Veerman and Emma Danbury gathered data for four months at four schools where multilingualism is already being implemented. Veerman: ‘We looked at the methods these schools are using and what the effects are. For example, language buddies or preparing texts in the students’ own language. In addition to positive cognitive development, Veerman also observed many social affective results. These include greater involvement, better motivation and improved well-being. The teachers indicated that the children were happier at school since they were also allowed to use their home languages,’ she says. ‘Children say they feel freer. And one girl is happy that she doesn’t have to talk so pompously all the time. Now that the first step of the research has been completed, Gaikhorst et al. want to share the knowledge they have gained with as wide a range of stakeholders as possible. To eliminate doubt, but above all to give teachers tools to be able to apply multilingualism in the classroom,’ says Gaikhorst. It would be a real shame if the research stopped here,’ adds Veerman. Through a multilingual approach you get a better idea of a child’s level of knowledge so that you can link up better with what he or she is capable of. And that is precisely how children get equal opportunities.

‘Children are saying that they feel more free’
The Astronomers of the future

Scholarship programmes contribute to talent development and remove barriers for students with limited resources. At ASPIRE, the Anton Pannekoek Institute’s (API) summer school for astronomy, talented prospective students in Physics and Astronomy from around the world can gain vital research experience.

‘Many students dream of an academic career, but not everyone gets the opportunity to realize that dream,’ says Prof. Ralph Wijers. ‘To secure a PhD place somewhere, research experience is crucial, but not every university offers that opportunity. With ASPIRE we want to offer talented and motivated students from all over the world a stepping stone towards a future in science. A contribution from the Annual Fund is crucial to this.’

ASPIRE stands for Astrophysics Summer Program for International Research Experience. Every year five to ten young researchers can gain research experience in this programme for a period of ten weeks. These are mostly young people with an unfavourable socio-economic background who would never be able to afford this themselves,” explains Wijers. We pay for everything, from visas and tickets to accommodation and a little pocket money. Per student, these costs run up to 5,000 euros.

Unfortunately, in 2021 Corona threw a spanner in the works. No one could travel, so an online programme was created. ‘Of course the costs for the online programme are not as high as the physical programme,’ says Wijers, ‘but we still have several staff members who compose and supervise the studies. We also provide the participants with everything they might need in their own country. For example, fast Internet or a good laptop.’ In addition, all kinds of meetings are organized online by means of joint workshops in which the participants learn, among other things, how to write a scientific text, network or develop software. Skills that are also important for a scientific career.

For various master’s students, ASPIRE has already proven to be a stepping stone to a PhD position. Particularly talented students who, according to Wijers, would not have been able to get there without a recommendation from the API. It is fantastic that we can realize this with the help of the Amsterdam University Fund.
Financial Overview

In 2021, the AUF had 2,576 donors of which 1,539 permanent. A total of € 1,247,305 was donated.

Donations

Named endowment funds
The Amsterdam University Fund Foundation manages 89 named endowment funds. With an Named endowment fund, individuals or companies commit to science for a long time. In 2021, three new Named endowment funds were established:
- FMG Fund
- Marianne de Visser Fund
- Amsterdam Economics & Business Talent Fund

Deposits from existing Named endowment funds
In 2021, a total amount of € 1,011,309 was contributed to both new and existing funds in 2021.

Non-profit organizations
From non-profit organizations a total of € 100,502 was received.

Assets
The vast majority of the assets of the AUF is invested. Developments in the financial market by definition creates an investment risk. The asset management is ABN AMRO MeesPierson with a moderately defensive management mandate. A moderately defensive management mandate has been given to the asset management function. The objective of this profile is both long-term capital growth in the long term and security of income. Due to the outbreak of the Corona virus, there was regular contact with the asset manager. There has been regular contact with the investment manager. The Board followed the advice to make no major adjustments to the portfolio.

In 2021, 2,394 benefactors donated to the Annual Fund campaign with an average gift of € 99.
Balance sheet at December 31, 2021

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These annual financial reports have been established in accordance with the RJ650 method for fundraising institutions. As a result there may be differences between incomes which are calculated according to this RJ650 method and the actual received donations.

Results 2021

Incomes and expenses 2021:
- Income from fundraising: € 3,924,608
- Loan repayment ‘stadsherstel’: € 476,447
- Income: € 3,924,608
- Expenses: € 2,057,241
- Result: € 1,867,367

Incomes and expenses 2020:
- Income from fundraising: € 1,518,493
- Loan repayment ‘stadsherstel’: € 476,447
- Income: € 1,518,493
- Expenses: € 1,622,581
- Result: € 1,867,367

Income 2021
- Fundraising costs: € 34,732
- Costs for management and administration: € 65,613
- Income: € 3,924,608

Income 2020
- Fundraising costs: € 41,624
- Costs for management and administration: € 52,694
- Income: € 1,518,493

Expenses 2021
- Fundraising costs: € 34,732
- Costs for management and administration: € 65,613
- Expenses: € 2,057,241

Expenses 2020
- Fundraising costs: € 41,624
- Costs for management and administration: € 52,694
- Expenses: € 1,622,581

Grant allocation
- Income from fundraising: € 1,956,896
- Grant allocation: € 1,956,896

Results 2021
- Result: € 1,867,367

Results 2020
- Result: € 1,867,367
Art and science find each other again

When Hans Mulder wrote his book *The Discovery of Nature*, he decided to donate the royalties from the first two editions to the Artis Library Fund, in gratitude for the use of the illustrations from the collection. He is now the winner of the Jan Wolkers Prize and a fifth edition of the book has been published.

The revenues from the first two printings of his book ‘De ontdekking van de natuur’ (The Discovery of Nature) have only just been collected by the Artis Library Fund, as a new book is ready to be donated to this wonderful fund. This time a work about Maria Sybilla Merian: the German artist and entomologist who studied plants and insects in the late 17th century and made beautiful images of them. ‘We already released a facsimile of her famous work *Metamorphosis Insectorum Surinamensium* with the Royal Library in 2016, says Hans Mulder. ‘In *Changing the Nature of Art and Science*, we highlight how art and science come together.’

Mulder is curator of natural history collections at the Allard Pierson, the collections of the University of Amsterdam are located at the Artis Library. The majestic book gallery of the Artis Library on
Mulder had access to the collection from home. ‘I wrote down the stories that I usually tell visitors here,’ he explains. The result is a chronological overview of how Western Europeans discovered, described and portrayed nature between 1500 and 1900.

‘I never expected the book to sell so well,’ says Mulder. ‘Partly for that reason I decided to donate the profits from the first 6500 copies to the Artis Library Fund. For I felt that the money should be given a safe haven.’ Mulder has acquired a taste for it, because early this year the first episode of his new series Nature on the Wall will be published: 21 pictures with descriptions that you can put on the wall. The first episode is called Buzzers and Creepers and will tie in with the exhibition Onderkruipsels (The crawlers) later this year at the Rijksmuseum. This time the royalties from the first printing will go to the Artis Library Fund.

‘The Artis Library means happiness to me’

Amsterdam’s Plantage Middenlaan, which dates from 1868, is his workplace. After being closed for three years, he has been back there since March. Admittedly with less space than before, but that can’t spoil the fun. The foundation has been repainted, the walls freshly painted and all the books restored, but within a few days it smelled like old times again, says Mulder.

Safe Haven

During the time the Artis Library was closed, part of it overlapped with corona. This meant that many of his daily activities were cancelled. And so there was time to write a book. Before the temporary relocation, the Allard Pierson had also had a large number of masterpieces digitized, so that Mulder had access to the collection from home. ‘I wrote down the stories that I usually tell visitors here,’ he explains. The result is a chronological overview of how Western Europeans discovered, described and portrayed nature between 1500 and 1900.

‘I never expected the book to sell so well,’ says Mulder. ‘Partly for that reason I decided to donate the profits from the first 6500 copies to the Artis Library Fund. For I felt that the money should be given a safe haven.’ Mulder has acquired a taste for it, because early this year the first episode of his new series Nature on the Wall will be published: 21 pictures with descriptions that you can put on the wall. The first episode is called Buzzers and Creepers and will tie in with the exhibition Onderkruipsels (The crawlers) later this year at the Rijksmuseum. This time the royalties from the first printing will go to the Artis Library Fund.

Fund on the back burner

When we speak to Mulder at Plantage Middenlaan, Florence Pieters, former curator, guest employee and initiator of the Artis Library Fund, is also present. For more than thirty years she has been working here, among the old books and prints. ‘I love this place,’ she confessed. ‘The Artis Library means happiness to me. I want it to last forever.’ By establishing ‘her’ fund, Pieters wanted to make a lasting commitment to the place she said goodbye to in 2000. In 2008 - when she turned 65 - she decided to set up a fund, inspired by a retired colleague at the Chemistry Library, Joop Frankvoort. ‘At the time she had set up a fund for the benefit of the Circus Collection of the University Library. She was allowed to pay a sum of 30,000 euros by instalments in six annual instalments. Apparently it was possible to do it like that too!’ Pieters decided not to put ‘her’ fund in her own name, because she hopes to become better known with the name Artis Library. ‘It’s an open fund,’ she explains, ‘into which anyone can deposit.’

Arts and sciences

And thankfully that is what happens. For example, the Artis Library Fund already financed several special books for the collection. And all books were restored between 2011 and 2019. It also funded a special symposium in 2017 in honor of the 300th anniversary of Maria Sybella Merian’s death. ‘She is the only woman whose name appears outside on the front facade,’ Pieters explains the choice. ‘And she was a great artist in addition to being a scientist.’ Together with Mulder, she worked on the second volume of Merian. ‘The fund put down the first 20,000 euros, but the royalties will soon go back into the fund,’ Pieters explains. According to Mulder this touches on one of the core values of the UvA, namely bringing art and science together. ‘Art and science, they need each other’s perspective. Just like in Merian’s time.’
Special collaboration

The Faculty of Social and Behavioral Sciences (FMG) and the Amsterdam University Fund (AUF) are joining forces for a special collaboration: the FMG Fund.

This fund provides young talents with the opportunity to use their scientific knowledge to help solve social problems,’ says Michel Telkamp, FMG director of operations. ‘In October, when we officially launch the fund, we will highlight unique projects on topics such as sustainability and inequality of opportunity. These projects will apply available knowledge from scientific research in practice. In this way, we are showing that we can find smart solutions to concrete social problems.

Examples include a virtual reality environment where schoolchildren learn about sustainability or an app that helps young refugees talk about their emotions and possible traumas. Or a solution that helps teachers guide busy children in the classroom. Telkamp: ‘Sometimes a busy child gets all the attention from a teacher, while other students need attention too. It creates extra pressure on the already overburdened teacher. How do you solve that? It is an example that many people recognize in their own environment. Within our faculty, there is a lot of scientific knowledge about these kinds of issues. But social challenges and relevant knowledge do not always come together in a natural way. With this fund, we are providing that extra push.’

How does it work?
With the fund, early career researchers can submit projects around seven different themes: Urbanization and Mobility, Equity and Inclusion, Sustainability, (Mental) Health, Education and Nurture, Digital Society, Democracy and Security. Research projects last about three to five months and have an overall budget of 10,000 to 25,000 euros. The FMG Fund offers opportunities to researchers who are at the beginning of their research career. Telkamp: ‘Young researchers are often full of creative solutions but usually do not have the means to carry them out. Within the fund we offer support to convert that talent and knowledge into concrete solutions, for example for a school, a neighborhood or a specific target group.

Perfect collaboration
The new FMG Fund includes a starting amount of 50,000 euros deposited by the faculty. This amount can grow further through donations from third parties and thus constantly support new projects. According to Telkamp, the cooperation with the AUF is special, because both parties complement each other well. The faculty has substantive knowledge and the AUF has all the expertise in fundraising and relationship management. Donors support projects that contribute to society. Moreover, they can choose which projects they want to support. Thanks to the AUF they know for sure that their contribution will be well spent. It is an ideal model that could also work well for other faculties.’

‘Young researchers are often full of creative solutions, but often do not have the resources to execute them’
Time and space for research

It could be the crown on their years of hard work: a 3D animation showing the development of a heart. A result of decades of heart research for which molecular biologist Antoon Moorman established a named endowment fund for this particular reason.

Curiosity driven research barely exists any more,” says Mr. Moorman. ‘And as a result, we lack new sources of knowledge.’ Back in his time, it was different. As a young assistant in training (aio) at the AMC in the 1970s, he was given all the freedom he needed, to ask questions, make mistakes and conduct research that led to nowhere. If I had been an intern now, they would have sent me packing in no time.

Christoffels nods in agreement: ‘The money is indeed spent differently nowadays. Many grants go to applied research, linked to industry or to consortia that promise great social impact. A structure has also developed around the grant applications which means that the application often misses its target: so much time and money goes into it that there is sometimes too little left over for the research itself.

Both gentlemen are visibly annoyed by the current system. It was therefore one of the reasons why Mr. Moorman decided three years ago to establish a named fund: the Prof. Dr. A.F.M. Moorman Fund. Its purpose: to provide financial support for fundamental scientific research on the heart and more specifically, to understand the development of the heart and to make it with the aid of 3D animations. The research is one of many offshoots of a major study that he started at the AMC as head of the Department of Anatomy and Embryology in the early 1990s and which Christoffels also joined as a postdoc in 1997. Until then, there was only morphological knowledge of the heart, knowledge about its construction and shape. Moorman: ‘From that morphology, I couldn’t explain to students how a heart comes into being. So I started investigating that myself, based on my own biochemical background. What does a heart consist of in the very first embryonic stage and how does it develop?’

In the beginning, Moorman had a large and powerful team at his disposal from the Molecular Cardiology programme of the Dutch Heart Foundation: three postdocs, three analysts and three PhD students. And with that group, they did some amazing discoveries. They discovered, for example, that every heart - including those of fish, reptiles and other cold-blooded creatures - originates from a single tube from which cells grow in very specific cells grow in very specific places to form atria, ventricles, walls and so on. Christoffels: ‘We also saw that there are precursor cells that gradually take on new forms during the development of the heart. Christoffels: ‘We also saw that there are precursor cells that gradually take on new forms during the development of the heart. Which are first primitive heart muscle cells, then a blood-outflow channel and a day or two later a ventricle.’ They also noted that each part of the heart has different cell types. ‘So in order to understand the development of the heart properly, you always need a 3D model.’ And now it is time to put all those discoveries which explain how a heart develops into comprehensible and accurate images. A 3D animation could help with that. ‘Understanding will indirectly lead to better treatment,’ says Christoffels. But it also improves communication with the patient in the case of heart defects, leading to greater acceptance. Making a proper animation is, however, still quite a challenge.

We need someone who understands exactly what the essence is that needs to be portrayed and who knows how to translate this to the actual creator of the image. Such a person recently presented himself, a PhD student who is now working on this assignment. It will be another two years before we can make any real progress,’ says Christoffels. ‘Until then, there are still a few issues that need to be resolved. For example, we want to understand the ventricular wall in greater detail and we want to be able to map heart development more accurately from an evolutionary point of view.’ Dr. Bjørke Jensen, a staff member in our department, is helping to supervise this project. All basic research for better education. I would never have managed to get a grant for this. It is wonderful that Antoon’s fund gives us that time and opportunity’.

‘Understanding indirectly leads to better treatment’
The Amsterdam University Fund (AUF) provides scholarships and grants for students and researchers, providing science with the opportunity to find solutions to socially relevant problems. Financial support for groundbreaking scientific research projects is one of our main focuses. But together with you, we do more. Enclosed is an overview of even more projects.

This too was made possible by you

PIONEER LAW CLINICS
Application: In the field of Clinic education, the Amsterdam Law School is a pioneer in The Netherlands. Students learn by working on real cases of real clients. However: due to a capacity shortage, Amsterdam Law Clinics cannot accommodate the influx of new cases/students. For the most part, the Amsterdam Law Clinics is financed from its own resources. But to be able to guarantee the pioneering role and possibly expand it, this capacity must be increased.

And for that, supplementation of the fund is necessary. Support has also been requested for travel budgets for students who travel for their cases. Grant: €165,935 from the Paul F. van der Heijden Fund.

JEZIDI DATABASE
Request: Funding to establish an ad hoc database of topics related to the Yazidi people and all the injustices they were exposed to in Iraq in 2014. The purpose of such a database is to inform the academic community and a wider audience about this religious population and their plight as a persecuted minority. Access to reliable information is currently still limited, making it difficult to conduct research. This project aims to fill the gap in this long-standing research. It also aims to contribute to efforts that can promote swift justice.

Grant: €9,470 charged to the Conrat-Bakkenhoven-Peletier Fund.

PITCH VIDEO’S
Request: Funding for 3MT: a faculty partnership to support PhD students in innovative research dissemination. Through three-minute pitch videos in layman’s terms, the potential impact of a doctoral research project on society can be highlighted. Using 3MT, UvA can participate in a global competition, positioning itself as a university of impact and innovation. Since COVID-19, many PhD students work alone and have little contact with colleagues. Moreover, conferences and public lectures largely appear online. As a result, dissemination of research is limited. This 3MT competition helps to solve this problem.

Grant: €14,500 charged to the Gunning Fund.

17TH CENTURY TYMPANUM SAVED
Application: Funding for the restoration of a tympanum that the UvA received as a gift from the Friends of Amsterdam Gablestones Association (VVAG) at the end of 2020. A 17th-century sculpture with city arms, emperor’s crown and two lions, once part of the Oudezijds Heerenlogement on the Binnengasthuis grounds. With the demolition of this building in 1874, fragments of the tympanum were scattered across the city. The VVAG gathered the parts together and started a renovation with the help of funds such as the Prince Bernhard Cultural Fund. That renovation is almost complete, but the available budget is not enough for the last piece: the restoration of the shortened legs of the armorial lions.

Grant: 10,000 euros for the final restoration at the expense of the General Purpose Fund.

TEXTILES FROM DUTCH SOIL
Application: Funding for scientific research into archaeological textiles, from an archaeological, costume and art historical and natural science perspective. The aim is to increase knowledge and make the collection accessible to a wider public. It concerns textiles of previously unexamined material from the 17th and 18th centuries. Current national archaeological policy pays little or no attention to archaeological textiles because the material has never been included in the budget for previous archaeological research.

Grant: 19,500 Euros charged to the General Purpose Fund.

SYMPOSIUM EMMA CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL
Request: Funding for an annual symposium for (future) pediatricians where new knowledge and research is shared. Goal: To improve the care for children with science. The symposium is considered a unique opportunity for (young) researchers to share their work with others and gain knowledge themselves. Various people from all over the country will attend this symposium, from young researchers to neonatologists and all supporting disciplines such as paediatric nurses, paediatric dieticians, etc.

Grant: € 5,000 for the Amsterdam Children’s Symposium at the expense of the Spinoza Fund.
OTHER PROJECTS

Short news

ISAAC ROET PRIZE

The Isaac Roet Prize 2021 has been awarded to Francesca Ranalli, Jade Mandrake and Eileen Moyer for their project Hacking Urban Boundaries: an interactive toolkit that allows adolescents to build their own safe spaces through interaction with nature and the making of art, to teach them how to use their own voice and to design a realizable project within a provided budget. In doing so, the trio hopes to connect young people with their local environment and thereby prevent crime. The Isaac Roet Prize is awarded annually by the Amsterdam University Fund (AUF) and the Faculty of Society & Behavior Sciences, under the name of the late Isaac Roet. The prize is intended to encourage young people to work on projects that contribute to a fair, safe and sustainable world.

MAKING MUSIC DURING THE PANDEMIC

Making music during lockdowns and corona measures, the programmes of the Sweelinck Orchestra in 2021 did not work out as planned. The concert tour in Spain during the summer, for example, was cancelled. However, the members did not allow themselves to be sidelined by a virus and launched a very successful alternative: the Sweerckweek. This was kicked off with a concert in the Concertgebouw, without drinks and with limited seating, followed by a week of all kinds of activities in the city. The city is the members then rehearsed in good spirits in the direction of autumn concerts in De Duif and the Muziekgebouw aan het IJ, but at the end of November this too was cancelled.

EMERGENCY FUND ALSO HELPS IN 2021

In 2020, the UvA started a crowdfunding campaign which the AUF could take over for a visit to the University Day. The AUF has since been able to help dozens of UvA students in 2021 as well. In May 2021, the AUF supplemented the emergency fund with an additional 35,000 euros raised; a fantastic result. The emergency fund was meant to help students who were financially disadvantaged by the corona crisis. In total, almost 35,000 euros was raised, a fantastic result.

KNOWLEDGE FESTIVAL

In June 2021 for the first time UvA Open took place. An online knowledge festival that replaced the annual University Day for alumni. The organizers set up a varied program containing talk shows with interesting guests, keynote speakers, music and other performances. All provided by UvA alumni and scholars. The theme of the knowledge festival was ‘wellbeing’, a concept that in times of Covid-19 has different faces. Wellbeing is experienced on an individual level but it is often also determined on a broader, collective level. And so questions came up such as: how do we respond to challenging circumstances? Or: how do we take care of each other? And important: how can UvA contribute to that broader wellbeing? Fortunately, many alumni were also able to find us online. No less than 930 online visitors came to watch.

GOODBYE JOCHEM MIGGELBRINK

After 17 years of loyal service as relations manager, the AUF had to say goodbye to Jochem Miggelbrink in 2021. A highly valued colleague, not only because of his substantive knowledge, but also because of the fact that there was always something to laugh about with him. Jochem has the gift to put people at ease. A character trait that did not go unnoticed by many donors either. He had a special relationship with many alumni. Some he even personally picked up for a visit to the University Day. The AUF also really enjoyed working with Jochem. For example, in 2011, under his inspiring guidance, the first Named Fund was established, and we received several large inheritances with which the AUF could support great projects. Also the crowdfunding for the Corona Research Fund, which came from his sleeve, became a great success. In 2021 Jochem exchanged the UvA for the VU. His work at the AUF has since been taken over by Juliette Nieuwland.

VOLKERT VAN DER WILLIGEN SCHOLARSHIP

Mainah Folkers and Florian Haslbeck won the Volkert van der Willigen Scholarship 2021. Haslbeck received the scholarship for astroparticles physics students, Folkers for students in the field of biology and ecology. The scholarships were awarded by Volkert van der Willigen himself, who uses the award to encourage young researchers to go on a study trip and conduct research. Each year two Volkert van der Willigen scholarships are awarded: 1) to a student in the field of astroparticle physics and 2) to a student in the field of biology and ecology. The scholarships are worth 3,500 euros each and were established by retired family physician Volkert van der Willigen.

JANNEKE BADON GHIBJEN IS OUR NEW SECRETARY

In January 2021, Janneke Badon Ghiiben joined the AUF team. Coming from the Reinwardt Academy she joined the AUF as official secretary. She prepares the documents for the board meetings and processes grant applications of students and researchers. ‘I feel comfortable with the UvA, because it is a university that encourages its employees to remain curious. The most fun are the phone calls where I can answer questions that help an applicant get started.’

DEPARTURE OF MARIE-CHRISTINE VINK

Marie-Christine Vink has resigned, by mutual agreement, from her position as Director of the Alumni Relations Office and University Fund, effective August 1, 2021. Henriëtte van Oosterzee (Director of Communication UvA) has taken over her position as Acting Director.

KNOWLEDGE FESTIVAL

Making music during lockdowns and corona measures, the programmes of the Sweelinck Orchestra in 2021 did not work out as planned. The concert tour in Spain during the summer, for example, was cancelled. However, the members did not allow themselves to be sidelined by a virus and launched a very successful alternative: the Sweerckweek. This was kicked off with a concert in the Concertgebouw, without drinks and with limited seating, followed by a week of all kinds of activities in the city. The members then rehearsed in good spirits in the direction of autumn concerts in De Duif and the Muziekgebouw aan het IJ, but at the end of November this too was cancelled.

EMERGENCY FUND ALSO HELPS IN 2021

With the emergency fund that was set up at the beginning of corona, the AUF was able to help dozens of UvA students in 2021 as well. In 2020, the UvA started a crowdfunding campaign for students who could not go on a study trip because of corona, for example, or who could not go home. Students who lost their secondary jobs were also in danger of getting into trouble because of corona. With this emergency fund, the UvA and the AUF are committed to all students who were financially disadvantaged by the corona crisis. In total, almost 35,000 euros was raised, a fantastic result.
Amsterdam University Fund in 2021

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Management of Office

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Janneke Badon Ghijben - Official secretary
Michele Botland - Fund Administrator

Juliëtte Nieuwland - Relationship Manager and Fundraiser
Noor Verkooijen - Fundraiser

Ms prof. dr. C.M.A.M. van der Horst is not in the picture.
Amsterdam University Fund

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