University community reflects on contribution during Covid-19 pandemic

More than 250 of the University’s final-year nursing, midwifery and other healthcare students started work in the NHS during the pandemic, alongside members of staff and fellow students who volunteered in hospitals and student paramedics who took on extra shifts.

Surrey’s PhD trainees provided support to patients with neuropsychological problems and also established a helpline to provide mental health support to healthcare practitioners.

Academic staff from the University’s School of Health Sciences trained former NHS staff to prepare them for treating patients with Covid-19, as well as upskilling community-based healthcare professionals to help reduce hospital admissions.

Professor Melaine Coward, Interim Executive Dean of the Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, said: “We are incredibly grateful to all our students and staff who responded to the country’s call to action and signed up to support the NHS. They have demonstrated the character, knowledge and skill to care for patients during these unprecedented times and we are extremely proud of them.”

With students, staff and graduates working to tackle the pandemic on the front line, the University was able to play a part in protecting them and their colleagues by donating more than 120,000 items of personal protective equipment (PPE). This was made possible thanks to the generosity of former students and international partners. Recipients included the Royal Surrey County Hospital, local GP surgeries, hospices and care homes.

The University was also pleased to open its clinical skills and simulation wards to NHS workers, together with computer laboratories, office space and facilities at our Veterinary Pathology Centre. Local hospital workers were able to take advantage of 100 campus bedrooms to support their shiftwork at the nearby Royal Surrey County Hospital.

Academics from across all three of the University’s faculties have focused on more than 100 Covid-19 research projects since the outbreak, furthering the world’s knowledge of the disease to limit its spread, support the diagnosis and treatment of patients and communities, and search for a vaccine.

Students return to Guildford as academic year begins

The University will welcome new and existing students back to campus from 21 September for the 2020-21 academic year.

The University will move to a blend of on-campus and online learning, known as ‘hybrid education’, to provide a supportive, diverse and vibrant learning experience while staying safe against the backdrop of Covid-19.

The campus learning facilities and laboratories will be open, but with added safety measures in place.

The University’s support services will help students with matters such as finance, healthcare, wellbeing and faith.

To find out more about our plans for our students’ safe return, visit: surrey.ac.uk/coronavirus

Credit: Dean Whiting
Welcome to our guest editor Professor Max Lu, President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Surrey

The Covid-19 pandemic and the subsequent events of the last six months have been extraordinary, creating new challenges but also bringing out the best in our community. On behalf of the University, I may extend our sincere gratitude to each and every key worker and volunteer who kept the borough running during this challenging period. This includes many of our own staff and students, some of whom you will read about in the pages of this edition.

We are delighted that undergraduates mean a great deal to me.”

The Princess Royal pays the University a visit. Credit: Jason Alden

The Guildford Roll of Honour award has been presented to Surrey academic, Professor Simon de Lusignan.

A joint venture between the University and Guildford Borough Council, the award recognises individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the economic, social, wellbeing or artistic culture of Guildford and the surrounding region.

De Lusignan.

Professor de Lusignan is a Guildford GP who has worked, having recently been re-accredited by the Hogg des King Friendly Campus scheme. A collaborative approach to research and practice has made a positive impact on local, national and global scale.

The collaborative event brought together staff and students from across the University to create an extraordinary showcase. This included an uplifting highlight film, presentations from academics to discuss some of the inspiring research that has been taking place, along with the outstanding learning experience that the University has to offer.

The University grounds are also home to some familiar friends had the rare opportunity to return to the University’s accomplishment during the past year, and to thank those that have experienced and the discoveries that have been made.

A spectacular Surrey showcase

On 8 July, the University of Surrey’s first ever virtual Annual Review event was broadcast live from our television studios thanks to a talented, student-led production team.

The Annual Review provides us with the opportunity to celebrate the University’s achievements during the past year, and to think those that have made a positive impact on a local, national and global scale.

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Putting the Uni in community

The University of Surrey has been collaborating with communities to make a positive impact on the local environment. Professor Max Lu said: “It is a great privilege to be working with such an inspirational organisation as the University of Surrey, and Ben Ward, Chief Executive of Winchester Science Centre, marked the signing of the MOU by presenting an inspirational talk on the university’s partnership with Winchester Science Centre. The signing of the MOU marked the beginning of a relationship between two communities that share a passion for learning and for the promotion of science and technology.”

A virtual ‘hats off’ to graduating students

COVID-19 may have put a halt to large physical gatherings, but staff and students from across the University’s three faculties still came together to celebrate student successes with virtual graduations. For one department, the new graduates were treated to a guest talk by IT Consultant Julian Holmes, who is also part of the cohort of students on Surrey’s Computing Information Technology course in 1993. Helen Tharaneh, the current Head of the Department of Computer Science, also offered students her best wishes, commenting: “COVID-19 has impacted everyone’s lives, but we’re looking forward to a more hopeful tomorrow.”

Free clinic supports residents with legal advice

The University’s prestigious School of Law has been providing free legal advice to residents through its clinic’s valuable partnerships with external organisations. Contributing to the local community is an important part of the School of Law’s ethos.”

A global community with a local role

At the University of Surrey we’re passionate about making a positive contribution to society. #OurSurreyPeople campaign celebrates members of our community who are making a positive impact here in the borough and beyond.

A University of Surrey student, a community project manager, and a local business owner have all been recognised in the #OurSurreyPeople campaign for their contributions to the local community.

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Pioneering research into infectious diseases recognises close link between human and animal health

The University of Surrey has been awarded £1.4m to conduct cutting-edge research into infectious disease and antimicrobial resistance.

The University’s School of Veterinary Medicine continues its collaboration with the One Health EJP (European Joint Programme) to carry out pioneering research recognising that human health is closely linked to the health of animals and the environment.

Over the next three years, researchers will continue to work collaboratively and interdisciplinarily with European and international partners to address the global threats of foodborne pathogens, antimicrobial resistance and emerging infectious diseases.

The One Health EJP is a landmark partnership consisting of 37 partners from academia, veterinary and food laboratories across the EU, and the Med-VetNet Alliance. At its core, the project works to understand how pathogens move between species and develop strategies to prevent and mitigate antimicrobial resistance and the impact of zoonotic disease emergence.

The success of the project in improving sanitation and providing clean water will have both economic and social benefits, improving the health of the population, creating jobs and providing motivation for other cities in the Philippines to invest in sanitation.

In January, the project won the Philippines category of the prestigious Newton Prize, an annual £3m fund developed to showcase how UK science and innovation partnerships are helping to solve global development challenges.

A breath of fresh air

The University of Surrey has been awarded a share of a £2.79m grant by the Engineering and Physics Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) to investigate the impact of indoor and outdoor pollution on people’s physical health.

Surrey’s Global Centre for Clean Air Research (GCARE) is working with Imperial College London and other partners to research the impact of pollution on the environment that immediately surrounds us.

The INHALE project – Health Assessment across Biological Length Scales for Personal Pollution Exposure and Its Mitigation – will examine the biological and adverse health effects of pollutants, and how this relates to health outcomes.

Professor Prapart Kumsang, Director of GCARE at the University of Surrey, said: “As the world wakes up to the perils of climate change – and the damage it does to our planet and human lives – we hope that this project will move us closer to building a world where clean air is available to all.”

Groundbreaking TB treatment

New drugs to treat strains of tuberculosis (TB) which have become resistant to treatment are now possible following a groundbreaking discovery from the University of Surrey.

Through a new and exciting study, researchers have successfully identified the source of nitrogen in host blood cells that allow the TB bacteria to make proteins and DNA.

This discovery will enable researchers to develop new anti-TB drugs which will prevent TB bacteria accessing the nitrogen it needs to survive and replicate.

Johne McFadden, Professor of Molecular Genetics at the University of Surrey, said: “This is one of the world’s deadliest infectious diseases. Our finding paves the way for the development of drugs which can target actively of the very amino acid that enables the bacteria to replicate and spread within the body.”

Innovation at Surrey recognised

The University of Surrey and Surrey Research Park were once again recognised at the Guildford Innovation Awards sponsored by Kyan in December.

The annual Guildford Innovation Awards celebrate innovation across a broad spectrum of sectors in the local area.

The Innovation in Healthcare award was presented to Dr Kamalan Jeevaratnam and Dr Vadim Kagan from the University’s School of Veterinary Medicine. They were recognised for their pioneering research into rapid detection of ‘porcine enteric pathologies’, a common herd-reproduction abnormality in horses and humans - which affects athletic performance of racehorses and is the major cause of strike in horses.

Surrey project wins Newton Prize

A University of Surrey project that aims to convert waste water into nutrient-rich fertiliser is leading the way in improving the health and prosperity of rapidly urbanising areas in the Philippines and south-east Asia.

In the Metropolitan Manila region of the Philippines, 75 per cent of sewage flows untreated directly into natural water bodies, causing waterborne diseases and adversely impacting people’s health and the local economy.

The Water-Energy-Nutrient Nexus in the Cities of the Future project, led by the University of Surrey, has created a solution to convert wastewater into fertiliser. The research team were able to use data analysis to show that almost 5m kg of phosphate from sewage can be recovered from a single zone in the region for use as fertiliser.

The award was made jointly to the University of Surrey, King’s College London and University College London. The team at Surrey, led by renowned scientist Professor Deborah Dunn-Walters, will receive more than £1m in funding to advance their changing function of antibodies.

In nature, antibodies are produced by the immune system to target and attack dangerous pathogens in the body. Once bound to their target, the antibodies can switch functions between nine different subclasses, which can affect how well they work.

Recent research has highlighted a lack of understanding of the process that determines which subclass is used by the antibody and how different subclasses impact the immune system.

During this innovative study at the university, researchers have now investigated which factors, both inside and outside the cell, control this process.

An important next step in understanding this process is to develop one of the subclasses that is used by the body’s immune system. Researchers aim to develop an antibody that can activate the immune system so it can target and attack specific pathogens.

$3 million in funding for antibodies research

The Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council has made a £3.4m award to conduct a groundbreaking investigation into antibodies.

The award was made jointly to the University of Surrey, King’s College London and University College London. The team at Surrey, led by renowned scientist Professor Deborah Dunn-Walters, will receive more than £1m in funding to advance their changing function of antibodies.

Cancer survivor Dr James Hall joins forces with six universities to investigate why cancer works in some patients and not others.

Researchers from the University of Surrey and five other universities across the country will carry out non-invasive investigations of patients’ immune systems and tumour cells to identify any unique features that could explain why they have remained cancer free, as part of the Continuum Long-Term Survivor study.

With around 365,000 new cancer cases in the UK every year, it’s likely that a high percentage of those diagnosed will have a recurrence of the disease within two years of finishing treatment.

Hardev Pandha, Professor of Medical Oncology at the University of Surrey, said: “Currently it is impossible for us to know if or when cancer will return in patients with a guarded prognosis. We want to know why this happens, if there is something unique that occurs in the immune system of patients who remain cancer free, and whether this knowledge can be designed to create more effective immunotherapy treatments.”

Dr James Hall, CEO and Founder of Continuum Life Sciences, said: “I am very grateful to be a cancer survivor. I want to find out everything I can about this devastating illness to spare future generations the difficulties I have gone through in my fight against cancer.”

Researchers from the University of Surrey, together with the British Geriatrics Society and other partners, have developed new guidelines to support doctors, nurses and health professionals in delivering high-quality end-of-life care.

Covering the final year of life for people living with frailty, the guidelines address issues including the uncertainty faced by older people and their families, communication between medical professionals, patients and family members, decision-making, planning, law and ethics, as well as the psychological and emotional aspects of pain, delirium, incontinence and swallowing difficulties.

Caroline Nicholson, Professor of Palliative Care and Ageing at the University of Surrey and Co-End of Life Lead for the British Geriatrics Society, said: “As people move towards the end of life, it’s imperative that their wishes and needs are listened to and acted upon. It is important that healthcare professionals, patients and their families are supported in helping ensure these needs are met.”

An international effort to train nurses in Australia and New Zealand in planning, law and ethics, as well as the psychological and emotional aspects of pain, delirium, incontinence and swallowing difficulties.

Improving end of life care

New guidelines for providing quality end of life care. Credit: Getty Images

Managing bipolar disorder through wearable technology

A wearable lithium drug monitor developed by the University of Surrey could change the lives of patients with bipolar disorder and depression.

It’s estimated that bipolar disorder affects one in 100 people and lithium is the most effective long-term therapy for the condition. It’s incredibly important to monitor lithium levels accurately and consistently.

Their monitor was able to detect lithium levels by using a new element: charcoal! They have created a wearable technology to draw lithium from under the skin. Their monitor is now able to detect lithium concentrations less than a tenth of a micromole and provide a real-time signal that high levels have been detected.

The team is now looking to investigate whether these devices could be enough to detect extremely narrow therapeutic ranges of lithium.
**Sustainability**

**Protecting playgrounds: hedging against traffic pollution**

Placing a hedge in front of a park can halve the amount of traffic pollution that reaches children as they play, a new study has found.

Experts from the University of Surrey’s Global Centre for Clean Air Research (GCARe) conducted a five-month experiment, measuring traffic pollutants in a children’s park in Guildford.

The study aimed to measure pollution reduction during the Lifecycle of a hedge’s ‘green-up’ stage in late April. Experts believe that could due to densification of the hedge or the shrewdness of the leaves when particle pollutants pass through it. Professor Prashant Kumar said:

> “The reduction in pollution after the green-up stage gives valuable information regarding where to install green infrastructure across our communities.”

**Surrey academicians collaborate with peers across the globe on sustainability research projects**

Network to analyse the governance of plastic pollution in Africa

The Governing Plastics Network, led by the University of Surrey and the University of Nairobi, will investigate how local and national governments in six Development Assistance Committee countries organise research about plastics and analyse how these messages lead to efficient regulations. The network will also look to understand whether these messages are being filtered to the population and change behaviour.

Bashad Matalqa, co-founder of the Governing Plastics Network and Professor of Law at the University of Surrey, said: “The story about plastics has drastically changed over the past 50 years, driven by people finally understanding the dire consequences plastic waste has on our planet. We need to learn that understanding into a body of rules which ensures that plastics do not continue to degrade the environment, hurting wildlife, and ‘messing up our oceans.’

Free electrical energy from movement to power future portable electronics

We could soon be using “free electricity” generated by our own movements to power our portable devices, according to a breakthrough study published in the Universities of Surrey and Loughborough.

In a paper published by Nano Energy, researchers detail how they cracked the relationship between electricity generated from previous triboelectric nanogenerators (TENGs) – a type of low-cost and lightweight energy generator which can be produced using recyclable materials.

In the new study, the team show how they created direct current triboelectric nanogenerators (DC-TENGs), resulting in the team generating continuous power, like that used in most electronic devices. The researchers successfully demonstrated the sustained powering of a number of electronic devices including LEDs and electronic watches using movements similar to that found in the ambient environment.

**Upgrading WHO forms could improve water quality for vulnerable communities**

The World Health Organisation’s (WHO) sanitary inspection (SI) forms need an urgent upgrade to help improve the quality of small water supplies in some of the world’s most rural and vulnerable regions, it is a new study has found.

According to the WHO, many small water supplies are not regularly monitored and inspected. Importantly, it is feared that such supplies do not provide safe or sufficient drinking water for the communities they serve – many of whom are vulnerable.

In a paper published in the journal Resources, experts from the University of Surrey, interrogate the usability of SIs – a key tool used globally to identify risks in water supplies.

The study recommends that questions in the SI forms are revised to make sure that inspectors interpret them consistently – providing them with targeted technical guidance for each question.

**Surrey steps towards sustainability**

The University is taking several steps towards sustainability with an ambitious goal to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050. To do this, the University will be increasing on-site renewable energy generation, increasing the amount of energy recycled, managing traffic pollutants and improving on-campus infrastructure across our communities.

The University has also committed to using clean water use, partnering with Thames Water as part of the ‘Smarter Business Water’ programme. This aims to review and improve water efficiency across campus with an estimated saving in excess of 50m litres per year, to density of the hedge or the shrewdness of the leaves when particle pollutants pass through it. Professor Prashant Kumar said:

> “The reduction in pollution after the green-up stage gives valuable information regarding where to install green infrastructure across our communities.”

**Academics join fight against Covid-19 with research and innovation**

**Mass spectrometry to analyse Covid-19 samples**

**University selected as site for Covid-19 vaccine**

The University of Surrey has been selected as one of the locations to trial a new Covid-19 vaccine. Developed by scientists from Imperial College London, the vaccine is currently undergoing the first phase of human testing.

The next phase of the trial will involve human testing at a number of additional sites across the country including at the University of Surrey, led by Professor Simon Skene, from the University of Surrey said: “Trialling vaccines in human volunteers is an essential step in our fight against viruses such as Covid-19 and I am thrilled that the team at Surrey are contributing to this important trial.”

**Supporting nursing staff during the pandemic**

The universities of Surrey and Southampton have developed guidance to support the psychological and mental health needs of nursing staff during Covid-19.

Published in the journal Clinical Nursing, researchers identified the stressors and challenges nurses face during the Covid-19 pandemic and have developed guidance offering strategies for nursing team members across health and social care settings to support their psychological wellbeing. The guidance promotes peer and team support is highlighted in the guidance and outlines what managers, organisations and leaders can do to support nurses.

The study highlights identifying physical and safety needs, peer support, team support, and the roles and responsibilities of managers and leaders as well as long-term recovery assistance.

**Tackling indoor airborne transmission of Covid-19**

Preventing airborne transmission of Covid-19 should be the next front line in the battle against the virus, argue experts from the University of Surrey.

In a study, scientists from Surrey and Loughborough universities, in collaboration with the University of Loughborough, as well as researchers from universities in Australia, Spain, Germany and Switzerland, report on how key factors influence the risk of airborne transmission of Covid-19. After an open letter by the UK’s Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies in April 2020, the researchers are now calling for greater understanding of the mechanisms underlying severe disease.

The team analysed ground-breaking techniques to the analysis of test samples taken from Covid-19 patients in order to look for novel landing and treatment regimes and insights into the mechanisms underlying severe disease.

The University of Surrey team has already received more than 800 project ideas from Frimley Park Hospital.

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**Covid-19 test kit collaboration**

A new Covid-19 test, which can detect the presence of the virus in six different individuals simultaneously in under 30 minutes, has been developed following a partnership deal with leading electronic, robotics and software companies.

Based in University London, together with Lancaster University and the University of Surrey have joined forces with Vida Ltd, Inovo Robotics and Unique Secure to develop an inexpensive, rapid, diagnostic test that can accurately inform people if they have Covid-19 in under 30 minutes. The results from the current development phase are expected to be made widely available to be used in areas such as care homes, schools, Essential workers and airports.

To learn more about Covid-19 research projects taking place at the University of Surrey, visit: su.se/research/covid-19-research
When the Covid-19 lockdown led to a period of home learning for many students in Guildford, the University’s Widening Participation and Outreach team were on hand to help with online resources and book bundles. Our Book Access Scheme provided a list of recommended books including fiction, non-fiction and poetry to ensure young people had access to literature while schools and colleges remained closed. To date, the scheme has provided more than 300 book bundles to young people who are in local authority care, those who are young carers and young people who are eligible for free school meals. The University also ran ‘The Book Queue’, a virtual book club with the Higher Education Outreach Network. The scheme provided secondhand books to young people with access to an online portal with meanings and pursuits to support literacy development alongside an accompanying book. The University ran its first ever virtual summer schools this year, including subject-specific summer schools for pupils in Year 12 and a ‘Discover University’ summer school for young carers.

To see our ‘16 home activities’ and ‘Masterclass webinar series’ search ‘Surrey Outreach’ on Twitter and Instagram.

Covid-19: Surrey students take action
As Covid-19 spread across the globe, it brought with it a clearer reminder of the critical role that university communities have to play in supporting society through one of the biggest challenges of our time. From delivering food and prescriptions to creating entertaining activities for care homes, we have an incredibly proud group to see many of our students give their time so generously to support others.

This kindness, compassion and community spirit is common in our student population. Tutors, in the Students’ Union’s Community Record, have written 2,400 active student volunteers and 219 partnerships with charities and good causes. The same year, the Union’s Annual Baking and Giving initiative donated more than £26,965 to local charities such as Shooting Star Chase and Dorking Enterprise. University of Surrey’s ArtShop campaign has seen 17,400 items donated to the North Guildford Food Bank since 2015. Surrey students also support local events, exhibiting at the Innovate Guildford, creating gardens for Guildford in Bloom and supporting World Space Week here in the town.

When the Covid-19 pandemic struck, Rufaro Mazarura, a qualification in pharmacy services and advice, as well as exploring the varied experiences of young people who are eligible for free school meals. The University also ran ‘The Book Queue’, a virtual book club with the Higher Education Outreach Network. The scheme provided secondhand books to young people with access to an online portal with meanings and pursuits to support literacy.

Celebrating Kings College Guildford
Data released by the Department for Education earlier this year revealed that Kings College Guildford is in the top 3 per cent of most improved schools in the country. The secondary school was also recognised as being in the top 3 per cent for the most improved academic performance in England. The University launched a partnership with Kings College Guildford and the Guildford Education Partnership Multi Academy Trust.

The partnership was launched as part of the University’s 50th anniversary celebrations as an opportunity to give back to a community living within close proximity of the University’s campus. The initiative has been working for the past three years to engage and inspire young people studying at Kings College Guildford to think about future educational pathways and to raise their aspirations. Surrey’s Widening Participation Coordinator, Hannah Trott, has been based at Kings College Guildford since 2015, where she has been working on bridging the gap between higher education and schools for Guildford’s young people.

The University would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Kings College Guildford community on their fantastic achievements. We look forward to continuing our partnership and watching the school go from strength to strength.
With 2020 marking the International Year of the Nurse and Midwife, you've probably met one of Surrey's incredible student nurses. Meet the student nurses working...
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**Rallying, pivoting and growing despite Covid-19**

An established culture of innovation and collaboration, coupled with flexible working practices and impactful business support, has enabled tenants at Surrey Research Park (SRP) to adapt and, where necessary, pivot to grow through the Covid-19 lockdown period.

**Student Enterprise and Santander Universities boost resources for local organisations with new Digital Internship Programme**

As well as impacting on the general health of the population and the UK economy, the Covid-19 pandemic has presented many significant challenges for individuals, businesses and not-for-profit organisations. This has included entrepreneurs and their start-up enterprises, student graduates moving into the workplace and charities for whom the expectations have proved particularly severe. Thanks to a Covid-19 relief fund from Santander Universities, the University’s Student Enterprise team has launched a number of initiatives designed to provide support to some of these groups here in Guildford. This has included an innovative Digital Internship Programme, which has seen talented students placed in local start-up companies and charities, giving them a much-needed boost as a result of the Covid-19 lockdown.

For student and graduate interns, some of whom had their summer work arrangements cancelled or are facing employment freeze-thaws as they step out of lockdown, a wide range of digital roles have been created to suit their skillset, including web design, coding, social media content creation and marketing campaigns.

Your University takes a look at what four students have been up to on their internships.

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Technical Developer Intern and BSc Computer Science student, Andre Vanruvo, was matched with Scanned Have You Heard which helps people to collect, discover and high-quality research. Speaking of his experience, he said: “I found the internship a huge bit and loved being able to have such a big impact on their product.”

Founder, Aaron Goden-Patel, said: “The internship has been invaluable as it allowed us to keep innovating throughout this period to release a beta and alpha product to our users. This meant we could collect vital feedback and has helped us to keep moving forward. We really hope to keep Andre on in the future!”

Undergraduates Amelia Luron (BSc Business Management) and Oliver Norminton (BSc Business Management) were matched with Crumble, a Student Enterprise-incubated start-up that helps ventures to develop an alpha product to our users. This meant we could collect vital feedback and has helped us to keep moving forward. We really hope to keep Andre on in the future!”

Fiona Sweny, founder of Guildford-based femtech company Femora, completed a Master of Business Administration (MBA) at Surrey Business School. Your University caught up with Fiona to ask how the programmes she undertook have helped her journey into enterprise.

Tell us a little about Femora?

Femora is a femtech company which I started while undertaking my MBA. It was my vision to create evidenced-based and trustworthy products and services for women to assist us with specific difficulties I had encountered.

What inspired you to start a femtech company?

Femora was born from my experiences in the British Army and Royal Navy. I had worked in elite sport and performance both with England Rugby and at the Royal Ballet School. I was also inspired by my own experiences that I had far too, both as an individual and as a mother.

What encouraged you to study an MBA?

I had reached a ceiling within my previous career and I was keen to explore a move away from the public and not-for-profit sector. I found that my skills and experience were not well acknowledged outside of healthcare, and so to secure a sustainable career that matched my experiences I realised that I needed to develop myself with the appropriate knowledge at a level that was recognised by most sectors.

What encouraged you to start up your own business?

I had business ideas but I didn’t know how to execute them, particularly my background was within the public and not-for-profit sectors. I anticipated that I would end up in a more traditional role post-MBA, most likely within corporate healthcare. As I progressed, I gained a corporate job which allowed me to build my skills. The final push was the ‘Problem Solving and Innovation’ module, which guided us through the process of creativity, ideation and problem solving through to ‘pitch day’ in front of venture capitalists, and I realised that I was well-equipped to start my own business.

I was later awarded a Foundership from the University’s Student Enterprise team, funded by Santander. These grants provide financial support to 10 enterprises as they build their business. I have since become a member of Guildford-based incubator, SETsquared Surrey, which has been invaluable.

Were you able to put any of your learning into practice with Femora?

Absolutely. Every time I began a new MBA module I was able to translate the learning that I could translate into Femora and for some modules I was able to use Femora as a case study for the assignments.

For more information about our MBA programme, please visit: [surrey.ac.uk/mba](surrey.ac.uk/mba)
Surrey Sports Park celebrates 10 years in Guildford

Built in 2010, Surrey Sports Park recently celebrated its tenth anniversary. Located on the University’s Manor Park campus opposite the Royal Surrey County Hospital, the state-of-the-art sporting venue houses an Olympic-sized swimming pool, an arena with capacity for more than 1,000 visitors, a 120-station gym, outdoor sports space and pitches, a climbing wall, squash courts and exercise studios.

Surrey Sports Park is open to members of the public as well as students of the University of Surrey and hosts various professional sports teams. The Park is proud to have hosted many prestigious international sporting events during its first decade here in Guildford, including the 2010 Women’s Rugby World Cup, the Lacrosse World Cup, and it was even a training base for London 2012 Olympians. With world-class athletes and sporting scholars passing through its doors, 50,000+ games and 86,000+ members, it has been a whirlwind decade for the sports venue.

Reflecting on the tenth anniversary, Gavin Baker, Managing Director of Surrey Sports Park, said: “The vision for Surrey Sports Park was to create a world-class venue with standards and services to match. This is accessible not only for the high-performing athletes, but participants of all ages and abilities, and when I look back on these past ten years, I think all will agree that we have certainly achieved this.

“Even now in this current Covid-19 crisis, sport and physical activity is proving to be an essential part of people’s lives. Once life returns to some form of normality, I look forward to another ten years of inspiring, educating and supporting students, staff and the local community in their sporting and physical aspirations.”

See you on Instagram!
If you’re not already following us on social media, the Surrey Sports Park Instagram account is full of great insight, hints and tips from our professional team to help you get the most out of your fitness routine. There are lots of new features planned so now is a great time to join. Whether you’re interested in post-workout recovery, nutrition, mastering a particular exercise or piece of equipment, or just getting to know our Personal Trainers, follow @surreysportpark

Lighting up for people with disabilities
Surrey Sports Park is a proud supporter of the worldwide #PurpleLightUp movement, created by PurpleSpace to celebrate the economic contributions made by disabled people and to reject the notion that anyone is a financial burden on society.

The Park has recently improved wheelchair access, added Braille signage and installed handrails, as well as offering activities that encourage use of the facilities by people with disabilities.

Surrey Sports Park re-opens its doors
Following a period of closure during the Covid-19 lockdown, Surrey Sports Park re-opened its doors on 25 July. The Park has introduced a number of measures to reassure the community of its commitment to returning to activity in a safe, controlled and efficient manner.

For the most up-to-date information including opening hours, visit: surreysportspark.co.uk


WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU

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:
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