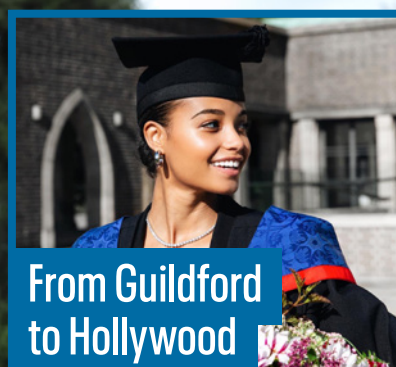


FOREVER SURREY

The magazine for alumni, supporters and friends

PROUD
TO BE
SURREY

Umer's BIG return



AUTUMN 2021

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Forever Surrey

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WELCOME

I'm delighted to introduce this edition of *Forever Surrey*, which brings you the latest news from your University. I hope you will enjoy reading about our most recent developments and outstanding research, as well as catching up on some interesting stories featuring familiar faces and celebrating the achievements of our 2020 Alumni Award winners.

As we start a new academic year, we all look forward to a more settled future. The past year has been unique and challenging – but I reflect with great pride on the contributions of our staff, students and alumni in tackling the pandemic.

I particularly want to acknowledge the achievements of our new graduates, who have shown such resilience, determination and optimism. We were delighted to be able to offer them the chance to graduate on campus in July, surrounded by their families and friends. I feel confident in their future success and happiness as they go forward to make their mark in the world.

Sadly, Covid-19 curbed opportunities to meet Surrey alumni in person over the last 18 months. I'm very pleased, however, that our popular event series, "What It Takes..." brought together alumni in an online format. It's also been heartening to see the overwhelming response to our new SurreyConnects alumni mentoring platform,

where more than 2,000 alumni have signed up to mentor our current students with career advice. This is something I've championed and I look forward to seeing this initiative grow over the coming years. If you haven't yet signed up, please join online at surreyconnects.co.uk.

Our students are naturally at the heart of everything we do, so we were especially gratified to see this recognised in the latest National Student Survey. This yearly ranking of student satisfaction saw Surrey climb 86 places to 25th in the UK. We were also delighted to be named the University of the Year for Graduate Employment in *The Times/Sunday Times Good University Guide 2022*.

Meanwhile, our research continues to improve lives across the world: in this issue, we see how Surrey academics are tackling some of the big global challenges we face.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to offer my heartfelt thanks to all our alumni for your ongoing support. We rely on you to help us grow and be the best we can be. In these pages, I hope you will rediscover and take pride in what it means to be Forever Surrey.

Please read on and be inspired.

**Professor Max Lu AO DL
FEng FAA FTSE**
President and Vice-Chancellor





Pharmacology award for biochemistry alumna

Congratulations to Professor Nicola J Curtin (PhD Biochemistry, 1981), who's been awarded the 2021 Robert R Ruffolo Career Achievement Award in Pharmacology. The Surrey alumna, now a Professor in Experimental Cancer Therapeutics at Newcastle University, received the honour in recognition of her pioneering work into the treatment of ovarian cancer.

Not only was she part of the team that developed the drug, Rubraca, but she also donated her share of the profits to establish the Curtin PARP (Passionate About Realising your Potential) Fund, which is aimed at helping disadvantaged people gain access to education and employment opportunities.

Just the job!

The Times/Sunday Times Good University Guide 2022 has named Surrey as its University of the Year for Graduate Employment.

We also ranked first in the UK and 12th in the world for work placements and research partnerships with employers, according to the globally respected *QS World Employability Rankings 2020*.

Alastair McCall, Editor of *The Times/Sunday Times Good University Guide 2022*, said: "Surrey has an enviable record in the graduate jobs market, with consistently large numbers of graduates going into high-skilled roles when they leave.

"In an increasingly competitive graduate jobs market, a degree from the University of Surrey opens doors."

NEWS

Umer's BIG return to Guildford



Since graduating with an Aerospace Engineering BEng in 2009, Umer Saleem's career has really taken off. The engineer, who now works as a business development and sales manager, has been the winner of multiple industry awards.

He also helped secure a major Memorandum of Understanding between Fives' Smart Automation Solutions Division and the National Association of Freight and Logistics UAE. This will propel growth across that region's hugely important e-commerce and logistics sectors.

Although he's now based in Dubai, where he's also the Club Leader of the University's Middle East Alumni Association, Umer recently returned to campus.

He'll be making a big impression on all of our students – as he's one the alumni featured on giant banners in our Proud to Be Surrey campaign.

"It's a privilege and an honour to be one of the chosen few to be featured," says Umer. "The University, the time and the memories are all special. I've been putting in the hard work behind the scenes to run networking events and build up our Alumni Committee for the Middle East. I always try to guide younger graduates by saying, 'Keep positive, keep smiling and keep moving forward, no matter what life throws your way.' This methodology has got me this far!"

Surrey success in student survey rankings

Our commitment to our students has been recognised with Surrey now ranked 25th in the UK for student satisfaction in the National Student Survey (NSS). The NSS offers final-year students the chance to rate their higher education experience.

This represents a rise of 86 places, making us one of only six universities in the country to have improved satisfaction during a challenging year. Improvement was made in several areas, including assessment and feedback, learning opportunities and our Students' Union.

In a message to students, Professor Max Lu, the University's President and Vice-Chancellor, says: "From these results, we can all take a great deal of encouragement that the work we're doing to improve your learning experience has been reflected. But we remain committed to doing more."



ELLA'S LATEST STARRING ROLES...

Ella Balinska's tackled assassins in *Charlie's Angels* and faces the undead in next year's small-screen reboot of *Resident Evil*. She recently returned to Guildford for a less life-threatening appearance – at her own graduation!

Guildford School of Acting (GSA) alumna Ella completed her Acting BA (Hons) in 2020 and was awarded first-class honours. It was only in July this year that her busy schedule allowed her to attend the ceremony at Guildford Cathedral to officially graduate.

As our picture on the left shows, Ella clearly enjoyed herself during this all-too-brief return. Despite the three-year absence, she's not forgotten her GSA roots.



Ella with her co-stars in *Charlie's Angels*

Ella Balinska Scholarship

Last year, she set up the Ella Balinska Scholarship 2021, a financial award to a first-year student on the BA (Hons) Acting course from the Global Majority – a term used to describe people who identify themselves as being from a Black, Asian or minority ethnic background.

Intended to provide support and an affirmation of the student's right to train as an individual, it's designed to offer time for self-reflection, research and to deepen a person's understanding of cultural identity and authenticity in relation to training and their craft.

Ella says: "Finding our truth as artists starts by having the opportunity to look at ourselves. Through a deeper level of understanding, we can tell real, meaningful stories and honestly reflect on the world we live in."

"I hope this inspires generations of talent to come; seeing themselves represented throughout the industry."

PUTTING PEOPLE AT THE HEART OF AI

From *2001: A Space Odyssey* to *The Terminator*, sci-fi movies have painted a dystopian future where robots take over. In the real world, however, the Surrey Institute for People-Centred AI envisions humans and machines working in harmony for the public good.

Professor
Adrian Hilton



Since the beginnings of artificial intelligence (AI), many have worried about machines taking jobs away from people as they automate processes across industry and in the business and creative worlds. An equally compelling concern is that our lives could be governed by systems that are biased, unethical and exclude parts of society.

Future vision

Surrey's vision for AI – spearheaded by the new Institute for People-Centred AI, being launched this autumn – directly addresses these concerns.

“Our vision is for people and machines to work in harmony, creating systems which are inclusive, ethical, responsible and put the needs of people first,” says Professor Adrian Hilton, founding Director of the Institute.

“In the future, AI will impact almost every area of life – from how we manage our money to how we diagnose disease. Research in AI needs to break down barriers between disciplines to ensure we consider and shape its impact from every angle for the benefit of us all.”

With this in mind, the new Institute will be Surrey's first pan-University

research centre: a community of interdisciplinary co-creators with expertise in areas such as law, business, education, communication, and human and animal health, as well as the fundamentals of AI. It will build on Surrey's existing AI network of around 300 researchers working across the disciplines, and on the University's long-established excellence in the field, since pioneering fundamental concepts of machine learning over the last 30+ years.

Professor Hilton believes Surrey is perfectly placed to drive AI research which addresses society's grand challenges and has people at its heart.

He continues: “One of the defining characteristics of our research is that it's grounded in real-world problems. We understand the consumer viewpoint through our work in hospitality and business, and we understand the need for an ethical and legal framework through our School of Law. We also have an incredible track record of collaboration leading to societal and economic benefit, both across the University and externally with industry and public services like the NHS and the BBC.”

“In the future, AI will impact almost every area of life – from how we manage our money to how we diagnose disease.”

Combatting 'computer says no'

A major focus for the Institute will be ensuring that AI systems are fair and transparent.

Professor Hilton explains: "If an algorithm uses data which is based on the status quo – for example, an existing workforce where there are more men than women – the technology will replicate that bias. We have to consciously design AI systems which are inclusive.

"The other issue is consumers need to be able to understand why certain decisions are made, so that we avoid the 'black box' situation where you feed in a question and the 'computer says no', with no explanation."

There are also myriad challenges around the governance and regulation of AI, partly because the legal framework has not caught up with the technology.

One big question Surrey's law researchers are wrestling with is responsibility: who's to blame if a piece of AI-based technology such as an automatic car goes wrong? The inventor, the driver... or the machine itself? Tesla's fatal crash was a sobering reminder that an unexpected situation – such as a broken safety barrier – can cause AI to fail, with devastating consequences.



Revolution in health care

The potential of AI to improve lives is enormous. In the field of health care, it promises to revolutionise diagnosis and treatment through data analysis and smart devices. It is enabling educational tools that are tailored to the way individuals learn, as well as new hyper-personalised experiences in entertainment. A five-year 'Prosperity Partnership' has seen Surrey teaming up with the BBC. The goal: to develop technologies to enable storytelling and news content to adapt based on users' individual interests, location, devices and accessibility needs – with the aim of helping the UK creative industry to become a world leader in personalised media experiences.

Despite the challenges, it seems AI is predominantly a force for good, with the potential to help businesses create value, improve our health and wellbeing, and reduce the problems faced by our ageing population.

"To me it's not about machines taking over," says Professor Hilton. "Rather than taking jobs away, I think AI will be the driver for upskilling the labour force, automating tedious tasks and freeing people to use their skills in a more creative way."

"At its best, AI will be about enriching lives and helping to create a safer and fairer society. The Institute for People-Centred AI will lead research and training to ensure that future AI-enabled solutions are of benefit to all."



Find out more at surrey.ac.uk/artificial-intelligence

Learn more about AI at Surrey on the next page





Professor Derk-Jan Dijk

How sleep can predict dementia

People with dementia typically suffer from poor sleep quality and disturbed sleep is a key predictor of cognitive decline.

Academics in Surrey's Sleep Research Centre are at the forefront of exploring this link. Their ongoing programme aims to develop dementia-friendly 'Healthy Homes' and is funded by the Dementia Research Institute.

Leading the project is Professor Derk-Jan Dijk, Director of Surrey Sleep Research Centre. He says: "We're using multiple sensors to track sleep and circadian rhythms, and employing AI to analyse this data.

"AI is essential to develop interventions tailored to individual patients and their carers - such as staying awake for a little longer, spending more time outside during the day or changing the light in their living environment. The aim is to enable people with dementia to live in their own homes for as long as possible."



Professor Sabine Braun

Language that means something

One concern as we become more automated is that certain groups of society will be marginalised, since they are less able to access information and public services. This includes deaf or blind people (and those with hearing or visual impairments) as well as speakers of minority languages.

Surrey's academics are working to make information more accessible in a range of ways. In the Centre for Translation Studies, Professor Sabine Braun and her team have recently explored the potential of AI to provide audio descriptions for visual content which is currently not accessible to visually impaired people – such as on social media. They're also investigating how AI can be used to support, rather than replace, human interpreters by developing intelligent semi-automated systems which reduce their cognitive burden.

Professor Braun explains: "In settings such as health care and the law courts, the risks related to misinformation are high. We need to customise systems so that, in a health care environment for example, they can understand medical terminology, and cater for people speaking minority or 'community' languages. To achieve this, we need human:machine interaction. Otherwise, the technology will make things more unfair."

Meanwhile, experts within Surrey's Centre for Vision, Speech and Signal Processing are improving accessibility for the deaf community, having successfully pioneered the world's first machine capable of interpreting sign language in real time.



Streamlining financial services

AI is improving efficiency in financial services by automating many operations. But it's vital that systems are unbiased and designed with end-users in mind, says Professor Bonnie Buchanan of Surrey Business School, who's been invited to share her research with the Bank of England and US Congress.

Recently, Professor Buchanan's also been funded by Innovate UK to apply AI to the UK mortgage industry, developing a 'one shot learning' algorithm. This could drastically cut down the administration involved for consumers, who typically need to show personal documents multiple times during the mortgage origination process.

Professor Buchanan says:

"This technology could not only save time and reduce the environmental impact related to huge paper documents. It could also - very importantly - decrease transaction costs, helping low to middle-income households to access mortgages more easily."



Professor Bonnie Buchanan



IN THE PICTURE...

We take a trip down memory lane as we share pictures from the University archives.

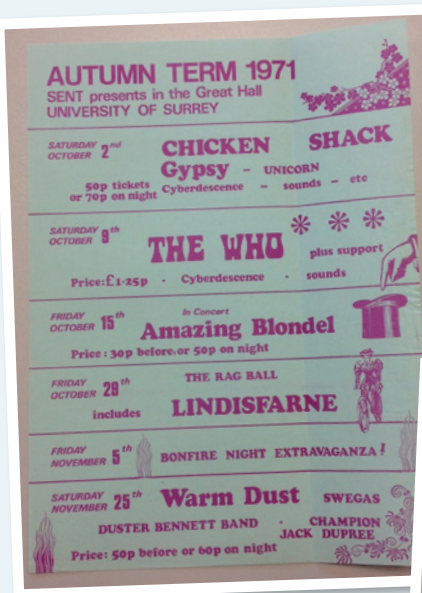
That's entertainment!

It's well known that Led Zeppelin played their first gig in the Great Hall at the University of Surrey, then located at Battersea, in October 1968. Did you know these other stars rocked up to entertain students, too?



SMALL FACES

Often cited as an inspiration for Britpop, the Small Faces line-up that played at the University in January 1970 included crooner Rod Stewart and Rolling Stones guitarist Ronnie Wood.



THE POGUES

The Anglo-Irish folk-punk outfit hadn't yet released their 1987 Christmas hit, *Fairytale of New York*. But Shane McGowan and chums still delivered a festive gig in December 1985.



DAVID BOWIE

Bowie released his third album, *The Man Who Sold the World*, in 1970. This was the same year he also headlined at the Students' Union. And there was a bar extension!

THE WHO

The one-time mod stalwarts were riding high after their 1969 rock opera, *Tommy*. In 1971, the band released another hit album, *Who's Next* – and played the University in October.

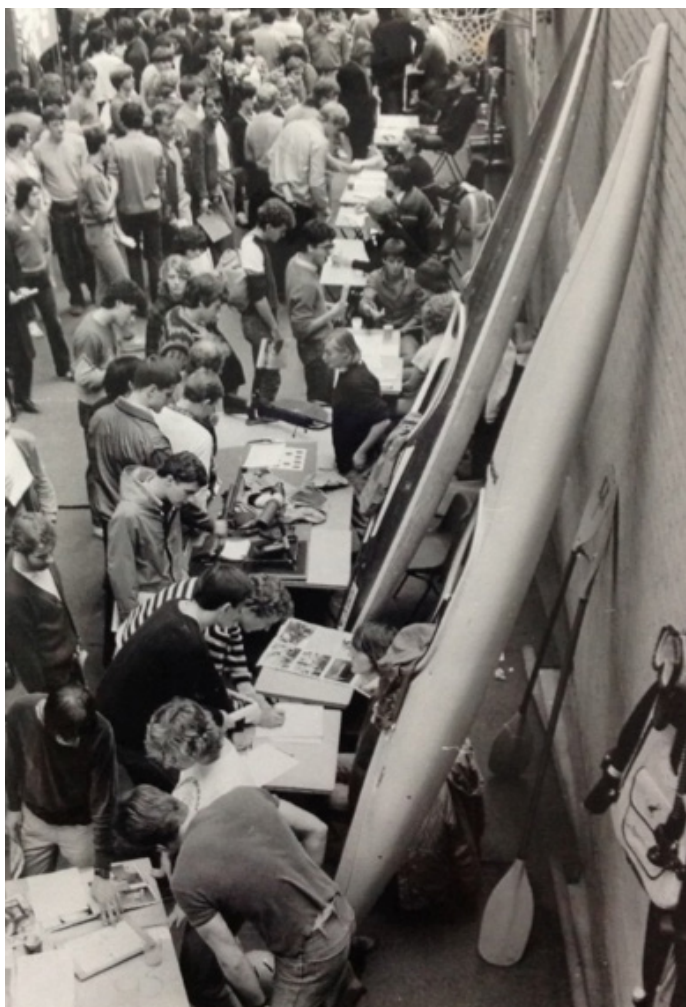


Hair today, gone tomorrow...

The University prides itself on its safe campus community and its wide range of facilities for students. As this sign shows, in the 1990s we even had our own hair stylists in the shape of Unicuts Hairdressing salon! Short, back and sides anyone?

Let it snow, let it snow...

Several students from hotter climes have said the changeable UK weather takes some getting used to. But we're sure even they'd agree the campus looks wonderful in the winter snow...



Ahoy freshers!

Freshers' Fair is always a busy time, with various clubs and societies aiming to recruit new people. At this 1980s event, one club brought along their canoes to attract members. Or maybe they'd been rowing that morning and didn't have time to store them...



LONELY THIS CHRISTMAS

It's so cold in this shot from the 1980s that there are only six people anywhere near the amphitheatre or Surrey and Battersea Courts.

TREAD CAREFULLY

This intrepid group of students are braving a deep snowfall to make it to lectures on the Stag Hill campus in 1987.



Share your images

We love hearing from our alumni and seeing photos from your time at Surrey. We often use these in University publications and on our social media. Please get in touch with alumni@surrey.ac.uk if you have photos you'd like to share.

If you'd like more information on any of the photographs included in this article, please contact the Archives and Special Collections team on archives@surrey.ac.uk



WINTER WONDERLAND

The lake's always a favourite place for students. This 1980s shot with Senate House in the background may rekindle some festive memories.

Research

As you'd expect, Surrey academics helped fight the disease via a wide range of scientific research and discovery. This included:

- Researchers from our Vet School and Centre for Vision, Speech and Signal Processing helped develop an easy-to-use Covid-19 test.
- Our Global Centre for Clean Air Research investigated ways to mitigate indoor airborne transmission of Covid-19.
- Researchers from our Department of Chemistry used mass spectrometry to better understand Covid-19 and help partners develop a vaccine.
- Researchers from our Department of Nutritional Sciences investigated whether there's a link between vitamin D and Covid-19.



- Researchers from our School of Biosciences and Medicine worked to understand how Covid-19 evades the antiviral response of human cells.
- Researchers from our Department of Biochemical Sciences worked with the Royal Free Hospital to monitor haematological markers in the blood of Covid-19 patients to better inform treatment.
- Surrey immunology researchers examined biomarkers in blood to help analyse vaccine responses in the future.

DOING OUR BIT...



The Covid-19 pandemic created many stories of heroism and sacrifice. Our marvellous University community also did its bit to support frontline workers and research into combatting the deadly virus...



Facilities, food & PPE

It wasn't just academics making a contribution to the fight against Covid-19. Many people from our wider community also played their part.

Stephen Bennion and Dean Bilsby from IT Services were two early volunteers as they set up a temporary office for NHS workers on our Manor Park campus.

Young Dixon of Young's Kitchen, our Asian-influenced restaurant, reopened her usually bustling catering outlet to provide food for Royal Surrey Hospital staff.

"As someone who regularly caters for hundreds of people a day, I knew I could do a little bit to help them out," says Young, who also made and donated batches of chocolate eggs, brownies and carrot cakes to the staff at Easter.

Elsewhere, in our Mechanical Engineering Workshop, Technical Manager Steve Bower (pictured above) and his team helped increase the number of items of Personal Protection Equipment we've supplied to the NHS and care homes to 120,000.

"When the severity of the pandemic became clear, everyone in the workshop saw it as our civic duty to support our NHS and key care workers," says Steve. "Covid Assist, the national body coordinating support efforts, got in touch and asked if we could help."

"We looked at the types of PPE items they wanted and we decided to manufacture face visors. We were glad to do our bit in a time of national crisis."

Professor Melaine Coward, Jackie McBride and nursing graduate Lizzie Rodulson unveil the mural



Student volunteers

Undergraduates from our School of Health Sciences made a huge contribution to the fight against Covid-19. Many students undertook placements, organised in conjunction with NHS England and Health Education England, to support colleagues and assist with the care of patients. More than 300 students were deployed during the first wave of the pandemic, each playing an integral role within the NHS.

Their story has now been celebrated in a mural, which hangs in the reception of the Kate Granger Building.

Many other Surrey students pitched in to help, too:

Amy Herkes was one of 12 paramedic undergraduates who volunteered in the Intensive Care Unit at the Royal Surrey County Hospital. "Between all of us, we worked for more than 600 hours," reveals Amy, whose life-saving PPE often left marks on her face. "Seeing the impact of Covid-19 was, at times, overwhelming. But I was proud to be part of the ICU team."

Veterinary medicine and science student **Jack Church** volunteered at Oxford's John Radcliffe Hospital. "I helped nurses and doctors 'don' their PPE at the beginning of their shifts, making sure this was on correctly and no areas were missed," says Jack. "Staff would enter the Acute Intensive Care Unit and the

team they were relieving would enter the 'doffing sheds' to have PPE removed."

Adil Khan, an MSC Information Security student, used his IT skills to assist the Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust to empower many of its staff to work from home. His role involved installing custom builds on around 10 to 15 devices a day, ensuring all necessary software was installed and functional, with the correct security measures in place.

Flatmates **Diana Dakik** and **Shannon Leetham**, whose PhD research at Surrey focuses on immunology and virology, juggled their studies with shifts at UK Biocentre. This "mega lab" on the outskirts of Milton Keynes helped bolster the nationwide testing programme. Diana and Shannon signed up for 12-hour shifts, working three to four days a week.

"Seeing the impact of Covid-19 was, at times, overwhelming. But I was proud to be part of the ICU team."

Amy Herkes



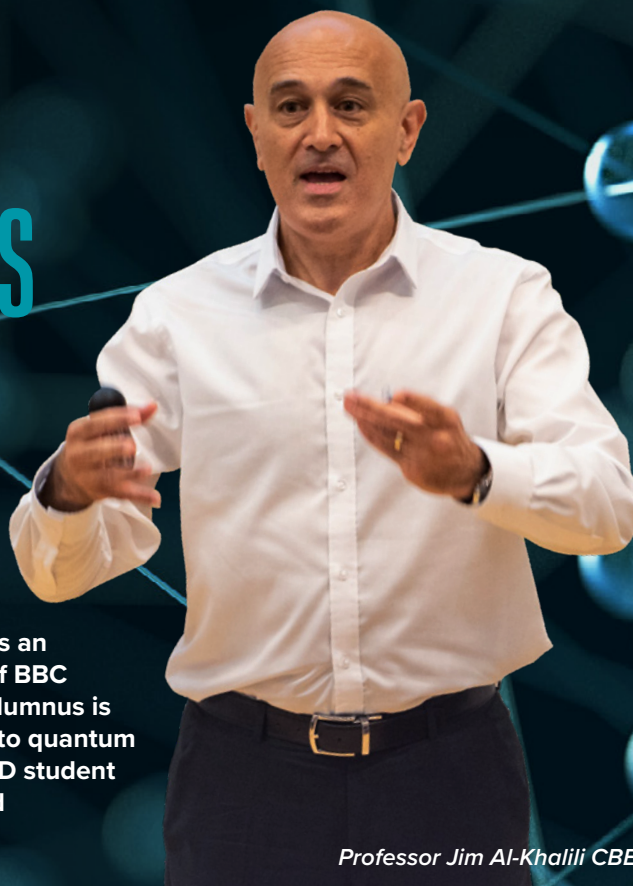
Adil Khan



Diana Dakik & Shannon Leetham

EXPANDING SURREY'S CREDENTIALS IN QUANTUM BIOLOGY

Professor Jim Al-Khalili CBE may be better known as an acclaimed TV science communicator and the host of BBC Radio 4's *The Life Scientific*. But the proud Surrey alumnus is also a theoretical physicist whose latest research into quantum biology has secured a multi-million pound grant. PhD student Sapphire Lally quizzes her supervisor about this and several other things...



Professor Jim Al-Khalili CBE

You're a theoretical physicist but you also co-lead quantum biology research at Surrey. How did you first get into this?

It all started about 25 years ago when Johnjoe McFadden, a Professor of Molecular Genetics at Surrey, suggested that quantum mechanics might provide an explanation for a particular biological conundrum. The idea grew slowly from there and, in 2018, we launched the Leverhulme Quantum Biology Doctoral Training Centre, which has enabled around 20 PhD studentships – including yours. Just recently we've been awarded a very large research grant from The John Templeton Foundation to expand our work and establish Surrey as a world-leading centre for quantum biology research.



Professor Johnjoe McFadden

Why is quantum biology so fascinating?

Quantum biology is about using the principles of quantum mechanics to understand the workings of living cells.

It's fascinating because it's a completely new area and there's so much we don't understand.

Collaborating with biologists and chemists has been an education for me: they have a very different way of seeing the world...

I'm interested in sharing my passion for science with others. How did you get started in public engagement?

I've always enjoyed explaining complicated ideas to people who don't have a science background. I started by giving talks to schools in the mid-1990s and later I was asked to write books and contribute to TV and radio programmes. Some people told me that I should focus on my academic role and not 'waste time' on science communication. But I enjoyed it and I wanted to do both, so I just continued doing it.

What gives you the most satisfaction in your science communication work?

Getting a good review for a book or a documentary is very nice. But when someone comes up and says “Watching you on TV when I was 14 got me hooked on physics and I’ve recently completed my PhD in astrophysics” is when I go misty-eyed!

I’m particularly interested in encouraging under-represented groups to consider science as a career. How can we help to broaden access to STEM subjects and careers?

Having role models is very important. I’m well aware that middle-aged men may not be the best examples for school students, which is why it’s vital for young researchers like you to get the message out.

What’s been the highlight of your broadcast career so far?

One of my strongest memories is making a documentary called *Science and Islam*, which involved me travelling around the Middle East telling the story of how science developed there in medieval times. Other amazing experiences have included holding Newton’s original notes on gravity in my hands and standing on Galileo’s lectern!

What’s the most fulfilling aspect of your job?

Being a research physicist is my day job so, if push came to shove, that would be my focus. However, I think writing is the thing I enjoy the most: getting across a complicated idea in an engaging way is something I find very inspiring.

As someone who’s spent most of their academic career at Surrey – from undergraduate to Professor of Physics – what’s so special about the University?

Surrey has been very supportive of my career choices, including making me Chair in Public Engagement and Science in 2005. But it’s not just loyalty that’s kept me here – I’ve never felt the need or the desire to move away from this incredible environment.

“It’s not just loyalty that’s kept me at Surrey – I’ve never felt the need or the desire to move away from this incredible environment.”

What is quantum biology?

“In quantum physics, when we look at things at a very small level, they don’t always obey the rules. For example, particles can tunnel through energy barriers. In quantum biology, we’re trying to find out whether the same thing is true in biological systems. But because living organisms are warm and fragile, it’s a very complex business! Our work is theoretical, but it could lay the groundwork for breakthroughs in areas such as DNA repair in the human body.”

Saphire Lally



Professor Max Lu (second from left) meets members of the USCAA

Why I volunteer...

President Dr Ning Wu tells us about the China Alumni Association.



Are alumni associations important?

We think so. We're promoting exchanges of skills and cooperation, and we aim to help fellow graduates develop their careers. The University of Surrey China Alumni Association also promotes the spirit of Surrey and it encourages our members to carry that spirit with them.

What's your vision for future?

We aim to create a spiritual home for all Surrey alumni in China. I believe more and more participants will benefit from the USCAA in the future. Together, we'll create a more fulfilling and, hopefully, exciting future!

SPOTLIGHT ON CHINA

As home to the University's largest number of international graduates, China holds a special place in the heart of Surrey's alumni network. We celebrate the passionate volunteers bringing that vibrant community together.

For many years, the University has held annual alumni receptions in China. But with a growing graduate community in that country, we were delighted to work with alumni volunteers to strengthen both past and future relationships. Over the course of the last five years, we've collaborated with the emerging local alumni leadership to grow and connect with that network. WeChat groups have united graduates, while events have brought friends and new contacts together.

This volunteer-led development culminated in the formation of the University of Surrey China Alumni Association (USCAA). This formally launched in December 2020 under the

leadership of its president, Dr Ning Wu, who studied an MBA at Surrey in 2003.

Shanghai success

Focusing on the theme of "the alumni economy", a spectacular conference and celebratory event took place at the Peace Hotel in Shanghai. This featured a welcome address from Surrey's Vice-Chancellor Professor Max Lu and keynote speeches from representatives of several Chinese universities. Another feature was a round table session featuring panellists from other alumni associations in China, discussing ways in which such networks can positively impact on the economy.

Surrey alumni later took to the stage to share fond memories of their time in Guildford and the event ended with drinks on the roof terrace overlooking the waterfront area known as the Bund. A gala dinner, an awards presentation and entertainment provided by

fellow graduates were other fun features of the night.

USCAA is going from strength to strength and developing a programme to reflect alumni interests in China. Its activities are all volunteer-led, drawing on the professional expertise and hobbies of the network. They promote socialising by bringing members together safely to enjoy activities, and professional development by creating opportunities to share skills and experiences.

USCAA highlights

Other memorable occasions that USCAA members have enjoyed in the past 18 months include:

- **Seminars with alumni speakers:** where topics have included environmental psychology, UN sustainable development goals and semiconductors.
- **Sports and leisure activities:** including bicycle tours, sailing, karting, badminton and golf.
- **Informal learning opportunities:** such as art gallery visits and masterclasses on jade sculpture and tea traditions.
- **Volunteering opportunities:** such as event organising, guest speaking and greeting new students at applicant events.

Special interest

The Association is also developing a range of special interest chapters. This commenced with Translation and Interpreting, led by Lihong Pan, who studied an MA in Business Interpreting in Chinese and English at Surrey in 2015. The group launched in late May with a one-day meeting combining live and online speakers, with members dialling in from locations across China and the UK.

The professional chapter aims to provide networking, continuing professional development and collaboration opportunities among alumni in the sector. Hotel Management will be the next area of focus, with a volunteer-led working group preparing to kickstart this network in China.

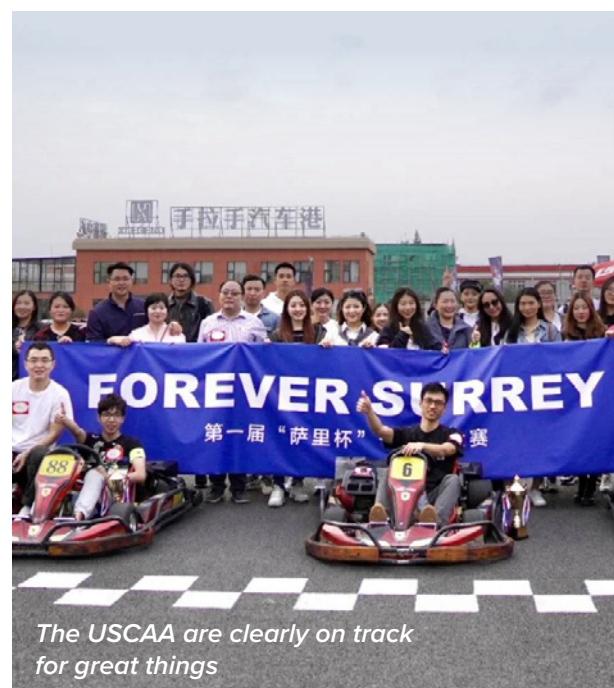
Exciting future

In what's been an exceptionally difficult time for bringing people together, we thank all the volunteers who are instrumental to the success of USCAA. We're excited to see what's next for this exciting and ever-growing network!

Hear the latest
from the USCAA



Hear the latest from the USCAA by scanning the QR code above or join the conversation on WeChat at **Surrey_Alumni**. To join the translation special interest group, email **surreytranslation@126.com**



The USCAA are clearly on track for great things

Bringing Surrey to you!

The global pandemic has made it hard to organise recent events, but we'd like to thank our committed alumni leaders in Hong Kong, Greece, Dubai and other countries who have expressed interest in building new clubs when the crisis eases.

Until then, you can join a club or networking group here **surrey.ac.uk/alumninetworks** or if you'd like to start a club in your area email us at **alumni@surrey.ac.uk**



The Peace Hotel in Shanghai was the host venue for this amazing USCAA event

SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES AND INSPIRE STUDENT SUCCESS

SurreyConnects is the University's online network linking students with graduates – and more than 2,000 alumni have signed up to offer careers support. Undergraduate Dhrusti Patel discusses her experiences using the online space...



In March 2021, we were delighted to launch SurreyConnects. This new online venture brings together Surrey alumni and students for a completely flexible online networking and mentoring experience. Through inbuilt messaging and video chat, graduates offer helpful career tips by taking part in our new short-term mentoring scheme, *Three Cups of Coffee*. This offers students insights into the world of work via a trio of informal online chats with an alumni member.

Opportunities and jobs

BSc Biomedical Sciences student Dhrusti Patel (pictured below) tells us what she learnt from alumni mentor Styliani Theophanous, who studied for the same degree in 2015 and now works as a Research Assistant at the Cyprus Institute of Neurology and Genetics in Nicosia.

"I'm in my final year, so my main concern is networking," says Dhrusti. "SurreyConnects is the University's own version of LinkedIn and it's a great way to meet Surrey graduates. If you reach out, you can find a lot of opportunities and jobs through the people you talk to."

"I'm interested in going into cancer research, so speaking to alumni mentor Styliani was hugely

beneficial. She's doing a PhD in neuroscience, but she has contacts in cancer institutes in Germany. She offered to help me reach out."

Insightful discussions

And that wasn't the only help Dhrusti received. She continues: "I'm also deciding whether to do a masters or look for research assistant experience, then work towards a PhD. Talking to Styliani helped me understand that research is a real commitment and it's OK not to rush into it."

"I'd definitely encourage everyone to get involved in SurreyConnects. There's a supportive community feeling and it's great to hear stories from other people."

"These help you realise you can – and will – make it in life!"

Dhrusti's mentor, Styliani, is also full of praise for our new initiative.

"Through SurreyConnects, I had the opportunity to share a video call with Dhrusti," she adds.

"It's exciting to feel

I can be there for someone who's in the same position I once was and needs a helping hand. I'd definitely encourage others to get involved!"



Why join SurreyConnects?

SurreyConnects offers:

- Business directory
- Alumni and students willing to help one another
- Helpful resources to get started as a mentor
- Integrated video calling and messaging making networking simple
- Job vacancies and the ability to advertise jobs
- News, events and photo galleries
- Customise your profile, decide how much time you can spare and what activities you'd like to get involved with.

How to join SurreyConnects?



Want to share your professional experience, mentor a current student, find fellow alumni in your sector or add your business to our new directory? If that's you, sign up at surreyconnects.co.uk or scan the QR code above.

PARK LIFE

Grant Bourhill launched Space Park Leicester. Now the Chief Executive of Surrey Research Park, he has similarly stellar plans for Guildford's hotbed of innovation...



How are you finding Guildford?

I'm staying on Manor Park. It's taken me back to my own university days, although I feel like I'm the oldest student in town!

What's the aim of Surrey Research Park?

Our primary aim is to house, support and grow innovative businesses. We're home to 170 companies, who employ about 4,500 people, and we've created specific clusters of excellence. These include space and satellites, human and animal health, environment, digital games and cyber. This is exciting. If you think about the building blocks of a future economy, you'd name most of those areas as key components.

Is the park a key contributor to the local economy?

Yes. Last year, we contributed £525m GVA* – that's 10 per cent of the local economy. We also champion the University, Guildford and region as a hub for innovation.

What established companies work there?

One example of that is Surrey Satellite Technology Limited, who have an international reputation. Formed as a spinout from the University in 1985, they moved to the park in 2006 and were bought by Airbus in 2009. They employ about 350 staff and have an annual revenue of about £75m.

What's an example of a newer company?

Superdielectrics were formed in 2016. They create low-cost, energy storage devices. With renewable energy, there are times when supply exceeds demand and we need to find a way to store the excess energy, which can be used when demand then exceeds supply. Their device could become a critical component of a low-carbon energy infrastructure.

What are your plans to develop the park?

We're laser focused on adding value to businesses to enable them to grow. We can do that by providing companies access to student talent or by connecting them with the wider innovation eco-system. For example, the University's new Institute for People-Centred Artificial Intelligence has huge potential to connect the University with business.

What are the key challenges?

The Research Park can act as the local economic powerhouse for new jobs. There is a high demand from existing and new tenants for additional space, but we're mindful of existing infrastructure constraints, in particular power and transport. Therefore growing in a sustainable way is our main opportunity and challenge.

Finally, how do you relax away from work?

I sometimes watch the Scottish football team, but that's rarely relaxing! I'm also a yoga instructor, who teaches classes in person and online.

IN CONVERSATION WITH...

SURREY RESEARCH PARK BY NUMBERS

31
buildings

70
acres

170
companies

4,500
employees

£525m
GVA*
contribution to the economy

*Gross Value Added is the measure of the value of products and services produced in an area.

Surrey Satellite Technology Limited are one of the Park's star tenants



THANK YOU

In the last academic year, the Forever Surrey Fund provided almost £400,000 of support across the University. So, a big thanks to our donors. If you're thinking of contributing, here are some of the projects and people you're helping...

Supporting students facing financial hardship

One of the key aspects of the Fund is its support for students experiencing unexpected financial difficulty. These grants can help with rent, buying equipment or be used to pay bills. Many students who apply for these grants come from disadvantaged backgrounds and may not have support from family members.

Last year, 58 students were given hardship



grants totalling £75,000. Without the Forever Surrey Fund, their education may have been severely disrupted.

IN 2020 58 STUDENTS WERE GIVEN
HARDSHIP GRANTS TALLING **£75,000**



Emergency student support appeal

In April 2020, alongside our continued hardship funding, we launched an Emergency Student Support Appeal to assist those affected by the pandemic.

Many recipients of funding from this initiative were unable to return home following government advice. This was due to international travel restrictions, family members with underlying health conditions, family estrangement or those who were presenting symptoms themselves. Some had work placement years cut short but were still committed to paying rent.

This appeal helped with daily living costs and other challenges. More than 100 students have so far benefited from emergency funding.

Professional training year bursaries

A Professional Training Year (PTY) gives students the chance to spend a year in industry and it's a vital first step in many future careers.

This year, due to the effects of the pandemic, our students are facing a 40 per cent reduction in placements and internships. Some providers are now only offering unpaid or low-paid placements, too. This causes an inequality of opportunity for students, especially if the pandemic means they've also lost sources of part-time income.

The Forever Surrey Fund supports PTY bursaries of up to £4,000. Recently 12 students received £52,000 worth of funding to support them during their placements. Without this, it's unlikely they'd have gone on placement.

Funding clubs and societies

Our clubs and societies are given funding to improve their experience for students and allow them to compete at the top level in national competitions.

Sadly, funding for Surrey's clubs and societies during the pandemic has seen a significant drop over the past few years. Lack of competitive and

£65,000 AWARDED TO OUR
CLUBS AND SOCIETIES



social opportunities for first years in 2020-21 has also impacted a number of clubs. Without the support of the Forever Surrey Fund, many would find it hard to survive.

Thanks to the donations of our alumni, we were able to support 25 applications and award £65,000 to our clubs and societies.



DEAN

English Literature with Film Studies

Dean was keen to go on a Professional Training Year (PTY). Being from a low-income family, however, he felt this opportunity wasn't available to him because many placements offer little or no pay. So he sought financial support and applied for a Professional Training Year Bursary.

Sadly, during this process, his mother and sister passed away. Although Dean was still grieving, he was determined to continue his degree and undertake a placement.

He accepted three different placements during his year in industry, meaning he was exposed to a world of opportunity. The skills he learnt opened the doors to many different career paths and allowed him to make the most of his PTY.

"The placement enabled me to gain valuable work experience in the real world," says Dean. "I wouldn't have gained this experience or acquired the opportunities it's given me without the bursary. It gives people in difficult situations the chance to better themselves."

GEORGE

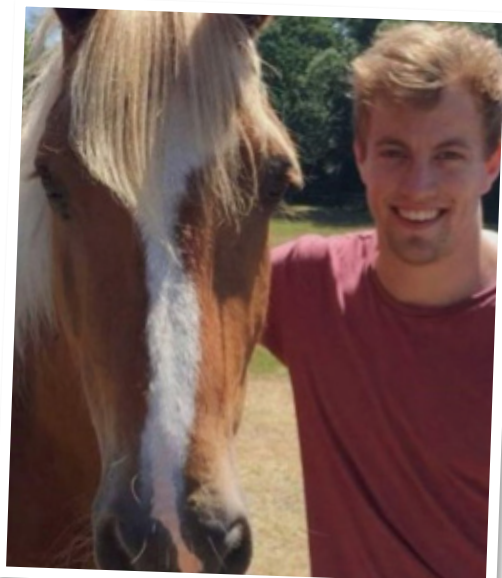
Veterinary Medicine

Throughout his degree, third-year student George worked as a Duty Manager at campus club Rubix. He took voluntary training to become an officer with the Metropolitan Police, too.

However, as part of his degree, George had to take regular industry placements, which meant he couldn't keep up his part-time job. Juggling work, studies and placements created huge financial pressure, which began to affect his mental health. So he sought support and received a hardship grant.

"A donation can make such a big difference,"

reveals George. "It can help someone with their mental health and relieve them of financial worries, giving them time to focus on their degree. Thank you."



PAMELA

Microbiology

Pamela is an international student, so she isn't eligible for a maintenance loan from Student Finance England.

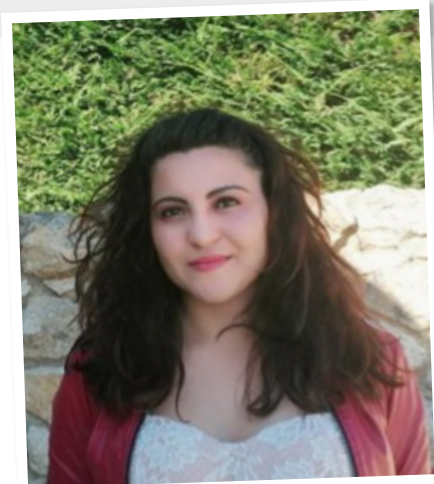
Throughout her first year, she juggled two part-time jobs around her studies to support herself.

When Covid-19 hit, she lost one of her jobs and faced severe financial difficulties. She also worried she'd be unable to fly home and she'd be isolated in England during the pandemic.

Pamela received an Emergency Hardship Grant, enabling her to complete the first year of her microbiology degree.

"Many students can't finish their studies due to financial problems and they have the potential to do great things," says Pamela.

"Without your help, I'd have been alone in England worrying about money. So thank you."



If you would like to make a gift to the Forever Surrey Fund, visit our website: surrey.ac.uk/donate

THE VICE-CHANCELLOR'S ALUMNI AWARDS 2020

It's that time of year again when our Vice-Chancellor, Professor Max Lu, celebrates former Surrey graduates who've made a significant contribution to both the University and wider society...



Young Achiever Award

Segun Akinwaleola
BSc Business Management
2007-2011

This award recognises an alumnus or alumna aged 35 or younger who's demonstrated early career or community service achievements.

From growing up in East London to achieving a first-class honours degree in Business Management from Surrey, Segun explains how he mixed his two passions to set up The Gym Kitchen.

"I've always loved and been interested in business, as well as the art of creating, buying and selling," says Segun. "I loved the fact my course was extremely varied – we'd learn about economics, finance, marketing and supply chain. It gave me a breadth of knowledge that allowed me to go into my chosen field. The lecturers on my course were amazingly supportive, especially Professor Andy Adcroft."

Segun also tells us about setting up his own company, using the skills he learnt at Surrey:

"I'm currently the Founder of my own business, The Gym Kitchen, which provides high-protein, macro-friendly ready meals for health-conscious, on-the-go individuals living and working in today's fast-paced society.

"I love the fact I help people live healthier and happier lives. Launching my brand onto the shelves of Asda and the Co-op Food stores nationwide has been a career highlight so far."

Speaking about the award, he says: "It means so much to be awarded Young Achiever of the Year, particularly as I grew up in a deprived area.

"Studying at Surrey helped shape me into the man I am today."

Outstanding Contribution to Society

Dr Reeba Oliver

MSc Advanced Gynaecological Endoscopy
2013

This award recognises an individual who has generously contributed their time and talents for the betterment of the world.

Reeba has been recognised for her work with women who've suffered female genital mutilation (FGM) in the UK and abroad.

As a Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist for Barts Health NHS Trust in London, Reeba is passionate about women's health and finding holistic treatments for patients. She's made it her mission to provide support to women affected by FGM, developing treatment programmes to address their complex physical and emotional needs.

She opened the first UK community-based walk-in clinic for FGM in 2019. This is now part of an NHS pilot scheme to provide similar services nationwide.

With her team, she achieved the first court conviction in the country against FGM, and she's helping make national changes to our police service by providing her expertise to bodies such as the Crown Prosecution Service, the National Police Chiefs' Councils and the Home Office.

Reeba's also addressing the practice in countries where FGM originates. Supporting clinical teams based in these nations, she's helped create a remote virtual clinical service for women in Somalia and she's in the process of establishing a similar scheme in Guinea.



Dr Alan Millington

BSc Chemical Engineering,
Battersea College of Technology,
1962-1965

PhD, University of Surrey,
1966-1970



Special Recognition Award

This special award honours an exceptional individual who's made a significant contribution to Surrey over a long period of time.

Dr Alan Millington's 53-year commitment to teaching excellence at Surrey stretches back to the University's roots in Battersea.

Alan started his long association with Surrey in 1962 when he studied for his BSc at Battersea College of Technology, the institution that was the forerunner to the University.

"I failed my O level in German, which meant I couldn't go to the universities I'd applied to," says Alan. "Fortunately, Battersea were starting a BSc in Chemical Engineering and a foreign language O level wasn't an entry requirement."

Alan enjoyed his undergraduate years.

"Discovering I could not only survive but thrive in this new environment was a revelation to a working-class lad from Doncaster," reveals Alan. "I played rugby for the University, I drank a lot of beer and my digs had a view overlooking the Thames. But I studied hard, too."

Finishing his degree in 1965, Alan stayed in London to work. He also recalls celebrating England's 1966 World Cup triumph with a jubilant crowd in Trafalgar Square.

In 1968, when Battersea College of Technology was becoming the University of Surrey, Alan came to Guildford to take a role as a part-time lecturer and complete his PhD.

"I remember turning up to my office in the AC Building on my first day," he recalls. "It consisted of a telephone, a chair and a tea chest with a plank across it to act as a desk."

However, 53 years later, he's still here and as passionate as ever to continue teaching. "I've had offers to work elsewhere and return to industry with big-name companies," says Alan. "But interacting with bright and inquisitive minds and helping develop those is the best job in the world."

Alan says this is the last award he'll receive.

He explains: "I have terminal cancer and I can't delay the inevitable. But I hope to keep teaching for a while longer."

"Quite simply, it's what I do and it's what I love."

Alumna of the Year Award

Sue Kershaw

BSc Civil Engineering
1978-1982

This award honours an exceptional alumnus or alumna who's enjoyed extraordinary professional or personal achievement.

Choosing to follow in her civil engineer father's footsteps is what brought Sue to study at Surrey in 1978.

During her illustrious career, Sue's managed large infrastructure projects across the globe. This includes five years in Thailand working on the Bangkok Mass Transit System and the Elevated Motorway. One of only 12 women in the UK to be elected a Fellow of the Institution of Civil Engineers in 2000, she became the first female president of the Association of Project Management in 2019. Sue uses this position to "secure the pipeline of future talent" and promote engineering as an option to young people.

Sue says the highlight of her career so far, however, is her role as Deputy Director of Transport for the Olympic Delivery Authority for the 2012 Olympic Games.



"The main Olympic Stadium and Olympic Park were in a place where my kids were growing up," she says. "We also brought the entire project in on time and under budget, returning £100m to the government."

Sue's currently the MD Transportation at Costain and a visiting professor at University College London.

Speaking about the award, she says: "I'm quite humbled by it. It came out of the blue in the middle of lockdown, too, which made it even more special."

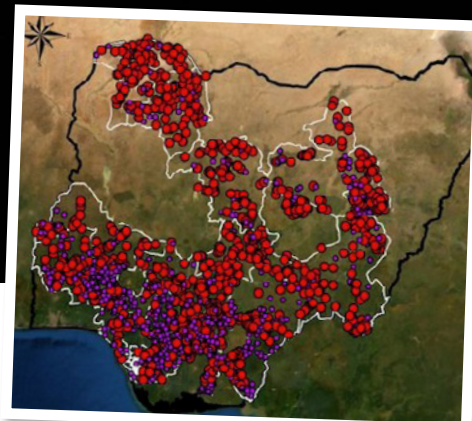
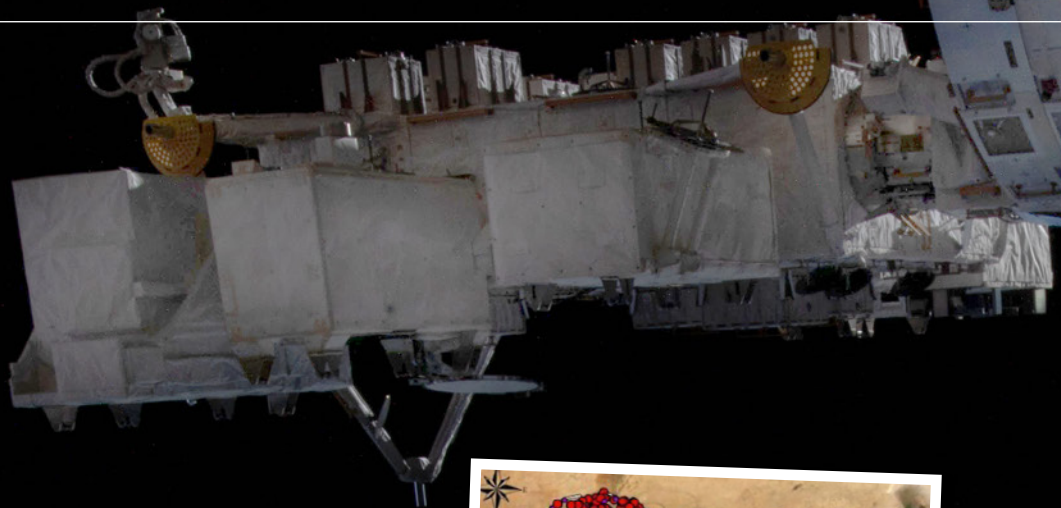


Nominations for the 2021 awards are now open.
Nominate now: surrey.ac.uk/alumniawards

Image courtesy of NASA

SEEING THE BIG PICTURE FROM SPACE

Evaluating the scale of overcrowding in Nigerian schools seems an almost unsurmountable task. But using images of the Earth taken by satellites, PhD student Ana Andries has taken a closer look at the problem...



When astronauts first observed the Earth from space, many reported a cognitive shift in awareness, prompted by seeing our planet floating in an empty void.

Since then, such pictures of the third rock from the Sun have become more widespread. And Earth Observation (EO) techniques, which use images of the globe taken from satellites, enable all sorts of technology, from sat nav to environmental monitoring. But it's only recently that scientists have seen the potential of using satellite images to tackle social and economic issues.

Potential for change

Ana Andries, who's in the final year of her PhD with Surrey's Centre for Environment and Sustainability (CES) and the National Physical Laboratory (NPL), is on a mission to use EO for social good. Her goal: to provide governments and other stakeholders with key information they need to make sound decisions.

"I've been in love with satellite images since I discovered Google Earth," she explains. "Today, satellite data is often used to assess environmental indicators, such as deforestation or the proportion of agricultural land in a country.

"But it's been under-used for social and economic indicators, which might include development, education – and even corruption."

Schools in Nigeria

As part of her PhD, Ana has examined pupil density in 1,900 primary schools in Nigeria. She uses satellite

images to determine the size of available teaching spaces, and compares this to a government database of enrolled pupil numbers in each school. Shockingly, she found that 71 per cent of the schools were overcrowded, with an average area of less than 1.2m² per pupil.

"In one extreme case, seven children were registered per 1m² of school premises," explains Ana. "Parents are less likely to send their children to school if this is the case, which has a huge impact on the long-term prospects of that community and its future generations."

Due to Covid-19, Ana wasn't able to visit Nigeria to validate her research. Instead, she liaised with a Nigerian town planner who conducted measurements of 20 schools on Surrey's behalf. These on-the-ground measurements demonstrated the picture Ana gained from satellite images was largely accurate.



CES student Ana Andries

Ana's royal audience

Ana's work has the potential for far-reaching impact – and it's even received a royal audience. She was invited to present her research during a live online visit by HRH The Countess of Wessex, organised to tie in with United Nations (UN) World Science Day for Peace and Development.

"I was truly honoured to be trusted with the opportunity of delivering the results to such a special audience," says Ana. "The Countess was fascinated by the research, which linked closely to her charity work in education in Africa."

Exposing corruption

Ana believes night-time satellite images have the power to reveal an extraordinary amount of information, including evidence of corruption and favouritism by governments – which could force them to become more accountable and transparent. She explains: "I've explored an approach via nightlight satellite data in Romania and other EU countries,

which supports inequality in development and demonstrates that certain areas are developed but others are neglected."

Ana has also raised the possibility of using very high-resolution images for a wide range of other applications. These include species habitat assessment, which is a key focus of the UK's new Environmental Land Management agricultural policy. With so much still to explore, Ana plans to continue this line of research. After completing her PhD, she'll take up a postdoctoral contract at Surrey funded by NPL as part of the EU Metrology for Earth Observation and Climate project.

She adds: "The people in CES are the greatest team I've found in my career. When I started, I wasn't sure how well a PhD would fit with being a mum of fairly young children, but my colleagues have given me their unconditional support."

"Having previously worked in industry, I love the freedom for creativity which academia gives you. You can explore not just the 'what' but also the 'why'."



Amazing research

Professor Richard Murphy, Surrey's Sustainability Research Theme Champion, comments: "It's been a real pleasure supporting Ana's ground-breaking research on the use of Earth Observation for global sustainable development – work which is very close to our hearts in CES."

"Ana's research is making an outstanding contribution to Surrey and NPL's leadership in this area, and the NERC SCENARIO (CASE) award, which supports Ana's PhD studentship, has played a key role in enabling her to achieve this."

Surrey launches Space 4 Sustainability

A new cross-disciplinary hub launched in 2021, Space 4 Sustainability, promotes the use of Earth Observation to address the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

These goals – which aim to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030 – present a huge challenge in terms of obtaining data, particularly in developing countries with limited resources.

Bringing together the University's knowledge of space satellites and sustainability, Space 4 Sustainability research is using satellite data to monitor biodiversity in the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, analyse a Bolivian lake, which has shrunk dramatically over the past two decades, and identify the best places to plant maize in Afghanistan.

Find out more at: surrey.ac.uk/spaceforsustainability



BACK TO THE FUTURE...



*Battersea Polytechnic Institute, which was renamed
Battersea College of Technology in 1957*

Earlier this year, we launched the Battersea Scholarship Appeal – named after Battersea Polytechnic Institute, which was the forerunner to the University of Surrey. Its aim: to support talented students who are estranged from their families or have been through the care system.



The appeal is led by Battersea alumnus Mike Banfield, who arrived in South London in 1954 to study chemical and process engineering. The institution's history, however, dates much further back than that.

First established in 1891, Battersea

provided access to higher education for poor and less privileged students. This early ethos of educational accessibility is something the new scholarship exemplifies. It will cement the legacy of the Battersea generation by giving the gift of a first-class education to those following in their footsteps.

Battersea memories

Mike speaks fondly about the impact Battersea had on his life. Having worked in a factory whilst studying part time to obtain an Ordinary National Certificate in Engineering prior to University, he came to Battersea after he was offered a technical state scholarship to study chemical engineering in 1954.

“One of the great things about Battersea was the mixture of people who studied there,” says Mike. “We had students from all parts of the world, including the Middle East, West Africa and the West Indies. We also had people like myself, who’d been in industry, or people who were older than me, who’d served in the armed forces.”

Mind-reading and cheap drinks

Mike adds that he and his fellow undergraduates also enjoyed a rich and vibrant social scene alongside their studies. He eventually became Chairman of Events and sat on the Student Representative Council.

Mike continues: “In those days, traditional jazz was very popular. Chris Barber, Kenny Ball and all of those jazz bands really sort of came into their own in the early 1950s.

“But the big fun was the March Hares Ball, a London University event that Battersea helped organise. These were held at the Royal Festival Hall. We’d have well-known professional bands, a cabaret... at one event we even had a mind reader!

“That was always great fun and part of the amusement was to avoid paying for a drink. So it was normal to secrete quarter bottles of your chosen spirit in the side pocket of your dinner jacket so you could replenish your glasses.

“We also attended the President’s Ball, which was held in Senate House at London University. The Queen Mother as Chancellor always attended and took pleasure in leading Scottish dancing to the tune of a piper specially retained for the occasion. She was a marvellous lady.

“Looking back, it’s a wonder we actually got the studying done because we dedicated an awful lot of time to the social!”

Supporting good causes

Alongside studying and the social aspect of Battersea life, Mike also turned his hand to charitable work. During the Hungarian Uprising in 1956, Mike and his contemporaries were active in the support of charitable objectives and organised events to support fellow students. After one colleague suggested an alternative event in Chislehurst Caves, they decided this would be an overt and an unusual way to raise money.

"Bands turned up to our event and, of course, we all drank a huge amount of beer," reminisces Mike. "Somebody found out where the main switch was and turned the lights out, so we had to illuminate the cave with candles."

Exciting career

Mike's gone on to have a long and exciting career in engineering. But he still holds great pride in his Battersea roots and he's thankful for the opportunities it gave him. He's travelled around the world and lived and worked in Brussels. Mike returned to the UK in 1985 and spent the rest of his career working in London.

"If I hadn't gone to Battersea, I wouldn't be the person I am today," concludes Mike.

Support the Battersea Scholarship Appeal!

We're delighted so many of our Battersea alumni have stepped forward and made a gift to the Battersea Scholarship Appeal. You can help more talented students come to Surrey and thrive, enjoying the same top-quality education and experiences that are firmly rooted in our Battersea days. If you're interested in making a donation or leaving a gift in your will, please contact the Alumni team at alumni@surrey.ac.uk or donate online at surrey.ac.uk/donate



Mike Banfield on the right



Students suited and booted for the formal Chemical Engineers Dinner in 1955

CLASSNOTES

It's our regular round-up of what our alumni have been up to...



Sally's royal appointment

Sally Wooding

Graduated 2002 in Art History and BA Combined Studies Programme

Sally's spent the past decade working as a fundraiser for a small local charity, The Therapy Garden, which offers social, educational and therapeutic horticulture to people with mental health challenges. She loves the rewarding work and she had the honour to welcome HRH the Countess of Wessex to the Garden earlier this year.



Markus' military service

Markus Häyhtiö

Graduated 1998 in Tourism Management

Markus is working as a training and liaison officer at the Defence Training Association in Finland after completing his doctoral degree in 2018 from the National Defence University on Military Economics.



Hitting the high notes at Eurovision

Sigga Eyrún Fríðriksdóttir

Graduated 2000 in Musical Theatre

Since leaving Surrey in 2000, Sigga's been busy recording voiceovers in Icelandic for several TV shows and movies, including *Peppa Pig* and *Zootropolis*. She's also

worked in major musical productions at the National Theatre of Iceland and placed second to represent Iceland for Eurovision in 2014.



From West End to workhouse

Graham Potter

Graduated 1959 in Electrical Engineering

Graham worked as an engineer at both Osram Lighting and London Electricity in the West End during his career. Married for an impressive 60 years, with three children and seven grandchildren, Graham also volunteered at the University of Surrey archives and at the Spike, which is the last remaining building of the Guildford Workhouse.



Research success for Lisa

Lisa Heather

Graduated 2002 in BSc Medical Biochemistry

After graduating from Surrey, Lisa completed her PhD at the University of Oxford. In 2011, she was awarded an RD Lawrence Early Career Fellowship from Diabetes UK, followed by a British Heart Foundation Fellowship in 2018 to establish her own research group at Oxford. She now studies the metabolic effects of type two diabetes.



Changing the face of fashion

Kevin Patrick

Graduated 2014 in International Business Management

Kevin owns ETAN Apparel, an ethical fashion brand that feeds a person in need every time an item is sold. ETAN also utilises an ethical manufacturing process and is committed to sustainability. Since launching in 2020, the company have provided more than 3,800 meals across six countries. Kevin aims to increase that to one million meals by 2025.



Actor's role with the NHS

Lee Brookman

Graduated 1984
in Acting

Some 27 years after graduating, Lee is still working as an actor. Alongside this career, he's also very proud to be a state-registered paramedic for the NHS.



Caring Kirsty's new career

Kirsty Yull

Graduated 2017 in Nutrition

After graduation, Kirsty worked in the hospitality industry, where she realised she had a passion for supporting people in need. In 2019, she started the NHS Graduate Management Training Scheme in General Management. Since then, she's worked in mental health, acute care and healthcare consulting.

Now graduated from the scheme, she's secured a service management role in head and neck surgery in East Sussex.



A life of service to society

Nigel Siederer

Graduated 1973 in Human & Physical Sciences

Nigel has more than four decades of experience working in and leading not-for-profit organisations, including the National Council

for Civil Liberties – now Liberty. In 1990, he landed a key job as the first Chief Executive of the new Association of Charitable Foundations. Moving towards retirement, he's pursued an interest in family history and he's the Secretary of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain.

Transatlantic adventure

David Magellan Horth

Graduated 1968
in Chemistry

After graduating, David shifted disciplines to become an electronic design engineer at ICL for 21 years. He moved to the USA in 1990 to work for the Center for Creative Leadership, where he became the Director of Innovation Venturing and Partnership. He retired in 2020. Married with three sons, David also has two step-daughters, two grandchildren and four step-grandchildren.



Building a bright future

Yusuf Shauq

Graduated 2020 in Mechanical Engineering

After completing his masters degree at Surrey, Yusuf secured a role with leading engineering company Crown Holdings as a Development Engineer at the state-of-the-art Crown Research and Development

facility. He's now working towards achieving his goal of becoming a Chartered Engineer.



Thank you to everyone who took the time to submit a classnote to share your latest achievements and news!

Reconnect with your friends and fellow graduates by seeing what they've been up to since leaving Surrey.

Head over to surrey.ac.uk/classnotes to read more.

If you'd like to get involved please visit surrey.ac.uk/shareyourstory to share your story.

MY GRADUATE JOURNEY...

Elizabeth Opeagbe studied a BSc in Financial Maths and graduated in 2017. Now an investment associate at British Land, she tells us how she went from statistical reveals to property deals...

My course

I remember my first day consisted of eight hours of lectures and I left thinking, "It's time to quit! I don't understand it. Nothing makes sense. Why did I choose maths?" Fortunately, with words of wisdom and some confidence-boosting from Dr Natalie Douglas, I powered through. Three years later, I graduated with a first-class degree.

Life after Surrey

The expectation is that most people who study maths will go into finance or teaching of some sort. Knowing exactly what I wanted to do was difficult. After a short summer-long internship at an American technology bank, a role came up at British Land as an investment graduate. This provided an opportunity to get into real estate and property.

Tell us about your job...

I'm an investment associate at British Land, one of the UK's largest real estate investment trusts, focusing on development and investment. I specialise in property acquisitions and disposals across the company's retail, office and urban logistics portfolio. We recently acquired a building on Surrey Research Park, which given its links with the University made me quite nostalgic! Alongside my role, I recently completed an MSc in Real Estate at the University

of Manchester. This will enable me to eventually become a qualified chartered surveyor.

You also mentor people from under-represented backgrounds...

I've had a few people reach out to me via LinkedIn, which started the coaching/mentoring side of my career. The person I'm mentoring at the moment graduated last year. He wants to know how to get into commercial real estate because it's not straightforward. Everyone assumes you're an estate agent – and that's not the case. For me, being from an under-represented background and coming from somewhere like Dagenham, I didn't know about commercial real estate. It's not surprising people from similar backgrounds don't understand it either. I want to improve this situation by using my experience to inspire and educate the next generation about the industry.

How did your time at Surrey help shape you?

My degree wasn't easy and the amount of hard work I had to put into it built who I am today. It taught me a work ethic that I retain now and one that allowed me to complete my part-time masters with such dedication. Not only did Surrey force me to grow up, as it was the first time I'd been independent, but it also offered me a solid foundation for the rest of my life.



DOWN TIME...

Professor Amelia Hadfield is our Dean International and the Head of our Department of Politics. Also a proud Canadian, she reveals what's keeping her entertained out of office hours...

What are you reading at the moment?

I've just finished Hilary Mantel's *The Mirror and the Light*, the final part of her Thomas Cromwell trilogy. I took a 'fiction break' with Ken Follett's *The Evening and the Morning*, a super prequel to his amazing *The Pillars of the Earth*. Now, I'm reading *The Education of an Idealist* by Samantha Power, who was the US Ambassador to the UN under Barack Obama.

Are you a music fan?

Completely! I've been in choirs since I could walk and I still play the piano competently, though my violin-playing is now pretty rusty. Choir singing is demanding, particularly at a high level, so I enjoy the challenge. A recent musical discovery is 18th-century composer William Boyce. Where has he been all my life? More contemporary: the up-and-coming alt rock band, Designosaur, from Nova Scotia. Gorgeous.

Who are your long-time musical loves?

For piano, I love Scott Joplin and anything by Johann Sebastian Bach. Absolute delights on the keyboard include anything from fellow Canadians Glenn Gould and Angela Hewitt; from Europe, the ineffable Brigitte Engerer playing Chopin.

What's the best film you've seen recently?

The last thing I saw on the big screen was the *Downton Abbey* movie. It was so much more than



Fellow Canadian Frances McDormand wowed Amelia in *Nomadland*

a royal visit and a broken boiler (well, almost)! I was also blown away by *Nomadland*, with the amazing – and Canadian – Frances McDormand.

What's your favourite recent boxset?

Can I have three? *Line of Duty*, *One of Us* and *The Worricker Trilogy*. Bill Nighy has a sort of Smiley-esque quality to him in the latter.

What's your guilty viewing pleasure?

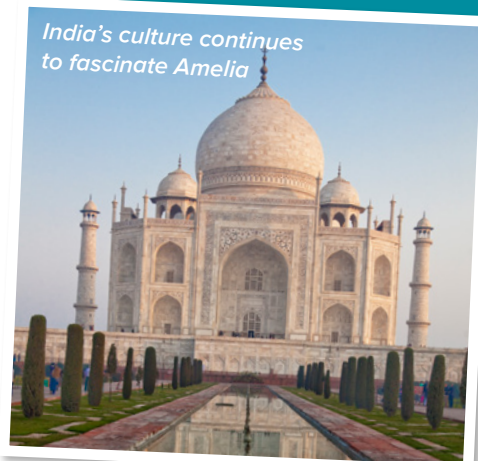
I'll admit the occasional episode of *Grey's Anatomy* may sneak in, but I try to balance it out with anything from John Le Carre.

What podcasts are you enjoying at the moment?

I never miss the Radio 4 'Friday funnies', so *The Now Show* and *Dead Ringers*. I love *Desert Island Discs*, *Analysis* and *The Reith Lectures*, too. My absolute favourite is *You're Dead To Me*. This is a *Horrible Histories*-style podcast for adults, which I listen to with my son. Yes, it is stealth learning!

Finally, we've built you a time machine. Where are you going?

I've been addicted to India, its history and its culture my entire life, so I'd go there on the date of its independence: 15 August 1947. The chance to see both an ancient civilisation and a new country, and to hear those majestic words spoken by its first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru: "Long years ago we made a tryst with destiny, and now the time comes when we shall redeem our pledge, not wholly or in full measure, but very substantially..."



India's culture continues to fascinate Amelia



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