Bringing World Space Week to Guildford High Street

The University partnered with the Institute of Physics to celebrate World Space Week, taking over Guildford High Street and Tunsgate Quarter with a raft of space-related exhibits, experiments and activities.

World Space Week, which takes place every year from 4–10 October, is the largest space event on Earth. For the first time ever Guildford hosted one of the 5,000 worldwide events with a full day of free and family-friendly activities, which included more than 20 stalls and tabletop experiments, solar observing, coffee shop craft sessions, storytelling, a school art competition, a space string quartet, science fact or fiction workshops, a sold-out lecture at the Guildford ODEON and a Bright Club comedy night.

More than 2,000 visitors enjoyed playing with satellites, driving a Mars Rover and tasting astronaut food, while a range of volunteers wandered the high street in a UK Space Agency replica spacesuit.

We were delighted to showcase some of the amazing research from our world-leading Space Centre, as well as providing a platform for more than 20 partners from the space and physics sector to engage with the public.

Dr Heather Campbell, Physics Outreach Manager at the University, said: “We are so excited to be able to share the wonder of space with the local community, especially those who might not have chosen to attend physics events but who stopped by one of our activities in the high street to see first-hand how fun and accessible space can be.”

Dr Chantal Nobs from the Institute of Physics, said: “To launch this event for the first time we teamed up with the University of Surrey, who provided fantastic support, and we are pleased to say that World Space Week Guildford 2019 was a massive success! There is already huge support for an even bigger event next year.”

The event could not have happened without the support of STEM Ambassadors, Guildford Borough Council, Tunsgate Quarter Experience Guildford, Guildford Library, Yvonne Arnaud and Holy Trinity Church.

For more information, visit: worldspaceweek.org

The University were thrilled to receive two medals in the Guildford in Bloom Student Garden Showcase and Best Site for Nature Conservation categories.

Physics PhD student Daisy Shearer won Gold and Best in Category for her quantum garden, located in Guildford Park Avenue, which featured a ‘path to quantum computing’, with paving stones engraved with significant scientific breakthroughs.

The garden explored quantum computing concepts such as superposition, entanglement and qubits, with a visitor bench as the centrepiece.

Our Estates team also won Silver for their fantastic campus lake, which boasts a wealth of wildlife and plant species.
Welcome from our guest editor
Carol Dunnett, Chief Officer of Voluntary Action South West Surrey

I am delighted to have been asked to guest edit this edition of Your University, particularly as several articles have connections with our work at Voluntary Action South West Surrey (VASWS).

As our name implies, VASWS is all about supporting voluntary action. We encourage people to volunteer, support the development of community groups, provide information on volunteering opportunities, and help those with mental health problems to be more active in their community.

For many students volunteering is an important part of their university experience. We have close links with the University’s volunteering department to help them find placements with local charities, and are currently working with the School of Health Sciences to host nursing placements here at VASWS.

Among the following pages there are several great examples of how students and the University are involved in volunteering and supporting community projects. From helping out with litter picks and sponsoring the Guildford Street Angels and Marshalls, to providing information on volunteering opportunities or community groups, please visit volunteeractionws.org.uk

On page 5 you can read a review of our voluntary sector conference, which is hosted annually by the University, showing that it’s not just volunteering that brings VASWS and the University together.

Also on page 5, there’s a piece about the Pint of Science talks. Having attended a couple of these myself I can thoroughly recommend them – they are a great way to find out more about the work of the University as well as being entertaining and informative.

I found the sustainability section particularly fascinating – it is encouraging to hear about the different projects happening on our doorstep which are helping the environment and combating climate change. For example, on page 6 there is news about a grant investigating the effects of air pollution, the launch of the Surrey Climate Commission, and work on solar panel technology.

I do hope you enjoy reading this edition of Your University and find it informative to learn about the many positive things that are happening in the community.

To find out more about volunteering opportunities or community groups, please visit volunteeractionws.org.uk

Instagram: Reflection
Recognising the need for quiet and reflection in these busy times, here are some of the most restful images posted by staff, students and local residents on Instagram. Follow us: @unisurrey

CCTV in the community

Second-third society student Jon Allen has compiled a report for Guildford Borough Council’s recent CCTV review.

The report will help shape the future of community safety in the borough, providing an evaluation of the efficacy of CCTV in relation to crime prevention and detection of offenders. It also assesses the impact of reduced CCTV monitoring, re-deployable capabilities and the public value of CCTV.

Councillor Fiona White, Deputy Leader of the Council and Lead Councillor for Safeguarding, Inclusion, Public Safety, Community Safety, Vulnerable Families and Older People, said: “Community safety is a key priority for the Council and we have always worked closely with the Police on using CCTV to help keep our borough safe. The equipment is due to be upgraded and we are working closely with the Police, the University of Surrey and Experience Guildford to review it.

“Jon’s contribution has been excellent and he has added further insight and understanding to our review. We are very grateful to him and the University for their support.”

Real Change is coming...

The University announced its support for the Real Change Guildford campaign, which aims to help guildford’s homeless.

Launched in July, Real Change Guildford is a fund-based scheme that uses donations generated by local businesses and the public to assist those most in need, enabling them to make positive changes to their lives. From funding a training course or a deposit for a home to providing a haircut or new suit for that life-changing moment, Real Change identifies individuals in the borough that benefit from their assistance, offering a long-term, sustainable solution to rough sleeping.

Greg Melly, Special Advisor (Community) to the Vice Chancellor at Surrey, said: “We are delighted to champion Real Change Guildford as ambassadors, by promoting the campaign and supporting fundraising activities on campus.”

Katja Patel, who helped launch the campaign, said: “It is great to have the University’s support. Real Change brings the community together to help support some of the most marginalised people in our society.”

For more information, visit realchangeguildford.co.uk

We shall not forget ‘Lest We Remember’

Surrey students supported Blind Veterans UK with an immersive performance in Guildford, telling the real-life war stories of those who cannot see, and cannot be seen.

The graduating cohort from the Guildford School of Acting (GSA) devised and created a promenade performance of words and music entitled ‘Lest We Remember’, which explored the consequences of war, starting and finishing in Guildford’s historic Guildhall. An especially moving highlight was the thanks given to all the WWII fallen soldiers from Guildford, whose names were read aloud at the cenotaph prior to hearing some of their stories told.

The final section offered the audience the chance to close their eyes and experience the darkness of those who lost their sight as a result of the Great War. This was followed by a musical performance in the Guildhall.

Blind Veterans UK, originally known as St Dunstan’s Hospice, inspired the creative process of the event.

For more information, visit blindveterans.org.uk

IKEA comes to Surrey

The University welcomed IKEA’s Head of Sustainable and Healthy Living Joanne Yarrow to present this year’s Roland Cift lecture series.

Championing critical thinking in sustainable development and practice, the series is named after the founder of the University’s Centre for Environment and Sustainability. Joanne Yarrow, who discussed IKEA’s People and Planet Positive Sustainability Strategy, said: “At IKEA we want to inspire and enable at least 1 billion people to live better lives within the limits of the planet by 2030.”

With a common ambition of inspiring people to pursue healthier and more sustainable lifestyles, the University of Surrey and IKEA have been partners over recent years, including on the Live LAGOM project, which aims to encourage consumers to live more sustainably at home and explore positive lifestyle changes.
North West Guildford 2030 – a greener future

Researchers from the North West Guildford 2030 project have been talking to Park Bank students head of to seeing Surrey’s talented and hardworking students head off to economic, development, where pupils spoke of affordability and independent

Angels and Marshalls: a force for good after dark

Two schemes to minimise late-night noise and anti-social behaviour on Guildford’s streets are being supported by the University.

After a highly-successful pilot year, we are delighted to continue the Street Marshals scheme along our neighbouring roads. Funded by the University, the Students’ Union and purpose-built accommodation provider Scape, our Street Marshalls are operating between 10pm and 4am on Guildford’s popular student nights, with an increased service during peak times such as Fresher’s Week. We have listened to feedback from local residents who very much welcome the presence of the Marshalls, who can be spotted wearing a blue high-visibility jacket.

We are also delighted to announce our sponsorship of Guildford town centre’s Street Angels scheme, which has been offering weekend support services since 2008. Street Angels are volunteers providing care and support for people, regardless of faith or background, who use the bars and entertainment venues in Guildford at night.

The Street Angels team are out every Friday and Saturday night, all year round, from 11:30pm to 4:00am. They patrol on foot wearing distinctive coats emblazoned with a bright target and tiles, and have direct radio contact with each other, the team base, doostar staff and the Police.
Cyborgs could become reality

Machine enhanced humans — or cyborgs as they are known in science fiction — could be one step closer to becoming a reality thanks to new research.

Scientists from Surrey’s Advanced Technology Institute (ATI) and Harvard University have taken a leap forward in creating artificial interfaces by producing ultra-small neural interfaces for intracerebral recording.

The tiny devices were used to record the inner activity of primary neurons and other brain cells, crucial for reading electrical activity of neurons in the brain, for many biomedical procedures, including brain activity mapping and neural prosthetics such as cochlear implants.

By working with Zhao from the ATI at Surrey said: “If our medical professionals are able to track our physical condition better and help us live longer, it is important that we continue to push the boundaries of modern science in order to give the brain new tools to do their jobs. For this approval, an interaction between humans and machines is inevitable.”
Common cold virus could revolutionise bladder cancer treatment

Researchers from the University and Royal Surrey County Hospital have found that a strain of the common cold virus can potentially target, infect and destroy bladder cancer cells.

Current treatments for bladder cancer are problematic. Hardev Pandha, Principal Investigator of the University’s oncology research, said: “Non-muscle invasive bladder cancer (NMIBC) is a highly prevalent illness that requires an intrusive and often lengthy treatment plan. Current treatment is ineffective and invasive in a proportion of patients and there is an urgent need for new therapies.”

The study investigated the safety and tolerability of exposure to the enigmatic virus, commonly occurring naturally on the skin of the cold, in fifteen patients with NMIBC. NMIBC is the tenth most common cancer in the UK with approximately 10,000 people each year diagnosed with the illness. Examination of patients’ tissue samples post-surgery revealed that the virus was highly selective targeting only cancerous cells in the organ. Further study found that once virally-infected cancer cells had died, the newly-replicated virus continued to attack more normal cancerous cells in the organ.

Following treatment with the virus, cell death was identified in the majority of the patients’ tumours. In one patient no trace of the cancer was found during surgery.

New urine test diagnoses prostate cancer

Researchers at the Universities of Surrey and Oxford have developed a urine test to diagnose prostate cancer and predict whether patients will require treatment up to five years earlier than standard clinical methods.

Prostate urine biopsy (PUB), the experimental new test, also identifies men who are up to eight times less likely to need treatment within five years of diagnosis.

It is hoped that the breakthrough could help many avoid unnecessary invasive biopsy and invasive follow-ups for ‘false’ positive patients.

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer among men in the UK. It usually develops slowly and the majority will not require treatment with antibiotics. It is now used for diagnosis of system disease worldwide. In the UK alone, 18,000 of these tests are performed each year, leading to rapid diagnosis and treatment of 1,000 patients. It was also critical in developing effective, life-saving vaccination campaigns and altogether contributing to halving the worldwide meningococcal death rate.

Professor David Simpson, Vice-Provost, Research and Innovation at the University, said: “Professor Johnpie McFadden’s work isn’t just a revolutionary new technique. It was a revolutionary new technique.”

For more information, visit medisense.org.uk

Meningitis research recognised as one of UK’s greatest health science breakthroughs

Research by Surrey academic Professor Johnpie McFadden has been ranked as one of the UK’s most pioneering health breakthroughs.

The ‘Nonnie’s Lovers’ list, part of an international research campaign that celebrates the work of UK universities that have had a significant impact on everyday lives. Professor McFadden developed the revolutionary new blood test for rapid diagnosis of meningococcal meningitis and septicaemia in 1996, which has gone on to have life-saving impacts around the world.

Meningococcal meningitis is a life-threatening disease affecting 1.2 million people every year as it is deadly and rapid diagnosis.

Doctors were cautious about giving drugs to patients before they knew exactly what was wrong, so treatment was often not quick enough.

Professor McFadden’s pioneering work was used to obtain an accurate diagnosis, even after patients were treated with antibiotics. It is now used for diagnosis of systemic disease worldwide. In the UK alone, 18,000 of these tests are performed each year, leading to rapid diagnosis and treatment of 1,000 patients. It was also critical in developing effective, life-saving vaccination campaigns and altogether contributing to halving the worldwide meningococcal death rate.

For more information, visit medisense.org.uk

All eyes on dementia research

Dr Marianne Coleman from the School of Health Sciences at the University has been awarded the prestigious Squirt Forum Prize from the Royal Society of Medicine for her groundbreaking dementia research with local residents.

Funded by Fight for Sight, a leading UK charity dedicated to pioneering pion, and the Royal Society of Medicine, Dr Coleman’s research investigates how the ability to perform daily tasks can be affected by dementia, and whether changes in pupil size during memory tasks could be a non-invasive indicator in monitoring the progression of the condition.

Dr Coleman, Research Fellow and Orthoptist at the University, said: “Some types of sight loss are more common amongst people living with dementia, and it can be difficult for them to explain that something is not quite right when they see things.”

Nasa astronaut’s amazing space adventures

On the 50th anniversary of Apollo 11, in collaboration with Pint of Science, the University welcomed hundreds to an evening with astronaut, Dr Michael Foale CB

Having crawled more than 370 days in space, Dr Foale is the most experienced British-born astronaut in history and the first to perform a space walk, during which he saved the Hubble Space Telescope in 1999.

Dr Foale captivated the audience with stories of his space missions including rescuing the Russian Mir Space Station from the ocean, and also got the chance to learn more about the University’s Surrey Space Centre and Astrophysics Research Group, with a talk from Surrey astrophysicist Dr Michelle Collins and a range of exhibits and hands-on demonstrations led by students and researchers from the University.

Dr Heather Campbell from Surrey’s Department of Physics, who is a scientist at the University, said: “Dr Foale’s talk was a great insight into the incredibly diverse range of projects within the University and how Dr Foale himself has been a main driver in pushing the research we’re doing here at Surrey. Events like these inspire our next generation of scientists, and who knows – maybe our next British-born astronaut!”

Local charities boost cancer research

Two local charities – the Prostate Project and BRIGHT – have given a substantial donation to support ground-breaking cancer immunotherapy research at the University.

A £270,000 piece of technology, the Vectra Polaris, was purchased with the funds raised from the Prostate Project. The state-of-the-art imaging system will provide previously impossible understandings of interactions between immune cells and cancer and will help transform cancer care in the UK. The new machine will also provide a valuable service to the Royal Surrey County Hospital Pathology Unit.

For more information, visit prostate-project.org.uk and brightcancer.org.uk for details.

Who cares for older adults?

The University hosted a three-day international research meeting to discuss the responsibilities and future care of older people.

The meeting, funded by the Wellcome Trust, was led by Surrey Professor Ann Gallagher and Dr Michael Durn from the University of Oxford in collaboration with visiting academics from Xiamen University, China.

Experts from 9 countries provided commentaries on Chinese and UK care relating to domiciliary and resident care for older adults. Activities included an interactive theatre event, conducted by the innovative care company, Company, recognised for its pioneering programmes of work supporting social inclusion.

The performance and following panel discussion brought together international experts and the public to engage with the question: ‘Whose responsibility is the care of isolated elders?’

The meeting provided rich insights from international experts, the public and the arts which will help develop further cross-cultural research.

For more information, visit entolearts.org/projects/bad

Humans, sheeps, pigs and goats

Dr Laura Cull O’Moelivaka from the University’s Guildford School of Acting has been awarded a prestigious £250,000 grant to investigate how performance can contribute to our understanding of animals, culminating in a new devised performance which the Guildford Grove Primary School. The research will explore the power dynamics and ethical issues that arise in relationships between perception, performance, philosophy and animals. In collaboration with the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University, Dr Cull O’Moelivaka will create a new devised performance which will provide insights from international artists and researchers to a project that raises questions about the differences between human perceptions of animals and the reality. She will invite audience to witness a series of improvised encounter between human performers and sheep, pigs and goats.

Dr Cull O’Moelivaka said: “I am absolutely delighted to have received this AHRC research grant that will enable me to work with fantastic partners and participate in the lively debate about human perceptions of animals. I hope this research will contribute to positive wildlife conservation attitudes and behaviours towards animals and also that the performing arts operate as forms of thinking in their own right.”
Meet the Students’ Union sabbatical team for 2019

The full-time sabbatical team lead the Students’ Union over a 12-month period, and are made up of four Zone Vice Presidents and the President, covering all aspects of student life.

The University of Surrey Students’ Union is a nongovernmental, not-for-profit organisation formed from the University, based on campus.

It is to represent students while also playing a significant role in liaising with the local community.

The Estate Teams – keeping our campus green and safe

Simon Smith is Horticulture and Landscape Manager here at the University. Under the leadership of Charlotte Prior, Simon and his colleague, Sports and Landscape Manager Iain Main, manage a team of 58 gardeners who maintain a staggering 520 acres across Stag Hill, Manor Park, Surrey Sports Park, Surrey Research Park, Blackwells Farm, Hazel Farm and Guildford Cathedral.

We asked Simon about some of the projects he and the team are working on.

Wildlife diversification

The team work with students and academics across the University to create a sustainable and healthy environment for all. Wildlife includes 50 bird boxes and several bee hives, and this year we are meeting Surrey in its green-friendly campus. Simon is a member of the Hedgesgrovie Preservation Society and is working with a PhD student to monitor hedgehog and other small mammals across the campus.

This year the team were delighted that the campus were a Silver Guilded in Bloom Award – Best Site for Nature Conservation, and are planning to create more wildflower meadows and biodiverse spaces to support bees and attract birds.

Sustainability

The team are helping us meet our target of a 15 per cent reduction in water use by 2021, and have adopted an innovative water proofing system to ensure moisture in the soil, promoting targeted rather than widespread watering. Over the summer the Stag Hill pizza water feature was replaced with a locally produced sculpture surrounded by a bed of drought resistant shrubs and insect-friendly plants.

Reducing both our carbon footprint, part of the fleet of petrol fuelled vehicles and tools are being replaced with electric equipment – they are even considering an electric-powered robot mower.

Wellbeing

The team promise wellbeing by making the estate a welcoming and safe environment for staff, students and the public. They recently planted a 70-year-old olive tree in the grounds of the Roundhouse Multi-Faith Centre to mark the 100-year anniversary of the Holocaust, and spend a great deal of time cultivating tranquil areas around campus.

Community engagement

Simon and Iain want to involve the public more with environmental campaigns on and off campus.

Recent projects include the community gardens in Park Barn, supporting students with Guildford in Bloom entries and helping local residents manage overgrown areas.

Young carers discover university

Our Discover University Young Carers Summer School programme was attended by 35 local young carers aged 14-16 years old.

Over the course of three action-packed days the young carers got to experience all elements of university life, including staying on campus in student accommodation.

The Summer School provided the young carers with an insight into subjects including engineering, politics, microbiology, arts and music. They also met with a careers advisor specifically trained to support young carers, to learn more about the academic, financial and emotional support available to them at university, and to discuss other pathways into higher education. All of the sessions were supported by our Student Ambassadors who talked about their experiences of transitioning to university while balancing other responsibilities.

The aim of the residential Summer School is to encourage students to think about their future potential and overcome any barriers that may be preventing them from studying at a higher education level. Before the Summer School, only 63 per cent of students felt confident they could study at university in the future. This number increased to 97 per cent once participants had completed the Summer School.

One student said: “I feel I can definitely go up to university one day and have made so many friends during this trip.”

To apply for the 2020 Discover University Young Carers Summer School, visit: surrey.ac.uk/summerschools

Inspirational work experience

The University of Surrey has been supporting Kings College since 2016 to help secure and improve the future of the Guildford-based school. This year we were delighted to offer a new programme providing work experience placements for Year 10 pupils.

During July, departments from across the University hosted ten Kings College pupils to introduce them to the wider world and provide a valuable insight into the various job roles within a university.

They spent one week working in our Library, Lakeside restaurant, Accommodation Services, Estates and Facilities Management, Research and Innovation, and Apprentised Print and Design. It was a worthwhile experience for both students and staff, who were impressed by the work ethic and enthusiasm of the pupils who participated.

Speaking about their experience one pupil said: “The whole week was wonderful and I am so grateful for the experience. It has made me change my views on working and adult life in a lot of ways and I know with everything I have learnt I will be able to contribute to the workforce.”

For more information, visit: kingscollegeguildford.ac.uk/finding-our-futures

Full STEAM ahead for local school children

In May, the University welcomed more than 600 Year 8 and 9 pupils from eleven local schools to our first ever STEAM Festival, celebrating the collaboration and innovation between science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics.

The main attractions included a planetarium, courtesy of The Astronomy Roadshow; McLaren talks, green screen technology, a robotic arm; and musical and dramatic performances by the University’s Gospel Choir and Theatre and Dance students. From the University for the Creative Arts, North East Surrey College of Technology, Smallpeice Trust and Pitblado Institute.

88 per cent of students said the event had motivated them to achieve good grades in their GCSEs.

Christ’s College pupils got rhythm

As part of our ongoing outreach commitment to schools in Surrey and Hampshire, the University’s Widening Participation and Outreach team collaborated with the Higher Education Outreach Network to provide two jam-packed teacher days at the University for Year 9 and 10 pupils from Christ’s College in Guildford.

Pupils took part in a taster session at the Department of Music and Media with Senior Lecturer in Music, Dr Tom Armstrong. During the session, Dr Armstrong provided warm-up exercises aimed at building a sense of rhythm, using simple vocal arrangements of arrangements including Gershwin’s Got Rhythm. He looked at spoken word composition based on the improvisation of a poem by Emily Dickinson and pupils learnt about Steve Reich’s Clapping Music, as well as trying out their conducting skills.

The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the two-day programme and the feedback was extremely positive.

For more details, visit: suresy.ac.uk/schools-colleges

Meet the team

The Voice Zone is led by Aly Ajmal, who works students by giving advice to those who are passionate to drive change at the University. She leads on elections, AGMs for clubs and societies, Surrey Decides and Course Rep elections.

Contact: ussu.vicepresidents@surrey.ac.uk

Amma Nagwawma leads the Community Zone with volunteering and fundraising activities (RAG) and helps develop a positive relationship between students and the wider Guildford community. She ensures sustainability is at the heart of all community activities.

Contact: ussu.vicecommunity@surrey.ac.uk

Lizzie Rodulson leads the Activity Zone which runs campaigns to promote personal development through involvement in clubs, societies and employability activities. Lizzie runs activities on off campus and showcases events in the local community.

Contact: ussu.publicity@surrey.ac.uk

Sarah Surget manages the Support Zone. This focuses on providing guidance to students through both the Nightline listening service and Welfare Watch, which supports students during nights out in student night club, Zulu. The Zone also facilitates open discussions through the ‘Let’s Talk’ campaign.

Contact: ussu.vicestudentsupport@surrey.ac.uk

Gemma Paine was last year’s VP Community and has been leading the Activity Zone. She oversees for clubs and societies, Surrey Decides and Surrey Watches, which supports students during nights out in student night club, Zulu. The Zone also facilitates open discussions through the ‘Let’s Talk’ campaign.

Contact: ussu.vpsupport@surrey.ac.uk

Simon and Lizzie have been students of the University for 10 years and they are both passionate about making the campus greener and safer.

Christ’s College in Guildford.

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University spin-out company joins Kinetics Group

University of Surrey spin-out company GnoSys Global Ltd has been acquired by Canadian life cycle management business Kinetics.

Born from the University’s Polymer Research Centre in 2006, GnoSys Global Ltd is a multi-disciplinary science and technology company located at Surrey Research Park.

GnoSys will help to expand Kinetics’ global footprint, allowing the company to more effectively sell wide-products and services and penetrate Europe’s nuclear, transmission and distribution industries.

Dr Claire Thorne, Director of the School of Hospitality and Tourism at the University of Surrey, said: “The University is proud of its cutting-edge research and social impact, the formation and growth of GnoSys is a great example of the Surrey research and innovation ecosystem at its best. GnoSys looks forward to the next chapter – joining the Kinetics Group – we remain committed to its success.”

For more information, visit: gnoSYSgroup.com

Sustainable tourism project receives £23m award

Interreg has awarded £23.3m to the University of Surrey and their EXPERTISE consortium partners to deliver an impactful sustainable growth project to maximise experiential tourism in the French-English border region.

Sustainability consortium partners to deliver an impactful sustainable growth project to maximise experiential tourism in the French-English border region.

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Innovation Strategy at the University

Dr Giovanna Nalesso, Lecturer in Social Media and Marketing at Kingston University’s School of Hospitality and Tourism, said: “Overall it was a fantastic experience to repeat.”

SURREY.AC.UK

For more vet school news, visit: surrey.ac.uk/vetnews

Student volunteering reaches new heights

From hockey coaching to hosting music recitals, more University of Surrey students are volunteering in the community than ever before. Either as part of a society or as individuals, our students racked up more than 12,000 volunteer hours last year with two students volunteering for a staggering 1,200 hours.

The Students’ Union support volunteering by listing opportunities on surreyvolunteering.com, allowing students to sign up and log their volunteering activity.

In 2018/19...

22,000 total volunteering hours

1,500 different volunteers

870 volunteer opportunities

180 local organisations

Tackling street noise in residential areas

Residents living close to the University’s campuses may have noticed loud post signage reminding students to keep street noise to a minimum.

“Our ‘Shh’ campaign, a joint scheme between the University and the Students’ Union, tackles anti-social noise in residential areas near to our Stag Hill, Manor Park and Hazel Farm campuses.

Posters are displayed on 50 lamp posts on the University campus, until December. Fronted by new students and local DJ, sandy Wilson, and supported by Surrey County Council’s Community Partnership team, the ‘Shh’ campaign reminds passers-by to #LetGuildfordSleep.

For more information, visit: surrey.ac.uk/shh

History made as Surrey’s first veterinary students graduate

This summer, five years since first opening its doors, the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Surrey celebrated the inaugural graduation of students from its prestigious Veterinary Medicine and Science BMSci course.

The Class of 2019 received their degree certificates from the internationally-renowned philanthropist and University alumnus Dalro Dr Kim Tan, a Pro-Chancellor at the University of Surrey, before attending an official ceremony with the President of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS), Dr Neil Constable.

Dr Constable formally welcomed the graduates as official members of the governing body, enabling them to practise as vets.

Surrey vets talk poo and parasites at Bright Horizons nursery

This summer, a group from the School of Veterinary Medicine visited Bright Horizons nursery on the University’s Manor Park campus.

The nursery manager Leah Dyer said: “Our children took part in activities linked to our Growing Scientists programme within Bright Horizons. They each had a very enjoyable time learning new things and they particularly loved looking at a dinosaur skeleton.”

For more vet school news, visit: surrey.ac.uk/vetnews

Adult learning opportunities for all

If you’d like to explore a new interest or continue your professional development through further education, we can help. Here is a taste of what’s on offer at the University of Surrey.

Evening language classes

Want to improve your language skills for work or leisure? A range of classes are available for a wide range of languages and levels, taught by skilled and experienced tutors.

For more information, visit: surrey.ac.uk/language-class

Hospitality revenue management

By participating in this course, individuals and organisations can introduce or improve into their business strategy and ensure maximum value is gained from each room and guest.

For more information, visit: surrey.ac.uk/revenue-management

Social media in hospitality

Designed for professionals in the hospitality and tourism industry to help define what social media means for your business, brand and future.

For more information, visit: surrey.ac.uk/socialmediaclass

Surrey Business School

Surrey Business School works with your organisation to provide executive education solutions tailored to your requirements.

For more information, visit: surrey.ac.uk/business-school

To find out more about the wide range of courses available, visit: surrey.ac.uk/cpd

Research Park collaboration to accelerate business growth

Businesses at Surrey Research Park were invited to discuss opportunities for collaboration, as the University sets out its commitment to work with local businesses to drive growth.

Professor David Sampson, Vice-Principal for Research and Innovation at the University, said: “Start-up successes, our commitment to local businesses to drive growth further by building connections and establishing new opportunities.”

Businesses on the Research Park – half of which already work with the University – contribute over £2bn to the local economy each year, and employ more than 4,300 people.

For more details, visit: surrey-researchpark.com

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For more vet school news, visit: surrey.ac.uk/vetnews

Back in the community

Our new Surrey Innovation and Digital Enterprise Academy – SurreyIDEA – is in the first year of its kind in Europe. Aimed at students from Year 12 upwards, the two-year course combines classroom learning with hands-on experience in start-ups, corporates, incubators and accelerators; giving vital insights into the realities of entrepreneurship.

Grades are less important than entrepreneurial spirit and the Academy is looking for agile thinkers, hungry for success who can come up with 50 ideas a day (and happily discard 49) in the first six weeks of an innovative funding scheme – instead of changing165 people’s lives, SurreyDEA invests in students’ enterprises and takes a percentage of the profits.

Head of the School Professor Andy Adcroft said: “We want to create a new generation of digital entrepreneurs that we call the ‘disrupters,’ the people that will change the way we live.”

For more information, visit: surreyideaconsortium.com

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The nursery children got to try out being mini-vets, dressing up in gowns to help properly prop-dogs by bandaging their injuries.

Moving on to poo and parasites, the visiting vets discussed the lifecycle of tapeworms and their hands to keep parasites away from the children, they explored the function of bones in humans and animals and the pre-schoolers decorated T-shirts by drawing their favourite dinosaur on the Frankenstein’s cage with glow-in-the-dark paint.

Dr Giovanna Nalesso, Lecturer in Social Media and Marketing at the University of Surrey, said: “Overall it was a fantastic experience, for the children but for us as well. We had the opportunity of networking among the different activities. It was a wonderful experience!”

Nursery manager Leah Dyer said: “Our children took part in activities linked to our Growing Scientists programme within Bright Horizons. They each had a very enjoyable time learning new things and they particularly loved looking at a dinosaur skeleton.”

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The Class of 2019 received their degree certificates from the internationally-renowned philanthropist and University alumnus Dalro Dr Kim Tan, a Pro-Chancellor at the University of Surrey, before attending an official ceremony with the President of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS), Dr Neil Constable.

Dr Constable formally welcomed the graduates as official members of the governing body, enabling them to practise as vets.

Officially opened by Her Majesty the Queen, the School has gone from strength to strength with 850 students now completing their veterinary training at the 145m state-of-the-art facility. Its innovative Veterinary Medicine and Science BMSci course also recently received official accreditation from the RCVS College of Veterinary Surgeons. The School has offered at Surrey has proven highly attractive to employers, with 90 per cent of this year’s graduates securing employment prior to graduation.

Students have also been very positive about their experience, which included spending a significant amount of time in many local vet practices providing valuable community service. The most recent National Student Survey revealed a 90 per cent satisfaction rate among veterinary students at Surrey, the highest score of all veterinary schools in the UK.

The teaching staff have been brilliant and I feel like I have been really well prepared for life as a vet.

Tom Whitehead, 2019 graduate

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The Treatment Room at Surrey Sports Park

Surrey Sports Park offers much more than just a gym and swimming pool, they support members throughout their entire fitness journey by offering qualified personal trainers, group classes and the Treatment Room Sports Injury and Therapy Clinic.

The Treatment Room provides sports therapy, soft tissue massage, osteopathy and physiotherapy with a small, specialist team who work together to provide a detailed assessment, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation for any complaint. All sessions include a thorough assessment and begin by asking some questions about your medical and injury history. The team of professional practitioners can help treat a wide range of ailments, from a sore neck due to poor posture, or knee pain from marathon training, to an ongoing minor niggle or post surgery rehabilitation.

Swimmers smash world record for cancer

This summer, 100 swimmers broke a world record for the fastest 100 x 400m swimming relay at Surrey Sports Park to raise money for Cancer Research UK.

The Swin4Cancer event was organised by 20 year old Rory Huggins, a sports scholar and maths student at the University of Surrey. Both his grandmothers have recently fought and beaten cancer. Speaking of the event, Rory said: “I wanted to show my gratitude and raise more funds for such a good cause. I’ve always been fascinated by world records, so it seemed like a good opportunity to do both.”

Emotions ran high all day, as swimmers were reminded of their own personal stories of fighting the disease. Rory added: “The atmosphere was incredible, with hundreds of swimmers cheering us on. It was an incredible experience.”

Getting girls into basketball

Thanks to Sports England and the Lapag Foundation, the Scorcher’s Basketball Foundation have set up the first all-girls basketball league in Surrey.

This season will see the first all-girls basketball league in Surrey being coached by the Scorcher’s Basketball Foundation. They will be supported by Active Surrey and Energie Fitness clubs, with funding provided by Sport England. Sessions are being run at five local schools: Kings College, Chrét’s College, Three Rivers, Farnham Heath End and Alderwood School, with the hope of further expansion.

The aim of the scheme is to motivate girls to get into basketball, providing them with fantastic opportunities to learn the ins and outs of the game, improve their skills on a weekly basis and build new friendships. As our Scorcher’s players and coaches provide them with the support they need.

As the girls bond and form excellent teams they will be given the opportunity to play in tournaments on our professional basketball court in the Surrey Sports Park arena before Scorcher’s’ home games.

For more information, visit surrey.ac.uk/scocherers
Your University takes a look back on our staff and students’ achievements across the year. From acts of bravery to Olivier Awards, we salute you.

1. The Widening Participation and Outreach team won the National Education Opportunities Network Widening Access Partnership Award for their work with Kings College, Guildford.

2. University of Surrey Lettings won the Overall Best Letting Agent of the Year Award from the London Landlord Accreditation Scheme and the Accreditation and Training for Landlords and Agents Service.

3. Professor Tony Myatt and Professor Richard Murphy celebrate winning a silver-gilt medal at RHS Chelsea Flower Show for their collaboration with the Silent Pool Gin Garden. Credit: Ash Knotek.

4. Security Officer Katie Fletcher (centre), received the Association of University Chief Security Officers ‘Security Officer of the Year for an Outstanding Act of Courage’. Credit: Handover Agency.

5. Community and Volunteering Coordinator Ian Handy (centre) with his 2019 Mayor’s Award for his work in the community. Credit: Joe Barryman.

6. Surrey professor, Jim Al-Khalili OBE FRS, was made Honorary Fellow of the Institute of Physics in 2019.

7. Physics PhD Student Daisy Shearer (front, centre) won Gold and Best in Class in the Student Showcase category of the 2019 Guildford in Bloom competition. With (from left to right): Dr Heather Campbell, Liani Mannifield, Ben Harbour, Tom Hood, Emily Frame, Simon Smith and Lisa Dimbylow. Credit: Grant Pritchard.

8. Guildford School of Acting alumnus Michael Jibson (left) received an Olivier Award for Best Supporting Actor for his role as King George III in the hit musical Hamilton. Credit: Pamela Raith.

If you have any questions, thoughts or suggestions about Your University or any of the articles you’ve read in this edition, please get in touch:
publicengagement@surrey.ac.uk @UniOfSurreyCPE