

2020







SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY IN A TIME OF NEED

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OUR ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR 2020 HAS BEEN NAMED

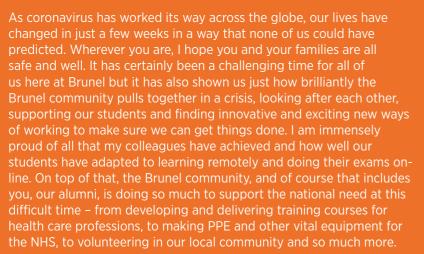
SHARING ALUMNI EXPERTISE THROUGH VOLUNTEERING

CELEBRATING BRUNEL LOVE STORIES

DELVING INTO THE ARCHIVES

WELCOME

FROM OUR VICE CHANCELLOR AND PRESIDENT



In this spirit, I am very pleased to welcome you to your 2020 edition of Link Magazine; a collection of Brunel news stories, updates and research developments from the past year and a celebration of your many successes and achievements.

community - based in over 180 countries - allows Brunel, and the foundation you have helped to build, to go from strength to strength. I am delighted to see that so many of you are giving your time so generously to mentor our students and share your career experience by writing profiles and delivering practical sessions and webinars. We are also immensely grateful for your financial contributions to support our bursary and scholarship schemes, and your generous support of our recent appeals for the Students' Union COVID-19 Hardship Fund and the Brunel Cares PPE fundraiser for frontline care staff.

Thank you for everything you do to champion Brunel, our students and your fellow alumni. Please don't forget that we are also here to help you; the support Brunel offers doesn't end at graduation, and we are always keen to hear about your career journey and achievements.

With my very best wishes for the year ahead.

Professor Julia Buckingham CBE Vice Chancellor and President

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FROM OUR DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI **RELATIONS TEAM**

What a year it has been so far. Despite the challenging times faced, in different ways for us all, we've also seen an abundance of shining moments of positivity, kindness, compassion and community spirit from our passion for Brunel, your fellow been the driving force for a wonderful year of support and new initiatives, such as our Lockdown Learning webinar series and your outstanding generosity with our COVID-19 fundraising appeals.

Thank you for making Brunel a better place and for making our role in Alumni HQ a great one. Here's to an amazing year ahead.

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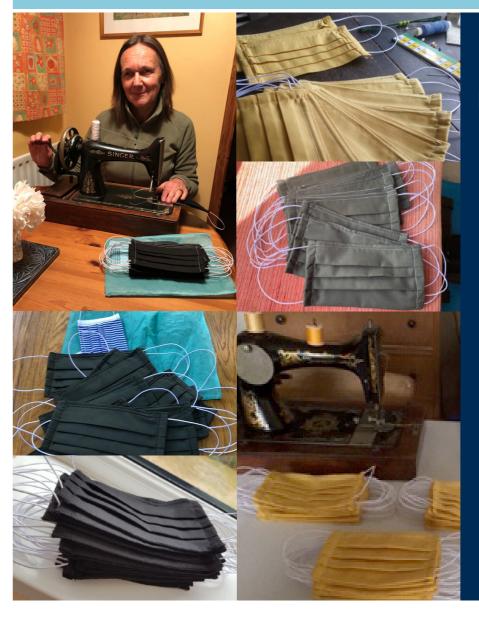
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WE ARE BRUNEL

In these unprecedented times, it's really shown the power of how people can come together to achieve great things. We're so very proud of the whole Brunel community. Here's how Brunel have contributed to the fight against Coronavirus, from our support of the NHS and the local community to fundraising, research and teaching that makes a difference. We are together. We are Brunel.

FUNDRAISING FOR OUR COMMUNITIES



The Union of Brunel Students launches fundraising appeal for Emergency Hardship Fund

As the world around us changed to cope with the pandemic, our alumni, students, staff and supporters generously donated to help some of our most vulnerable students, who unexpectedly found themselves out of employment as a result of the coronavirus quarantine measures. The Union of Brunel Students COVID-19 Emergency Hardship Fund appeal aimed to support those students who had been left in challenging circumstances. With over £12,000 raised so far, you've helped our students with finances for food shopping and rent bills.



BRUNEL **CARES: NHS** AND CARE **HOMES PPE** PROJECT

Hospital and health care workers across the country have heavily relied on public support to secure ample and correct Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Led by the Brunel Law School and Development Office. the University launched Brunel Cares; a fundraising and volunteer project together with Scrubs for Hillingdon to provide PPE for frontline healthcare staff and sew masks for vulnerable and elderly members of the community.

- Over £12.500 donated so far
- 100 of the highest protection face masks for the Hillingdon, Harefield and Royal Brompton Hospitals
- 10,000 aprons and protective masks for frontline workers in Care Homes and NHS Trusts
- Over 60 volunteers on board, including sewers and drivers
- Over 500 community masks sewn so far

SUPPORTING THE NHS

BRUNEL VOLUNTEERS 3D-PRINTING FACE SHIELDS FOR FRONTLINE STAFF

To support frontline staff in need of PPE, our Design team have been creating protective face shields. With a network of 25 3D printers set up in people's homes and workplaces to create the headband, the face shields were then manufactured into visors by a small team from Brunel Design. They have currently supplied over 5.000 visors to 60 different hospitals, care homes and medical centres.

Our Design students and alumni have also been working voluntarily at a 3D printing farm in Dartford, set up in collaboration with GSTT and Imakr. Producing up to 1500 visors a day to supply Guy's and St Thomas' and other London hospitals, this important facility would not be able run without their voluntary support or the team's specialist equipment and advice.

Working closely with the Royal Brompton Hospital, the Design team have also helped to design and develop 3D printed adaptors to repurpose home-standard ventilators. It is hoped that the success of the project will lead to the use of this technology in other countries to help fight Coronavirus.



We are providing

access to our campus for key workers from

the NHS

Our accommodation and parking are available to those working at Hillingdon Hospital.

We have loaned lab equipment to the National **Testing Programme**

A PCR workstation, pipettes and more went from campus to Deloitte's labs thanks to the Army.

Our physiotherapy

lecturers and

graduates are back

on the frontline

They have returned to intensive care units to help fight coronavirus at The Royal Brompton Hospital and elsewhere.



CLINICAL SCIENTISTS LAUNCH ONLINE PROGRAMME TO TRAIN 100 NEW CRITICAL CARE STAFF A DAY

We are helping London with data analysis and decision-making

Computer Science academics and students simulating virus transmission, hospital utilisation and nost-lockdown scenarios

We are

3D-printed

adaptors to

home-standard

Project with Royal Brompton Hospital aims to make kit to hit critical care ward standards.

OUR RESEARCH IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE



CROSS-SECTOR TEAM DEVELOPS QUICK COVID-19 TEST

SUPPORTING OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY



IN THE MEDIA In what have been challenging times, expert opinion has been more important than ever. Articles have featured in The Telegraph, The Times, The Conversation, The Guardian, Gizmodo, The Independent, BMJ Opinion, Mail Online to name a few and have included 'How soap fights COVID-19,' garnering worldwide attention for Professor Lucy Rogers' video, and commentary from Geneticist Professor Alex Blakemore (pictured) on the UK's coronavirus testing bottleneck.

We pledged to help

employees, customers and

in the local area.

food and drink to key workers

Taste Kingdom delivered meals and snacks to Hillingdon Hospital and other local businesses.

communities through the crisis. Brunel joined businesses from across the UK in signing the C-19 Business Pledge to help Britain and its most

vulnerable citizens to pull through the coronavirus crisis; a national initiative launched by Rt Hon Justine Greening.

We are using artificial intelligence to auto-scan lung X-rays for coronavirus

We have developed image analytics and deep learning to help doctors diagnose more accurately. Coronavirus can be identified automatically from sick patients' lung X-rays using artificial intelligence (AI) developed at Brunel. The algorithm, which detects coronavirus diseases including COVID-19, SARS and MERS, uses image analytics to spot signs and deep learning to rank them. "A tailor-made Al algorithm scans enhanced images and then extracts visual cues to help automatically identify coronavirus cases and monitor the development of the virus in infected people." said Brunel's Professor Abdul Sadka.

We have provided modelling, simulation and computer resources for fighting Covid-19

Our grid computing experts are part of GridPP's Rapid Assistance in Modelling the Pandemic (RAMP) taskforce.

We've run webinars on Covid-19

and its effect on the economy

and societv

Topics have covered the use of technology for public health, consumer rights and scams and the importance of epidemiology and outbreak control

mobilised to support Defence activities.

Brunel staff who are Army, Royal Navy and RAF Reservists joined the community efforts.

ALUMNI NEWS AND SUCCESS HIGHLIGHTS

TONIGHT'S MEAL? TAKE POT LUCK



TechWomen100 success

Alumna Jyoti Choudrie (Learning & Teaching in Higher Education, 2002 / PhD Information Systems & Computing Research, 2000 / Economics & Business Finance, 1992) was named as a winner of a 2019 TechWomen100 Award from WeAreTechWomen.

Invitation to the Academy

Emmy Award winning actress. Archie Panjabi (Business Management Studies, 1996), was invited to join the Academy; the prestigious group that votes on the Oscars.

Cannes award for film director

The Short Film Palme D'or at the 2019 Cannes Film Festival was won by Greek director and Brunel alumnus. Vasilis Kekatos (Film & Television Studies, 2013).

Debut novel set to be published

Kirsty Capes (BA, MA & PhD Creative Writing) will see her debut novel. Careless – published by Orion Books - hit bookshelves in 2021!

Short film and book success for creative writing alumnae

Simi Abe (Creative Writing, 2018) recently made her short film debut for the BBC with 'Black Fish' whilst Olivia Brinkley (Creative Writing, 2018) published her nonfiction book, 'The Book About Periods'.



ALUMNUS WINS PRESTIGIOUS

BOOK AWARD

Law alumna retires from professional football

Ex-England, Chelsea and Juventus striker, Eniola Aluko (Law, 2008) - who won more than 100 England caps - has retired from professional football.

Alumni search for love in the Love Island villa

Brunel graduates Nas Majeed (Sport Sciences, 2019) and Priscilla Anyabu (Business & Management, 2017) both appeared as contestants looking for love on ITV reality show, Love Island.

Finalists selected for UK Alumni Awards

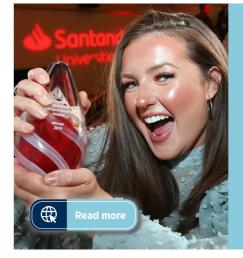
We're proud to see two Brunel alumni selected as finalists for the 2020 Study UK Alumni Awards; Dr Salah Obayya (Learning & Teaching in Higher Education, 2006) for Egypt and Dr Faris Almalki (Electrical Engineering & Electronics Research, 2018) for Saudi Arabia.

Alumni CEO giving back to Brunel

Brunel will take part in this year's Royal Society Entrepreneur in Residence (EiR) Scheme and host Dr Alexander Reip (Mechanical Engineering Research, 2015) - CEO of Oxford nanoSystems Ltd. - appointed to help turn world-class research into commercial successes.

Alumni feature in the British Asian Musical Theatre list

Robby Khela (English & Drama, 2004) and Irvine Naqvi (Drama with Film & Television Studies, 1999) have both featured on the British Asian Musical Theatre Actors & Actresses list from Desiblitz.com



ECZEMA-SOOTHING COSI CARE SCOOPS TOP **ENTREPRENEURSHIP AWARD FOR GRADUATE**



European under-23 championships debut

Havering athlete Tom Pitkin (Business & Management (Marketing), 2019) was selected to compete in the 2019 European under-23 championships in Sweden, competing for Ireland in the 400m and the 4x400m relay.

Using scuba gear to support the health service

Brother and sister engineering alumni duo Ian Jones (Special Engineering Programme with French, 1997) and Susan Jones (Special Engineering Programme, 2002) have formed "SCUBA Aid" to help tackle COVID19 problems using the Scuba industry, equipment and ecosystems to turn Scuba gear into portable oxy therapy sets.

Alumnus awarded prestigious Imbert Prize

Alumnus Kurt Steiner (Intelligence, 2018) was awarded the prestigious Imbert Prize by the Association of Security Consultants for his outstanding dissertation on the role of intelligence in counter-poaching.

Debut film awarded at the Boston Sci-Fi film festival

The debut feature film Mnemophrenia from alumna Eirini Konstantinidou (PhD, 2013) won the Festival Director's Commendation award at the 2019 Boston Sci-Fi film festival and is now available to watch online.

Chilli eating champion makes TV appearance

Good Morning Britain presenters Kate Garraway and Ben Shephard were joined by chilli eating champion Shahina Waseem (Mechanical Engineering, 2004) to put the new Armageddon chilli to the test live on air.

Directors Award for Creative Writing alumna

Director Saera Jin (Creative Writing, 2011) won the Directors Award at the Zagreb Tourfilm Festival in Croatia for her video promoting tourism in Tokyo.

"A Leader is one who knows the way and shows the way

Supporting the NHS

Edward Chudleigh (Industrial Design

engineer - launched a new business

making coronavirus face shields in his

and Technology, 2004) - a former Dyson

local church. As of mid-April, his team had

shipped 16,000 to NHS hospitals across

the country, with total orders of 36,000.

BRUNEL ALUMNI AND STAFF MAKE THEIR MARK IN SOUTH ASIAN EDUCATION

Alumnus awarded a CBE

Urenco Chairman Stephen Billingham (Economics and Government, 1980) was awarded a CBE in the 2019 Queen's Birthday Honours in recognition of his service to Government, public and regulated companies.

LAW SCHOOL **CELEBRATES ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY** WITH HELP FROM **OUR ALUMNI**

Management Today's '35 women under 35'

Oluchi Ikechi (Information Systems, 2006) featured in the 2019 Management Today's '35 women under 35' awards as a rising star in Accenture's financial services business.



The Family Brain Games

Neuroscientist Dr Hannah Critchlow (Cell and Molecular Biology, 2003) appeared on the BBC as one of the hosts of new TV show. The Family Brain Games.

UK COACHING AWARD FOR SPORTS ALUMNUS



SUPER-FURRY KIDS' CHARACTER SPRANG TO LIFE DURING SUPERMARKET SHIFTS



Alumna business features in the **UN Business Programme**

Seffie Wells (Psychological and Psychiatric Anthropology, 2010) and her multi awardwinning British baby brand 'aidie London' - recently named one of the top 100 SMEs in the UK - have announced their enrolment to the elite UN Business Programme, joining forces with international businesses to meet the UN's sustainable development goals.

Law alumna and Judge joins HaqueTalks

Sewar Alrashdan (International Intellectual Property Law, 2010) – a highly regarded Judge in Jordan - was invited to speak at this year's HagueTalks for peace and justice. focusing on how female judges contribute to justice and equality in the MENA region.

Empowering women in STEM

From volunteering at a Code Club in the UK to empowering women and young coders in Irag, Nadia Al-Aboody (Electrical Engineering & Electronics Research, 2017) has been involved in empowering women in STEM through the Growth Leaders programme.

A voice for... The Voice

Singer Vivienne Isebor (Psychology, 2014) wowed the judges on BBCs The Voice and secured a chair turn from Sir Tom Jones!

Rising Star success

There was a public sector category Rising Star Award from We Are The City for Charlene Chigumira (International Business, 2017).

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Recent Brunel graduate Dev Aditya has been crowned as the 2020 Alumnus of the Year for his dedication to social innovation, community work and social change.

Dev Aditya, who graduated with an LLB degree in Law in 2017 and then served for a year as Vice-President of the Union of Brunel Students, is currently the Managing Director of the Otermans Institute, which aims to upskill students in India, Nepal and Bangladesh.

Each year, Brunel's worldwide community votes in their hundreds for the finalist of the award, which celebrates the university's talented and inspiring alumni's outstanding professional achievements, their commitment to their community and ongoing contribution to Brunel through volunteering and advocacy. 2020 proved to be a bumper year for truly outstanding nominations, and Dev Aditya was delighted to have been selected by his fellow alumni as this year's winner.

"It feels good that after being shortlisted by the University, the final decision of the award came through a system of peer review where hundreds of alumni supported my nomination. This definitely makes the award more meaningful, especially to me," he said.

"I am very happy that my work and presence continue to influence people or bring them fond memories, despite having left the institution a couple of years ago now. I remember a friend calling me from Kuwait and saying how happy he was seeing my nomination and that he would definitely support my nomination as it was the least he could do for some of the support I was able to provide to him at university. It is little things like this that have made this award so special."

Championing communities

During Dev Aditya's vice-presidency of the Union – following an election campaign that he fondly remembers for the "sheer amount of love and support received" – he established Brunel's first South Asian Culture Week, celebrating the cultural diversity of the university's large number of South Asian students, and for which he was recognised with a national NUS award for inclusivity. He also brought TEDx to Brunel: a major event allowing staff and students to speak on a global platform. However, potentially his biggest success was co-leading the Brunel Bikes campaign. Here, the team raised over £80,000 in less than 5 weeks through a successful crowdfunding campaign, eventually securing an additional £100,000 deal with Santander to create and implement the current Brunel Bike scheme that links the University's campus with Uxbridge town centre and Hillingdon Hospital; something Dev Aditya says is a "particularly special memory" of Brunel. In recognition of his work, the University even named a cycle after him!

Beyond Brunel's campus, Dev Aditya has supported the launch of art exhibitions to help fundraise for Syrian refugees, helped to organise and execute community events in Bromley, and led and supported national campaigns for international students and young workers. He also worked and supported parliamentary events on similar issues. Following his time at Brunel, he has worked in legal consulting in London while continuing to work on several community driven activities across various parts of London. This led to his winning the Pride of Bengal Award at the House of Lords in 2019, where he became its youngest recipient.

Upskilling the underprivileged

Following his passion for social innovation and community work, Dev Aditya moved on from legal consulting to his own very interesting enterprise. Last year, he launched the Otermans Institute, a social education enterprise which aims to upskill students in India, Nepal and Bangladesh with the use of tailored soft skills and transferable skills training. He has already trained a few hundred teachers and thousands of students, mainly in India. Recently. Dev Aditva and his colleagues signed a memorandum of understanding with the government of the state of Uttarakhand to train and upskill over 20,000 underprivileged students there. Dev Aditya is currently scaling the operations and lobbying other state governments to implement his soft skills curriculum and teaching programme, and his work throughout India was recently recognised by the Governor with the Global



Leaders Award for Innovation in Education. The Institute are currently working to provide free online learning, which can both up-skill people who are living in lockdown and help their mental wellbeing.

Already in a short time span and at a young age, Dev Aditya has touched and impacted on the lives of thousands of people in different parts of London and across South Asia. His dedication to the young people in these communities and passion for social change are obvious. He always aims to link his projects back to Brunel and has taken several interns and teammates from the University whilst continuing to actively advise and support students.

Dev Aditya added: "I am where I am today because of my time at Brunel. Honestly, I faced both ups and downs during my time there. This, however, much more than just the academic learning, prepared me for real life after university."

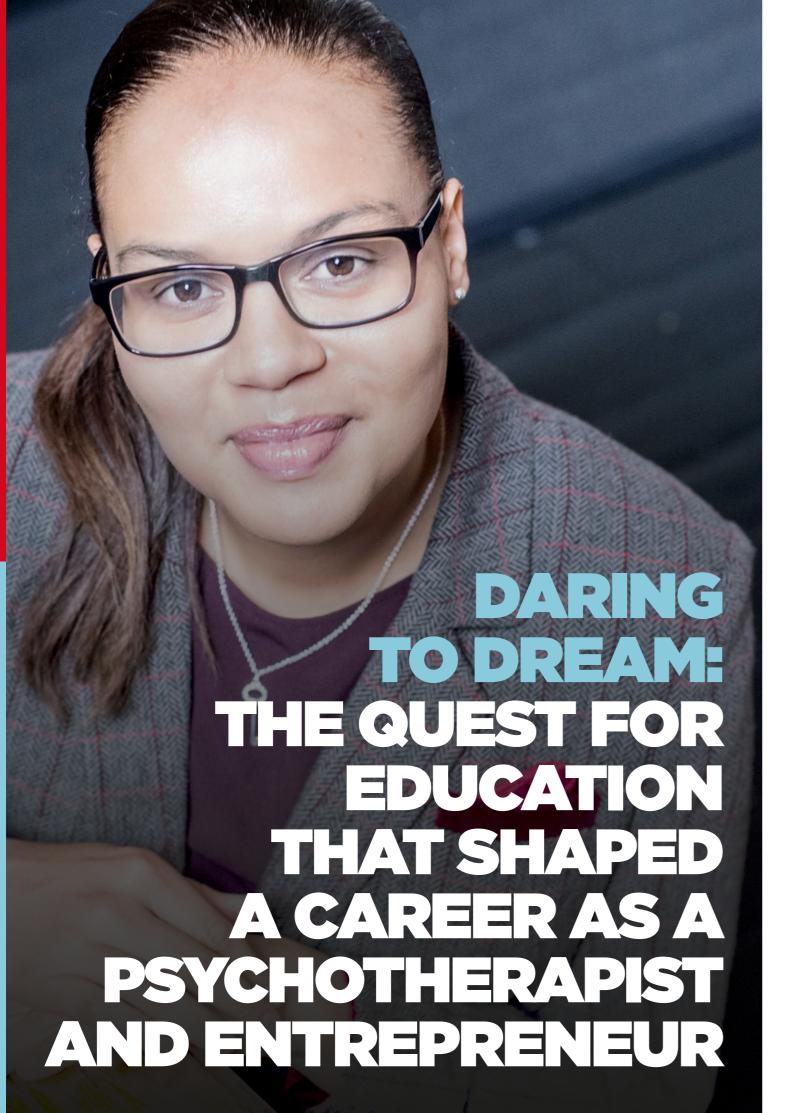
"The amount of support and opportunities provided to students by Brunel is unparalleled and a boon to students like me; I won awards for entrepreneurship, started and led societies, organised functions and exhibitions for refugees, got elected as a Vice-President for the Students' Union and also joined high profile University committees such as the Senate and Council."

Dev Aditya's vision, strategy, dedication to his work and impact on the community for both his current projects and during his time at Brunel is to be admired as something that will make a lasting difference to society. He is a worthy 2020 winner and a credit to Brunel.









As a mature student who fought to study at Brunel and carve a career to be proud of, Keeley Taverner (BSc Psychology, 2007) is a Psychotherapist and Founder of Key for Change. Keeley spoke to us about her pursuit for education, the importance of believing in yourself and why you should never give up on your dreams.

Having joined Brunel as a mature student with huge ambition and a dream of being a Psychologist, Keeley tells us about her time as a student and explains how Brunel helped her achieve the career she was looking for.

I came to Brunel in 2003 as a single mother, with embarrassing GCSE grades, a dead-end career at Ikea as a cashier and a massive ambition in my heart. I wanted to be a Psychologist. I had been in an abusive one-way relationship, where I had given my all and ended up with debts, low self-esteem and depression. The chaos and confusion in my love life got me reading self-help books and over the course of two years, reading became my place of solace, understanding and inspiration.

By the time I got to Brunel at the age of 25, I decided I wanted to help other people like me. I wanted to make a difference and felt that a degree in Psychology would set me in the right direction and today, I can proudly say, that I was spot on! Over the course of two tough years from 2001-2003 | began to believe I could elevate myself out of the traps of poverty, low expectation and stereotypes that were super-imposed into me. I wanted to be more than a baby-mother pushing a pram on my estate. I wanted to be more than a statistic and I saw education as a transformative vehicle that could transport me out of a vicious cycle.

I dared to dream and I fought to get into Brunel. Getting to Brunel in and of itself was a victory. In 2002, I undertook an Access to Social Sciences course. By 2003. I applied to Brunel and my initial application was rejected as I did not have Maths GCSE. Damn, I couldn't believe my past failings were hindering my future. I wrote to the admin team and asked if they could reconsider their decision. Thankfully, they invited me to attend a Maths exam, but I failed, and again I was rejected. Not to be defeated I out and out begged the admin team to reconsider. Thankfully. someone took a chance on me and said yes! It was such a big deal, and by the time I stepped onto campus in 2003, it was a humungous victory.

I was the first person in my family to go to university and a whole new world of possibilities became open to me. For the first time, I could see a way out. I would need to work hard, make sacrifices and focus on getting through each semester, rather than thinking about four long years. That is exactly what I did, as I knew this was my shot at a better life for me and my two young daughters. I did a thin sandwich placement course which exposed me to new working environments where I built my confidence from the ground up. My first placement was at a drug and alcohol agency, my second, most pivotal, placement was at HMP Wormwood Scrubs. It was here that I met Psychologist

Lara Jonah, who became my lifelong mentor. Upon graduation, I got my first full time job at Wormwood Scrubs as a Substance Misuse Worker. A year later, Lara sat me down and told me an internal vacancy was available in Probation. I shook my head and thought the position was out of my league, but she coached me and helped me overcome my fears. I got the job and worked for 8 years as a Probation Officer delivering offender behaviour programmes to high risk offenders.

As a mature student with two children and a part time job, studying full time was a tough juggling act. As I developed critical thinking my outlook on life was changing. Sadly, there were a raft of unintended consequences for many of my relationships. I had help from tutors, family members, my mentor and a decreasing circle of friends. When I fell on tough financial times in my final year the University invested in me and altogether having a supportive team to assist me emotionally, academically, financially and from a class progression perspective was invaluable and fundamental to where I am today.

Realising that her story had the power to inspire others and with plenty of gumption, Keeley went on to start her own organisation. Key for Change.

Wow, who knew I would have taken it so far! In 2007 when I graduated, I called my mentor Lara and cried down the phone. I was overwhelmed and unsure about what to do next. She encouraged me to start a counselling skills course at the local college to assist my job applications. Kate Croucher from the Careers department at Brunel also took me under her wing and assisted me with job hunting, further training options and most importantly gave me my first speaking opportunity. It was at this time that I realised for the first time that my story had the power to inspire others. After attending a short counselling skills course, I decided I wanted to take it up a level and by 2008, I signed up to do a 4-year, part time MSc in Person Centred Psychotherapy at the Metanoia Institute. Interestingly, I had read Carl Rogers while studying at Brunel and I loved his insights on human potential. His philosophy about the human condition spoke to my experience of personal change and studying Psychotherapy felt like a natural progression. Metanoia was a private learning institute and as such, my fellow trainees were from affluent backgrounds. It was a given you would start your own practice and their energy and belief in me rubbed off, even though I still struggled with self-doubt.

By 2011, I had been working full time as a Probation Officer for three years and steadily been knocked back for every promotion. had a strong back for rejection, but nothing offended me more when a letter landed on my door mat in the summer of the Tottenham riots. I was informed I was at risk of redundancy. I was so incensed. From that moment on, I knew I had to take my career into my own hands. I didn't like that a single organisation had such power over me,

especially when there was such high demand in the overcrowded prison system. It was utter lunacy. It was from that moment that Key for Change was born in my mind. A year later, I achieved my second counselling qualification. I became a member of the BACP and by May 2012, I registered my company Key for Change and saw my first client privately. I had no idea how I would make it, but it felt as though I had been in a similar place before when I juggled, struggled and succeeded at Brunel. I drew on one of the most important skills that got me through my degree – faith. Faith had been the key then, plus I knew I had good intentions and the audacity to believe I could be an empowered woman. For three solid years, I worked full time at the prison, part time seeing private clients, and for the rest of the time I was thinking of a way out of what felt like a dead-end career. By 2015, I left the prison and gave my all to Key for Change.

The objective of Key for Change has always been to help those that need it when life has gotten complicated and the way forward may be unclear; something Keeley does with passion.

People come to Key for Change when life has gotten complicated and the way forward is unclear. I have built a team of independently qualified, registered and experienced professional therapists who help people to resolve emotional and psychological challenges. We do this through counselling, mediation, psychiatry, psychotherapy and coaching - each of us have our own specialism. At Key for Change we appreciate that everyone is unique, and we utilise a range of creative, traditional and contemporary methods to facilitate personal healing. People seek out Key for Change as an alternative to the NHS, as they desire timely, flexible therapy and are not always at ease with diagnosis and prescribed medication. Our clients want to talk about what's troubling them and want to understand the small and seemingly insignificant ways their behaviour sabotages their potential which, as a result, feed into the development of common mental health problems.

Believe in yourself: When it comes to the next generation of Brunel graduates, Keeley has some valuable advice to share.

You've got to believe in yourself. Define your own dream. Visualise it. Buy items, objects or anything that represents where you want to be in the future. Find mentors. Ask. Expect rejection. Learn life lessons. Notice patterns and themes in your life and change the unhelpful ones. Dare to dream. Invest in you Don't always wait for funding. Get an ideas notebook. Create distance from negative energy. Be open. Say yes to new opportunity Say no and notice how people treat you. Expect relationship causalities. Be around people that lift you up. Know that its ok that it's not ok. Cry if you need too. Feel down if need be. There is no failure only feedback. Just don't give up and most importantly, keep the faith.

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#BRULOVESTORIES: FALLING IN LOVE AT BRUNEL

Did you meet the love of your life at Brunel? University isn't always just where you learn, it's also where many fall in love, and for our alumni, Cupid was definitely working some magic. To celebrate Valentine's Day, we asked our alumni to share their Brunel love story on social media to win dinner on us, and you didn't disappoint. Here are just a few of the amazing #BruLoveStories you shared with us...

MZM ZANHAR AND BAF SHAFRA (class of 2015)

We were good friends and then I asked her out in our second year; she said she'd think about it! I decided to buy her food every other day and she eventually said yes; we started going out, graduated, moved back to Sri Lanka and got married. Years passed and now we have a 1 year old!

BETH BAKER AND CONNOR SMITH (class of 2019)

e used to sit oppo

each other in seminars but never spoke – then the power of Locos karaoke night brought us together. We have now been together for 3 years as 'proper adults' living together and working graduate jobs. Thank you, Brune

BLANCA LARRALDE (class of 2020) **AND PETER GRIFFEN** (class of 2021)

We happened to be flatmates in our first year! We both love music, so we spent a lot of time in karaoke. There is nothing stronger than the relationship between a man and his drink – inseparable in all situations; much love for the Spanish woman in the middle!

LILI MACKINTOSH (class of 2018) AND KAI TYLER (class of 2017)

We met in 2014, on our first day when we both moved into Lacy Hall and attended the same pre-drinks party. We enjoyed many days and nights on campus using all the different facilities, from eating at Locos to studying until the early hours in the Library. We also founded the Brunel Wildlife and Environmental Conservation society together. We were best friends first but love soon blossomed; and after I graduated in 2018, Kai proposed to me on our holiday to the Dominican Republic. We were due to get married this year but will instead tie the knot next July! We both absolutely loved our time at Brunel and are so grateful that the many opportunities brought us together.

SARAH PRICE AND CHRIS MORSE (class of 1993)

We fell in love after we both moved to Chepstow Hall during our final year. We graduated together in 1993 and moved to California in 1997 to work in hi-tech in Silicon Valley. Together we enjoyed travelling the world and had some amazing experiences. We now live in Oregon with our three boys and 2021 will be our 25th wedding anniversary. We always said that Brunel brought us together, so in return we gave one of our twins the middle name of 'Isambard'!



SIMONE MCNICHOLS-THOMAS (class of 2018) AND TOBY HEATH (class of 2019)

I have Brunel Residences to thank for allocating us neighbouring rooms in our first year. We supported each other through our entire university experience and had the best time. Now 4 years and counting!

SARAH GLEESON AND DANIEL GLEESON (class of 2008)

In 2007, I went out for a drink with a guy from my British Cinema class at Brunel. I was hungover and he was hoping to be home in time for a football match! But once we got chatting it was like we'd known each other for years. I went home that night

> found someone really special and hoped he felt the same way. We've grown up a lot since then but he's still the lovely boy who held the door open for me after lectures. We got married in 2013 and still love reminiscing about nights out at The Academy!'



Unlocking the Secrets of Slavery and Abolition was a recent exhibition at Brunel exploring the British and Foreign School Society's (BFSS) role in the introduction of elementary education to enslaved and freed children in the British West Indies during and after slavery, showcasing documents and artefacts from the BFSS archives held by Brunel University London Archive. It is part of a UK-wide series of events on the theme of "Secrets and Discoveries" hosted by the Being Human Festival of Humanities. The Festival is sponsored by the London School of Advanced Study, in partnership with the Arts and Humanities Research Council and The British Academy.

The BFSS was the UK's most influential non-denominational education society in the nineteenth century. In 1804, it established Britain's first teacher training institution, Borough Road College, in Southwark, London, before moving into purpose-built premises in 1817. The College opened its doors to both men and women and to British as well as overseas trainee teachers. Here they learned the BFSS's method of nonsectarian instruction known as the "British System." The BFSS minute books, annual reports and correspondence record the progress, achievements and challenges the Society faced in delivering widespread educational reform at home and abroad.

By 1815, nonconformist missionaries were being trained as teachers at Borough Road College and dispatched by their home societies to deliver instruction in mission schools in all four corners of the globe - including the slave societies of the British West Indies. Following the Slavery Abolition Act (1833), Parliament turned to the colonies' missionary societies to set up elementary schools throughout the former slave colonies. The BFSS played a key role in training teachers, and dispensing teaching manuals and education materials - such as writing slates, books, pencils, maps, and globes - to nonconformist missionaries and teachers across the British West Indies. In addition, they assisted and advised on the planning and building of schools. Schools that taught the BFSS's curriculum and pedagogy were known as "British Schools." Almost all islands in the British West Indies had British Schools.

In the decades after emancipation, missionaries faced considerable obstacles in running elementary schools, including British Schools, in the former slave colonies. Funding was limited, teaching resources scarce and trained teachers were in short and expensive supply. In 1845, the British government terminated the Negro Education Grant that had been introduced in the wake of abolition to establish a system of elementary education in the colonies. This dealt a severe financial blow to the fledgling education system and coincided with spiralling economic depression in the colonies; as testified by missionaries' pleas to the BFSS to send them supplies of books, maps, globes and writing materials.

The BFSS counted among its ranks the leading lights of British abolition, who believed Christian-based instruction was essential to preparing West Indian slaves for freedom. MP William Wilberforce, who led the parliamentary campaign to abolish the British slave trade, was a member of the BFSS committee. Founding member of the Anti-Slavery Society, MP Sir Thomas Fowell Buxton, was a Vice-President of the BFSS. William Allen, chemist, philanthropist and abolitionist, was treasurer of the Society. The BFSS's list of subscribers also included well-known abolitionists, such as the Scottish statistician and co-founder of the Anti-Slavery Society, Zachary Macaulay, who was also a founder of London University.

Members of the royal family – and business and banking families such as Barings, Barclay, Gurney, Whitbread and Fry – also donated generously to the BFSS. So too did such prominent figures as the English potter, MP and abolitionist, Josiah Wedgwood II, the poet Lord Byron, and utopian socialist reformer, Robert Owen.

One of the most outspoken opponents of slavery in the British West Indies was the Baptist missionary, Reverend William Knibb. He trained in the British System at Borough Road College in 1824 before departing for Jamaica to set up mission schools teaching enslaved and freed children to read and write. He sent the "Slave Book" to the BFSS in 1826. This artefact is a rare record of enslaved children's handwriting: West Indian planters generally prohibited their slaves from learning to read and write in the belief that it fuelled slave resistance. Many Baptist missionaries, including Knibb, faced persecution, violence and arrest for their opposition to slavery in the British West Indies.



Less well known and often overlooked in this story are the women who trained at Borough Road College and went to teach in the British Caribbean, such as Lucy Kingdon, Anna Anstie and Sarah Yarnold. Kingdon set up a girls' school in Spanish Town, Jamaica, in 1834; Anstie taught in William Knibb's school in Trelawny, Jamaica in 1841 before opening a girls' school in Montego Bay; and Yarnold founded a girls' school in Falmouth, Jamaica around 1842.

It is not easy to trace the career paths of female teachers like Kingdon, Yarnold and Anstie in the archives because once they married, they taught under their husband's name – like Anstie, who after marriage became Mrs P Cornford. Overall, British women teachers played a vital role in setting up girls' schools and promoting female education throughout the British West Indian colonies in the nineteenth century.

The British and Foreign School Society supported a racially inclusive vision of education reform and some of Britain's first black professional teachers were trained at Borough Road College. Thomas Jenkins journeyed from Africa to Britain in 1803, as a freeman, and upon William Allen's recommendation was enrolled in Borough Road College as a trainee teacher in 1818. In 1820, Jenkins helped to establish a new British School in Pimlico, London, where he also taught and for which he was commended for his "zealous and able conduct." On 1 August 1821, Jenkins was awarded a BFSS teaching certificate and

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on 6 August set sail for Mauritius, where he spent the next 37 years enjoying a successful career as a teacher of elementary education. William Jagon, also from Africa, was a contemporary of Jenkins at Borough Road College (1816-18) and became a monitor general at Borough Road School, before travelling to Dominica in the British West Indies to teach. Charles Knight, Joseph May and William Allen, all from Sierra Leone, studied at Borough Road College in the 1840s. After qualifying as teachers, they returned to Sierra Leone and introduced the British System into schools in Freetown, a colony which had been founded as a refuge for former British American slaves. They received high praise for their 'diligent efforts' in a report sent to the BFSS by fellow missionary, Reverend Badger.

Trainee male teachers from the British West Indies also came to study at Borough Road College, such as Joseph Phillips from Antigua, who afterwards returned to the island to teach. In comparison, there are no records of trainee women teachers from the British West Indies studying at Borough Road College in this period. Yet the BFSS archives show that emancipated women were trained as teachers in the former slave colonies by BFSS, such as Anna Anstie.

The BFSS adopted a broad and liberal approach to education by the standards of early nineteenth-century Britain and supported the education of the enslaved in the British Caribbean. It also championed female education and actively promoted the expansion of the teaching profession to women. It also pursued a racially inclusive vision of teaching and worldwide education reform, through supporting the education and training of men and women from Africa, the West Indies and many other places throughout the world.

For further information about the BFSS archives please visit: **brunel.ac.uk/about/Archives**

This exhibition is curated by Mandy Mordue and Phaedra Casey (Brunel University London Archives) and Dr Inge Dornan, with assistance from Dr Alison Carrol. With grateful thanks to Anti-Slavery International for permission to use the image of Reverend William Knibb.









ALUMNIARE ENHANCING STUDENT **DEVELOPMENT AND** WELLBEING

Alumni volunteering offers a wonderful opportunity for our graduate community to share their knowledge, skills and experiences with our current students. Whether it's through mentoring, subject-specific industry talks or contributing a profile, each makes a valuable and lasting impact. We're shining a spotlight on our Music department, whose alumni have been volunteering their time and expertise in delivering development and wellbeing sessions for their undergraduates.



Musicians in general are trained to be creative, communicators, problem-solvers and team players. An integral element to the Music BA course at Brunel involves personal development, and the Music team have taken care to extend this, fostering skills in leadership, entrepreneurship, technology and ever-increasingly, wellbeing. As the leader for the Professional Development modules for first and second year students, our Senior Lecturer in Music, Colin Riley, has built a nurturing arc over the past two years with students sharing skills, producing their own live events. making online teaching videos, curating work on dedicated personal websites and experiencing short work placements. Woven into the modules are a valuable series of talks and workshops from industry professionals, which are often delivered by members of our Music alumni community.

"Hearing stories from previous students adds a layer of comfort and, rather than being worried. I am now excited to explore life after university."

Guy Mannion: BA Music, level 3 student

"This past year has seen a strong focus on wellbeing and empathy; aspects that are vital to a flourishing musician and qualities that we ever-increasingly are realising are fundamental components of our society," said Colin. "Staff and ex-students generally keep in touch with each other after graduating as the world of music is not that big. Because of relatively small numbers and the nature of our 'student-led' degree programme, our alumni often work alongside staff and like to keep us informed about their creative endeavours in the years following graduation." Volunteering means a lot to our alumni -

Angus Havers, now a composer and session musician, added: "Having studied Music at Brunel, and during that time having been inspired by external speakers, I felt it was important for me to do the same and give

back the skills, knowledge and experience that I have learnt since graduating."

Sessions from our Music alumni over the last academic year have included: Angus Havers (class of 2000). Working in Music and Film: Finnola D'Albert (class of 2009), Online Music Journalism and Studio Production; Toby Hanton (class of 2014), Venue Management and Artistic Programming; Emily Kezia Green (class of 2017), Teaching in Primary Schools and Musical Wellbeing; Carly Bryant (class of 2004), Song Writing and Creativity; Magdalena Gabriah (class of 2008), Strategies to Managing Performance Anxiety; and Tiffany Berton (class of 2002), A Therapeutic Approach to Singing.

Tiffany Berton, currently a full-time singer-songwriter and vocal coach, said: "I felt very privileged to be able to talk to students about my experience, both at Brunel and after. I teach 'wellness through singing' and I loved the idea of being able to show students there is so much more to singing than just the performance side."



Magdalena Gabriah, founder and owner of the Forte Training Company and Ascot Music School and bestselling author, added: "I was pleasantly surprised with how much focus Brunel had been placing on the wellbeing of their students, enabling them to look at their education and performance skills in a very holistic, all embracing but also individual way." Graduate Emily-Keziah Green, now a musician and teacher, also explained: "When I was a student at Brunel. I learnt a lot from the alumni regarding what the industry is like for someone who had just graduated. It was an incredible experience to come and do the same thing for current students."

This bond has been further strengthened over the last two years with the formation two initiatives: the annual live music event - 'Played in Brunel' - taking place at legendary music venue. The Half Moon in Putney, and featuring performances from students old and new: and the Brunel Music Mentor Scheme – an orbit of 12 professionals from all corners of the music world. Both have naturally drawn from our illustrious and supportive alumni community.

There are huge and clear benefits to alumni speaking to current students beyond the content of the session itself. It provides a

"I find it especially beneficial
and encouraging when alumni
revisit the university to talk
about their careers and
achievements. It acts as a great
stimulus when studying to
achieve similar accomplishments.
Now, when thinking about my
future after graduating, I am
excited and inspired rather
than worried and concerned."

Laura Hodges – BA Music, level 3 student

strong validation for careers in the subject and a vital connection to outside networks. "It is in the Q&A at end when you can see just how important this link is," said Colin. "Students often have anxiety around their future careers and their choice of course and these types of close association with professionals helps to provide a reassurance and inspiration."

In what have been difficult times of isolation. we can clearly see the need for creativity, teamwork, empathy, wellbeing, use of technology and communication. Not to mention, of course, the value of music itself.

Keen to volunteer your expertise? Email the team at alumni@brunel.ac.uk to find out about our volunteering opportunities.

"Sharing a room with [alumni]
professionals made me see
the future me and plan ahead
of what I really want to when
I graduate. These sessions
inspired us to believe that
everything is possible."

Ines Silva: BA Music, level 2 student

MUSIC MENTORS

BRUNEL NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

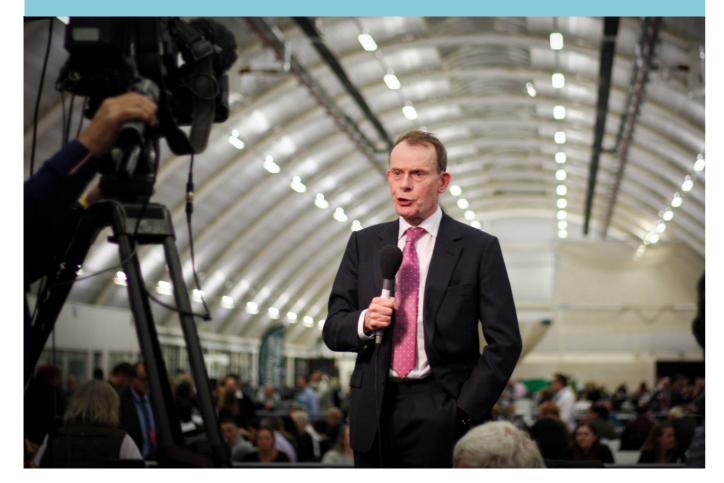


WORLD'S MEDIA TURN GAZE ON BRUNEL FOR HISTORIC ELECTION NIGHT



including the BBC's Andrew Marr and Sky's Anna Botting, arrived at Brunel's Indoor Athletics Centre

20





BERNARDINE SHARES BOOKER PRIZE WITH ATWOOD

Bring-Your-Own-Device exams recognised with major award

The days of painful exam-hand could soon be behind us after a scheme that allows students to use their own laptops to sit exams was recognised with a prestigious Advance HE Collaborative Award for Teaching Excellence (CATE).

The Bring-Your-Own-Device (BYOD) scheme, first launched at Brunel University London in 2015, began as pilot for a single sport science exam but has since successfully grown to see over 2700 students a year sitting tests on their own computer.

"It is fantastic to receive a national award that recognises the dedication, teamwork and 'can-do' attitude of Brunel staff and students," said Professor Mariann Rand-Weaver, Vice-Provost for Education at Brunel, who worked with a diverse team of 18 academics and professional staff to roll out the programme. "Nationally, it has captured the imagination of many universities that. like us, are seeking to use technology for the benefit of students and staff."

BRUNEL SKYROCKET UP GLOBAL RANKINGS

LEAFY CAMPUS FLAGGED AS **TOP UK GREEN SPACE**

Brunel declares a climate

change emergency

Brunel University London has declared a climate change emergency and has re-stated its commitment to research to support sustainability and tackling global challenges.

Vice-Chancellor and President Professor Julia Buckingham CBE signed international accords with the full support of senior leadership from the university and from the Union of Brunel Students.

Brunel joins organisations worldwide in signing the accords and stating their commitment, including others across the UK's higher education sector. The sector body Universities UK - of which Prof Buckingham is the President, and Brunel a member – is working with further education sector bodies on the Climate Commission for UK University and College Students and Leaders, with the aim being to create real impact and drive change.





Brunel Law School bags Athena SWAN Bronze Award

The Brunel Law School has been awarded an Athena SWAN Bronze thanks to its support for gender equality in its working environment - and is the first non-STEM part of Brunel to achieve this. The school now joins Clinical Sciences,

Life Sciences, Mathematics and Computer Science - all Science, Engineering, Technology and Mathematics (STEM) subjects - in achieving the Bronze departmental award. The Athena SWAN Award is a national initiative that aims to address gender equality in higher education institutions and encourages the advancement of careers for women.

22



"HIGHEST BADGE OF HONOUR" FOR FORCES-FRIENDLY BRUNEL



BRUNEL PARTNERING WITH BABCOCK TO **PROVIDE SERVICES TO** LONDON'S MET POLICE

JENNI RODITI



Improvisers Choir who debut EP Landmass Vol 1 was ased in March 2019. Volume





ive-streamed online works

NOEMI NUTI



PHIL MAGUIRE



PLAYED IN BRUNEL

Showcasing our alumni in the music industry

NISHA CHAND sic and English. 200



Female Songwriter' and 'Best is released in May 2020





ALEX HEARN



Alex leads a contemporary jazz funk band called Solar whose Tavlor's Jazz 825 programmes

SAM CAVE



Guitarist and composer Sam's Another Timbre and Metier record labels. His playing has been broadcast on both Late lunction and The New Music

DAISY COOLE



television alongside artists such as Lady Gaga and Beth Ditto In 2014, with her composer Two Twenty Two. creating

ALFIE MOLE



BENITO PRIOLI



Photo Credit: paulclarkephotoart.uk

all over the UK and Europe

SUPPORTER NEWS

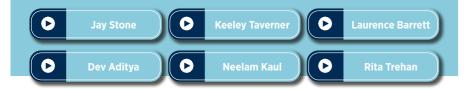


From financial gifts and delivering talks to mentoring and recruiting Brunel talent, here are just a few highlights of how your support has made an impact.



LEADING THE WAY IN OUR WEBINARS

We were thrilled to launch our alumni webinar series -



difference to our students

Financially supporting a Brunel student through our scholarships and bursaries can have a life changing impact.

Flood and Coastal Engineering student Kate, recipient of the Brunel Bursary. says: "I'd love to send my thanks to those who have kindly donated this money. The bursary I'm receiving is helping to ease the financial pressure, as well as some of the other challenges of leaving home and work to take up study at Brunel."

Francisca, a final year Law student and recipient of the International Excellence Scholarship, explains: "I have fewer financial worries due to the discount I received. Scholarships are valuable, especially to financially underprivileged students throughout the world who cannot afford university education. I am so grateful for the opportunity the scholarship gave me."

In honour of the late Brunel alumnus and Rotarian Mark Grimwade, the local Rotary Club of Elthorne-Hillingdon has worked with his family to establish The Mark Grimwade Rotary Bursary to support a deserving student at Brunel in the coming year.

Brunel currently has: 255 Active Mentors. including 75 Alumni



We have 253 matched mentees and 135 Brunel students waiting for a mentor like vou!



Mentors from 110+ organisations



Digital fundraising success

Our own Brunel branded crowdfunding platform. Crowdfund Brunel, is a keystone to our digital fundraising efforts and since its launch two years ago, we have raised over £20,000 for student and campus focused projects, supporting efforts from Union of Brunel Students sports clubs, societies, individual students, and academic departments.

The generosity of our alumni has helped to fund the Dr Jeshika Singh Memorial Prize, rewarding students training to improve public health; a PhD scholarship to research childhood Leukaemia; and the Team Brunel Abroad project supporting disabled athletes and children through the Bali Sports Foundation.

SHARING YOUR EXPERTISE THROUGH MENTORING

STAY CONNECTED WITH OUR WORLDWIDE ALUMNI ASSOCIATIONS

A worldwide

Benefits of an

141,000

25,000

180+ countrie

What are alumni

• Alumni associations are organised by a worldwide network of volunteers and institutional ambassadors, dedicated to staying connected with Brunel through organising social events, professional networking opportunities and many more activities!

- Groups provide a point of contact for alumni new to an area, helping to develop personal, social and professional networks and keep alumni in touch with Brunel.
- They're a great place to meet new people, share stories about Brunel and have fun!

Networking

Welcoming

Mentoring

Socialising - Make new

24

What events can

an alumni

Social gatherings



Networking Events



Online webinars



Graduation parties for returning alumni



Mentoring events



Community support events



Pre-departure parties

How can the Alumni

Office support your

- Promoting your events on our online alumni network and our social media sites to help generate interest.
- Contacting alumni in your area to encourage them to ioin vour group.
- Helping with suggestions of suitable venues for group activities
- Letting you know if Brunel staff are visiting your area giving you an opportunity to meet with them.
- Sending vou regular communications to check-in, suggest ideas for events and best practice and share your ideas with others.
- Setting up an online community to help you interact with other global association members and share event ideas and photographs..

Wherever you are in the world, we are committed to providing opportunities for you to stay connected to Brunel and your fellow alumni.

Contact alumni@brunel.ac.uk about setting up an alumni association where you live.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS



There's no such thing as 'gifted'



For over two decades, Professor Valsa Koshy MBE, an emerita professor of education at Brunel University London, has studied 'giftedness', 'talent' and the idea that some children can be labelled as naturally high performers, and some children can't. During that time, she has come to an overarching conclusion - society seriously needs to reconsider how it conceives talent.

Now, in an effort to change how we collectively view 'talent', Prof Koshy has identified seven key ideas for parents to help their children succeed, including fighting low expectations, understanding wellbeing and separating a child's abilities from their social background.

"The most important message I have to share is that there is no universally accepted definition for any of these words - giftedness, talent, high ability," said Prof Koshy. "Parents need to know that intelligence is not fixed at birth and we can change a child's learning potential. Sharing this fact with children

makes them put in more effort and feel more optimistic about learning."

Prof Koshy believes parents need to concentrate on finding and developing their children's individual talents by encouraging them to take on self-directed passion projects, discovering for themselves what they enjoy and can engage with. Figures such as Roald Dahl, Charles Darwin and Richard Branson, she points out, weren't identified as particularly talented as children, but excelled through developing their own skills and passions



Prozac fights deadly

childhood brain cancer

The anti-depressant drug Prozac could be used to tackle one of the deadliest childhood tumours and possibly other types of cancer, scientists said. Fluoxetine - the chemical name for Prozac - works to fight the highly aggressive neuroblastoma, which is most common in young children.

The breakthrough, led by Brunel University London, could spare young patients' treatment with highly toxic cocktails of chemotherapy drugs and radiation. "Prozac has the potential to be used in children with neuroblastoma as a new and effective anti-cancer drug, but with less toxicity than current cancer treatments," said Professor Arturo Sala.

Publishing the results in Oncogenesis, the team show Prozac can stabilise a protein encoded by the gene CDKN1B that kills neuroblastoma cells and slows their growth. And crucially, the doses needed are safe for children, which they call 'a major clinical advance'.

Researchers found significantly fewer metastases (when cancer spreads from one part of the body to another) in organs such as liver, kidneys and bone marrows in mice on Prozac. The idea to use Prozac to treat cancer came after previous studies found people on long-term treatment for psychotic illnesses have lower cancer rates.



Confirmed: In space no one can hear you scream

The old tagline 'in space no one can hear you scream' has been confirmed by a South African mother loudly shouting for her children to tidy their room from 33,000 metres above the ground. Or not so loudly, as the case appears to be.

The experiment, carried out by a graduate engineer from Brunel University London and the BBC Radio show "The Naked Scientists", involved sending a microphone and speaker on a custombuilt 'Screaming Satellite' to near-space to test how high-up the scream could still be heard.

People from all over the world were challenged with sending in screams and yells, with a selection of the best ultimately selected for the mission. Amongst those making the flight was Noha from South Africa, who proposed the team send a recording of her scolding her kids with a scream of "Children! Come and clean your room."

Science suggests that as the payload's altitude increases - and the air becomes correspondingly thinner - the level of the sound picked up by the microphone should decrease. And it does indeed appear to be the case the no one can hear you scream in space, as by the time the device's launch balloon burst at 33 kilometres above the Earth - the altitude at which there is only about 3/1000th of the amount of air press as at ground level - the screams, which were initially loud at ground level were only just audible.

The device had stopped screaming by the time it hit the ground, but ultimately it returned unscathed from its intrepid mission. It's not known if the children have tidied their room yet



Next-gen thermo tech packs a powerful punch into electric vehicles

A novel energy-free temperature control system is set to spark a new breed of ultraefficient electric buses, cars, trucks and even ships.

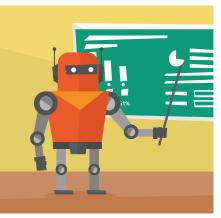
Heat pipe technology is shown to improve a battery's performance, safety, life and charging times far better and more affordably than typical battery cooling. Developed by Brunel University London and Flint

Engineering Limited, the system was tested on a hybrid diesel electric bus battery with Vantage Power Technology, which built the world's first retrofitted hybrid diesel electric buses

Results in the International Journal of Thermofluids show the Iso Mat[™] heat mat flat pipe technology overtakes conventional battery cooling in a string of tests. It signals a tipping point for electric vehicles. "Intelligent

26





Handle with care: How Al spots stress in workers

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is often cast as the workplace bad guy, threatening constant Big Brother style personal surveillance, unfair discrimination and ultimately to take over jobs.

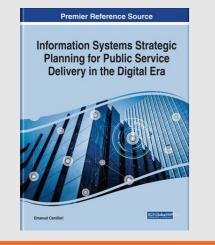
But can the supposedly dehumanising technology help make workplaces more human? That's the question organisational behaviour researchers at Brunel Business School hope to answer. Using intelligent algorithms to keep tabs on worker wellbeing can help managers spot and respond to staff distress and treat workers with compassion, reckons Dr Ace Simpson. That can also help companies hold on to staff and improve their bottom line.

"Responding to the suffering of employees in a timely manner enhances employee wellbeing, resilience, engagement, commitment and loyalty," he said. "With AI pattern recognition, it will likely be possible to begin preparing to provide support before the employee even realises they need it."

thermal management means the battery performs better, you get more out of it, it extends the range and makes charging faster," said Brunel's Professor Hussam Jouhara. "It improves functioning throughout."

INFORMATION SYSTEMS STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR PUBLIC SERVICE **DELIVERY IN THE DIGITAL ERA**

DR EMANUEL CAMILLERI



ICT to move towards seamless government, particularly for improving service delivery, democratic responsiveness and public outreach.

THE ALEXANDER L. KIELLAND DISASTER REVISITED: A REVIEW BY AN EXPERIENCED WELDING ENGINEER OF THE CATASTROPHIC NORTH SEA PLATFORM COLLAPSE (2019)

DR EDWIN JAMES FRANCE



875-881), this ground-breaking scientific paper looks at the scientific importance of welding and discovers the true cause of the Alexander L. Kielland platform collapse. By discovering the true cause of failure, and if the conclusions to be drawn are recognised and accepted, future weld fabricated structures of this type will be safer to operate. Dr France also wrote the paper on 'The Fundamentals of Welding' in 2008.

BRUNEL **IN PRINT**

Celebrating our alumni who have been published - here's a few highlights

A.I.3 A MAX

JASSEN POPP

STARK NOVELLA

A.i.3

liscovers may alter the past.

THE BOOK

ABOUT PERIODS OLIVIA BRINKLEY-GREEN Creative Writing, 2018



KILLER QUEEN

ALLEN PEPPITT



FRAGMENTARY **LIVES: THREE** NOVELLAS

PHILIP TEW The Novel, 2016



woman from the wrong side of the tracks. After the Revolution the life of university lecturer, Jim Dent, in the 1990s, as he

THE UNIVERSITY **OF THE FUTURE**

DAN REMENYI



MENTAL HEALTH FOR MILLENNIALS

GISELLE MARRINAN



SNORPS ADVENTURE

THOMAS ROGERS



ercome evil or will the planet Glum be cast into darkness forever?

WILD WISE WOMEN

MAGDALENA GABRIAH



Pursuit of Their Dreams. Success and Happiness, real women from all walks of life share their unique

HOW TO BE AN ACTIVIST: A PRACTICAL GUIDE **TO ORGANISING.** CAMPAIGNING AND MAKING **CHANGE HAPPEN**

VANESSA HOLBURN



BEING LGBT+ AT BRUNEL



Today's LGBT+ staff and student network are ensuring that Brunel is a place where people can be out about their sexuality and gender identity if that's what they choose; providing friendship, support and aiming to be representative of the diverse Brunel community.

Joining forces with more than a million marchers and the capital's other universities in July 2019. Brunel's staff and students marched together for the first time in London's biggest-ever Pride event, celebrating lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender culture and life. The 29-strong contingent from the staff and student LGBT+ networks marched through Central London, also celebrating their achievements of working with allies supportive people across Brunel - to promote equality and inclusion across campus and to develop a supportive culture

Being LGBT+ at Brunel 30 years ago: a former student reflects

By David Abbott

It's 30 years ago that I started my Law degree at Brunel. I had been seduced by the provision of cheese and biscuits at the open day utterly exotic to me, and I took it as a sign. Back then Brunel was, forgive the stereotype. quite a blokey place. Everyone seemed to be doing engineering of some kind and there were no arts or humanities students. Banter was about beer, women, sport, trains and power stations and I was very ill equipped to contribute to any of these topics. I wasn't out to anyone, and my first impressions were that this was a place where I would be better off keeping my sexuality hidden. I don't recall much in the way of general equalities. Back then lecturers were sometimes seen, sometimes heard, but largely only available for one hour every second Tuesday, so there were no real opportunities to be known or supported by staff.

Still in a religious phase, I got involved with the Chaplaincy. Here I got my fix of left-wing theology, feminism and social action. Buoyed up by the spirit of openness, I came out at home to my parents. We'll just call it a disaster. I crashed for a bit but didn't feel I could tell any of my tutors or lecturers, so I just hung on. The LGBT society was, for me, an unknown and largely scary thing up until then because I

had a lot of internalised homophobia and was worried about being seen to be associated with people who were out. Prominent leaders in the group were routinely verbally abused and scorned. But rejection from my parents and, if I'm honest, my legal interest in human rights and social justice, made me angry enough to join up and get involved.

On campus our activities didn't go too much beyond an annual awareness stall in the Students' Union. The year I was on the stall, representatives from most of the more 'hardline' religious societies came to politely tell us that we were abhorrent. This included people from my course who I had assumed were friends. So, it was tough, and there was no real messaging from the University that we were supported

Lassume this has all changed. Looking at the online presence of the Brunel LGBT+ staff and student society, it looks cheery and impressive. There were people more courageous than me who championed LGBT equality when it really was dangerous and risky, and I thank them for creating spaces in which I could get support and solidarity.

I work at a university now. I've shed my religious bent but I'm grateful for the lessons I learnt about the nature of self-love and compassion. I give my students cues that their sexual/gender identity is good and valued. I wish I'd had a more flamboyant and wilder gav time as a student, but Brunel was still a place where I got to know myself properly and where, in the peripheral spaces and places of the campus. I met people 'like me'

THROUGH THE YEARS: THE BRUNEL JUKEBO

From our Charter year in 1966 to the present day, a great song can bring back a thousand memories: Meeting that special someone in a lecture, summer evenings on the Quad, your last exam, or dancing in the nightclub? Find your favourites and bring back those magical Brunel days with our back-catalogue of the best-selling singles on the UK Singles Chart for each year. Pick your favourite or hit 'PLAY ALL' to enjoy the full YouTube playlist!







STAY CONNECTED

Join the official Brunel Alumni Network platform **brunelalumni.com**



Re-connect

Re-discover old friendships, reminisce with classmates and find out about our reunion events.



Get ahead

Seek a mentor, access free resources, grow your professional network and enhance your career opportunities with access to over 7,500 Brunel alumni.



Pay it forward

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