Forever Surrey
The magazine for alumni, supporters and friends
Anniversary issue
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surrey.ac.uk/alumni/news/forever-surrey

Social media

Like us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter and Instagram and join one of our LinkedIn groups - we offer subject-specific groups as well as the main alumni one:

facebook.com/surreyalumni
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instagram.com/surreyalumni
linkedin.com/groups?gid=41419

Surrey Alumni Hub

Sign up to our new online Surrey Alumni Hub which offers an exclusive range of services to help you expand your network and make the most of the benefits on offer from the Surrey Alumni network: surrey.vineup.com See p24 for more details.

Website

Our website has a wealth of information for Surrey graduates, from sharing alumni news and reunions to ways to continue your connection with your University: surrey.ac.uk/alumni

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Stay in touch

Don’t forget to update your details if you move house or change your email address so we can keep you informed about your University and the benefits available to you as a graduate. Surrey will always be part of your story so please stay in touch - we’d love to hear from you!

Get involved

Our alumni and friends play a huge part in contributing to Surrey’s success, helping our students to flourish and meet their full potential, as well as furthering pioneering research. You can give back through donating to The Chancellor’s 50th Anniversary Appeal or by sharing your knowledge and expertise to support students and alumni by volunteering.

The University of Surrey is a charitable and not-for-profit organisation and we rely on your support. Thank you.

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Contents
This has been a wonderful year, personally and for the University - I marked my first year as Vice-Chancellor and we have been celebrating the University’s 50th anniversary since it received its Royal Charter and made its home in Guildford.

Surrey has achieved wonderful things in the last 50 years through the efforts of our staff, students and alumni, working together with our local and global communities. I believe this is what makes the University of Surrey great, and I feel privileged to lead such a fine institution.

The support from our alumni community has played a critical role in the University’s history and our growth into one of the top universities in the UK, renowned for our excellence in teaching, research and innovation. Going forward, we aspire to enhance our global reputation to a new height, building on the past successes.

We have students, academics and alumni from over 180 countries. Among our distinguished alumni are four Oscar and seven Grammy winners, the designer of the Mini, the current President of Mauritius, and many leaders of business and industry.

Our pioneering research activities span the world and continue to address global challenges, with over 50 per cent of our research output carried out in collaboration with international partners. Examples include lunar soil mechanics with China, the eSMART project to benefit cancer patients with the USA and 11 European partners, alleviating air pollution in India and mitigating the effects of climate change with colleagues in Sweden.

To continue our legacy, we have launched The Chancellor’s 50th Anniversary Appeal, which offers our alumni and friends the opportunity to play a real part in shaping our future. It will help students from disadvantaged backgrounds to access world-class education through scholarships and continue our pioneering research to address global health, economic, environmental and social challenges.

Our anniversary year is also a good opportunity to look ahead and make sure that we build a secure future for the University in its next 50 years. Building on our strengths, the University will grow into a leading global institution renowned for producing sought-after graduates and outstanding research, both of which will help shape the world for a better future.

Key priorities for Surrey will be to sustain excellence in teaching, maintain our strong track record in providing an exceptional student experience, be a preferred and valued partner for government, business and industry and continue to be an engaged and connected university - the intellectual home for alumni, supporters and the community.

I hope you enjoy this special anniversary edition of Forever Surrey magazine which looks back on our year-long celebration of the achievements of the University in the past 50 years, highlights our research impact and shares some of the amazing stories and activities of our alumni around the world.

Professor Max Lu
President and Vice-Chancellor
VC appointed Deputy Lieutenant

Surrey has confirmed its place as one of the country’s top universities for cyber security research. The University is one of only 14 institutions named as an Academic Centre of Excellence in Cyber Security Research that help make the UK government, business and consumers more resilient to cyber-attacks. The Surrey Centre for Cyber Security’s research areas include transportation (automotive, rail), democracy (e-voting), telecommunications, digital economy, and law enforcement.

Supporting the next generation

The University’s Widening Participation and Outreach team has been awarded £643,607 in funding by the Higher Education Funding Council for England to lead a new collaborative outreach project.

The Higher Education Outreach Network will highlight the opportunities available at university to pupils in Years 9 to 13, and guide them through the application process. This collaboration complements the ongoing work of the team, providing young people from groups under-represented in higher education with relevant information, advice and guidance.

Archive treasures

Did you know that our archives are home to over 60 collections of historical items and rare books? These include:

- The personal collection of E.H. Shepard, illustrator of Winnie-the-Pooh and Wind in the Willows
- The Natural Movement Archive of over 1,000 music scores, original 1920s and 30s costumes, 2,000 photographs of dancers and their performances, and a vast collection of annotated theatre programmes, newspaper clippings, studio shots, posters and manuscripts
- The Thomas Farrer collection, a Victorian gentleman’s library comprising over 2,000 volumes which belonged to Thomas Henry Farrer (1819-1899), Permanent Secretary to the Board of Trade.

Leading on tomorrow’s healthcare

Our new £12.5 million Innovation for Health Learning Laboratory was officially opened by Sir Mark Walport, Chief Scientific Adviser to the UK Government. The Lab and associated academic activities will allow us to produce the next generation of graduates who are able to work across the traditional boundaries of health and engineering sciences and contribute to delivering future healthcare solutions. The Lab also received generous funding from the Garfield Weston Foundation, a family-founded, grant-making trust, which shares our drive to make a positive impact on society.

In this year’s Student Experience Survey, compiled by Times Higher Education, the University achieved an impressive top-five ranking. Overall Surrey was ranked fifth nationally, rising from 26th place last year. Surrey was also placed top for security, sixth for our excellent industry connections and student welfare and seventh for both facilities and recommending the University to a friend.

Find out what our students love about Surrey: https://youtu.be/N3EDlzyoVlY
The University has a number of striking and impressive sculptures on campus, including *All The Gang Are Here* by Guildford sculptor Carol Orwin, which was installed in 2007.
In 50 years, the University of Surrey has grown from a rural (and rather muddy) site, with a small number of former Battersea College of Technology students into a thriving international campus with a 15,700-strong community.

In this special anniversary year, we asked for memories of your time at Surrey: the music you listened to, the inspiring academics who taught you, the friends and the fun. We were overwhelmed by your response. Over the next few pages we share images from the University’s five decades, together with your unique stories, to celebrate 50 golden years.

**The 1960s**

“**In 1968 it was a very small, friendly community at Surrey with 1,100 male and 45 female students. Food was unusual; I suspect the chef was Norwegian as we had smorgasbord on the menu quite often. A big cheese salad was 15p.**

Linda Gates-Sunner, Physics 1973

“I remember our pioneering spirit of being the first undergraduates to move to Guildford from Battersea, good lecturers and head of department, close friendships and community.”

John Quilter, Chemical & Process Engineering 1969

“**The individual attention I was given in studying subjects was new to me. I became editor of a newly launched newspaper and made excellent friends.**

Ian Jamieson, Sociology 1966

You were listening to:

- **The Beatles**: Help! (Ashley Blake, Electrical Engineering 1965)
- **The Scaffold**: Lily the Pink (Peter Baylis, Materials Science & Engineering 1966)
- **The Seekers**: The Carnival is Over (Richard Moon, Civil Engineering 1967)
- **The Rolling Stones**: I Can’t Get No Satisfaction (Anne Fisher, Hotel & Catering Administration 1968)

The 1970s

“**With hindsight, living on campus was such a treat - to be immersed in a world where all we were focused on was making the most out of being a student: being educated and having fun with fellow students.**

Nicola Lock (nee Sheppard), Human Biology 1977

You were listening to:

- **The Kinks**: Lazy Daze of Summer
- **Procul Harem**: White Shade of Pale (Denis Mahony, Metallurgy 1970)
- **Joni Mitchell**: Both Sides Now
- **Cat Stevens**: Wild World (Jennifer Gammon, German 1971)
- **The Who**: Won’t Get Fooled Again (Shirley Prahms, Human Biology 1975)
- **Sex Pistols**: God Save The Queen (David Sheppard, Electronic Engineering with Business 1977)

Everything was on your doorstep on campus. I could work until ten and then go to the bar for the last hour and see all my friends.”

Sharyn Collins, Linguistic & International Studies (German) 1974

“There was lots of mud, great beer, and it was a superb engineering course.”

Simon Barrington, Mechanical Engineering 1971

**In 1960s music concert (courtesy Colin Edwards)**

**Free Arts Festival (courtesy Colin Edwards)**

**Construction of Battersea Court**

**The first group of students**

**Students protest against grant cuts**

Around 1,400 meals a day were served in the ‘emergency feeding station’.
The 1980s

“ I had some superb lecturers, who could make the subjects fascinating. I discovered things I had no idea existed before. The best bits were lab and workshop times.”
Alison Dando, Metallurgy 1981

My four years at Surrey started me on a personal journey that is still evolving. The skills and relationships I discovered during this time have a huge positive effect all these years later!
Miles Schofield, Biochemistry 1988

I remember the rare treats of visits to the M&S food hall in town, the fun (and hard work) of learning in my chosen field of engineering, meeting new friends, trips to the (now defunct) ‘RAM Cider House’ and studying in digs with ice on the inside of the windows.
Jonathan Melvin, Electronic & Electrical Engineering 1984

You were listening to:
- Dexy’s Midnight Runners: Come on Eileen (Stephen Spencer, Metallurgy 1983)
- Spandau Ballet: Gold Chaka Khan: Ain’t Nobody (Caroline Smale, Nutrition & Food Science 1986)
- Soft Cell: Tainted Love (Steven Harris, Biochemistry 1985)
- New Order: Blue Monday Madonna: Like a Virgin (Martin Gwyther, Chemical Engineering 1988)

The 1990s

“I had so much fun being part of the Stage Crew (we had a gig or disco pretty much every night) and loved my course too. The University has such heart and soul as well as commitment to learning and research. I felt very well looked after.”
Lisa Cave, Psychology 1991

Life on campus was vibrant, with people from so many places organising excellent events. I watched many exceptional movies that I would never have known if not for those cinema enthusiast colleagues.
Pedro Quental, MSc Telematics 1995

My favourite memory is when we threw a roll of toilet paper out of the window of a top-storey Cath Court building and it rolled all the way down the hill. Security came round and told us off and we tried to tell them it wasn’t us!
Dr Yogesh Thankey, Chemistry with Management 1998

You were listening to:
- Snap: I’ve Got the Power; The Farm: Altogether Now (Rachel Gourdin, Materials Technology 1992)
- Ace of Base: All That She Wants; Sinéad O’Connor: Nothing Compares 2 U (Karen Divan, Applied Psychology & Sociology 1993)
- D’Ream: Things Can Only Get Better; Steve Lane, French & Economics with International Business 1996
- Oasis: Wonderwall; The Verve: Bitter Sweet Symphony (Elene Brocard, Nursing Studies 1998)

Aerial view of the campus in 1992

Bare Facts

University of Surrey Students' Newspaper

£300 For A Place At Uni!

Spray In Surrey - Yet

New Door Opens In Guildford

Delicious Food in Every Campus Catering Unit

No CS

Dormitory Life

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The 2000s

I remember making the friends that I did, actually being free to live and experience life a bit before having to give it all up for work and the grindstone. The loves that I had and the loves that I lost. Working in Wates House back when it was staff and postgrad only: that was where a lot of my real learning took place!

David Davy, Dip Electronic & Electrical Engineering 2002

There’s a group of 15 of us that continue to still see each other, almost weekly, 10 years on from graduation. We got jobs, promotions, married (sometimes to each other!) and generally grew up together. We’re pretty sure we’ll also grow old together.

Denis Mace-Jones, French & Economics with International Business 2007

The people around me made it feel like home away from home.

Laura Koeppen, Intercultural Communication with International Business 2009

You were listening to:

Britney Spears: Sweet Like Chocolate (Nikki Dixon, Retail Management 2000)
The Black Eyed Peas: Where is the Love? (Gemma Moret, German & Economics with International Business 2005)
The Killers: Mr Brightside (Laura Blackley, Dance & Culture 2008)
Lady Gaga: Poker Face; Katy Perry: I Kissed a Girl (Ilias Zaptantis, Health Care Management 2009)

The 2010s

Sport transformed my time at Surrey and gave me so many opportunities. Volunteering at the Olympics and the Rugby World Cup gave me the confidence I never had, and I met an amazing group of lifelong friends.

Arabella Gilby, English Literature 2012

Meeting so many people from the UK and overseas with different cultures and upbringings made me curious to visit other countries around the world and experience it for myself. That curiosity led me to taking the opportunity to work overseas.

James Neil, Chemistry 2013

You were listening to:

Bruno Mars: Just the Way You Are (Sijing Stella Wang, International Events Management 2011)
Tinie Tempah: Written in the Stars (Rehan Ahmed, Communication & International Marketing 2012)
Psy: Gangnam Style (Tom Collier, Mathematics and Physics 2013)
Rihanna: We Found Love; Lukas Graham: Seven Years (Morwenna Pascoe, Nutrition & Dietetics 2016)

Not only did I get the job of my dreams from what I learned at Surrey but I also made friends for life and had experiences that I never would have had.

Fiona McMath, Nursing Studies 2014

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Fiona McMath, Nursing Studies 2014

The Queen opens the School of Veterinary Medicine in 2015

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Contact lenses inspire tomorrow’s electric cars

Ground-breaking research from Surrey and Augmented Optics Ltd, in collaboration with the University of Bristol, has developed potentially transformational technology which could revolutionise the capabilities of appliances that have previously relied on battery power to work.

This development could translate into very high energy density super-capacitors making it possible to recharge your mobile phone, laptop or other mobile devices in just a few seconds, or power an electric car from London to Edinburgh without recharging.

The technology was adapted from the principles used to make soft contact lenses, which Dr Donald Highgate (of Augmented Optics, and an alumnus of the University) developed following his postgraduate studies at Surrey 40 years ago.

For more details see supercapacitormaterials.com

Living in a time warp

Computer Science students developed an app for a BBC Four programme featuring Surrey’s Professor Jim Al-Khalili that can work out how our body clock is affected by gravity.

A fundamental force of nature, gravity shapes our entire universe. It sculpts galaxies and warps space and time. But gravity’s strange powers also affect all of us very personally, making a difference to our weight, height, posture and even the rate at which we age.

The new Time Warper Android and iPhone app demonstrates how gravity affects time and makes us age at slightly different rates.

With its help, Jim set out to find where in Britain gravity is weakest and where we weigh the least.

Gravity and Me: The Force Which Shapes Our Lives aired on BBC Four and can be viewed at https://youtu.be/KpOOVJW69tg

Viewing the un-seeable

Surrey research has shone a light on a globular cluster of stars that could host several hundred black holes.

Globular clusters are spherical collections of stars which orbit around a galactic centre such as our Milky Way. Using computer simulations, researchers mapped a globular cluster known as NGC 6101, from which the existence of black holes was deduced. These black holes are a few times larger than the Sun, and form in the gravitational collapse of massive stars at the end of their lives.

Lead researcher Miklos Peuten said: “The results show that globular clusters like NGC 6101, which were always considered boring, are in fact the most interesting ones, possibly each harbouring hundreds of black holes. Using observations and simulations, we are able to spot the distinctive clues to their whereabouts and, therefore, effectively ‘see’ the un-seeable. This will help us to find more black holes in other globular clusters in the universe.”

The research is intended to help answer fundamental questions related to the dynamics of stars and black holes.

Watch our film to learn more: https://youtu.be/-fmWeYcAksQ

A selfie of the heart

Over 44,000 people die every year in the UK after contracting blood poisoning (sepsis); detection is often too late for successful treatment. However, Surrey’s Department of Mathematics has developed code for analysing blood pressure signals to see if it can robustly predict the early development of sepsis and potentially save lives.

A fingertip monitor is used to collect signals which are then turned into a ‘cardiomorph’ – a visualisation of how the heart is functioning.

Lead researcher Professor Philip Aston said: “With sepsis resulting in more deaths in the UK every year than bowel, breast and prostate cancer combined, the use of readily available physiological data to detect sepsis early has the potential to bring real impact.”

Pioneering password harder to crack

The University has developed an innovative ‘all in one’ password system that will allow users to combine pictures of their face, eyes or fingerprints, alongside or instead of word-based systems, on computers.

This means that passwords will be significantly harder to crack because hackers will not only have to break the password, they will also have to work out the format and composition of the password itself. The new technology, named Pass∞ (pronounced PassInfinity), can be easily added to all systems with little or no changes required to existing infrastructure.
Health and Medicine

Walking therapy for cancer patients

Walking for just 30 minutes three times per week could improve the quality of life for those with advanced cancer.

A study of cancer patients found those who were encouraged to walk regularly and attended a weekly group walk reported an improved positive attitude towards their illness and spoke of the social benefits.

Professor Emma Ream, from the School of Health Sciences, said: “The importance of exercise in preventing cancer recurrence and managing other chronic illnesses is becoming clear. Rather than shying away from exercise, people with advanced disease should be encouraged to incorporate exercise into their daily lives.”

Babies at risk from air pollution

Babies in prams accompanying older siblings on the school run are twice as likely to be exposed to harmful air pollution in the morning as in the afternoon.

The new research revealed that there was a higher level of exposure to ultrafine particulate matter on the way to school and the worst places for pollution were at bus stops and traffic lights.

Professor Prashant Kumar, Chair in Air Quality and Health, said: “Essentially, children could be at risk of breathing in some nasty and harmful chemicals, such as iron, aluminium and silica. One of the simplest ways to combat this is to use a barrier, such as a pram cover.”

Regular meals can help avoid jet-lag

Jet-lag in long-haul cabin crew is alleviated when meal times are regulated on their days off, Surrey research has found.

Long-haul cabin crew frequently suffer from jet-lag with symptoms including fatigue, impaired sleep, moodiness, loss of appetite and an effect on cognitive performance.

For the study, 60 long-haul crew members took part in one of two tests – either eating regular meals on their days off or not. The results found that regular meal times were important for the general wellbeing of cabin crew and for helping to adapt the body clock to fit in with home life.

Vitamin D inadequacy in UK teenagers

A joint Surrey study with the University of Copenhagen and University College Cork has shown high levels of vitamin D inadequacy in UK teenagers, and identified the intake needed to maintain adequate levels during the winter time.

Vitamin D is essential for healthy bones but adolescents are particularly vulnerable to a deficiency as they are less likely to spend time outdoors than younger children and so experience less exposure to the sun. How we naturally obtain vitamin D is vital that teenagers have sufficient levels of vitamin D to achieve peak bone mass and help reduce age-related bone loss in later life.

In the trial, 110 teenagers, aged between 14 and 18, were given varying levels of vitamin D3 supplements. It revealed that intakes of between 10 and 30 micrograms per day are required to avoid vitamin D deficiency.

Genetic mutation key to living longer

Surrey researchers, in collaboration with the Universities of Reading and Cologne and the Royal Berkshire Hospital, have discovered that it is possible to stop the activation of a group of proteins known to cause most of the diseases of ageing.

Chemistry researchers believe they have found the key with an SNP (single nucleotide polymorphism). To make new cells, an existing cell divides in two but first it copies its DNA so the new cells will each have a complete set of genetic instructions. Cells sometimes make mistakes during the copying process and these variations in the DNA sequence are called SNPs.

The new research has found that SNPs protect against cardiovascular disease and also affect the activation of the proteins that cause most of the diseases of ageing. By identifying the molecular mechanism of an SNP, new drugs can be designed to treat heart disease, diabetes, arthritis and dementia, and also fibrosis in the lungs.
Do lads’ mags normalise sexism?

A team of leading social psychologists, led by Surrey’s Professor Tim Hegarty, has investigated the use of sexism in lads’ mags.

While editors of men’s magazines have long claimed that using sexist humour is harmless because male readers perceive it as ironic, the latest research refutes this idea. In a study of 81 UK men aged between 18 and 50, participants were presented with sexist jokes both in and out of a lads’ mag context. Young men in particular considered the jokes less hostile when they were in a lads’ mag.

In a second study in the US, 274 students were asked to identify which of a group of quotations had appeared in lads’ mags and which had been used by convicted rapists. Having correctly identified only half of the quotations, the men were subsequently more likely to reject these magazines.

Women and pre-Conquest literature

Surrey’s Professor of Medieval Literature has been awarded a major research fellowship from the prestigious Leverhulme Trust to examine the literary culture of women before the Norman Conquest.

Professor Diana Watt is one of only 33 academics to win such an award from across the country. Her project, ‘Women’s Literary Culture Before the Conquest’, will help provide a better understanding of this often overlooked period of English literary history and how it has helped form our rich cultural heritage.

The fellowship will enable Professor Watt to visit a number of archives across Europe to examine in detail original manuscripts and to source further information on this era.

Art and Society

‘Outstanding’ nurseries have little effect on children

Attending a nursery with highly-qualified staff or an ‘outstanding’ Ofsted rating has limited benefit for children’s educational achievement, according to Surrey research.

The report found that free part-time nursery places for three-year-olds enabled some children to do better in assessments at the end of reception, but that the overall educational benefits are small and do not last.

Co-author Dr Jo Blanden said: “Some nurseries are helping children to do better than others, but this is not related to staff qualifications or Ofsted ratings. It is extremely important to discover the factors that lead to a high quality nursery experience so we can maximise children’s chances to benefit developmentally from attending nursery.”

Listen to Dr Blanden speaking on BBC Radio 4 Women’s Hour (27 minutes in): http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b04m3jct

Vision for tomorrow’s economy

A new edition of Prosperity Without Growth, the landmark book by sustainability expert Professor Tim Jackson, has been published.

In it, Professor Jackson discusses how the economy of tomorrow could be built in ways which protect employment, enable social investment, reduce inequality and deliver ecological and financial stability.

Prosperity Without Growth caused widespread controversy when it was first published in 2009. Outlining a vision for lasting prosperity on a finite planet, it openly questioned the most highly-prized goal of politicians and economists alike: the continued pursuit of exponential economic growth.

Professor Jackson said: “In 2009 it was regarded as a radical narrative whispered by a marginal fringe. Today it’s an essential vision for social progress in a post-crisis world. Fulfilling that vision, in my view, is simply the most urgent task of our times.”

Academic investigates new phenomenon

Dr Lucy Bell has been awarded funding from the Arts and Humanities Research Council to investigate the Latin American phenomenon of ‘editoriales cartoneras’ (translated as ‘waste-picking publishers’ or ‘cardboard publishers’).

Editoriales cartoneras are small independent publishing projects which make books out of recycled cardboard and sell them at reduced prices, helping to increase access to literature in countries where books tend to be unaffordable.

Working in collaboration with anthropologist Dr Alex Flynn from the University of Durham, Dr Bell will examine how the practice has forged new local and global literary communities.

Research highlights

A team of leading social psychologists, led by Surrey’s Professor Tim Hegarty, has investigated the use of sexism in lads’ mags.

While editors of men’s magazines have long claimed that using sexist humour is harmless because male readers perceive it as ironic, the latest research refutes this idea. In a study of 81 UK men aged between 18 and 50, participants were presented with sexist jokes both in and out of a lads’ mag context. Young men in particular considered the jokes less hostile when they were in a lads’ mag.

In a second study in the US, 274 students were asked to identify which of a group of quotations had appeared in lads’ mags and which had been used by convicted rapists. Having correctly identified only half of the quotations, the men were subsequently more likely to reject these magazines.

Women and pre-Conquest literature

Surrey’s Professor of Medieval Literature has been awarded a major research fellowship from the prestigious Leverhulme Trust to examine the literary culture of women before the Norman Conquest.

Professor Diana Watt is one of only 33 academics to win such an award from across the country. Her project, ‘Women’s Literary Culture Before the Conquest’, will help provide a better understanding of this often overlooked period of English literary history and how it has helped form our rich cultural heritage.

The fellowship will enable Professor Watt to visit a number of archives across Europe to examine in detail original manuscripts and to source further information on this era.
Please help us to shape Surrey’s next 50 years

The first day of university is incredibly exciting as a student – with finding classes, joining student societies, and making new friends. But for Biomedical Science student Michael Taiwo, it was also an anxious time.

Michael’s father lost his job just before the start of the academic year, so instead of enjoying his first weeks as an undergraduate he was also worrying about whether his savings would be enough.

Michael’s situation turned around when he received a life-changing email awarding him a scholarship.

“The burden and stress were immediately lifted,” said Michael. “The peace of mind the scholarship gave me is indescribable and the prize proved to be invaluable, especially around February when I put down a large sum of money to secure accommodation for my second year.

“Students are a tough bunch and will take on part-time jobs to make ends meet but a scholarship eases some of the financial pressures and ensures they enjoy the university experience. A scholarship changes their story.”

It’s for people like Michael that the University launched The Chancellor’s 50th Anniversary Appeal which is raising much needed funds for two key areas – helping students and funding research. With your support, we will be able to provide more scholarships to potential students from low-income families, and give grants to students facing unexpected financial hardship.

At Surrey, we are educating young people who will contribute to society and be the employees and leaders of the future. We are changing students’ lives and the lives of people around them, as well as supporting and developing local and global economies.

A long-time supporter of the University is alumnus and former President of the Students’ Union, Wayne Barnacal. He graduated in Chemical Engineering in 1970 and credits his education for his successful career.

“I appreciate the opportunity I had to go to university – it enabled me to work in the chemical engineering field all my life. During my time the state provided the money for me to go but today philanthropy is a very important part of university funding. I am impressed by what Surrey has achieved and by its track record in employability. I am very pleased to contribute to its ongoing success. Alumni support can make a difference to the University’s long-term future.”

The Anniversary Appeal will also enable us to address some of the most pressing and urgent issues faced by society today through our research. Research that is tackling some of the most pressing issues of our time: providing safe drinking water for billions of people across the world; technology to improve the care of people with dementia; and discovering new treatments for human and animal cancer.

The University’s Vice-Chancellor, Professor Max Lu, said: “We hope that our alumni and friends will consider making a gift to the University. As a donor, your gifts will have a transformational impact and continue to support the dynamic, pioneering spirit of Surrey.”

Did you know?

• In 1996, the University developed a rapid blood test for meningitis that has halved the adult mortality rate for the disease.
• Surrey is at the heart of the 5G revolution, building the next wave of technology that will see breakthroughs in everything from driverless cars to smart homes.
• The University’s Space Centre is developing litter-picking technology to help remove the 7,000 tonnes of space junk floating in the atmosphere which could damage communication satellites, vital for the internet, mobile phones and satellite navigation.
• Last year, alumni funded £75,000 worth of hardship grants for students struggling financially through no fault of their own.

Turn to page 30 to discover more about our pioneering research project around dementia, using innovative technology to help patients live safely at home.

To make a gift, please visit surrey.ac.uk/donate
Happy birthday Surrey!

What a wonderful year it has been! One filled with golden memories and moments as we celebrated our 50th anniversary since the signing of the Royal Charter by HM the Queen which established the University of Surrey in Guildford.

We kicked off our anniversary celebrations in style with a celebratory procession along Guildford High Street on 22 October 2016 - exactly 50 years to the day since the inauguration of the University’s first Chancellor, Lord Robens.

Led by our current Chancellor, HRH the Duke of Kent, robed students, staff, alumni and special guests proceeded to Holy Trinity Church, joined by local councillors and mayors and mayoresses from across the county.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Max Lu said: “It was fantastic to commemorate this milestone with our local community and to bring our 50th anniversary celebrations right into the heart of Guildford.

“Our proud association with our home town is very important to us and the procession gave us an opportunity to reflect on the achievements we have made as a result of the hard work and efforts of our staff, students and alumni working together with our local community. We look ahead to an even brighter future for the next 50 years in Guildford.”

Lord Robens, 22 October 1966

“She University... is built not for today but for the years that lie before us.”

The 50th anniversary procession makes its way up Guildford High Street
The University welcomed thousands of people to campus for our Festival of Wonder on 13 May. It was jam-packed with music, comedy and dance performances, talks, sports activities, hands-on workshops, and science and technology exhibits.

We were especially delighted to celebrate with our graduates in the Alumni Lounge, reminiscing over a glass of fizz. Graduates enjoyed our mini museum of the last 50 years of Surrey, together with the opportunity to record their own student memories and chat with old friends.

It was an amazing day – here's looking forward to our 100th anniversary!

Take a look at our festival film at https://youtu.be/fhRuz7q4XX0

The fountains on the piazza were too much to resist for this young visitor

It was wonderful to welcome so many of our alumni to the Festival of Wonder

Legendary actor Brian Blessed was in conversation with Professor Jim Al-Khalili

You're never too old to have your face painted!

The Pets as Therapy dogs were very popular with our visitors

Guests came face to face with the Mad Hatter himself, alongside other well-loved Wonderland characters, who served up an array of colourful sweet treats
We are the champions

Grad Sport 2017 was held alongside our Festival of Wonder, allowing alumni to celebrate sport at Surrey and relive their student sporting moments. It was especially fitting that in our 50th year our graduates reigned supreme and were crowned champions.

The competition is held annually and the match fees help fund student sport, with contributions going directly to Team Surrey clubs. Well done alumni for another superb performance and get ready to defend the title in 2018!

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Your alma mater needs you!

"I have always felt passionately about the University and being able to share my experiences with prospective students means they can be of benefit to someone else."

Lewis Young, Surrey alumnus and UK Volunteer of the Year (Vice-Chancellor’s Alumni Awards 2016)

Lewis is one of hundreds of people who in the last year have donated more than 2,000 hours to benefit Surrey students through the University’s Volunteering Programme.

Our volunteers come from a diverse range of backgrounds and disciplines, hold a variety of skills and are at different career stages. Their common ground is a shared desire and enthusiasm to work together to really make a difference to the University of Surrey community.

If you’d like to volunteer we have a wide variety of roles so you can find something that’s the perfect fit for you.

Share your story

If you have 10 minutes to spare, why not fill in one of our short profiles about yourself and career to inspire and inform current and prospective students of opportunities available to them after graduation? You could also feature as our alumnus or alumna of the month!

Write for our blog

Tell us about your Surrey experience, share industry tips, or let us know about your career journey after graduating. These are just some of areas that have featured on our blog – could you write a short piece for us? Take a look at http://blogs.surrey.ac.uk/surreyalumni for inspiration.

Organise a reunion

Stay in touch with old classmates and help organise a reunion. If you would like guidance from the alumni team please read our alumni reunion guides at surrey.ac.uk/alumni/events-awards/reunions or get in touch at advancement@surrey.ac.uk

Our students value the advice and support of Surrey graduates and there are a number of ways to help. Join one of our mentoring programmes, become a guest speaker or offer practical advice sessions.

If you would like to find an opportunity just right for you, we’d love to hear from you! Simply contact our alumni volunteering team on +44 (0)1483 683148 or email alumni.volunteering@surrey.ac.uk
Marion and John Edwards with an example of the technology involved in the study. This screen uses an avatar to ask questions to patients to assess the status of their health, for example ‘how are you today’ and ‘have you been experiencing any problems?’. This screen uses an avatar to ask questions to patients to assess the status of their health, for example ‘how are you today’ and ‘have you been experiencing any problems?’. Like thousands of people across the UK, Marion Edwards is the main carer for a loved one with dementia: her husband John. Well aware of the many challenges this condition brings, the couple agreed to become early stage ‘trusted users’ in the TIHM (Technology Integrated Health Management) study, which is trialling the use of a range of mobile communications devices to monitor dementia patients in their own homes.

“One of the main attractions of this study is that it can alert you to potential health problems before they become too serious, which I hope will help us to avoid A&E,” says Marion. “It also provides you with peace of mind when you have to go out and leave the person you’re caring for in the home.”

John adds: “I think this technology could be extremely useful for people with dementia. We know someone who could not get a carer, so had to stay in hospital for longer than they needed to. If they had this sort of technology, they would have been able to go home much sooner.”

The TIHM trial, which is being conducted with 700 patients with mild to moderate dementia and 700 carers, draws on Surrey’s expertise in emerging IoT (Internet of Things) technology and includes eight device manufacturers. Electronic engineers within the 5G Innovation Centre have created the complex ‘back end’ system which processes the data being picked up by the devices. Using machine learning algorithms, this then provides ‘alerts’ which appear on screens monitored by a team at the Abraham Cowley Unit in Chertsey, an acute therapy service.

In addition to measuring health indicators such as a patient’s temperature, weight, body mass index and blood pressure, the technology also collects information about their movements around the home, producing an immediate alert if they are wandering too far away or have had a fall. Sensors on fridges, kettles and toasters are used to analyse whether someone is eating and drinking as usual.

Dr Payam Barnaghi of the 5G Innovation Centre, who is the project’s Technical Lead, said: “When combined, this type of information can be very useful. For example, a sensor on the bathroom door tells us how often the patient uses the bathroom, and another device on the bed measures sweat levels. These readings, together with a raised body temperature, could be an early indication of a urinary tract infection which, if untreated, often leads to the person being admitted to hospital.

“You can learn a great deal from people’s daily patterns. If someone starts opening the fridge door repeatedly, that could be a sign of agitation, while a pressure sensor in an armchair can tell us if someone has been inactive for a long period of time.”

The overall aim of the TIHM trial is to enable dementia sufferers to remain in their homes for as long as possible – something that will benefit both patients and the healthcare system. Leading dementia specialist Dr Ramin Nilforooshan of Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust said: “We know that hospital admissions result in reduced function for dementia patients. They often become more confused and are also more likely to pick up an infection or have a fall. Enabling them to remain at home means a better quality of life.”

In addition, the current model of dementia care urgently needs updating. Caring for dementia patients currently costs £23 billion a year, which is more than cardiac disease and cancer care combined and, with longer life expectancies, this is rising.

“This project could translate to any chronic illness such as diabetes, asthma, and depression or anxiety. This is the future of healthcare.”

A pioneering project by Surrey’s 5G Innovation Centre and Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust could pave the way for dementia patients to be cared for at home through the use of advanced communications technology.

Surrey research is helping to change the lives of people like Marion and John. With your help we can do more. This ground-breaking work will make a difference to some of the biggest problems facing the world. To make a gift, please visit surrey.ac.uk/donate
This has been a very exciting year, celebrating our 50 years in Guildford, and we have loved meeting up with our alumni in the UK and around the world to celebrate our golden anniversary. Here we share some of our recent reunions, networking events and receptions. We look forward to meeting many more of you at future events. Please make sure we have your up-to-date contact details by visiting www.surrey.ac.uk/alumni/update-details.

Graduates from the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management enjoyed a reception and talk at the Transport Museum in London.

Guests at our Civil Engineering Annual Lecture, which featured Surrey alumnus Dr Ian Collins of Novum Structures, as our keynote speaker.

Alumni were able to catch up with University news and each other in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Alumni Jakee Feng recalled his Surrey memories for prospective students in Singapore.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Max Lu welcomed retired staff to our traditional Christmas reception, followed by carols in Guildford Cathedral.

Astrophysics professor Justin Read talked about his latest research with guests at our legacy lunch.

We unveiled the timeline of our predecessor institution at the Battersea Showcase event, attended by more than 200 alumni and guests.

Alumni at our Bangkok reunion swapped their Surrey stories.

Alumni returned to advise students on future careers at our law speed-networking event.

Graduate Craig Covil of Arup hosted our New York reunion.
A student’s perspective

Ian Ricketts: the teacher, the actor, the legend

Guildford School of Acting (GSA) at the University is one of the most highly regarded theatre schools in Britain and can also boast the longest serving acting coach in the UK: Ian Ricketts.

Ian, a Teaching Fellow in Acting, has taught some of the country’s most well-known actors and actresses and, such is their affection and respect for him, that former student Brenda Blethyn commissioned a bronze bust of Ian for permanent display at the School.

We asked final-year GSA student Al Coppola to find out more about Ian’s life and his 47-year history with the School.

Al says: “It was a privilege to sit down with Ian and interview him about his life and his time at GSA so far. It was extraordinary, and I hope you enjoy this small snippet.”

The teacher

But for a dirty pair of shoes, Ian may never have joined the GSA. Cleaning them over an out-of-date copy of the Times Higher Education supplement, he noted an advertisement for a director at GSA, or the Bellairs Studio as it was then called. He mentioned it to his wife, Celia, and she insisted that he went and had a look. Reluctantly, he did and the rest is history.

Ian had initially thought of becoming a farmer but didn’t take up his place at the Royal Agricultural College, instead opting for art school in Bath. In the three months prior to starting, he found a job at the Arden Hotel in Stratford, so that he could catch all the plays - Ian maintains that the only thing that had ever mattered to him was Shakespeare. One day, a guest asked him what he wanted to do with his life. It transpired that this guest was the assistant principal of LAMDA, and that autumn Ian started his actor training that set him on his path.

Despite Ian’s huge teaching experience, he admits: “I have never taken a teaching session in my life without feeling nervous beforehand.”

After graduating, Ian undertook some remarkably varied roles and worked with an impressive array of actors. He cites a recording of The Caretaker with Robert Shaw, in which he played Davies as one of his favourites, because it was so unexpected – “the most unlikely piece of casting”.

He was sought for this role after being spotted in a production of Much Ado About Nothing at Regent’s Park Open Air Theatre, opposite Dennis Quilley. Within the space of a year, Ian appeared in the original production of Cider With Rosie, playing Jack Lee – a part which really resonated with him. Starting at the Hampstead Theatre, the production moved up to Norwich where it was seen by the Queen Mother and then into the Garrick Theatre in London’s West End.

Following this, he played a classic Eton bully in an adaptation of David Benedictus’ first novel, The Fourth of June. He very modestly noted that the critics of the day “wrote rather nice things about it”.

The legend

Ian is a legend of sorts: the longest serving acting coach at any UK drama school and famous for his woodland walks, putting students in touch with country smells, plants and creatures. It was first undertaken when he was directing A Midsummer Night’s Dream and was appalled by how little the cast knew of the countryside – it is now part of every student’s education.

We touched on whether he would ever feel the need to slow down. He said: “I am acutely aware of that now. I hope I shall have an intuition of what is appropriate and that I shall achieve it quietly and graciously. But I would like to participate in some measure as long as I can see what that should be.”

He concluded by saying: “Anything that I have been able to offer has been a consequence of the generosity of others’ listening.”

Ian’s kind spirit, wisdom and virtue have made him a cornerstone of life at GSA, and a fundamental part of training for everyone who has passed through its doors. Though Ian insists it is our generosity in listening, I don’t think there is anyone who would concur. It is us who are grateful for anything he is willing to impart, and it is he who is generous enough to share it.
Our 106,000 graduates are spread all over the globe, in more than 180 countries, forming a dynamic alumni network. Here are our top 50 by population.

Going solo: We have just one graduate each living in 17 countries, including the Central African Republic, the Falkland Islands, Papua New Guinea and Turkmenistan.

*Figures June 2017, based on personal and/or business address
Congratulations to the winners of the Vice-Chancellor’s Alumni Awards for 2016 which honour former students who have made an outstanding contribution in their field or to society in the past three years.

In our 50th anniversary year Professor Max Lu introduced four new award categories to further recognise the tremendous impact our alumni have around the world.

Professor Lu said: “It is truly inspiring to learn of the achievements of so many of our alumni who have excelled in their professional lives, enjoyed entrepreneurial success or significantly given back to society.”

Meet our alumni award-winners

**Lifetime Achievement Award:**

**Odaline de la Martinez**

MMus Music 1977

The strains of Afro-Cuban music lullcd conductor and composer Odaline de la Martinez to sleep as a child in her native Cuba and her love for the genre has been an inspiration throughout her career.

“I love Afro-Cuban music,” she said. “It brings back memories of my childhood, falling asleep to the drumming and waking up when it stopped in the middle of the night. It has influenced me greatly.”

Odaline has worked with orchestras across the world, recorded extensively and conducted repertoire from Mozart symphonies to the latest contemporary music, but her early musical heritage continues to motivate her.

Next year, her complete Slavery Opera Trilogy will be premiered at the London Festival of American Music. Odaline drew on her native Cuba’s history for the piece – until the late 1800s, more than one million African slaves were imported to the island’s sugar plantations. Odaline is passionate about showcasing the work and talent of women composers across the world, and her company Lantano, a London-based contemporary music ensemble, has been pivotal in making the work of female artists more widely known. She has blazed her own musical trail, becoming, in 1984, the first woman to conduct a complete BBC prom at the Royal Albert Hall.

Odaline may have left Cuba for America when she was 11 (after the Bay of Pigs Invasion) and since lived in the UK for 40 years, but her native country still inspires her. “I have one more opera in me and it will be about Cuba. I want to tell the story of the people who tried to escape to the US in boats and rafts, not always succeeding.”

**Alumna of the Year:**

**Dr Lina Fahmi Hammad**

MSc Medical Physics 1993

Dr Lina Hammad is a trailblazer in her field and role model. She is the first Saudi female graduate from King Saud University and the first Saudi MSc and PhD holder in medical physics. And, as Dean of Princess Nourah University, Lina is opening a path for female students to participate in higher education.

During her deanship at the only women’s university in Saudi Arabia, she has established two units that will increase female empowerment and volunteer work. ‘The Innovation Unit’ encourages students and academic staff to work on innovations for medical problems and apply for patent, and ‘The Society Initiatives Unit’ collaborates with different institutes outside the University for community benefit.

“These initiatives have taught students the importance of using the knowledge gained to help and educate society,” said Lina. “The journey for the young Saudi female is long and full of challenges and I hope my work will empower young Saudi women and facilitate knowledge transfer to a large portion of them.”

The aspect she most enjoys about her role is inspiring staff and students to be creative and achieve. Her future goals include increasing scientific research and opening postgraduate programmes at Princess Nourah University.

On being named Alumna of the Year, Lina said: “It was an honour and great pleasure to receive my award. It demonstrates the great relationship the University of Surrey is building with its students and graduates.”

**Alumni Achievement Award:**

**Dr Y Gavriel Ansara**

PhD Psychology 2014

As a child, Dr Gávi Ansara was surrounded by people of different faiths and cultures, living in different parts of the world. These experiences have left a lasting impression upon him and his work in human rights and social justice can be traced back to the stories he heard and the places he visited from an early age.

Looking back on his childhood, Gávi believes it was inevitable his later life would be driven by a passion to effect social change to improve people’s lives.

He said: “I grew up in rural and urban China, Australia, and elsewhere. My parents had many close social bonds with people who were immigrants or refugees from around the world. Even before I started school, I understood that there were many different ways to view the world and many different customs and rules for social behaviour.”

Now based in Australia, Gávi is internationally recognised as a leading scholar on intersex, trans, and non-binary gender health and as a health policy consultant at government level. His research explores the ideology of cisgenderism – a world view that invalidates people who designate their own genders in ways that differ from those assigned to them by others.

Gávi acknowledges that being a pioneer for social justice can be lonely, exhausting, and unappreciated, but he says the highlights, such as his recent Surrey award, re-energise his efforts.

“Being chosen as one of Surrey’s Alumni Achievement Award-winners is deeply meaningful to me, because it shows that this work is valued. I hope it will encourage more Surrey graduates to undertake social justice work and remind people who already do this work that their achievements matter.”

“Going viral”

Great relationship the University of Surrey to receive my award. It demonstrates the importance of using the knowledge gained to help and educate society.” said Lina. “The journey for the young Saudi female is long and full of challenges and I hope my work will empower young Saudi women and facilitate knowledge transfer to a large portion of them.”
Dr Kathleen McGuire
MMus Music 1995

International musician Dr Kathleen McGuire has conducted at some of the world’s finest venues (Carnegie Hall, Kennedy Center, Sydney Opera House), but, ultimately, it’s the outcomes from her musical projects of which she is most proud.

She first saw how music could change hearts and minds when she conducted the choir at annual memorial services in Melbourne in the early 1990s, honouring those who had died as a result of AIDS/HIV.

She said: “I witnessed how the music we offered helped family members to cross boundaries of homophobia and misunderstanding. The music also offered solace and hope.”

Australian Kathleen went on to found the Singers of the Street (SOS) choir in San Francisco, many of whose members were homeless.

More recently, she composed, collaboratively, a major choral work with social justice themes that have had national and international impact: Street Requiem, a cantata dedicated to those who have lost their lives on the street (which has been performed more than 20 times since 2014), and No Escape, a choral suite for women inspired by true stories of family violence (which was shown on national TV in Australia with the findings of a Royal Commission into Family Violence).

She said: “Raising awareness, educating children from a young age to stop the cycle of violence, and sharing real stories is most proud.

“I witnessed how the music we offered helped family members to cross boundaries of homophobia and misunderstanding. The music also offered solace and hope.”

Alumni Achievement Award:

Polly Risbridger
BA Dance and Culture 2002

Watching a group of 200 older people from east London take over the South Bank Centre to celebrate dance is one of the highlights of Polly Risbridger’s career.

As Director of East London Dance, this event, inspired by the London 2012 Olympic Games, captures the ethos and vision for which the charity was founded – to create dance projects and experiences for the people of east London and beyond.

Polly has led East London Dance since 2013. Its projects have encompassed working with 100 young men with emotional and behavioural difficulties, taking the ‘Big Dance Bus’ out to underprivileged areas, and a programme of dance participation and performance for young Newham residents with emerging mental health difficulties.

Polly said: “I have a real passion for giving a voice to the people who don’t get recognition, to nurture hidden talent. Each perspective is valuable and makes art richer and I love seeing the impact it has on people’s lives.”

This will be achieved on a grand scale next summer when East London Dance joins forces with world-renowned choreographer Hofesh Shechter to produce East Wall, a spectacle of dance and live music in the moat at the Tower of London.

Alumni Achievement Award:

Janet Preston
BSc Physics 1978
MSc Physics 2015

A love of learning and a desire to pass on her experiences has been the driving factor behind Janet Preston’s long association with the University – first as a physics undergraduate in the 1970s, later as a mentor and ambassador for Surrey and recently as a Masters and PhD student.

A strong advocate for the University, Janet has been involved in a variety of roles, including student mentor, careers advisor, advisory board member for the Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences and member of the disbursement committee for the Annual Fund grants.

“I enjoy giving back and have a passion for passing on my experience in an informal way,” said Janet.

“The beauty of the volunteering programme is that you can do something as soon as you graduate, such as helping out at an Open day, or reconnect later, and pass on your skills and tips – people are always welcome back.”

After graduating in 1978, Janet embarked on a business career at a number of blue chip companies and was a partner at KPMG before setting up her own consultancy, Gold Fusion.

She had initially planned to take a Masters after her BSc and deferred for a year to raise funds but became subsumed by the business world.

Almost 40 years later, Janet decided to finish what she had planned. Initially aiming just to pass, Janet graduated with a distinction in her Masters and is now halfway through her PhD in astrophysics.

Lewis Young
LLB Law 2012

Lewis Young enjoyed his experience at Surrey so much that volunteering in a variety of roles is his way of showing his appreciation.

Lewis has been a regular volunteer since graduating – talking to prospective students and their families at Open Days and taking part in a series of law speed networking events to help his career path with current undergraduates.

He said: “I have always felt passionately about the University, and being able to share this with prospective students means that my experiences can be of benefit to someone else. I enjoy helping out at the law speed networking events too – an opportunity to talk to a range of people from different areas is a real help to undergraduates.”

His volunteering activities played a part in securing his first job as it demonstrated a level of loyalty valued by his firm, The Partnership in Guildford. Lewis joined as legal assistant and is now a trainee solicitor, due to qualify next year.

Since graduating, a particular highlight for Lewis was taking part in the 50th Anniversary Celebratory Procession in October to mark the inauguration of the University’s first Chancellor. He was honoured to be involved and says it reinforced the community feeling which drew him to study at Surrey in the first place.

UK Volunteers of the Year:

Janet Preston

“Raising awareness, educating children from a young age to stop the cycle of violence, and sharing real stories is most proud.”

Lewis Young

“I enjoy giving back and have a passion for passing on my experience in an informal way.”
Meet our alumni award-winners

**Jincheng Feng and Lynal Low**

Our alumni presence across the world is flourishing and we have developed new opportunities for internationally-based alumni to connect with one another and prospective students overseas.

Leading the way are two of our alumni based in Singapore who have volunteered at numerous events since graduating in 2013. Lynal Low and Jincheng (Jaycee) Feng are exemplary international ambassadors.

They have volunteered at our Singapore student recruitment events many times over the past four years, and attended a recruitment fair on our behalf.

Jaycee, pictured on the right, said: “Lynal and I have volunteered at education and recruitment fairs, and engagement and alumni events in Singapore and, whilst it does take a little bit of commitment, it is insignificant compared to the education and opportunities that Surrey has accorded us with.”

Lynal added: “It is a great honour to be recognised alongside Jaycee and we hope that this will encourage more alumni (not just Singaporeans) to step forward and help contribute to Surrey.”

**Lee Reynolds**

Bmus Music 2007

For someone who recognises many conductors’ careers don’t really get going until later in life, Lee Reynolds has already made a significant impact in his chosen profession. At the age of just 31, he regularly conducts the London Symphony Orchestra (LSO), has worked at the Royal Opera House and holds the post of Music Director for Glyndebourne Youth Opera.

“One of the challenges of being a young conductor is having the confidence to direct very experienced musicians in orchestras,” said Lee. “It can be really difficult and often an orchestra will make a judgement about you very quickly, before you’ve even said a word.”

Despite this belief, Lee has an impressive CV. As part of his long relationship with the LSO, he has conducted recording sessions at all of the major London studios, and performances at the Barbican, LSO St Luke’s and the Berlin Philharmonie.

Alongside running singing seminars for music teachers through The Prince’s Teaching Institute, Lee has also developed a choral outreach programme, going into some of the most challenging secondary schools in London to engage the young people in singing workshops.

“I work with small groups, exposing the students to classical music. It’s part of their musical DNA that music has to be the latest thing, or it’s of no value. We tackle that perception and try to make music written 100 or 400 years ago relevant to them. I get huge enjoyment from seeing their attitudes change.”

**Kanayo Phoebe Dike-Oduah**

BSc Psychology 2015

Becoming Deputy Head of Sixth Form at the age of 23 is a huge achievement for alumna Kanayo Phoebe Dike-Oduah - even more so because when she graduated just two years ago with a degree in Psychology she had no plans to enter the teaching profession.

Kanayo was initially drawn to the area of organisational psychology but, after spending a month in a business environment, felt unfulfilled and realised that teaching was where her heart lay. Kanayo now teaches psychology to 14 to 19-year-olds at Edenham High School in Croydon and is passionate about inspiring her students to succeed.

“I love it when my pupils have that light bulb moment when they finally get something and become really engaged. I am teaching future doctors, solicitors and other professionals – I am a significant part of their journey.”

Yet, it could have been very different for Kanayo. Growing up in a single-parent family in south London, she was told that children from her background did not achieve. Aged 14, Kanayo read about a theory called the ‘self-fulfilling prophecy’, where someone is given a label and, consequently, lives up to it. In her own words, she decided to give herself the label of an achiever.

And she has certainly done just that. Alongside her teaching success, Kanayo also won the Young Achiever of the Year for 2016 from Women for Africa whose aim is to celebrate and empower women from African countries.

**“One of the challenges of being a young conductor is having the confidence to direct very experienced musicians in orchestras.”**
Nominate for 2017
Do you know a Surrey or Battersea graduate who has made an outstanding contribution to their field, industry or society in the past three years? Nominations for the 2017 awards will open in September, so please let us know about the amazing work of our alumni!
More details at: surrey.ac.uk/alumni/your-community/vice-chancellor-alumni-awards

Young Achiever Award:
Dr Tao Wang
PhD Physics 2009
Tao Wang was initially drawn to Surrey because of its academic reputation and its beautiful campus, but soon found he also enjoyed its atmosphere and ethos.
Memories of hiking along the River Wey on a summer weekend are some of Tao’s happiest recollections of his time at Surrey.
He said: “When I arrived, I was a freshman in science and research but I made progress by following advice initially and then eventually became independent. I also developed more understanding of different cultures and customs and learned to respect others and appreciate difference.”
Tao is now a professor in the School of Materials Science and Engineering at Wuhan University of Technology in China. He has achieved outstanding results since leaving Surrey, with over 50 papers in high-profile journals on his research in optoelectronics and polymer materials.
One of Tao’s career highlights was being awarded a Thousand Talent Professor position by the Chinese government to set up a lab for research of his choice. His research area focuses on optoelectronics and renewable energy, making devices to convert light into electricity, or convert electricity into light.
The most enjoyable aspects of Tao’s career are twofold: “One part is that the research outcomes from my team are recognised as useful and helpful by peers.
Another part I really enjoy is passing on knowledge to students and making them stronger.”

A day of celebration with our Chinese alumni
More than 300 of our Chinese alumni attended a special Beijing graduation celebration as part of our 50th anniversary festivities.
The event provided a wonderful opportunity to celebrate alumni achievements and mark the University’s golden anniversary year with family, friends, the Vice-Chancellor and academic staff of the University.
The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Max Lu, said: “The event marked a significant milestone as this is the first time we have celebrated the achievements of our Chinese students in Beijing. The contributions our Chinese students and graduates make to the University are part of what make Surrey so unique. The diverse nature of our campus allows us to ‘create wonder’ and be a force for good across the globe.
“I hope all our graduates have left Surrey with fond memories, lasting friendships and a real sense of achievement.”
Surrey alumni making a mark

Graduate’s charity brings hope to forgotten communities

When Surrey alumna and science teacher Lynne Symonds was asked at an international conference how she coped with girls dying in her school, she was shocked at the question.

She learned for the first time of the real hardship facing children in the Northern Region of Ghana.

The harsh climate, the neglect of education, the remote location and the lack of most of the basic needs of society means it is one of the poorest places in the world. In such an environment, early marriage was the norm.

Many girls fell into the hands of traffickers and were forced into slavery or prostitution, returning home to die when they became too sick to work.

For those who did attend school, it necessitated a long trek from their remote villages, or lodging in nearby homes where they were often subject to abuse.

However, Lynne’s chance meeting more than 20 years ago with Karimu Nachina, the then headmaster at Wulugu Secondary School in Ghana, has led to a charity that has improved the lives of 350,000 children.

It has built or renovated over 50 schools, provided safe hostels for students and teachers, and set up training programmes, working with hundreds of villages across the Northern Region of the country.

The Wulugu Project began with supplying books and stationery to Karimu’s school (Wulugu Secondary – hence the name of the charity) and now not only supports the education of children in the most neglected villages, but also offers loans to help mothers set up their own businesses.

This makes it possible for all their children, particularly daughters, to regularly attend school. Before this, most girls were kept at home to help look after their siblings and work on the land. It also provides simple rooms for women teachers so they feel safe and stay in post.

In addition to the primary and junior schools supported by the charity, it has also established seven vocational schools. Young women with no or little prior schooling are taught reading, writing, arithmetic, entrepreneurship and health education and given training in trades that will enable them to earn a living locally, to encourage them not to travel to the cities for menial work.

Lynne, who graduated from Surrey with an MSc in the Practice of Science Education in 1979, said: “We see the girls and women just growing in confidence, having greater control of their lives and having ambition. Fewer girls are getting married at an early age, some go on to university and others set up local industries in their village and make life healthier and happier for their families.

“The real key to our success is that the local communities respect the work of the charity and actively work to help us – it is their project. We are so grateful for the support we have from all sectors of the local communities and all religious groups. The imams, village women and PTAs are particularly helpful. I only visit at most once a year as they don’t need me!”

Clearly the local people think otherwise.

Lynne is so well respected by those she works with that she was made the first female chief of the Mangnuni tribe in 1994, followed by Queen of all Philanthropists of the Gonja tribe in 2003, and Queen of Peace and Friendship of the Dagomba tribe in 2012.

In tribute to Lynne, Isaac Mumuni Dramani, the chief executive of the Sawla district which is home to one of the vocational schools, said: “Before you came to our aid we had no hope. Our young girls ran across the border thinking they could be rich. They were taken as slaves and came home when they were so sick they could no longer work. They came home to die.”

For Lynne, there is still much to do. With so many girls now attending primary school there is a great need for more junior schools to continue education up to the age of 16. This is a real testament to the success of the project - 20 years ago, only five per cent of women in Northern Ghana could read or write.

Lynne said: “Every time I go back it takes my breath away to see how much we have achieved, but it also reminds me how dangerous and deprived the region is. Our vision is to make malnutrition, disease and poverty a thing of the past. This can best be achieved through education. We are there to help the forgotten communities.”

The charity has improved the lives of 350,000 children and has built or renovated over 50 schools.
Most alumni have special memories of their student days at Surrey, but for some, the story doesn’t end with graduation. Here we feature three former students who have chosen to remain at, or return to, the University as academic staff – passing on their knowledge and enthusiasm for their subject to a new generation.

Professor Andrew Lockwood

When Professor Andrew Lockwood applied to study Hotel and Catering Administration (now known as Hospitality Management) in 1970, there were only two UK universities offering the course – Surrey and Strathclyde. He says: “I chose Surrey because I fancied the campus environment and I thought it was likely to be warmer!”

It turned out to be a good decision. Coming to Surrey from his home town of Scarborough meant many new experiences for Professor Lockwood – such as being introduced to curry for the first time during Freshers’ Week, with a friend suggesting that he try a chicken vindaloo!

Other memories include ‘racing from our house in Third Court to a nine o’clock lecture with five minutes to spare, and arriving just before Professor Iftik Medlik locked the lecture door’. And as Entertainments Secretary for the Students’ Union, he remembers ‘organising for ‘The Who’ to play at Surrey, selling 1,000 tickets within a day and listening to the opening bars of Baba O’Riley streaming from the hall as the band tested the equipment’.

Returning to Surrey as a Lecturer in Hotel and Catering Management in 1986, Professor Lockwood has remained at the University ever since, conducting research on the effects of management theories on the service industries, and teaching the next generation of hospitality professionals.

So how much has changed since the Surrey of the 70s? “The trees have grown, the car parks are bigger but more crowded, and there are many more students from many more countries: Surrey is still a wonderful place.”

Dr Kathryn Hart

As a Surrey student Kathryn enjoyed Wednesday nights at Bojangles, indie nights in the lower bar and ‘every possible fancy dress occasion’.

On finishing her degree in Nutrition and Dietetics in 1999, Kathryn remained at Surrey to do her PhD and was then lucky enough to be offered a tutor post. She admits: “To be honest I fell into my academic career, but I also quickly realised that it was really rewarding and a lot of fun.”

Today, as an expert in dietary assessment, she is involved in important research projects focused on early life nutrition, such as helping to establish Vitamin D requirements for children and adolescents.

Reflecting on how university life has changed since her student days, she says: “In an ever more competitive market, universities have to be more business-like than ever before, but it’s also vital that we give staff and students time to think, create, discuss and debate. Hopefully that’s a balance we achieve at Surrey.”

Dr Tim Brown

A specialist in radio frequency engineering, Dr Tim Brown combines his role as Director of Postgraduate Studies in the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering with his pioneering research into numerous technologies involving radio.

“When I first visited Surrey,” he remembers, “what I liked most was its focus on technology and the fact that students and staff were well-integrated within a closely-knit community.”

He went on to spend nine years as a student at the University, first studying for an Electrical and Electronic Engineering degree, then a PhD, and finally spending a two-year stint as a Sabbatical Officer.

This gave him the opportunity to get involved in many different aspects of Surrey life, including occupying the roles of Students’ Union Executive Officer and President of the Postgraduate Association.

One of his abiding memories is of ‘going up to the cathedral at night and projecting semaphore signals to the whole of Guildford by standing in front of the floodlights! It was one of those things you only do as a student’.

Having returned to Surrey in 2007 as an academic, Tim says: “It’s been great to be able to carry on the legacy of what I learned here. I’ve now spent half my life at Surrey and have seen many changes. I’ve sometimes wondered if we were ever going to stop building new buildings! But there’s still a sense of space and peace on campus and, of course, it’s lovely to have the lake.”
Alumni support from around the world

The support we receive from our international alumni and partners plays a critical role in Surrey’s development and global outreach and in maintaining our reputation as a leading institution.

Within the Surrey community we have a number of thriving groups of friendly and engaged alumni sharing a passion and commitment to Surrey. They act as regional ambassadors and trusted advocates, support current and prospective students and keep Surrey graduates connected to the University and to each other.

Hong Kong community

Our newest group was set up this year in Hong Kong with Dr Robin Bradbeer, Class of 67, Victor Cheung, Class of 88, and Trevor Jarrett, Class of 74.

There are over 2,000 Surrey alumni in Hong Kong and around 420 current students from the region studying at Surrey. The Hong Kong Surrey alumni club aims to organise social and networking opportunities, keep alumni informed of what is happening at Surrey and support the University by helping with student recruitment, building Surrey’s reputation and fundraising, in particular for The Chancellor’s 50th Anniversary Appeal.

US support

One of our longest-serving alumni groups is The Friends of the University of Surrey, Inc in the US, established in 2003.

Alumna Susie Chana has recently become a member of the Board to help develop a new plan of activity and engagement with our graduates based in America. He joins a group of alumni which includes Neil Chapman, who graduated in Chemical Engineering in 1984 and is President of ExxonMobil Chemical Company, and Dr Mark Rhodes-Brown of Renaissance Technologies, who completed his Physics PhD in 1977.

Susie, who graduated with a BSc in Physics in 1987, is a seasoned global executive who has held progressively senior management positions in the corporate sector and is currently a Harvard Fellow at the Harvard Advanced Leadership Initiative.

He said: “This is an amazing time for the University of Surrey with the appointment of Professor Lu as Vice-Chancellor and the 50th anniversary. I am honoured to be joining the Board and look forward to working with alumni, promoting the University to prospective students and helping to drive industry engagement in support of the new strategy for Surrey.”

There are many ways to support Surrey from afar. We have a number of volunteering opportunities available, such as international ambassador, and we are always happy to help you promote a reunion or networking event.

Please contact alumni.volunteering@surrey.ac.uk.

Everyone can leave a legacy

Felicity Cobbold is one of the many veterinary students who will benefit from a legacy by Kenneth Longhurst who wanted to ensure our undergraduates enjoy the best resources and facilities.

Kenneth wasn’t a Surrey alumnus but had heard about the School of Veterinary Medicine’s innovative approach to education and wished to give our students the best opportunity to succeed and, in turn, make a real difference as 21st century vets.

Any gift – large or small – can have a tremendous impact on the University.

To find out more about leaving a legacy in your will, please contact Chris Stevens on +44 (0)1483 682873.
Keep in touch

As a Surrey graduate, you are part of a community of over 106,000 former students. We are here to help you stay in touch, keep you updated on your University and fellow graduates and show how you can help Surrey continue to thrive and grow. There are so many ways that you can stay involved with us, wherever you are in the world.

If you have recently changed your contact details, please let us know.

Find out more about leaving a gift in my will
Find out more about volunteering at the University
Find out more about making a gift to Surrey.

Gold award in our 50th anniversary year

It’s been a golden year for us! Not only have we celebrated our 50th anniversary but we have also been awarded a gold award for our teaching and learning in the first ever Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF).

The new government award scheme recognises Surrey as providing teaching and learning at the highest quality level and reinforces our position as a leading academic institution for current and prospective students. Only 20 per cent of the 295 institutions in the UK which entered the TEF were awarded gold status.

Make a gift to Surrey

To mark our special year, we have launched The Chancellor’s 50th Anniversary Appeal which will help students from low-income backgrounds receive a world-class education and support pioneering research to solve global problems.

As a charity we rely on the support of our donors and every gift has a tangible impact.

For example:

- £50 will form part of a hardship grant for a student in financial crisis
- £75 will go towards a scholarship for a student from a low-income household
- £150 will contribute to a research project helping to tackle global problems

Data protection

The University of Surrey uses your personal data for a number of reasons, but primarily to enable us to keep you informed of our news and engage you in activities that might be of interest to you. Your data is held securely and is only used in line with data protection legislation. More information about this can be found in our new privacy notice which can be found at surrey.ac.uk/alumnidataprotection. This details the types of personal data we hold, how we protect it, and how we use it in order to support our global community of alumni and friends and the work of the wider University.