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An Overview of 2010 – 11 from the Vice-Chancellor

At a time of change and uncertainty across Higher Education, the University of Surrey's continued growth and success is a source of great pride.

Throughout the 2010–11 academic year, our students and staff have continued to thrive and excel in learning, teaching and research.

A key asset for any university is its people and we are delighted to have seen the number of talented young men and women choosing to study at Surrey increasing at an impressive rate.

Applications for an undergraduate place at the University rose 7.2 per cent on 2010, exceeding the national average of 4.4 per cent, and we had more than seven applicants for every place in 2011.

The record number of students with A Level grades of AAB or above and average entry tariff of 432 points – 35 per cent higher than in 2005 – in our 2011 intake is testament to our continued growth.

We currently have nine subjects with top 10 placings in the latest The Times Good University Guide and seven in the top 10 of The Guardian University Guide.

Our performance has also been recognised in the national league tables, with Surrey rising in all six of the major guides.

A university education encompasses much more than what is learned in lectures and seminars and the past year has seen us make huge improvements to our student experience.

Our 17,900 undergraduates and postgraduates now have access to the new Library and Learning Centre, a purpose-built extension to the existing library that has increased study space at Surrey by 30 per cent.

The modern building is open 24-hours-a-day, six-days-a-week and houses a new shop, bookstore and informal seating area, providing our students with a studious environment in which to meet, work and develop.

The opening year of Surrey Sports Park has been an unmitigated success, with more than one million people passing through its doors since April 2010.

For students, the facility has provided vastly improved access to state-of-the-art facilities for recreation, training and competition and has helped us rise up the latest British Universities and Colleges Sport rankings.

Further developments, including the opening of the £4.3 million Ivy Arts Centre, have provided us with a campus that nurtures and builds our students and staff.

Surrey is a research-led institution, and the figures highlight the success of our approach. We are ranked number one in the country for research efficiency and are number 10 for Research Council Income in 2010.

This Annual Review celebrates the successes of the University, its students and its staff and the change that Surrey continues to make on the global stage.

As we enter a new era of Higher Education funding, Surrey is well placed to continue to build on its many achievements and look forward to future successes.

Professor Christopher Snowden

As we enter a new era of Higher Education funding, Surrey is well placed to continue to build on its many achievements and look forward to future successes.

Professor Christopher Snowden
Vice-Chancellor
Roaring success for Surrey in latest league tables

Surrey completed a memorable clean sweep over the last academic year by claiming higher positions in all six major national higher education league tables.

The University’s 20-place improvement to 21st in the 2012 The Sunday Times University Guide followed similar boosts in The Guardian, The Times, the Complete University Guide, the National Student Survey and the QS World Rankings.

Students, staff and alumni had further cause to celebrate after Surrey was also shortlisted for The Sunday Times University of the Year and the Times Higher’s Most Improved Student Experience awards.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Christopher Snowden said he was “thrilled” with the successes, adding: “That Surrey has climbed up the league tables this year is indicative of the hard work and dedication of all staff and students in ensuring that we strive to provide the best Higher Education experience.”

Surrey’s rise in the latest rankings is a reflection of its progress across a number of areas, including student satisfaction, teaching and research quality, entrance qualifications and degree results.

Alastair McCall, Editor of The Sunday Times University Guide, said “A sustained period of campus investment has given Surrey’s students facilities to rival any in Britain, providing the platform from which the University can go on to achieve at an even higher level.”

Surrey’s performance in the league tables

League table 2012 Position

the guardian 19th
THE TIMES 29th
THE SUNDAY TIMES 21st
THE COMPLETE UNIVERSITY GUIDE INDEPENDENT-TRUSTEES 28th
THE 26th

There is every reason to believe that the University’s astounding 20-place rise can be sustained.

Alastair McCall
Editor of The Sunday Times University Guide

Awards

The world-class quality of our learning, teaching and research earned the University of Surrey and its students and staff global recognition and reward throughout 2010-11…

Satellite pioneer Professor Sir Martin Sweeting became the first person to have his name inscribed on the prestigious new Guildford Roll of Honour.

Sir Martin received the award in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the economy and profile of Guildford worldwide.

Surrey Space Centre PhD student Chris Brunskill’s dedication to promoting the study of space earned him a Sir Arthur C. Clarke award.

Chris received the prize, known as the Oscar of the space industry, for his voluntary work with the UK Students Exploration and Development of Space society.

Dr Lloyd Wood, of Surrey’s Centre for Communications Systems Research, was shortlisted in the Achievement in Space Research category for his groundbreaking work on using the internet in space.

Computing student Vedika Dalmia was hailed as a “fantastic example” to other students after scooping the Anita Borg Scholarship from communications giant Google.

The scholarship rewards women who excel in computing and technology and included a trip to an exclusive retreat at Google’s Engineering Centre in Zurich.

Professor Tom Quinn was made a Fellow of the American Heart Association for his “major contribution” to the field of quality and outcomes research, policy and practice in cardiovascular care.

The Professor of Clinical Practice, who enjoyed a 30-year career in the NHS before joining Surrey in 2009, has previously received Fellowships from the Royal College of Nursing and the European Society of Cardiology.

The excellence of Professor Debra Skene’s research into the human circadian rhythm timing system was rewarded with a prestigious Royal Society Wolfson Research Merit Award.

The Neuroendocrinology expert’s award recognises her “proven outstanding ability to undertake independent, original research”.

The Royal Society awarded its Clifford Patterson Prize Lecture to Professor Ravi Silva, Director of Surrey’s Advanced Technology Institute.

The award from the country’s oldest scientific academic organisation recognised Professor Silva’s outstanding contribution in the fields of carbon nanoscience and nanotechnology.

Professor Mark Olssen joined a select group when he was awarded the title of academican by the Academy of Social Sciences.

Professor Mark Olssen received the honour in recognition of his “distinguished contribution” to social science throughout his career.
As well as being a world-class centre for learning and teaching, the University of Surrey is home to research of truly global significance. Our academics are engaged in groundbreaking work that is making a tangible difference to the world around us in areas as diverse as engineering, space and politics. We are proud to be a catalyst for positive change around the world.
Groundbreaking discovery boosts male cancer screening

Surrey researchers made a potentially life-saving breakthrough in the early diagnosis of prostate cancer.

The experts from the University’s Postgraduate Medical School worked alongside The Prostate Project to develop a simple test that detects a protein called Engrailed-2 (EN2) in men’s urine.

As EN2 is usually only found in developing embryos, its presence in an adult body suggests that a person has cancer, allowing patients to access vital early treatment.

Professor Hardev Pandha, The Prostate Project’s Chair of Urological Oncology at Surrey, said: “We looked at the tests of 100 men with prostate cancer and found the protein was made in the cancers in more than 90 of them.

“The eureka moment was when we realised that not only was EN2 switched on, but little packages of the protein were made by cancer cells and appeared to be transported into the prostate ductal fluid, which is important for reproductive health.

“We hypothesised that EN2 would not only be present in the fluid, but it may also appear in the urine.”

One of the key benefits of the EN2 test is its simplicity. Instead of the blood test and biopsy required by the existing PSA system, the new method can be carried out in a doctor’s surgery in a fraction of the time.

Professor Pandha, who carried out the study with Dr Richard Morgan, continued: “Its potential importance lies in the fact that it could be adapted for clinical procedures.

“We have developed a stick test so that a family physician could make a diagnosis in their surgery. The future implication is that this could be suitable for developing countries and point-of-care services around the world.”

With the EN2 test concept in place, the Surrey team are now working alongside academic and industry partners to further their understanding of the protein’s link to prostate cancer.

The University has teamed up with London’s Guy’s Hospital and Cornell University and the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, both based in the United States, to examine whether any connections exist between the amount of EN2 in urine and the scale of cancer present.

The speed and collaboration with which we have got this done would have been very difficult to achieve in any other centre. — Professor Hardev Pandha, Chair of Urological Oncology

Healthy development

Carbon atoms fuel medical breakthrough

Microscopic capsules 10,000 times smaller than a human hair could be used to deliver cancer-fighting drugs, a Surrey team discovered.

Research from scientists at the University found that carbon nanotubes (CNTs) – hollow cylinders made up of carbon atoms – can be harnessed to target cancer-causing agents within human cells.

The CNTs could deliver their anti-cancer payloads directly to tumours, which would then expel the nanotubes within 24 hours.

Johnjoe McFadden, Professor of Molecular Genetics and lead scientist for the project, said: “This research shows that CNTs do not accumulate inside living cells, so they can be used to deliver drugs or genes without causing any permanent harm.

“Although much still needs to be done, this is an essential step to developing CNTs as revolutionary therapeutic agents.”

Professor Ravi Silva, Director of Surrey’s Advanced Technology Institute and co-author of the report, said that nanotechnology could be used to develop new treatments for other diseases, including diabetes and coronary heart disease.

He added: “The hope is that customised nanoparticles such as CNTs can be injected in the body where they will fix a defective gene or deliver a drug to a sick cell.

“In this study we show some of the fears associated with nano-toxicology can be mitigated against by carefully controlling the parameters and understanding the key issues in preparing nano-vehicles for theranostic applications.”
**Research adds new dimension to surgery**

Medical experts remotely operated hi-tech 3D cameras to carry out the procedure, which allows surgeons to operate on the human body through tiny incisions.

The clinical breakthrough was at the forefront of wider study into operator fatigue carried out by University academics and surgeons at the Royal Surrey County Hospital.

In addition to the 3D surgical evaluation, the project called on the expertise of Dr David Windridge, of Surrey’s Centre for Vision, Speech and Signal Processing. Dr Windridge used eye-tracking and computer-vision technology in the 3D environment to measure the changes in surgeons’ focus of attention during procedures.

He said: “By measuring attention while performing operations using state-of-the-art 3D surgical equipment, this collaboration gives us a unique opportunity both to improve surgical safety and also address far-reaching questions about how the human mind focuses attention while performing complex tasks.”

**Study sheds light on vitamin D-ivide**

Researchers from Surrey discovered that differences in exposure to sunlight have created a north-south vitamin D divide.

Working alongside academics from the University of Aberdeen, the Surrey team found that women living in Scotland received 50 per cent less sunlight – a key source of vitamin D – than their counterparts in the south.

And as vitamin D deficiency can lead to greater risk of bone diseases such as osteoporosis, the research has wide-ranging implications on health care, especially in the winter.

Team member Dr Helen Macdonald said: “We cannot assume that winter requirements of vitamin D are met by the stores accumulated over summer if people do not get enough sunlight to make enough of it.

“We need to look at appropriate guidelines regarding safe sunlight exposure to strike the balance between ensuring adequate protection from the sun and obtaining vitamin D from UVB rays.”

**Bright solution to older people’s sleep problems**

Greater exposure to bright lights can help older people get a good night’s sleep, a collaborative research programme found.

Academics from the SomnIA (Sleep in Ageing) project found that either switching to more powerful lights or getting more natural sunlight can help mature people nod off more easily.

The study, which included members from the Universities of Surrey, Bath, Loughborough and King’s College London, aimed to discover ways to help older people sleep without having to resort to medication.

Somnia lead Professor Sara Arber, of Surrey’s Sociology Department, said: “Given the importance of sleep for health, well-being and maintaining daytime activity, as well as the deterioration of sleep with increasing age, it is remarkable that there has previously been so little research on how to optimise sleep among older people.

“The Somnia research project has shown that there are ways to improve older people’s sleep without recourse to prescription sleeping medications.”

Somnia was a four-year, multi-disciplinary project which examined the main factors leading to poor sleep among older people living at home or in care homes.

**Intelligent mic brings conversation clarity to hard-of-hearing**

Obstructive background sound may be a thing of the past for the hard-of-hearing thanks to a hi-tech microphone developed by Surrey scientists.

Created by academics working alongside the Royal National Institute for the Deaf (RNID), the “Mic Array” uses sound separation technology to pick out individual voices and minimise others.

Dr Banu Gurel, the inventor of the system and a visiting research fellow at Surrey’s Centre for Communications Systems Research, said: “The biggest problem for hard-of-hearing people is hearing more than one sound or voice at the same time. Our technology uses noise separation software to allow people to focus on one voice and effectively turn off background noise.”

A prototype of the system was tested by 40 RNID volunteers who compared the intelligibility of a standard omni-directional microphone with the new Mic Array.

Tom Fiddian, senior designer at RNID, explained that the results were overwhelmingly positive.

He said: “Even with the background noise as the sound source, we found that the Mic Array is four times better than a normal microphone and just as good as if there was no background noise at all.”

The new technology is especially beneficial for people with wide hearing loss who usually struggle to follow conversations in noisy environments.

Martyn Buxton-Hoare, University of Surrey Assistant Director for Technology Transfer, said: “This technology will be particularly useful in very noisy places, such as restaurants, or at home or work when groups of people are talking at the same time.”

The University of Surrey and RNID are working together to find a manufacturer to bring the technology to market.

**Smartphones help Surrey team break final frontier**

Space experts from the University of Surrey enlisted mobile phone technology to create a lightweight satellite that will be launched into orbit in 2012.

Researchers from Surrey Space Centre (SSC) and Surrey Satellite Technology Ltd developed STRaND-1 during the last academic year to demonstrate how off-the-shelf components can be crafted into a viable satellite.

SSC’s Dr Chris Bridges, STRaND-1 lead researcher, explained that smartphone components such as sensors, video cameras, GPS systems and Wi-Fi radios, are just as advanced as those found on existing satellite systems but at a fraction of the size, weight and cost.

He said: “Because many smartphones also run on free operating systems that lend themselves to online software developers, the creators of applications for smartphones could feasibly develop apps for satellites.

“IF a smartphone can be proven to work in space, it opens up lots of new technologies to a multitude of people and companies who usually can’t afford it. It’s a real game-changer for the industry.”
Healthy relationship

Surrey academics linked up with Government experts to help tackle global animal and public health issues.

Under the innovative partnership, experts from the University’s Microbial Sciences Department are working with scientists from the Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA), part of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Research collaborations between the two groups are focusing on crucial areas including Salmonella, Tuberculosis, human gastroenteritis viruses, E.coli and the emergence of antimicrobial resistance in food-producing animals.

Professor Martin Woodward, Head of Bacteriology and chair of the VLA Training and Postgraduate Education Committee, said: “The coming together of the VLA with the University of Surrey is without doubt a major step forward for both institutions.

“Bringing together the highly-specialist skills and knowledge bases of these two powerhouses is generating a great deal of potential advances which are now being realised.

“Within a very short time, a plethora of new opportunities have arisen already ranging from inventive EPSRC projects, new ideas in post genomics and systems biology through to PhD programmes, new undergraduate courses and new approaches to training.

“In these challenging financial times, close working relations will not only strengthen both institutions but also provide long-term resilience in our respective fields for the benefit of UK plc.”

The memorandum of understanding between Surrey and the VLA is the latest in a string of collaborations between the organisations over the past year.

Other projects include joint activities in veterinary research and education, including the launch of an undergraduate programme in Veterinary Biosciences, the appointment of Professor Roberto La Rigione into a joint academic post and the award of a Visiting Professorship to Professor Woodward.

Dr Lisa Roberts, Head of the Microbial Sciences Division at the University of Surrey, said: “I am delighted with the deepening relationship between the University and VLA, particularly in bringing together our complementary research expertise to answer important research questions.”

Games software gets Hollywood animated

A computer firm launched from the University of Surrey has received major backing from an industry giant for its award-winning animation software.

IKinema’s self-titled programme, which was initially developed at Surrey Space Centre to help control spacecraft systems, has provided a new method of providing life-like animations to bodies in video games.

And the system, which takes gravity and balance into account to provide realistic movement to on-screen characters, proved so popular that media group 20th Century Fox has given IKinema its backing.

Martyn Buxton-Hoare, director of IKinema, explained: “By using IKinema, games developers can provide realistic, life-like, fluid movements in games with minimal effort. IKinema can be plugged seamlessly into the animation pipeline to greatly increase the believability of characters and make them fully interactive with the scene.”

Since its launch, IKinema – which won creator Dr Alexandre Pechev the Royal Academy of Engineering’s Entrepreneur Award – has taken up a place with TIGA, the trade association representing the UK gaming industry.

The association helped IKinema to secure funding to attend a trade exhibition in San Francisco and hosted networking sessions to allow the company to raise its profile in the industry.

John Griffith, 20th Century Fox’s cinematic development director, said he was “beyond excited” to integrate IKinema into his work.

He explained: “IKinema is unmatched in its ability to duplicate human behaviour. It allows me to quickly adjust performance capture on the fly with just a few controls.

“IKinema is now an essential part of my process now and in the future.”

Surrey provides boost to Britain’s space race

A new centre that will radically boost the UK’s space industry opened at the University of Surrey’s Research Park.

The International Space Innovation Centre – Surrey (ISIC-Surrey) has been established to attract £25 million worth of investment to the industry by providing business, technical and facilities support in an entrepreneurial environment.

Keith Robson, Director of Research and Enterprise Support at the University, said that by 2014 the new venture aims to support 75 start-ups, engage 100 businesses in knowledge-based collaborations and support the skills development of 500 people.

He added: “The University has a world-class reputation for its research, knowledge transfer and skills development in the space industry.

“ISIC-Surrey is in an ideal position to support regional businesses and to help nurture further innovation and growth.”

The International Space Innovation Centre is the first centre of its kind in Europe.
Anti-HIV drug trial hosted by Surrey

A drug developed from genetically-modified (GM) tobacco plants which could prevent HIV infection was trialed by researchers at the University of Surrey.

The first human trial of its kind was carried out at Surrey’s Clinical Research Centre, where scientists examined the safety of the monoclonal antibody on 11 female participants.

The development is part of the Pharma-Planta project, which aims to use GM plants to make drugs cheaper to produce.

Speaking after the announcement that the trial had been approved by the UK Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency, Clinical Research Centre Director Dr Julia Boyle said: “Clearly this is an exciting development which should hopefully pave the way for future trials of this nature.”

P2G12, the antibody cultivated from the plant, could be used in combination with other HIV-neutralising antibodies to create a topically-applied protective product for women.

Pharma-Planta was created by a consortium of 30 academic and industrial partners using €12 million of European Union funding.

Materials research to advance technology

A new project to pioneer the next generation of materials for computing and communications technologies was launched in 2011.

Researchers at the University aimed to develop substances that allow faster data movement and processing by using a novel family of glass materials recognised as being the optical equivalent of silicon.

The project hopes to deliver a hybrid “optoelectronic” technology without the current limitations presented by optical and electronic systems working independently.

Dr Richard Curry, of the Department of Electronic Engineering, said: “This programme will establish the UK as leaders in this field and therefore directly contribute to the continuing growth of the knowledge economy.”

“As a result of this work, we will develop for the first time an understanding of how these unique materials can be modified in a controlled way.”

The work is being conducted by Surrey’s Advanced Technology Institute in collaboration with the Universities of Cambridge and Southampton.

Looking back

August 2010: Professor David Uzzell delivered a speech about psychology and climate change at the Royal Society

September: Surrey announced a major research partnership with the Sao Paolo state research funding council in Brazil

October: Surrey’s Manipulated Osmosis Desalination – Water for the World research project was nominated for two Institute of Chemical Engineers awards.

November: The University offered financial assistance to the space industry through its Space Engineering Innovation Voucher Scheme.

December: Surrey was rated 18th out of all UK institutions when it came to winning research bids - up 59 places on 2008-9 figures.

January 2011: Surrey exports opened talks with major semiconductor manufacturers after making a significant breakthrough in the low-temperature growth of carbon nanotubes

February: A three-year study found that prostate cancer can be detected early by using a simple test that looks for the presence of a specific protein in urine.

March: Surrey teamed up with three other universities to develop a web database designed to make it easier for academics to market their research.

April: Surrey and three other universities established a centre of excellence for training in future particle accelerator technology, homeland security and generation of energy.

May: Professor Ravi Silva helped to launch NANCO, a nanotechnology research centre in Sri Lanka

June: A high-level conference of experts in electronics, photonics and electrical systems was held at the University.

July: Surrey researchers found that drinking organic milk could compromise the intake of iodine, an important component in brain development.

Surrey technologists team up with BBC

Future developments in audio and visual technology could be inspired by Surrey after the University formed a new partnership with the BBC.

Under the Audio Research Partnership, experts from both organisations will develop new skills and share research findings with industry to enable new products such as HD audio.

Professor Adrian Hilton, Head of Surrey’s Visual Media Research Group, said: “We hope that our collaboration will continue to flourish and provide significant benefits to those who use, watch and listen to broadcasts across a wide spectrum of programmes.”

BBC Research and Development is using the initiative to work more closely with the Higher Education sector in the field of audio-visual research and innovation.

Technical focuses include audio semantics, 3D audio-visual production and room acoustics, with research planned into areas such as speech recognition and audio coding.

Smart materials boost research into new drugs

Surrey scientists overcame a major barrier to research into new medicines.

Dr Subrayal M Reddy, Senior Lecturer in Applied Analytical Chemistry, said: “To date surfaces used for protein crystallization have been random at best with no rational design. For the first time, we have introduced specific protein architecture in the form of our smart materials – MIPs.

“This is an enabling technology which will facilitate genomc and proteomic research and the discovery of new drugs.”
We may have an excellent sense of community within our self-contained campus, but the University of Surrey is also truly global in its outlook and reach. Opportunities abound for all of the 140 nationalities at Surrey to sample different cultures, whether it is through exchange programmes or language lessons. The last year has seen us strengthen our links with like-minded institutions around the world.
International network opens up world of opportunities for students and staff

Surrey increased its worldwide influence with the launch of an exciting new international learning and research partnership.

Under the Universities Global Partnership Network (UGPN), Surrey will collaborate with fellow founding partners North Carolina State University and the University of Sao Paulo.

The network provides academics and students with the opportunity to work together on issues of international importance and opens up opportunities to study and work abroad.

Professor Colin Grant, Pro-Vice-Chancellor of International Relations at the University of Surrey, said: “We recognised that a single nation approach would not achieve results and that the problems of the world are sufficiently large and complex to require collaboration.”

“I would like to see big and small research in a multilateral framework, creating innovative solutions to world problems based on the expertise of the larger network and not just the one player going it alone.”

Although it is still in its infancy, Prof Grant said the UGPN will mark a “step change” in the number of students having international experiences during their time at Surrey.

With a mission to develop sustainable world-class research, education and knowledge transfer, the UGPN has set itself lofty targets.

The overall objective of the UGPN is to achieve excellence in research on a global scale and give students the opportunity to have an international experience.

Professor Colin Grant, Pro-Vice-Chancellor of International Relations

“We recognise the fundamental importance of internationalisation and true partnership with students and staff becoming increasingly mobile.”

University banks international support

Students and staff benefit from Surrey’s link with Santander

Surrey continued to build its international reach thanks to a growing partnership with banking giant Santander.

In the second year of a three-year agreement, the Spanish financial organisation’s Santander Universities programme gave Surrey £75,000 towards a variety of projects aimed at increasing global research and study.

The University was due to receive a further £75,000 for the 2011/12 academic year and Professor Colin Grant, Pro-Vice-Chancellor of International Relations, highlighted the importance of Surrey’s involvement in the scheme.

He said: “It is clear that Santander Universities and the University of Surrey share a vision. We recognise the fundamental importance of internationalisation and true partnership with students and staff becoming increasingly mobile.”

“Santander Universities’ support is a major component in the Universities Global Partnership Network and we look forward to deepening that partnership as we develop our international strategy.”

Among the projects funded during the 2010-11 academic year were schemes to boost staff mobility, increase entrepreneurship activities and provide Spanish and Portuguese language classes.

A total of 32 undergraduates, two postgraduates and seven academics were funded to study or conduct research in Spain, Portugal, Argentina, Peru and Brazil and six PhD scholars and one Masters student from the University of Sao Paolo took part in short-term research placements.

In addition, a Santander Hardship Fund has provided assistance to students enrolled on courses related to Iberamerican countries.

We recognise the fundamental importance of internationalisation and true partnership with students and staff becoming increasingly mobile.

Professor Colin Grant, Pro-Vice-Chancellor of International Relations
EN2 prostate cancer test

Research carried out by Professor Hardev Pandha and Dr Richard Morgan led to the development of a new and innovative way of reliably detecting prostate cancer by testing a small urine sample from men.

The announcement of this test generated a total of 123 pieces of coverage in the international, national and trade print, broadcast and online coverage. International coverage was from as far afield as Australia, USA, UAE, India, Ghana and Bulgaria.

A total of 1096 “mentions” appeared online, with 65 being specifically on blogs.

STRaND and smartphone technology

Space engineers at the University and Surrey Satellite Technology Limited have developed a space satellite containing a smartphone, which provides a cheaper alternative to existing technology on the market.

A total of 400 articles appeared globally about the project, with Dr Chris Bridges being the most quoted researcher.

The coverage spanned countries including: Australia, Belgium, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Russia, South Africa, South America, Spain, Sweden, the UK and the USA.

Paddy Regan from the University’s Physics Department was interviewed extensively by the media on radiation detection in reaction to the crisis at Japan’s Fukushima Daiichi power plant.


3D surgery

A new state-of-the-art extension of standard keyhole surgery using 3D cameras similar to those used to make the film ‘Avatar’ has been developed by a team led by Dr David Windridge from the Centre for Vision, Speech and Signal Processing.

Print coverage included the Evening Standard, ITV Meridian, Surrey Advertiser and BBC Surrey Radio. Online coverage included Medical News Today, Daily Mail online and PRWeb.com

Dr Malcolm von Schantz at the Sleep Research Centre spoke to the media about the drawbacks to a Private Member’s Bill which proposed moving UK clocks forward to synchronise with time in continental Europe. The proposal was also mooted for inclusion in the Government’s new Tourism Strategy.

He was quoted nationally in The Times, Metro, Mail on Sunday, BBC online, and in the Surrey Advertiser.
While we pride ourselves on providing a first-class education, we place just as much thought into offering our students a well-rounded experience. We have continued to make giant strides in developing our courses and campus to ensure that everyone who studies at Surrey is able to achieve their full potential in a forward-thinking environment. It’s no wonder that we finished 4th out of 400 universities in a Times Higher Survey on student experience.

- £11 million: The amount spent on capital projects between summer and Christmas 2010
- 11: The number of classrooms in the Lecture Block. Work to refurbish the facility was completed at the end of 2010 after a four-year project
- 618: The number of student bedrooms, not including communal areas, that were refurbished during 2010
A new Library and Learning Centre has provided Surrey with a centre for study befitting a leading university.

Standing proudly at the centre of campus, the hi-tech facility adjoins the existing library and boasts learning, teaching, retail and social areas over four floors.

For students, the Library and Learning Centre increases access to computer equipment on campus by a third and provides a bright, spacious and calming area in which to study.

Jane Savidge, Director of Library and Learning Support Services, said: “We developed the design by listening to our students and learning from the changing patterns of use and engagement with information experienced across the sector.

“The new building is based on recognition of the importance of individual choice and control over the selected environment. We wanted to develop the idea of zones differentiated by design, recognising the impact this has on the way individuals and groups learn.

The building provides the environment Surrey students need to engage with their chosen academic subject.

Jane Savidge
Director of Library and Learning Support Services

“The building achieves this and provides the environment Surrey students need to engage with their chosen academic subject.”

The ground floor of the new building can be accessed from either side of the library block and contains an expanded University shop, Post Office, Appleseed – the new bookstore – and a seating area.

Students requiring access to the existing library or needing to get on with their work can do so on the first and second floors, where computer terminals and further seating areas are readily available.

A quiet study area and a number of meeting rooms which can be booked by students are also on offer in the modern facility.

As well as providing new access points to the library, the building is kitted out with the latest technology. Students wanting to return books, for example, can now do so via ATM-style machines on the first floor.

The percentage increase in visitors to the University of Surrey library since 2006

70%

The gadgets read radio frequency identification tags in each of the books, automatically sorting them into bags and allowing staff to spend less time sorting returned titles.

Professor Christopher Snowden, the Vice-Chancellor of the University, said: “We understand that universities and their libraries operate as a focus for the community with a strong emphasis on learning and teaching.

“Both support the generation of new knowledge in an environment which encourages creative and independent thinking.

“This new building reinforces our ethos, extending the library’s role as a hub of learning and study and with the clear goal of putting the needs and wishes of students first in a calm and studious atmosphere.”
Warmest welcome for new students

Surrey tops national poll as most welcoming university in the UK

The support and help Surrey offers newly-arriving students was voted the best in the nation by a new survey.

Home students taking part in the i-graduate survey marked the University best in terms of overall satisfaction for their arrival experience.

The survey took factors including accommodation, official welcome, internet access, social activities and speed of response to problems and enquiries into account.

David Dickinson, Director of Student Care Services, said: “In overall terms, we have an exceptionally good approach to welcome and orientation of our new students and one we can be justifiably proud of.

“Joining a university can be a daunting process for some students and we try to make the experience as pleasurable and welcoming as possible.”

Surrey’s welcome experience begins well before students arrive on campus thanks to a section of the University’s website that provides a wealth of easy-to-access information.

Downloadable guides covering everything from careers to Student Support Services are also available.

Once students arrive at Surrey, a dedicated team of student and staff helpers are on hand to aid the settling in process, while a packed Welcome Week provides a series of academic, personal and social events.

David Dickinson added: “Many of our staff get involved in Welcome Week by volunteering to show students around and allay any concerns they may have. We are pleased our efforts have been recognised by students.”

As well as taking top spot in the UK section of the i-graduate survey, Surrey was voted into 5th place in the arrival experience category by international students.

Mentors provide student support

Popular scheme ensures excellent welfare service

Students living in University halls of residence continued to receive an unrivalled welfare service thanks to Surrey’s innovative Court Life Mentoring programme.

Under the scheme, every person residing in University accommodation comes under the care of one of a team of 91 student mentors who are paid as part-time members of staff.

The mentors, most of whom are final year or postgraduate students, visit every house and flat on a weekly basis to deal with any problems by empowering residents to find appropriate solutions.

The success of the Court Life Mentoring scheme was reflected in a 2011 survey in which 89 per cent of home students and 91 per cent of international students said they were satisfied with the welfare package.

Residential Mentoring Coordinator Stephen White said that the Court Life Mentoring service ensures that students are supported by peers who have been through the same experiences in the recent past.

He added: “Surveys suggest that students don’t want to talk to someone in an office, so our approach is to have students helping students. They know what they are doing because they are dealing with people in the same position they were in a year or two earlier.

“Hardly any other university has a service quite like this. We get a lot of feedback from the students themselves who tell us that their friends at other universities don’t have this on offer.”

The Court Life Mentoring system is popular for those wanting to serve as mentors, with the latest recruitment period seeing more than 300 people applying for one of the 91 positions.
Enterprising spirit

As well as receiving a world-class academic experience, students at Surrey have ample opportunity to develop themselves personally by joining one of the array of extra-curricular groups on offer.

And for one trio of enterprising undergraduates, signing up for a society is helping them make waves in the world of business.

Cameron Wilson, Sarangan Vigneswaran and Jody Sayers joined forces in their first year at the University to run Surrey Entrepreneurs, a society for would-be Richard Bransons across campus.

Such is the success of their venture that, with the help of philanthropic donations, the trio have now formed a spin-off enterprise company and will be spending their professional placement years working directly for it.

Economics undergraduate Cameron, who is also the University's student enterprise champion, said: “We thought that students should get together and start something which enabled them to create their own opportunities rather than having to rely on others.

“There used to be an entrepreneurs’ society which was dormant and carried a bit of debt. We took that on and set something up with the help of philanthropic donations, which has enabled them to create their own opportunities rather than relying on others.

“The company is the evolution of that. It will mean that if a student wants a placement in entrepreneurship they can run this.”

Taking on the responsibility of forming and running a start-up business would be challenging enough for seasoned business executives, so the scale of the task facing the inexperienced Surrey students was sizeable.

But rather than seeing their lack of experience as a limiting factor, Sarangan said he and his colleagues actually gained a competitive edge through their relative naivety.

From consulting through to idea generation and branding analysis, the group’s youthful approach to business has proven to be a big draw with established companies.

He said: “I think it has been a bit of a shock to some people to see students doing this, but we have found that they want to use us and to give something back. In effect they are leaving their own legacy by supporting others.

“Some people see it as a negative, but I think our naivety allows us to come up with out-of-the-box ideas and develop interesting solutions that can be easily executed.”

Forever yours

The life-long relationship between Surrey and its graduates reached new heights with the launch of the Forever Surrey network.

The evolution of Surrey Alumni Society offers former students of every era a host of professional and social benefits.

As well as a range of exciting events, Forever Surrey’s launch was marked with the unveiling of a new website hosting everything from key information to online events.

Everything we have introduced is as a direct result of the alumni feedback.

Chris Gethin
Director of Development

The success of the Court Life Mentoring scheme was reflected in a 2011 survey in which 89 per cent of home students and 91 per cent of international students said they were satisfied with the welfare package they received.

Key findings included graduates preferring professional events over reunions and wanting to receive more news online via social networks and email.

Director of Development Chris Gethin said: “Everything we have introduced is as a direct result of the alumni feedback we received during the research process and we will continue to listen to our alumni in the future to make sure they always receive the support they deserve.”

Philanthropic income 2010/11

(includes Legacies realised)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>£</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Surrey Sports Park, Multi-Faith Centre and other projects</td>
<td>1,206,687</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences</td>
<td>935,173</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences</td>
<td>194,916</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faculty of Arts and Human Sciences</td>
<td>181,049</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annual Fund</td>
<td>156,837</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty of Business, Economics and Law</td>
<td>60,499</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,735,161</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Gifts in Kind</strong></td>
<td><strong>96,199</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total including gifts in kind</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,831,360</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Looking back

August 2010: Surrey graduate Tim Williams convinced ‘The Dragon’s Den’ to invest in his firm, which provides monitors for virtual graffiti.

September: Alumni from China and Hong Kong remembered their Surrey roots during receptions with Vice-Chancellor Professor Christopher Snowden.

October: Lakeside Restaurant won a Surrey Eat Well Gold Award.

November: Times Higher Education app users ranked Surrey 4th out of 400 universities in the student experience category.

December: Surrey ended 2010 at 25th in the British Universities and Colleges Sport table.

January 2011: Home students marked Surrey as the best in the UK in terms of Overall Satisfaction for the 1st time in the 1-graduate survey.

February: Final year Tonmeister undergraduate David Sendall won the 2010-11 University of Surrey Student of the Year award.

March: Computer Technology student Dr Zdenek Kalal was named one of the UK’s most exceptional researchers at a ceremony hosted by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council.

April: Surrey’s Student Care Services was shortlisted for the Outstanding Student Services Team trophy in The Times Higher Education Leadership and Management Awards.

May: Surrey rose to 19th in the Guardian newspaper’s latest league table.

June: The University had nine subjects in the Good University Guide’s Top 10.

July: Surrey graduates remained the most employable in the UK, a new report published by the Higher Education Statistics Agency revealed.
As Britain continues to navigate its way through turbulent economic times, the importance of graduate employment has never been in sharper focus.

For students at Surrey, the option to head into the world of work for a Professional Training Year puts them at a significant advantage in the post-university job market.

Some 85 per cent of those offered jobs after their placements said they would accept the offer, highlighting the pragmatic approach of Surrey’s students in seeing the training year as an important link in the transition from study to work.

For Gillian Lord, who progressed onto a PhD at Surrey in 2011 after a placement year in New Zealand during her MChem Chemistry with Forensic Investigation course, the opportunity to learn her trade in a professional setting was vital.

She said: “The Professional Training Year was valuable to me because it helped me confirm exactly what I wanted to do. I got a lot of hands-on experience with analytical instruments and found that I really enjoyed it and that is what I’m doing now. “I had heard about the possibilities before I came to Surrey and going to New Zealand was something I had considered, so it was good to go and put my mind in motion as to what I wanted to do in the future.”

The Professional Training Year was valuable to me because it helped me confirm exactly what I wanted to do.

Gillian Lord
PhD student

‘Professional power’

As Surrey celebrates its 120th anniversary, it is apt that the focus on professional skills that ran through the Battersea era continues to shine brightly today.

During the last academic year, we again proved to be a top-ranking institution for graduate employment, reaffirming our long-held reputation as the university for jobs.

Much of the credit for Surrey’s continued excellence in employability lies with the Professional Training Year – a programme whose roots lie firmly in Battersea.

Professor Neil Ward, chairman of the Professional Training and Careers Council, explained that the training year is “intrinsically linked” to Surrey’s predecessor.

He said: “We grew from Battersea at the turn of the 1900s when the then-directors decided it would be innovative for students from certain subject areas to go out and get some real experience. “The driving force was from Engineering, but Chemistry, Hotel and Business Studies and Catering all followed.

“The driving force was from Engineering, but Chemistry, Hotel and Business Studies and Catering all followed.

“Battersea was the first tertiary facility in the UK to have this vision that education is very much linked to the workplace and finding out what your degree is really all about through real-life experience.”

The success of Surrey’s Professional Training Year stems from the fact that it is built in – rather than bolted on – to students’ degree programmes.

As well as gaining valuable professional experience, each of the record 876 students who headed into the world of work during the 2010–11 academic year received marks towards their degree depending on their performance.

Professor Ward added: “For students, it’s a chance to see what’s potentially ahead of them but it’s also a part of their degree.”

Surrey has also continued to lead the way in professional placement schemes within Higher Education by ensuring that its academics play a key role in the process.

From liaising with specialist staff within each faculty to visiting students in their workplaces throughout the year, the University’s academics ensure that each student gets the support they need to make the most of their placement.

Professor Ward said: “From the day our staff arrive they are involved. The idea is that every academic should be available to do something to do with professional training.

“In Chemistry, for example, all members of staff have to know what professional training is all about and are given responsibilities as soon as they arrive. They are properly trained so they know their responsibilities to the students.”

Given Surrey’s industry-leading programme, it is little surprise that an incredible 850 companies and organisations have signed up to host training years.

As well as catering for traditional placements in degree fields such as Science and Engineering, the University’s partners provide options for students in subjects as diverse as English Literature and Dance.

And for Professor Ward, the hands-on nature of the training year can have a profound and lasting impact on a student’s education.

He said: “I was never good at exams, but give me an applied area and I loved it. The same is true for some students, so going out on a placement means they are assessed in areas that are more their forte.

“It’s wonderful to see them grasp that opportunity and get better quality from their degree.”
The number of student sports societies at the University of Surrey

37

Sports societies

Haliquins adopted to Surrey Sports Park as their new training ground

01JAN 2011

As soon as you go down and have a look at the Park and the quality of the place, you know it’s something special.

Paul Blanchard
Surrey Sports Park Chief Executive Officer

The University’s students and staff benefit from genuinely world-class sporting and cultural facilities. From the state-of-the-art Surrey Sports Park, which provides physical opportunities for everyone from keep-fit enthusiasts to Olympic athletes, to the sustainably-built Ivy Arts Centre, Surrey’s continued growth makes it the perfect choice for sporting and artistic – as well as academic – development.
For those looking to develop their bodies as well as their minds, the University is quickly becoming a perfect choice – in no small part thanks to Surrey Sports Park.

The opening of the centre in April 2010 heralded a new era in the provision of leisure and fitness for students, staff and the wider community.

Containing state-of-the-art facilities and capable of hosting top-flight teams, the Park has gone from strength-to-strength during its first year.

Chief Executive Officer Paul Blanchard, who arrived at Surrey following spells with national organisations including Harlequins Rugby League, The Oval, Southampton Football Club and the Scottish Premier League, said: “As soon as you go down and have a look at the Park and the quality of the place you know it’s something special.

“It has been an unqualified success. The quality of student sport has improved immeasurably since the launch and that was borne out in the latest student satisfaction survey. The quality of provision in the set-up and coaching has improved as well.

Since welcoming its first fitness fanatics through the door in 2010, Surrey Sports Park has built a reputation as a centre of excellence for everyone from grassroots athletes to elite teams.

Harlequins Rugby Union team train for their Premiership matches at the Park, while netball’s Surrey Storm and the Guildford Heat basketball squad are also based there.

The London Olympics next summer have presented the centre with another opportunity to build on its world-class credentials, and Blanchard has seized it with both hands.

The likes of Nigeria, Singapore and Antigua and Barbuda have selected Surrey Sports Park as their training base ahead of the 2012 Games, but despite the big names Surrey remains committed to providing a perfect service to the University community.

It’s a world class sports centre, a great training environment and hopefully it will encourage more people to train.\n\nEleanor Simmonds MBE
Paralympic gold medalist

Paul explained: “In just a year, Surrey Sports Park has significantly raised the profile of the University of Surrey, Guildford and the wider county of Surrey by attracting all these major events to the region and will continue to do so in the future.

“We can’t forget that fundamentally this is a student facility. I’m very pro-student sport and I want to see more engagement with them.

“It is a truly remarkable facility that combines students, members and elite teams so effectively, and we are looking forward to further successes.”

With discounted membership for students, staff and alumni, Surrey Sports Park offers sporting excellence to complement the University’s academic brilliance.

Sports Park boosts Surrey’s extra-curricular offering

Our academic reputation may be the main draw, but the University’s sporting excellence plays a key role in attracting new students to Surrey.

Students taste sporting success

Surrey’s sportsmen and women ensured it was good year on the pitch as well as in the lecture theatre by delivering a number of outstanding performances.

Representatives from the men’s volleyball and fencing teams put their rivals to the sword to claim victory in the annual London and South East British Universities and Colleges Sport Conference Finals, which were held at Surrey Sports Park.

The women’s Rugby team narrowly missed out on a trophy after losing 17-12 to Middlesex, while the female tennis team performed admirably in a closely-fought 4-8 defeat to London School of Economics.

With five teams competing at the showpiece regional event, 2010–11 was a good year for student sport at Surrey.

Athletes from the trampolining, Ultimate Frisbee and climbing teams also represented the University at the BUCS National Championships in Sheffield, with the trampoline team securing a second-place finish in the team event.

Mark Garfoot, Performance Sports Manager at Surrey Sports Park, said: “The teams’ performances build on our new sports strategy at the University of Surrey and continue to build upon one of our most successful years in sport.”
Curtain raises at Surrey’s new performing arts centre

Surrey’s status as a thriving home for the arts gained further ground with the opening of a new theatre on campus.

The Ivy Arts Centre, which has been built in the shell of the old University sports hall at the entrance to campus, is a 200-seat venue complete with state-of-the-art front-of-house and backstage facilities.

Work on the centre began in 2010 and was completed in April 2011 in time for a gala opening ceremony in June attended by Surrey’s Chancellor, His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent.

Professor Christopher Snowden, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Surrey, said: “The Ivy Arts Centre highlights the University’s initiative in investing and strengthening the performing arts.

The arts centre houses a box office, foyer and bar accessed through a dedicated entrance.

Workshops where students and staff will be able to design their own sets have also been included, providing the University of Surrey with facilities not even available in some London theatres.

Professor Phil Powrie, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Human Sciences, said he hoped that the new facilities would inspire students to fulfil their great potential.

He added: “The Ivy Arts Centre, coupled with the GSA opposite it, realises the ambition of creating an arts hub right at the entrance to campus.

“We have made a very energy-efficient building by spending sensible sums of money.”

In addition to a purpose-built space for rehearsals and performances, the Ivy Arts Centre is also available and Guildford School of Acting, the Department of Dance, Film and Theatre and backstage facilities.

Professor Stephen Baker, Surrey Research Park’s Director of Development, said: “The University is committed to sustainability in respect of energy conservation and in constructing green buildings.

“We have made a very energy-efficient building by spending sensible sums of money.”

The Ivy Arts Centre, which has been built in the shell of the old University sports hall at the entrance to campus, is a 200-seat venue complete with state-of-the-art front-of-house and backstage facilities.

Rather than ripping down the sports hall and starting again from scratch, architects instead maintained the Centre’s ivy-covered shell and focused their efforts on refitting its interior.

“This is a testament to the University of Surrey’s commitment to promoting the Arts, both as a key academic discipline and as one of the major ways in which we support the creative industries. It also put another top-class venue on Guildford’s cultural map.”

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Good work
A University programme offered a valuable careers boost to local college students.

Surrey’s commitment to equal opportunities was recognised with an award for its role in a scheme offering work placements to people with learning difficulties.

The University received a Making A Difference award from Surrey County Council for its Employment Works project, which began in January 2011.

The scheme saw nine Guildford College students come to campus to take part in placements across the University, including in the catering, distribution and human relations departments, and receive expert classroom-based tuition.

Equality and Diversity Adviser Jo McCarthy-Holland explained: “In terms of our corporate social responsibility this is a really key project for the University to be involved in.

“It highlights the fact that being disabled doesn’t mean someone can’t do a job and helps us achieve our aim of being a welcoming employer for all groups.”

Jack Saunders, who took up a placement in Lakeside Restaurant, said he had enjoyed his time at Surrey.

He explained: “The work placement has helped me focus more on the job in hand and has confirmed the work I want to do when I leave college.

The not-for-profit EmployAbility scheme was established in 2006 to assist students and graduates with any form of disability, including dyslexia and long-term health conditions, with the move into employment.

Jo concluded: “This scheme is about helping these people to realise their potential and that’s what the University is all about.”

Community spirit
Surrey’s students and staff did their bit for the University’s neighbours during a busy year of volunteering.

A total of 1,162 people represented the University in 2010–11 by giving up their time to help out with everything from conservation work to supporting the arts in schools.

Under a partnership between the Students’ Union Community Volunteering group and Surrey’s Educational Liaison Centre, more than 300 students took part in educational projects in 41 schools and colleges, including:

• Playground Activities Scheme at St Nicholas’ Infant School to develop pupils’ cooperation and problem-solving skills;
• Reading Mentor Scheme at Boxgrove Primary School, King’s College for Arts and Technology, Merrow Infant School and St Thomas of Canterbury Primary School to improve pupils’ reading skills;
• Educational Volunteering Projects with Surrey Police, Surrey Wildlife Trust and Watts Gallery to implement arts and environment-based initiatives.

In the wider community, student volunteers took part in a Christmas shoebox appeal in aid of Guildford Action, a drop-in centre for the homeless, and Your Sanctuary, a women’s refuge.

Members of the Do>More Volunteering Society were joined by representatives from the Mountaineering and Rugby clubs to help clear and conserve local woodland and properties as part of the national Make a Difference Day.

And four students helped to organise a fun family quiz at Park Barn Day Centre.

The Surrey representatives’ selflessness did not go unrecognised as two students won regional VInspired awards, seven picked up Volunteering England Gold Awards and a further 18 received long-service awards from national volunteering accreditation scheme V.

34,500
34,500 school and college students took part in Surrey-organised activities.

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Considering the global reputation of the University of Surrey, it is easy to forget the humble beginnings from which it grew.

Well before Surrey started to nurture groundbreaking work in fields as diverse as nanotechnology and satellites, an institution for London’s less-wealthy students was founded in the south of England’s capital.

The year was 1891 and the institution in question was Battersea Polytechnic Institute, one of three new higher education bodies created using funding from the City Parochial Foundation.

The need for Battersea was great among the capital’s population. London was home to more than three quarters of a million young people between the ages of 16 and 25, yet only a small percentage were enrolled in higher education.

When it opened its doors in Battersea Park Road in January 1894, the Institute welcomed some 2,406 students enrolled in 64 subjects ranging from Art and Natural Science to Mechanical Engineering and Building.

Much like modern-day Surrey, Battersea was keen to offer an education to the very brightest students regardless of their financial circumstances, so a number of scholarships were offered by Battersea Borough Council and local companies.

Life for those studying at Battersea was enriched by the availability of a plethora of sports groups and societies, including cricket, debating, rambling and sketching.

The opening of a Great Hall in 1899 allowed the Institute to host Saturday evening entertainment every week. The Hall was one of four new buildings constructed during the first ten years of Battersea, with a new library and female hostel following in 1910 and hygiene laboratories opened in 1912.

By the 1920s, Battersea began to concentrate on science and technology and taught day and evening students for degrees from the University of London.

Its growth continued in the ensuing years, including in the wake of the Second World War when returning Servicemen boosted student numbers significantly.

The appointment of Dr Ralph West as principal in 1947 signalled the start of a golden era for Battersea. In 1953, Dr West called the Institute the ‘foremost technical college in the country for advanced level work’ and it adopted the name Battersea College of Technology after being designated a college of advanced technology in 1957.

The College’s success meant that ever-increasing numbers of students were signing up for courses and Battersea’s campus was struggling to accommodate them.

That, combined with the Robbins Report’s suggestion that Battersea expand and offer its own degrees, led in 1962 to the selection of Guildford as the home for the new University of Surrey.

The Queen was formally petitioned for the grant of a Royal Charter in 1965 and on 9 September 1966, 75 years after it was first dreamt up, Battersea College of Technology handed on the baton to Surrey.

2011 marked the 120th anniversary of the formation of Battersea Polytechnic Institute, which eventually grew into the University of Surrey. Even more than a century ago, the pioneering spirit and professional edge so apparent in the modern-day University were evident in its south London predecessor.
A brief history of Battersea

Originally opened to provide further education to London's poorer students, Battersea Polytechnic soon grew into a thriving centre for learning. By the time it closed its doors 72 years later, Battersea had laid the strongest of foundations on which the modern University of Surrey continues to flourish.

1894
Battersea Polytechnic opens on Monday, January 8 in a new building on Battersea Park Road, south of the River Thames.

1894
The Prince of Wales – later King Edward VII – did the honours as the Polytechnic was formally opened during a grand ceremony on Saturday, February 24. The Prince had laid the foundation stone of the new building two-and-a-half years earlier.

1894
Within eight months of its opening, the Polytechnic had developed a thriving sports and social scene. Clubs included cricket, cycling, debating, football, harriers, lawn tennis, rambling, chess, sketching and swimming.

1899
Construction of the Great Hall was completed, allowing students and staff to hold popular Saturday evening social events.

1904
Battersea Polytechnic marked its tenth anniversary. In its opening decade, the college grew with the construction of four new buildings and saw its income more than double from £8,000 to £17,000.

1909
The establishment's first principal, Sidney Wells, leaves the post to take up a new job as the Director of Technical Education for Egypt. Sidney Rawson becomes Battersea's second principal.

1909
The Girls' School was taken over by London County Council. The Boys' School followed in 1918.

1909
The Polytechnic offered pioneering evening lectures in Chemical Engineering, the only ones in the UK at the time.

1910
The oak-panelled Edwin Tate Library, gifted by the retiring chair of governors, was opened. Mr Tate made further donations of books for the library and scholarships two years later.

1914
The Polytechnic rented a sports ground in Dulwich which came complete with a pavilion and men's and women's changing rooms.

1915
Lt F H Johnson (Royal Engineers), who earned a first-class degree in Engineering in 1914, was awarded the Victoria Cross for his bravery during the First World War. The officer, who was killed in action two years later, was one of 28 alumni decorated by the military.

1920
Student numbers rose to a peak of around 4,000 due to the influx of returning Servicemen. The number dropped to between 3,000 and 3,200 from the mid-1920s until the Second World War.

1922
Dr Robert Pickard and Dr Joseph Kenyon were appointed as principal and head of the Polytechnic's Chemistry Department. Dr Kenyon stayed at the institution for thirty years.

1927
Battersea Polytechnic's Chemistry Department continued to thrive – its students were awarded thirteen PhDs and two doctorates in the five years from 1922.

1929
The three-storey West Wing was opened by the Princess Royal, who went on to become the Polytechnic's patron.

1939
Although the presence of Clapham Junction, Nine Elms marshalling yard and a number of industrial and power plants made Battersea an obvious target for German bombers, the Polytechnic only suffered three direct hits during the Second World War.

1939 – 1945
Day and evening classes resumed after being severely affected by the Blitz.

1943
Battersea and Northern Polytechnics combined to organise 3,000 London students to help bring in a harvest of around 225,000 acres of corn in Wiltshire. The scheme was repeated in 1944 and 1945.

1944
Battersea Polytechnic celebrated its golden jubilee with a lunch for 40 guests. The meal was followed by a variety performance and dancing in the Great Hall.

1945
After transferring degrees that did not lead to “diplomas of professional status” away from Battersea, Dr West made the bold claim that the Polytechnic was “the foremost technical college in the country for advanced level work”.

1953
Battersea's academic standing received a welcome boost when it took over the Engineering Departments of the Polish University College.

1954
A new East Wing was opened by the Princess Royal to try and solve a growing issue with lack of space.

1957
Battersea Polytechnic officially became a College of Technology under a new Government scheme. Its official title was as a College of Advanced Technology, but the governing body decided to drop the "advanced".

1960
The college received its first research grant for industry of £500.

1960
Part-time degree courses were no longer offered by the Institute after a fall in the number of students during the 1950s.

1962
New principal Dr D Leggett wrote a paper on the Future development of the institution in which he suggested that “consideration must be given to the transfer of the College to a completely new site”, adding that any move should be "at once".

On May 2, the committee settled on Guildford, citing the town's attractive countryside, single site and proximity to south west London and a number of research institutes.

A meeting between college officials and local authority representatives on February 28 resulted in an agreement on the move and on the site of the new university. The Government backed the relocation on May 14.

1965
The Queen was formally petitioned for the grant of a Royal Charter and the establishment of the University of Surrey.

1966
The University of Surrey Act was passed in August and, on September 9, the grant of the charter formally established the University of Surrey, ending the 72-year existence of Battersea College of Technology.

1967
The college received its first research grant for industry of £500.

1974
Part-time degree courses were no longer offered by the Institute after a fall in the number of students during the 1950s.

1976
New principal Dr D Leggett wrote a paper on the Future development of the institution in which he suggested that “consideration must be given to the transfer of the College to a completely new site”, adding that any move should be "at once".

After initial opposition, the governing body agreed on January 10, to look for a new site for the college. A development advisory committee looked at locations including Crystal Palace, Harrow, Stevenage, Guildford, Hammersmith, Epsom and Barnes.

On May 2, the committee settled on Guildford, citing the town's attractive countryside, single site and proximity to south west London and a number of research institutes.

A meeting between college officials and local authority representatives on February 28 resulted in an agreement on the move and on the site of the new university. The Government backed the relocation on May 14.

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The University achieved a healthy surplus for 2010-11 but will not be resting on its laurels, Director of Finance David Sharkey explained.

He said: “Over the past four-to-five years we have been building the financial performance of the University to get to a point where our core academic activities break even without reliance on Foundation Fund income. The fact that we have been able to do this this year, one year ahead of target, is encouraging.

“Over the past few years, we have been focusing on growing our income while exercising tight cost control and ensuring we invest our resources in the areas where it will make the biggest difference.”

He continued: “Rising tuition fees will naturally lead to higher student expectations and we need to make sure that these are met through continued investment in the student experience at Surrey. Without recourse to the necessary level of Government funding or wanting to increase our bank debt, it is very important that we continue to achieve healthy surpluses so that we have the resources available to ensure that Surrey continues to be an attractive place to study.

“Although the University is exposed to the risks facing all Higher Education institutions, our recent financial performance puts us in good shape to face the challenges ahead. We are pleased with what we have achieved so far, but this is still very much work in progress.”

The University achieved a healthy surplus for 2010-11 but will not be resting on its laurels.

David Sharkey
Director of Finance

Introduction to summarised financial statements

The summarised financial statements comprise the consolidated results of the University (including its Foundation Fund) and its subsidiary companies, notably the Guildford School of Acting Conservatoire and Surrey Sports Park Limited.

Income and expenditure

Consolidated results

The University achieved a consolidated surplus for 2010-11 of £10.9m. This represented a significant improvement on the previous year’s figure of £4.0m and positions the University well as it prepares to enter a very different funding environment.

Consolidated income rose by £17.8m (9.2%) to £211.6m. Income remained well diversified with income from Funding Council grants, at 22% of the total, remaining below the national average.

Core University activities

The University achieved a surplus on its core activities of £5.4m (2009-10 deficit £1.4m).

Income from core activities grew by £12.9m (7.0%) to £197.2m, with tuition fee and educational grant income rising by £7.8m (11.1%) to £77.9m. The most significant rise was in income from overseas students which increased by £6.0m (23.2%) to £31.9m. This gave a cumulative increase of £13.8m (26%) in overseas tuition fee income in the past three years. In contrast to the rise in tuition fee income, research income rose by just £0.3m (1.1%) to £27.9m, although the Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences, the most research intensive area of the University, put in another strong performance with income rising by £1.5m (9.5%) to £21.3m. This gave a cumulative increase for the Faculty of £4.0m (30.6%) over the past three years.

As was the case the previous year, the University continued to benefit from low interest rates and expenditure in other areas, especially staffing costs, remained tightly controlled.

Foundation Fund

The Foundation Fund’s main asset, the Surrey Research Park, continued to generate a strong income stream, despite the continuing weakness in the commercial property market. 2010-11 saw the completion of a new facility for Surrey Satellite Technology Limited (SSTL), the University’s former subsidiary, and the inclusion of tenants fit out costs in the Income and Expenditure account boosted total income for the year by £4.2m to £13.5m. The underlying increase in income was a more modest £0.3m (3.1%) and the 2010-11 surplus of £5.5m reflected a marginal improvement on the previous year’s figure of £5.4m.

Chart 1

2010-11 consolidated income showing percentage change from 2009-10 (£m)

- Funding Council grants 48 (+5%)
- Research income 28 (+1%)
- UK/EU UG/PG tuition fees 28 (+4%)
- Non-EU tuition fees 32 (+23%)
- Other/NHS tuition fees 18 (+4%)
- Other income 44 (+20%)
- Research Park/investments 14 (+51%)

Chart 2

2010-11 consolidated expenditure showing percentage change from 2009-10 (£m)

- Staff costs 106 (+3%)
- Other operating expenditure 73 (+11%)
- Depreciation and interest 22 (+0%)

Chart 3

Movement in consolidated net assets 2010-11

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>£m</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Consolidated net assets at 31 July 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surplus for the year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actuarial gains on pension schemes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment property revaluation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase in funding allocated to deferred capital grants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other movements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consolidated net assets at 31 July 2011</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Balance sheet

Consolidated net assets rose in 2010-11 by £21.8m (12.1%) to £201.8m. The major contributory factor, in addition to the £10.9m surplus for the year, was £8.5m of actuarial gains on the pension schemes.

The value of completed investment properties on the Research Park (shown in endowment asset investments) rose by £4.3m to £80.8m, due to the inclusion for the first time of the new SSTL building. The underlying value of investment properties fell by 6%, which reflected an increasing number of leases expiring over the short to medium term placing downward pressure on values.

The Research Park management team continues to adopt a pro-active approach to flexible letting arrangements and has succeeded in maintaining high occupancy rates. Nevertheless, the value of the Research Park remains just over £20m below its 2007 peak, reflecting the depressed commercial property market.

The drawdown of a £15m revolving credit facility at 31 July 2011 is reflected in the increase in current assets (+£20.4m) and the increase in creditors due after more than one year (+£9.7m).

Capital investment

2010-11 saw further significant capital investment with additions to fixed assets totalling £21.7m.

The conversion of the former sports hall to a new performing arts centre (the Ivy Arts Centre) was completed in April 2011 at a cost of £4.3m, while the library extension, construction of which began in September 2009, was completed in time for the start of the 2011-12 academic year at a cost of £13.2m.

Summary

There are, undoubtedly, difficult times ahead, but these results demonstrate that the University is well-placed financially both to respond to the challenges brought about by the new Higher Education funding environment and, at the same time, to continue towards achieving its strategic goals.

Summary consolidated income and expenditure account

for the year ended 31 July 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2010-11 (£m)</th>
<th>2009-10 (£m)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total income</td>
<td>211.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total expenditure</td>
<td>(200.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surplus before taxation</td>
<td>10.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxation, minority interests and transfers from endowments</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retained surplus for the year</td>
<td>10.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Summary consolidated balance sheet

as at 31 July 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2011 (£m)</th>
<th>2010 (£m)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fixed assets</td>
<td>315.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endowment assets</td>
<td>48.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current assets</td>
<td>85.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</td>
<td>(88.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total assets less current liabilities</td>
<td>381.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year</td>
<td>(156.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provisions for liabilities and charges</td>
<td>(1.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pension liability</td>
<td>(21.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total net assets</td>
<td>201.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred capital grants</td>
<td>58.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endowments</td>
<td>48.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reserves</td>
<td>94.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total funds</td>
<td>201.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Independent auditor's statement to the University of Surrey (‘The University’)

We have examined the summarised financial statements of the University of Surrey for the year ended 31 July 2011 which comprise the summary consolidated income and expenditure account and the summary consolidated balance sheet, which are set out on pages 46 to 49 of the University’s Annual Review (‘Annual Review’). The summarised financial statements have been prepared by the University Council for the purpose of inclusion in the Annual Review, as explained in the note.

This statement is made, in accordance with our engagement letter dated 21 November 2011, solely to the University, in order to meet the requirements of paragraph 36 of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting for Further and Higher Education (2007). Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to the University those matters we have agreed to state to it in such a statement and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the University for our work, for this statement, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of the University Council and auditor

The Council has accepted responsibility for the preparation of the summarised financial statements in accordance with paragraphs 29 to 35 of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting for Further and Higher Education (2007). Our responsibility is to report to the University our opinion on the consistency of the summarised financial statements on pages 46 to 49 within the Annual Review with the full financial statements.

Note

The summarised financial statements for the year ended 31 July 2011, which comprise the summary consolidated income and expenditure account and the summary consolidated balance sheet, have been prepared by the Council of the University of Surrey for the purpose of inclusion in this Annual Review. The summarised financial statements are an extract of the full financial statements on which the auditor issued an unqualified opinion.

The full financial statements were approved by the University Council on 21 November 2011.

The full audited financial statements and independent external auditor’s report can be obtained from the Director of Finance, University of Surrey, Guildford, Surrey, GU2 7XH.

Professor CM Snowden FRS FREng FIET FIEEE FCGI

Max Taylor

Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive

Chairman of Council
As Britain marks an Olympic year, Surrey is well positioned to celebrate continued global growth and success throughout 2012.