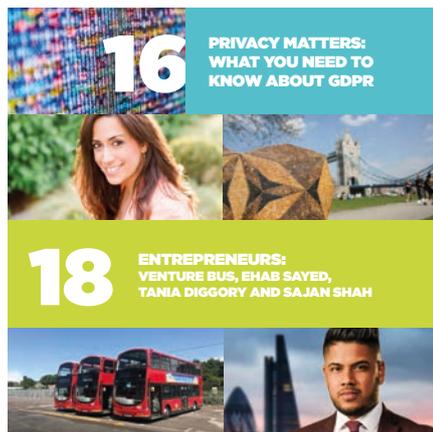




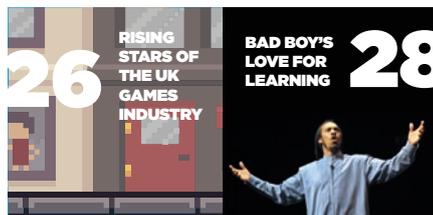
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# WELCOME

This has been another wonderful year with the University continuing to go from strength to strength with a thriving alumni community.

Very sadly though, we lost one of our most popular academics last year, Professor Heinz Wolff, who passed away just before his 90th birthday. Heinz brought many things to all of us: a pioneer of bioengineering; an inventor; a TV presenter who inspired a generation of young scientists; and social reformer – he was also an inspirational teacher and wonderful colleague with a great sense of fun and humour who continued to work on campus until a few weeks before he died and who will be greatly missed for many years to come (pages 3-5).

All of us at Brunel are so proud of our alumni and I am always delighted to report on your various successes. So it gives me great pleasure to congratulate the winner of this year's Alumni of the Year Award, Solveiga Pakštaitė, who showcases the very heart of the Brunel ethos with her creativity and entrepreneurial spirit (pages 6-7). I look forward to welcoming Solveiga at Graduation in July to receive her award.

It is an exciting time in the University. We have just opened our STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths) Centre which is designed to enthuse the next generation of STEAM learners and includes a Fujitsu-sponsored Innovation Hub, stocked with the latest digital classroom technology. We were also proud this year to launch our Academic Centre for Health Sciences, a partnership with our two local NHS Trusts which aims to improve healthcare in Hillingdon and beyond through education, research and innovation and to provide a focus for training future generations of healthcare professionals. Plans are also underway to build a new Learning and Teaching Centre on the site of the John Crank Building; this will be a catalyst to transform the way in which we teach and enhance the student experience. In addition, we will shortly be expanding our Metals Research through the opening our new Advanced Metal Casting Centre (pages 8 & 9).

Thanks to the generosity of our alumni, students, staff and Brunel supporters, we successfully raised over £85,000 to secure a winning spot in the Santander Cycles University Challenge (page 15) – we will be launching our Brunel Santander Cycle fleet soon, creating a transport link between the University, Uxbridge Centre, Hillingdon Hospital and West Drayton Station where the new fast Elizabeth Line will take people to central London in less than 20 minutes.

Our research maintains its strong standing and continues to make an impact on society – recent projects have included identifying the key factors to good-quality life with dementia, developing ways to reduce ocean plastics by 77% by 2025 and using robots to help spot breast cancer (pages 12 & 13).

You, our alumni, continue to inspire – from sporting success on the world stage to awards for design and television; it's wonderful to see the impact you are all having on society and the contributions you are making. Sincere thanks to those alumni who have been sharing their successes with us and have provided support to inspire our current students through talks and profiles, in addition to offering mentoring, work placements and graduate roles. If you'd also like to get involved, do feel free to drop a line to our Alumni Team.

Don't forget that your alumni network is a valuable resource, just waiting to be tapped in to via our online Alumni Network (page 36). I would thoroughly recommend that you all get involved where you can – you never know who, or what, you might be missing out on.

As always, we are available to support you in your time after graduation and are always keen to hear from you with news of your career journeys, reunions and successes following your studies with us.

Julia Buckingham  
Vice-Chancellor and President

# PROFESSOR HEINZ WOLFF: SCIENTIST, TV PRESENTER AND BRUNEL LEGEND

A familiar face around campus, Professor Heinz Wolff – who sadly passed away in December 2017 aged 89 – was a pioneer of bioengineering, inventor, TV presenter and social reformer.

His trademark bow tie, memorable German accent and ebullient persona endeared Prof Wolff to British television audiences in the 1970s and 1980s, including on the popular BBC programme, The Great Egg Race, which ran for eight series.

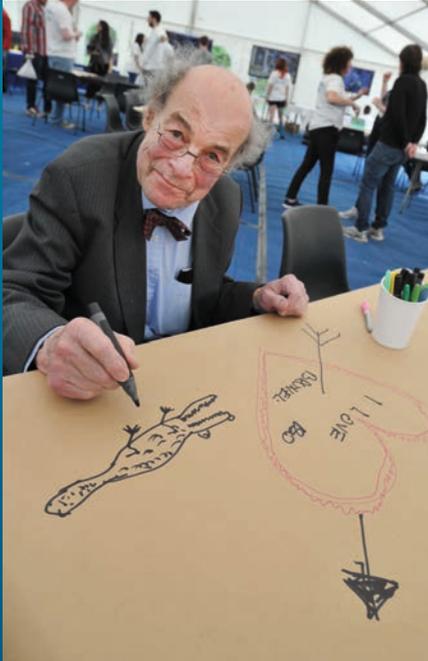
His inventiveness and intellect powered a 60-year career in scientific research, with much of his early career spent in bioengineering – a discipline which he established and named. Following thirty years working for the Medical Research Council, he founded the Brunel Institute for Bioengineering in 1983, and in recent years, as an emeritus professor at Brunel University London, worked on a time-banking scheme which aims to solve the elderly care crisis.

Colleague and close friend Professor Ian Sutherland, who took over directorship of the Institute when Professor Wolff retired, said: “Heinz was a most inventive and inspirational leader. There was nothing he loved more than having a team of people around him devising completely new ways of doing things.”

A self-confessed practical joker, Prof Wolff regularly invented gadgets – not only to explain scientific concepts, but also for friends and colleagues – and arrived at his 80th birthday celebrations at Brunel on a scooter propelled by fire extinguishers. ▶

“ Heinz was a most inventive and inspirational leader. There was nothing he loved more than having a team of people around him devising completely new ways of doing things ”

# PROFESSOR HEINZ WOLFF: SCIENTIST, TV PRESENTER AND BRUNEL LEGEND



Heinz Siegfried Wolff was born in Berlin on 29 April 1928. At the age of 11, he arrived in the UK with his family on the day that World War Two broke out. He attended school in Oxford and then worked in haematology at the city's Radcliffe Infirmary, where he invented a machine for counting patients' blood cells, before joining the Pneumoconiosis Research Unit near Cardiff.

Prof Wolff later graduated from University College London with a first-class degree in Physiology and Physics. He married his staff-nurse sweetheart Joan in 1953, and the following year invented bioengineering: the application of engineering principles to biological and medical sciences.

Speaking in 2016 of his first brush with popular science, Prof Wolff said: "My TV work began in 1966 on Panorama with Richard Dimbleby, where I produced a radio pill that could measure pressure, temperature and acidity in the gut.

"Richard swallowed one and when I gently poked him, the radio receiver squealed appropriately. The BBC had faith in me because I didn't need a script and I was comfortable talking in front of a camera lens."

Prof Wolff's 20-year TV and radio career encompassed the invention-focused shows Young Scientist of the Year and The Great Egg Race, which had teams from industry and universities competing to make the most innovative gadget from a selection of materials. He gave the televised Royal Institution Christmas Lectures in 1975, in which he explained how doctors examine the insides of their patients without breaking the skin. His fame for inspiring young scientific minds continued with the 2008 puzzle video game Professor Heinz Wolff's Gravity, and in 2009 with Britain's Bright Ideas, a competition for the best energy-saving inventions.

Alongside his television appearances, Prof Wolff's scientific career continued to flourish, including research for the National Institute for Medical Research and the Medical Research Council. An honorary member of the European Space Agency since 1975, his research into how human beings could survive in hostile environments culminated in his co-founding of Project Juno which, in 1991, led to Dr Helen Sharman becoming the first Briton in space.

The Brunel Institute of Bioengineering, under Prof Wolff's directorship, also developed the concept for a general-purpose experimental facility known as the Glovebox, giving astronauts the ability to perform experiments safely in space.

Prof Wolff led the Institute until his retirement in 1995, but continued to work four to five days a week on research and lectures as an emeritus professor. In February

2016, Wolff and his colleague, Brunel's Dr Gabriella Spinelli, launched 'Give and Take Care', a £1 million government-funded venture which, based on reciprocity and intergenerational care, enables volunteers to support someone in their community so as to receive the same later in life.

Dr Spinelli commented: "Give and Take Care was Heinz's last and ultimate passion. Despite not being an expert in health or social care by his own acknowledgment, he worked as hard on it as on any of his previous endeavours to actualise an innovative solution for the older adults' social care crisis.

"Working with Heinz was like being at the centre of an ideas factory; he was fiercely curious and always had new avenues to explore."

“The BBC had faith in me because I didn't need a script and I was comfortable talking in front of a camera lens”

Prof Wolff's accolades include honorary doctorates from several universities, as well as fellowships of the Biological Engineering Society, the Institution of Electrical Engineers, the Institute of Biology, the Royal College of Physicians and the Royal Society of Arts. In 1992, he was awarded the Edinburgh Medal for outstanding contribution by a scientist to society.

He was also a strong supporter of local charities, including over 25 years as a trustee and then Life President of the Hillingdon Partnership Trust.

"Heinz's remarkable intellect, ideas and enthusiasm combined to make him the sparkling scientist we will so fondly remember," said Professor Julia Buckingham, Vice-Chancellor and President of Brunel University London. "He was a wonderful friend and supporter to staff and to students – and an inspiration to all of us."

Sir Peter Medawar, Nobel Laureate and Prof Wolff's colleague at the Medical Research Council, dedicated one of his books with the inscription 'To Heinz Wolff – something of a genius'.

As a problem-solver and communicator, Prof Wolff was indeed something of a genius.

## Paying tribute

In paying tribute, on 30 April 2018, Prof Wolff's family, friends and colleagues gathered at Brunel for a special memorial and celebration of his life.

'To Heinz Wolff – something of a genius.' Nobel Laureate Sir Peter Medawar's dedication to his former colleague featured in the order of service for the late Brunel scientist and TV presenter's memorial, and set the scene for a celebration of his life and many achievements.

"It's not really very surprising to me that people have come from far and wide to be with us today," remarked Brunel's Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor Julia Buckingham, introducing the memorial. "To put it simply, Heinz was a remarkable man who touched all our hearts in many, many different ways."

The service, compered by Brunel's former Director of Corporate Relations, Andrew Ward, featured tributes from several of those who had been closest to Prof Wolff.

Rabbi Dr Jonathan Romain MBE spoke from the perspectives of a rabbi, a family friend and a fellow son of a refugee. Prof Wolff's story, Rabbi Romain explained, was the story of a generation: lives disrupted by Nazi Germany, with Heinz arriving in the UK with his family on the day World War Two broke out.

"Maybe we can wonder what might have happened had not the Nazis arisen," mused Rabbi Romain. "Heinz would certainly have been as brilliant and inventive, but might we now be paying tribute to an eminent professor not of Brunel but of Berlin University?"

"And the BBC? They would never have had *The Great Egg Race*," – referring to the popular TV programme of the 1970s and 1980s, presented by Prof Wolff – "but perhaps those watching German TV would have been thrilled by *Der Große Eierlauf*. But what we can say for sure is that Germany's loss was Britain's gain, and we are grateful that his life is part of our life too."

Laurence Wolff spoke fondly of how his father married his staff-nurse sweetheart Joan, who provided Prof Wolff with immense support to his career over their 60 years together. The couple established a loving family of curious minds.

"In some respects, they were unusual parents," Laurence said, before introducing his father's ideas about vitamin R, where the R stands for 'risk'. "There can't have been many families where the under-10s had propane cylinders and Bunsen burners on workbenches in their bedrooms, along with proper, sharp, heavy tools.

"As he said more than once, even a three-year-old stops sawing before their finger actually falls off."

In a switch of emotion, Joan's voice was heard in a recording of her singing 'The Man

I Love', which Prof Wolff chose as one of his Desert Island Discs when he appeared on the Radio 4 programme in 1998.

When Prof Wolff was keen to move his research team to a university in 1983, Alex Pelican offered to help, and approached Brunel's then Secretary-General and Registrar, Dr David Neave. This approach was initially dismissed as a hoax: "A pelican wanting to talk to me about a wolf?" Dr Neave said, incredulously. But six weeks after a discussion with the then Vice-Chancellor, and the earmarking of some empty prefab space on the campus in Uxbridge, the team moved in and BIB was born: the Brunel Institute for Bioengineering.

“Germany’s loss was Britain’s gain, and we are grateful that his life is part of our life too”

Former BIB student, Suresh Paul, spoke of how the Institute was a vibrant, eclectic place full of magical people, and how Prof Wolff encouraged him to create a company to design products for and inspire inclusive adventure, sport and active lifestyles with disabled people.

Colleague and close friend Professor Ian Sutherland, who took over directorship of the Institute when Prof Wolff retired, spoke of a man always ahead of his time. Prof Sutherland introduced video tributes from people who were unable to attend the memorial – including Dr Helen Sharman, who in 1991 became the first Briton in space as a result of Project Juno, which Prof Wolff co-founded.

"But Heinz can be attributed to many more astronauts in space than just Helen," revealed Prof Sutherland. Prof Wolff's Glovebox, a facility for astronauts to conduct experiments in space safely, was originally a European Space Agency project, but was given to the USA's NASA in exchange for flight opportunities.

In addition to Prof Wolff's numerous inventions and achievements, Prof Sutherland spoke about how Heinz's sense of fun would be an enduring memory: "He always had a twinkle in his eye, like the day he said to me, 'Wouldn't it be fun if gravity changed from day to day, like the weather?'"

The last tribute was given by Brunel's Dr Gabriella Spinelli, who worked with Prof Wolff in recent years to launch the 'Give and Take Care' time-banking initiative for care of elderly people. The legacy of this idea lives on, with Dr Spinelli expanding the initiative to new localities across England.

The memorial was followed by a reception in which the food and drink were themed as scientific experiments, and where attendees could share their own memories of Prof Wolff and his legacy for them – just a few of the huge number of people, at Brunel and across the world, who had been inspired and touched by Prof Wolff's life.



Professor Heinz Wolff passed away on 15 December 2017, aged 89. He was widowed in 2014, and is survived by his two sons and four grandchildren.

# ALUMNA OF THE YEAR 2018

Solveiga Pakštaitė,  
Industrial Design & Technology, 2014



Nominations were plentiful for our 2018 Alumni of the Year Award, all showcasing the many achievements and successes of our wonderful alumni community. The finalists were selected and put to the vote, for you, our alumni, to have your say on this year's winner. Scooping the title thanks to your votes is Solveiga Pakštaitė from the Industrial Design & Technology class of 2014.

Since graduating from Brunel, Solveiga has gone on to make huge waves in the design world with her Mimica Touch invention and has gone on to win countless awards, including the prestigious MIT Technology Review's Inventor of the Year accolade in 2017, something she counts as one of her proudest moments to date.

"I've been lucky enough to win a few awards but one that really stood out was when I was named MIT Technology Review's Inventor of the Year last year. It was incredible being recognised by a prestigious institution like that."

She is the Founder and Director of Mimica, a company developing a biologically accurate smart packaging solution that reduces food waste and improves food safety. Her product 'Mimica Touch' – began life as a project at Brunel. The concept was originally devised as part of her final-year project – and showcased at the annual Made in Brunel showcase – in order to help the visually impaired, who cannot read dates on traditional food labels. However, she soon discovered that her design could revolutionise food labelling for all and make a huge impact in the food packaging industry. The product – designed to provide a more accurate method of determining whether food is still edible – contains gelatine which breaks down at the same rate as the food inside the package. Once the food is no longer safe to eat, the user will be able to feel bumps on the label and will know to dispose of it.

Part of Solveiga's incredible journey has included working with the Central Research Laboratory, a thriving facility in Hayes, West London, supported by Brunel to assist design start-ups. In 2015, it is here that she began developing her early prototype and started building the company.

Solveiga is also the Founder and Director of her own freelance design studio – Design By Sol Ltd. – which undertakes projects of a wide scope, as well as developing in-house projects in the areas of industrial & product design, packaging design, graphic design & information architecture and user experience design. In addition, Solveiga is also a Visiting Lecturer for UCL, a Board Member of Fast Forward 2030 and a Fellow at Unreasonable – an organisation, investment fund and private global network dedicated to supporting entrepreneurs.

She is an enthusiastic supporter of Brunel, always keen to give back and inspire the next generation of designers and entrepreneurs. Reminiscing about her fondest memories of Brunel, she recalls; "When the sun would finally decide to come out and project its rays across the darkest walls of the campus' brutalist buildings – that meant it was time for everyone to get to the Quad with beer in tow and probably take an afternoon off."

Since graduation, Solveiga has given her time and experience to provide videos and profiles, and regularly joins us for events on campus,



such as the recent Global Entrepreneur Week panel, discussing her unique perspective on what it means to be an entrepreneur and sharing tips and guidance for those looking to start and/or grow their own business. Asked why she chooses to come back and support Brunel students, she said: "It didn't ever occur to me to start my own company while I was at university – the plan was to do a ski season and then go find a job in the design industry. Luckily, a couple of people around me dared me to see how far I could take my major project, and I'm so glad that they did. So if I can, I would love to encourage more students to take their own ideas seriously as they can really change the world. And that, to me, is the whole point of design."

Solveiga has achieved numerous accolades, along with a great deal of industry recognition, including being named as MIT Technology Review's Inventor of the Year 2017, Leader of Tomorrow 2016, Mayor of London Low Carbon Entrepreneur 2015, Top New Talent 2015 and Start-up of the Year 2014. Her awards to date have included the Hawley Award 2016, Shell Staff Inspiration Award 2016, Platypus Award for Innovations in Taste 2015, Smart Future Award 2015 and the James Dyson Award UK to name a few. Solveiga was also named as one of the '1000 Most Influential Londoners 2014' and has been a key speaker at TEDxHult London.

But what is her big ambition for the future? "To keep designing products that improve people's lives and form habits that make the best use of the planet's resources."

**To follow Solveiga's design career and learn more about her work and products, you can head to her website at [www.mimicalab.com](http://www.mimicalab.com) or follow her on Twitter [@mimicalab](https://twitter.com/mimicalab) or [@designbysol\\_](https://twitter.com/designbysol).**



# WHAT'S IN STORE FOR THE FUTURE?

As Brunel continues to evolve, ensuring the best possible facilities and resources for our students, we have exciting plans in place to develop the campus, with new buildings and resources to prepare Brunel for the future and improve the environment for staff, students, partners, visitors and the wider community.

These facilities, which will, and already are, set to rejuvenate our education, support and social space, are central to our teaching and learning strategy and will enable the University to both attract quality students and accommodate them while they are here, providing a positive experience for all.



## INSPIRE – Brunel's new STEAM Learning Centre

Part-funded by a £5million grant from HEFCE, work is almost complete on the renovation of the old Wilfred Brown Building – it now stands proud and open for business as the new INSPIRE – STEAM Learning Centre. This cutting edge 'green' building is designed to inspire and engage STEAM professionals and young learners in the pursuit of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics education and careers.

Housing a teaching and learning facility that will inspire and engage children from Key Stages 1 to 5 in science, technology, engineering, the arts, maths and medicine – areas in which the UK economy is crying out for more talent – it has many exciting adaptive and innovative learning spaces. It is already welcoming learners from local, national and international schools, 'alternative learning settings' and community groups, recently hosting local school students taking part in the Junior Citizen Scheme and providing the location of the finals of the London regional VEX Robotics tournament.

The Centre will establish a range of partnerships to offer, create and share exceptional learning experiences while advancing the key subject areas. INSPIRE will house the Fujitsu-Intel Innovation Hub, the Create Education 3D Printing Hub, bespoke primary and secondary science labs, a table-top Scanning Electron Microscope, a Biodome, a 'real' periodic table and a ground source heat pump. And at the heart of it all, made possible by funding from the Garfield Weston Foundation and the Hillingdon Community Trust, will be the Immersive Space, a planetarium style facility that will enable learners to literally immerse themselves in a range of 2D and 3D STEAM-focused audio-visual content.

Some of the generous funding towards the Centre has been received from the Wolfson Foundation, Heathrow Community Fund, Garfield Weston Foundation, Hillingdon Community Trust and the Arts Council.

For further information on INSPIRE and updates on this initiative, please contact: [mohammed.alam@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:mohammed.alam@brunel.ac.uk).



## Learning and Teaching Centre

This space will be a catalyst to transform the way in which we teach and enhance the broader student experience to make the name Brunel become synonymous with teaching excellence. The £50 million Centre will be located on the existing site of the John Crank Building and will provide a state-of-the-art facility in the heart of campus.

It is Brunel's ambition to continuously improve the quality of its learning and teaching opportunities. The Learning and Teaching Centre will be a major driver for change, providing a space in which innovation and entrepreneurialism can thrive.



## Academic Centre for Health Sciences

This development will be the gateway to integrated health education and research. Along with two NHS Trusts – the Hillingdon Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and the Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust – we will work together to launch the new Brunel Partners Academic Centre for Health Sciences. Officially launching later in the year, the Centre will provide the perfect setting for researching and developing new methods of healthcare delivery, while training future generations of healthcare professionals who will be ready to succeed in the changing landscape with the aim of revolutionising the way health and social care is delivered in the community.

## Advanced Metal Casting Centre (AMCC)

The Advanced Metal Casting Centre (AMCC) being set up by Brunel and launching on campus this summer will host a range of scale-up metal casting facilities to conduct high quality research on heterogeneous nucleation, liquid metal engineering, development of advanced materials and their resource efficient casting and processing technologies. An important component of AMCC will be the Wolfson Virtual Engineering Laboratory; a state-of-the-art computer centre geared towards multi-scale modelling, simulation and optimisation. With funding secured from the Wolfson Foundation, this powerful new computing centre will not only further our understanding of the nucleation process but will also enable us to conduct high performance computing simulations at all levels, including stress analysis and optimisation of real-sized complex automotive components.



## Fujitsu Innovation Hub

Children from West London will soon be supercharged by the latest digital classroom technology with the opening of the Fujitsu Innovation Hub here on campus.

Housed in our Inspire STEAM Learning Centre, the colourful space is kitted out with 10 best-in-class portable computers – notebooks, ultrabooks and hybrid devices – that will help develop digital skills for children from local schools and community groups.

At the hub's launch event in November 2017, Ash Merchant, Fujitsu UK's Director of Education, spoke of the skills gap facing the country: "2.3 million digitally skilled people are needed in the UK by 2020; we can't recruit half of those today. We'll need 300,000 engineers by 2020; we're struggling to get 20% of those.

"We have to adapt to a world of digital – and that means ensuring that our young people have the right skills to allow them to take up the opportunities in the economy."

The Fujitsu Innovation Hub is the 26th to open in the UK as part of Fujitsu UK's Education Ambassador Hub programme. Together with its partners Intel, Brocade and Kyocera, Fujitsu forges close working relationships with technologically smart educational institutions. And as well as supplying the devices, Fujitsu provided collaboration-friendly furniture and bold window designs to make the Brunel hub as inviting and useful as possible.

"Enthusiasm young people is the key to the future," commented Professor Julia Buckingham, President and Vice-Chancellor. "It is the next generation who are going to drive this country forward, and having a space like this is absolutely essential."





# FROM BRUNEL TO WEST END STARDOM

For the actor and Drama & History (2004) graduate, David O'Mahony, the pull to acting and performance was something he couldn't ignore. We caught up with David to chat about his career, how Brunel helped him carve his way into acting, and why versatility is so important within the acting industry...

## Tell us about your career to date...

So my career to date has been a bit of a rollercoaster – sometimes you feel like you're travelling up hill very slowly; and sometimes you're clinging on and enjoying the adrenaline rush. I've been so lucky to have a varied career: screen and stage; musical and straight plays. One thing is for certain: it's been completely varied and not at all what I thought it would be. Working backwards: I'm currently in the UK tour of Beautiful – The Carole King Musical, a show I proudly did for two years in the West End and which I think is one of the most perfect shows I've seen. Most notably before that I was in the West End production of The Bodyguard with Beverley Knight, Tristan Gemmill and then Alexandra Burke. Previous to that I was in the US arena tour of Batman Live – which remains one of my favourite jobs – travelling all over the US and getting to play comic book characters in front of thousands of people.

Between those jobs I have had such a varied plethora of jobs – a play at the Edinburgh Fringe; short films; voice over work; the Brighton Festival; singing on live TV a few times (which is the biggest adrenaline rush); some of the biggest pantomimes all over the country (which I absolutely love); and lots of shows in and around London. I've also been lucky enough to workshop new plays and help out with the script reading stage of various big TV shows.

Acting is one of those amazing careers where the variety of employment is quite intoxicating – the excitement of playing new and interesting characters is palpable on each job. Every role has its unique set of parameters and circumstances – picking each one apart is a challenging love affair. Unpacking the psychology of a character and loving what they do (even if what they do isn't part of my psyche) is incredibly rewarding. Acting is also a tough gig – there's always a job coming to an end with no next job in sight; always another audition to prepare for; always another project to get behind – but I think all of those challenges are what makes it fun!

## You studied Drama and History as a Brunel student – how have your studies helped you to get where you are today?

I was very privileged to receive an Arts Centre bursary while at Brunel which enabled me to study with the brilliant vocal coach and director, Eileen Pinkachevski, and the musical director, Sally Goodworth. These two ladies believed in me so much that they supplemented my degree studies with singing lessons and cast me in brilliant musicals and plays such as The Crucible and Amadeus. My Drama studies were influenced by Meretta Elliot's kind and thoughtful tutelage and I still remember some of my classes as if they were yesterday: One of the best lessons was a small nugget of information from movement teacher Peadar Kirk. I've always found movement in performance a challenge and he calmly said in my first lesson that it was more about the 'reason' a character moves – until you have the reason, the impulse: don't move.

I think that single line has resonated with me in almost every sentence I've uttered on stage since. My brain was also stretched by my studies in History and directly informed on my background knowledge of the eras in The Crucible and Amadeus. Having interests outside of performance is not only crucial for one's sanity but also broadens our horizons to help us in our careers and character studies. The last part of the puzzle for me was the life experience Brunel gave me. The influences I can draw on outside of simply class-based studying. Working in (what was then) The Bishop's bar gave me an invaluable insight into human interaction... and a healthy capacity for alcohol! Ha!

## “ Acting is one of those amazing careers where the variety of employment is quite intoxicating ”

### How important is it to be versatile in your industry?

Simple: Crucial!! For me, one of my most employable skills is my versatility. I am carving out a lovely career as someone who can play many different roles and has a large vocal range to accommodate bass-baritone roles to high rock tenors. Without versatile people like me, commercial theatre wouldn't be able to function long term. Not all actors can or want to straddle so many different genres or characters. I'm very lucky to be fairly unique and in demand for shows that require my versatility.

My current role entails covering all three of the male leads and the two ensemble tracks. These roles range from the mentally torrid husband of Carole; to the wise cracking hypochondriac best friend who sings some of the best songs in the show. I am employed because I can play each of these roles without any standard of the show slipping. I'm very privileged that producers put their faith and trust in me to play all these roles and it's a job I take great pride in. I'm a bit of a chameleon! This also goes for my screen work where one film I played a heartbroken boyfriend who kept seeing the ghost of his girlfriend; to the next being a stern head of security in a futuristic dystopia, wielding great power over his underlings with callous viciousness. The ability to imagine, play and make-believe those kinds of scenarios in my head and then embody them is the biggest fun of my job!

### What Brunel opportunities have helped you in developing these skills?

I'm still in contact with my tutors in the Drama department and from the Arts Centre and have visited Brunel to support competitions and their productions whenever I can. The basic fact of the huge amount of money one would have to spend on tuition fees training for an industry that is notoriously underpaid and insecure means that Brunel's Arts Centre, and any help students might receive, is crucial.

Brunel was a great place to study: The variety of teaching subjects in my degree and the range of shows, concerts and classes produced at the Arts Centre gave me a phenomenal platform to move forward to Drama School and then into my career. It was an incredibly safe space to try different things; explore my performing desires and styles; and to give me a wealth of performance experience.

### What's been the highlight of your career so far?

That's such a tough question: I loved Batman Live for the fun, the stage combat, and for my gleeful inner 8 year old! Making my West End debut in The Bodyguard with Beverley Knight was an incredible feeling of 'arriving' in the West End. I think Beautiful is also a wonderful highlight – I adore the show and I have played each of the leads so much that I feel privileged to be leaving the job with a sense of pride and completion.

I also got to work with the Broadway creative team of Marc Bruni and Jason Howland, who you can't help but be inspired by. I hope that in the future I'll be lucky enough to be in many more plays, films and musicals that bring me so much fulfillment. I'm looking forward to the next big adventure.

### What would be your advice for fellow Brunelians looking to follow a similar career?

I think with any career choice, you have to pick something that will sustain you: sustain your soul; sustain your mind; and sustain your life. Acting can be very 'feast or famine': I'm incredibly lucky to be able to sustain myself in this industry. UK Equity says the average income of its members is only around £7,000 p.a. from performing. According to their statistics, I find myself in the privileged position of being in the top 1% of performers who are working fulltime and the top tier of that percentage who have worked multiple times in the West End. I say that very humbly. At times it has been a hard slog and I have had the support of a great family and group of friends. The money side of things is the boring nuts and bolts of life in London – something that needs addressing on a government level: the rest of the sustainability is something that perhaps we have no control over.

Before I went to Brunel I wanted to be a politician or a history professor – but something kept pulling me to performance. Bernard Hiller, who is my acting coach in LA, says that acting is not something we choose. It chooses us. If you wake up every morning with that fire and that passion for acting – then fight with everything you have to make it happen. That goes for any career: find something that makes your heart sing and drives you forward – the rest will take care of itself!

**If you'd like to read more about David and keep up-to-date with his upcoming performances and projects, head to his website at [www.davidmahony.co.uk](http://www.davidmahony.co.uk) or follow him on Twitter @daveomahony or Instagram at davidmahony.**

# RESEARCH

To read these stories in full and explore our range of research articles in more detail, please head to: [www.brunel.ac.uk/news-and-events](http://www.brunel.ac.uk/news-and-events)



## Research reveals key factors to good-quality life with dementia

Analysts have pinpointed the precise factors that give people with dementia the best possible quality of life.

Good relationships, social interaction and everyday functioning are what people with dementia need most to live good-quality lives, says the study in Psychological Medicine. Good physical and mental health and high-quality care were also linked to better quality of life for people with dementia. "Understanding how we can help the 50 million people worldwide who have dementia live a good-quality life is a major priority," said Brunel University London's Professor Christina Victor, who worked on the study. "Now we must put these findings into practice to enhance people's lives by supporting relationships, social engagement, everyday functioning and high-quality care, and by tackling poor physical and mental health."

## Novel Kinect system helps keep Parkinson's patients moving

A new system which helps people with Parkinson's disease overcome debilitating walking problems has been developed by researchers at Brunel University London.

Built using Microsoft's now-obsolete Kinect peripheral, the system monitors for and detects freezing of gait (FOG) in Parkinson's patients. When an occurrence is observed a laser casts visual cues on the floor according to the patient's location, helping them release their gait and improve their movement.

It's hoped the system – which was unveiled in the *Journal of Disability and Rehabilitation: Assistive Technology*

and supported by Parkinson's UK – can be further developed for installing in patients' homes.

The system, whose prototype cost just £137 to build – excluding its controlling PC – works by monitoring a patient's leg movements in their own home. Whilst similar systems using Kinect have been tested previously, the new system specifically monitors the angle of the patient's knee and their head direction, offering increased accuracy and a reduction in false positives.



## Robots learn to help doctors spot breast cancer

Scientists are using artificial intelligence to build an accurate MRI scan-understanding system that could change the way doctors diagnose breast cancer.

In a two-year experiment, doctors at South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust will use a cutting-edge technology to analyse thousands of breast scans from MRI machines throughout the UK. IntelliScan, which will be developed by Brunel University London, First Option Software and Teesside University, combines deep machine learning and advanced image-processing smart algorithms. It will automatically flag up key watch points on each potential case, which will let radiologists handle many more images faster and more accurately, and help save lives by detecting tumours earlier.

Once fully developed, the plan is to link the system to breast scans from all MRI systems UK-wide, so it can detect abnormalities and categorise them by severity. Its algorithms will also help doctors predict how well treatment will work on individual patients by comparing their consecutive scans.

IntelliScan's digital image processing and artificial intelligence decision system will be developed at the Brunel Innovation Centre. "The system integrates a series of visualisation, data processing, data communication and decision-support systems which will enable it to dramatically improve access to breast healthcare and cancer treatment compliance," said Professor Tat-Hean Gan, Brunel Innovation Centre's director.

“ We have no right to harm the lives of other creatures by allowing plastics to get into the ocean ”

## GLOBAL EFFORT COULD CUT OCEAN PLASTICS BY 77% BY 2025

Global funding to revolutionise waste management in the world's worst polluting countries could clean up ocean plastic by 77% by 2025. That's the claim in an exclusive report urging immediate action to step up waste management worldwide.

It comes a year after David Attenborough's BBC series, Blue Planet II, horrified the nation with powerful images of wildlife harmed and slayed by plastic pollution. "We have no right to harm the lives of other creatures by allowing plastics to get into the ocean," said Brunel University London Professor, Edward Kosior.

Launching the report at the Ocean Plastics Crisis Summit, Prof Kosior said: "This dire situation calls for strong immediate action to slow the rate at which waste is produced. We have to end this dig-use-discard mentality. Every package that's made should be recyclable. There's no excuse. It is a must for all."

The report says caps on plastic waste and stamping out waste mismanagement by the top 10 polluting countries, could cut ocean plastics by 77%. That would reduce yearly volume of plastic going into the oceans to 2.4 to 6.4 million tons by 2025.



# NEWS



## SUPPORTING REFUGEES IN GREECE GIVES LAW STUDENTS LASTING EXPERIENCE

Law students from Brunel University London returned earlier this year from an educational volunteering experience to Greece in which they experienced how much the situation has changed for refugees, unaccompanied minors, and the legal and other staff fighting for their rights. Professor Alexandra Xanthaki, a leading expert of minority and migration rights in international law, took the group of ten undergraduate law students to Athens for a week in December 2017. The initiative was set up as a quick response to the European refugee crisis in the autumn of 2015, with four such trips since then.

This time, the students donated their time to support unaccompanied minors and families at the family centre of the non-governmental organisation (NGO) Faros, at the day centre of the Melissa Network and at different activities of the Network for Children's Rights. In addition, they spent some time at a shelter for vulnerable refugees, and discussed the current challenges in Greece with the Office of the Greek Ombudsman for Human Rights and the Greek Council of Refugees.

The project – a first for a European university, and supported through fundraising – also involved students speaking to the different actors, finding out their needs and priorities, so that funds could be used to leave a lasting legacy.

To watch a video of the student experience, head to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and search for 'Athens Refugee Project volunteers 2017 | Brunel University London'

To read these stories in full and explore our range of news articles in more detail, please head to: [www.brunel.ac.uk/news-and-events](http://www.brunel.ac.uk/news-and-events)

## Free accommodation scholarship launched for care leavers and estranged students

Care leavers and young people estranged from their families could receive free accommodation whilst they study with Brunel, thanks to the launch of this year's Unite Foundation scholarship.

Open to anyone aged 25 or under that is leaving care or estranged from their family, the scholarship aims to give recipients piece of mind that their accommodation is paid for the duration of their studies. Scholars will be entitled to three separate years of free accommodation, including all household bills, at a Unite Students property.

Brunel provides support to care leavers and estranged students throughout the whole process, offering a Brunel Care Leaver Bursary to those who are eligible and encouraging students to engage and aim high. Professor Bill Leahy, Deputy Vice-Chancellor at Brunel, said: "Unite's generous scholarship gives those without a traditional support network much-needed financial security for the three years they'll spend with us. Spending time in care or being estranged from your family shouldn't be a barrier to receiving an excellent education, and it's with great pride that Brunel are able to offer this helping hand to those who need it."

The Unite Foundation was established in 2012 by Unite Students, a developer of affordable student properties that manages 27 sites across London. Since its launch, the scheme has helped over 250 students take up places at 28 universities across the UK, with 44 having now graduated.

## Brunel soars up global universities league

Brunel continues to surge forward, having climbed 14 places in the 2019 QS World University Rankings, and is now placed in the top third of universities worldwide. One of three major yearly international league tables for universities, the QS compares and ranks more than 1,000 institutions worldwide.

This news follows a boost in Brunel's ranking in the UK-focused Guardian University Guide 2019. Across all courses, Brunel was ranked joint fifth amongst London's elite universities, moving up the league table 14 places to be ranked 58th out of 121 universities, with Anthropology, English and Creative Writing, Music and Health Professions all ranked amongst the top 10 in their respective tables.

Brunel has also risen one place in the Complete University Guide's London league table, to be ranked 7th amongst the capital's leading universities. Driven by strong graduate job prospects, Brunel also remains in the top 50 nationally.

# WE DID IT! BRUNEL WINS CYCLE SCHEME



Brunel and Hillingdon are to get their own public bike scheme after the University successfully raised over £85,000 to secure a winning spot in the Santander Cycles University Challenge.

Following a flurry of late pledges, Brunel narrowly pipped Birmingham University to second place, securing £85,448 in funding: 175% of the original target, in order to win a further £100,000 in set-up funding from Santander Universities.

Six docking stations and 50 red Santander and Brunel-branded bikes will now be fitted at several locations around Hillingdon, including Uxbridge town centre, the university campus, and Hillingdon Hospital, who partnered with Brunel on the scheme.

It's hoped the bikes will help ease the area's rush hour traffic, reduce pollution, and encourage commuters to ditch their cars in favour of cycling.

The new bike scheme, which will be open to everyone, will be installed and operated by nextbike, with cycles accessed using

either a nextbike membership, or one-off card payment. Public membership will cost £60 per year, whilst Brunel's students, staff and alumni will get a discounted rate of £30. Membership allows for unlimited 60-minute trips per day. nextBike also runs more than 150 schemes across 25 countries in four continents, use of which will also be covered by membership in the Brunel scheme, so its impact will travel far and wide.

Professor Julia Buckingham, Brunel's Vice Chancellor and President, said: "The sheer amount pledged – significantly more than was originally asked for – goes to show just how enthusiastic Brunel's students, staff, alumni and local partners are for our own bike scheme."

Launched on Crowdfunder at the beginning of November, the challenge saw a final five from 27 universities vying for a capital investment worth over £100,000, with funding going to the two institutions that were able to crowdfund the highest proportion above the scheme's running costs.

In total, 438 supporters pledged between £5 and £5,000 to the scheme, ultimately helping Brunel take second place, just behind Swansea but ahead of Birmingham, Portsmouth and Surrey.

Pauldy Otermans, President of the Union of Brunel Students, said: "I hope a lot of people can get a membership – it's such an easy way to get around. It's healthier, better for the environment, and you're not stuck in traffic."

Heathrow's Sustainable Transport Manager, Theo Panayi, said: "Brunel University London have made a remarkable effort in their campaign to secure a Santander Bike Scheme.

"They have set the wheels in motion

on a project that will provide tens of thousands of residents and visitors with access to carbon-free, affordable transport, which is something that we at Heathrow are very passionate about."

Matt Hutnell, Director of Santander Universities UK, said: "We congratulate Swansea University and Brunel University

London for winning against such tough competition. The standard of entries was incredibly high and the level of commitment from all the finalists throughout the challenge and in particular during the crowdfunding phase was exceptional."

If you're keen to get cycling with an alumni membership, keep your eyes peeled on the Brunel website for more information in

the lead up to autumn. Please note that the alumni rate will only apply if you use your @alumni.brunel.ac.uk alumni email address – contact us at [alumni@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@brunel.ac.uk) to apply for one if you're not already up and running.

## Keen to show your support for future projects?

Launched on Crowdfunder, the success of this project has been down to the generous donations from all our supporters. With Crowdfund Brunel – our very own crowdfunding platform – we're powering big ideas and exciting projects from our students and staff. We cover the fees to support the best ideas from clubs, societies, academic research, or student led projects – anything that supports our students and the Brunel community!

Visit [www.brunel.hubbub.net](http://www.brunel.hubbub.net) to get started and see how you could help fund a project off the ground!



# PRIVACY MATTERS:

What **YOU**  
need to  
know about  
**GDPR**



On 25 May, 2018, the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) came into force in the UK, ensuring all companies, institutions and organisations that collect or process data on European citizens or residents conform to updated and strengthened privacy standards. These regulations affect British residents, but will also apply anywhere in the world for organisations that have European alumni, supporters, or customers.

At Brunel, we want to clearly communicate with everyone connected to the University what we do with data we collect, and ensure we conform to the principles of GDPR – including the idea that the data we gather should be accurate, relevant and minimal.

GDPR is an opportunity to better communicate with our entire University community about what we do with the data we collect, and ensure we place your privacy at the center of our work. Above all, we want all of our 133,000 alumni and supporters worldwide to be sure we keep your data safe and communicate with you only in the ways that you choose.

The Development and Alumni Relations Office has created a GDPR Working Group to map out how we use any

personal data for fundraising and alumni relations purposes and make sure it is compliant with the new regulations.

One key way we have done this is to update our privacy policy notice in plain language – no legalese – so that all our alumni and supporters know what types of data are being used and on what basis, and how to remove or change your data processing and communications preferences.

Our privacy policy is always available on our website and is linked to in all communications to supporters. Additionally, we will notify everyone of any major changes to this policy via their preferred contact method of post, email, social media, and the alumni magazine.



# BRUNEL DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI RELATIONS PRIVACY POLICY

We take your privacy and the protection of your personal data very seriously, and following the launch of GDPR, we have made some updates to our Privacy Policy outlining how we will collect, store and manage your information.

We, the Development and Alumni Relations Office at Brunel University London, promise to respect any personal data belonging to our constituents (“you” and “your”) and to keep it safe. Keeping all individuals connected to the University informed about exactly how your data is being used is a key principle of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which as of 25 May 2018, has replaced the 1998 Data Protection Act. We’ve made some important updates to our Privacy Policy explaining how we collect, store and manage your information to reflect the new and strengthened rights in relation to your data.



## Here are some key points about your rights under GDPR

-  The accuracy of your personal information is important to us. Under GDPR, you have a right to request a copy of the personal information we hold about you and to have any inaccuracies corrected, as well as the right to be removed from processing and/or restrict or object to the use of your information.
-  We will not use your personal information for marketing purposes if you have indicated that you do not wish to be contacted by us for such purposes. However, we will retain your details on a suppression list to help ensure that we do not continue to contact you.
-  We keep your personal information only for as long as required to operate the service in accordance with legal requirements and tax and accounting rules – where your information is no longer required, we will ensure it is disposed of in a secure manner.
-  If you already receive emails from us and would like to continue to do so, there’s no need to do anything. However, if you would like to change your preferences or update the details we hold about you, please contact our Alumni Relations Team at [alumni@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@brunel.ac.uk) or write to us at Development and Alumni Relations Office, Brunel University London, Kingston Lane, Uxbridge, UB8 3PH.
-  It is always your choice as to whether you want to receive information about our work, how we raise funds and the ways you can get involved.
-  You can view the full updated Privacy Policy on our website at: [www.brunel.ac.uk/alumni/Brunel-Alumni/Privacy-Policy](http://www.brunel.ac.uk/alumni/Brunel-Alumni/Privacy-Policy)
-  Where you have provided your consent for our use of your personal information, you always have a right to withdraw your consent at any time without penalty or cost.

# DESTINATION: INSPIRATION – STUDENTS BOARD THE ENTREPRENEURIAL BUS

On Wednesday 14 March, 250 university students from across London embarked on a unique 12-hour 'London Venture Crawl' across the city ([venturecrawl.org](http://venturecrawl.org))



Six iconic Routemaster buses travelled on specially-designed routes, stopping off for talks, workshops and tours at organisations and workspaces including Deliveroo, Amazon Fashion, Google, Barclays, Hello Fresh, Innovation Warehouse, Digital Capital, Makerversity and Wayra.

Successfully piloted in 2017 by King's College London, the event is a unique partnership between nine London universities: Brunel University London and King's College London are joined by University College London, London South Bank University, the University of Westminster, Loughborough University's London campus, Birkbeck University of London, the University of East London and the London College of Fashion.

The event is designed to give students the opportunity to connect to real-world businesses, be inspired by industry leaders, get feedback about their early-stage start-up ideas and gain skills in self-confidence, creative thinking and leadership.

VIP passengers, including Brunel alumni Deepak Tailor – BBC Dragons' Den winner and founder of [www.latestfreestuff.co.uk](http://www.latestfreestuff.co.uk), and Carlton Cummins – Cofounder of [www.acceleronltd.com](http://www.acceleronltd.com) and Winner of the Shell LiveWIRE Young Entrepreneur Award, hopped on board the buses to share their stories and stimulate conversations, peer-to-peer learning and idea sharing.

The event came to its last stop at Plexal in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park with a keynote from Sarah Wood, Founder of Unruly, and a chance for students to share their experiences and build their networks. One Brunel alumnus commented that "the finale at Plexal was very well organised with great speakers and the (unexpected) pitching opportunity was exciting!"

"Brunel has a strong track record in identifying and nurturing entrepreneurial talent in our students, many of whom set up successful businesses and turn their creative thinking into reality," commented Mike Herman, who leads entrepreneurship and innovation in Brunel's Innovation Hub, part of the Professional Development Centre (PDC).

Our current students, and budding entrepreneurs, were most definitely making the most of this partnership, commenting that: "the venture crawl gave me inspiration and insight into the world of entrepreneurship! It was really valuable hearing how people who have been in my shoes have got to where they are now!"

“It was inspirational to hear the stories from entrepreneurs at all stages of their journeys”

Jeremy Shorter, Learning Programme Manager in King's College London's Entrepreneurship Institute, said: "The best way to learn about entrepreneurship and innovative thinking is to experience it first hand; to meet the people who are creating new jobs and coming up with creative ways to meet society's challenges.

As London universities we have the world's top innovators right on our doorstep and we want students to take full advantage of such a unique location. University students are the entrepreneurs and innovators of the future and travelling on the London Venture Crawl gives them the opportunity to interact with each other and exchange ideas as we take them on this unique entrepreneurial journey."

For current Brunel Industrial Design student, Hannah, the day was a great learning opportunity: "we had the chance to visit several different start-up incubators, accelerators and co-working spaces, alongside listening to keynote speeches and getting to network with some amazing individuals. Bring on next year!"

# LEADING THE WAY FOR A HEALTHIER AND MORE SUSTAINABLE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

As the runner up in this year's Alumni of the Year Award's, Ehab Sayed graduated from Brunel in 2016 with a Masters in Integrated Product Design. He is the Founder & Director of Innovation of Biohm; a company developing zero carbon materials and construction techniques to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions and landfill waste produced by the industry. He currently has his sights set on dominating the construction industry and has so far found replacements for polystyrene and MDF using Mycelium and food waste.

The construction industry contributed to more than half of waste produced in the UK and more than 40% of greenhouse gas emissions – if successful in his mission, these materials could make a remarkable difference. Biohm, with Ehab at the helm, is already disrupting the industry and is leading in circular economy construction systems; all this whilst undertaking a PhD on the other side of the country, in Newcastle, aimed at changing and implementing new British Standards on sustainability.

During his time at Brunel, and taking the opportunity to work with the Innovation Hub to nurture his idea, Ehab's business plan for Biohm was shortlisted for the Venture Final where he pitched his idea to a professional panel. His business idea was then selected to represent the University in the Santander Universities Entrepreneurship Competition. Having successfully applied to Brunel's Graduate Entrepreneur Scheme, Ehab later joined the StartUP Lab – Brunel's

online incubator – where he went on to win a £1,000 prize at the StartUP Lab Pitch.

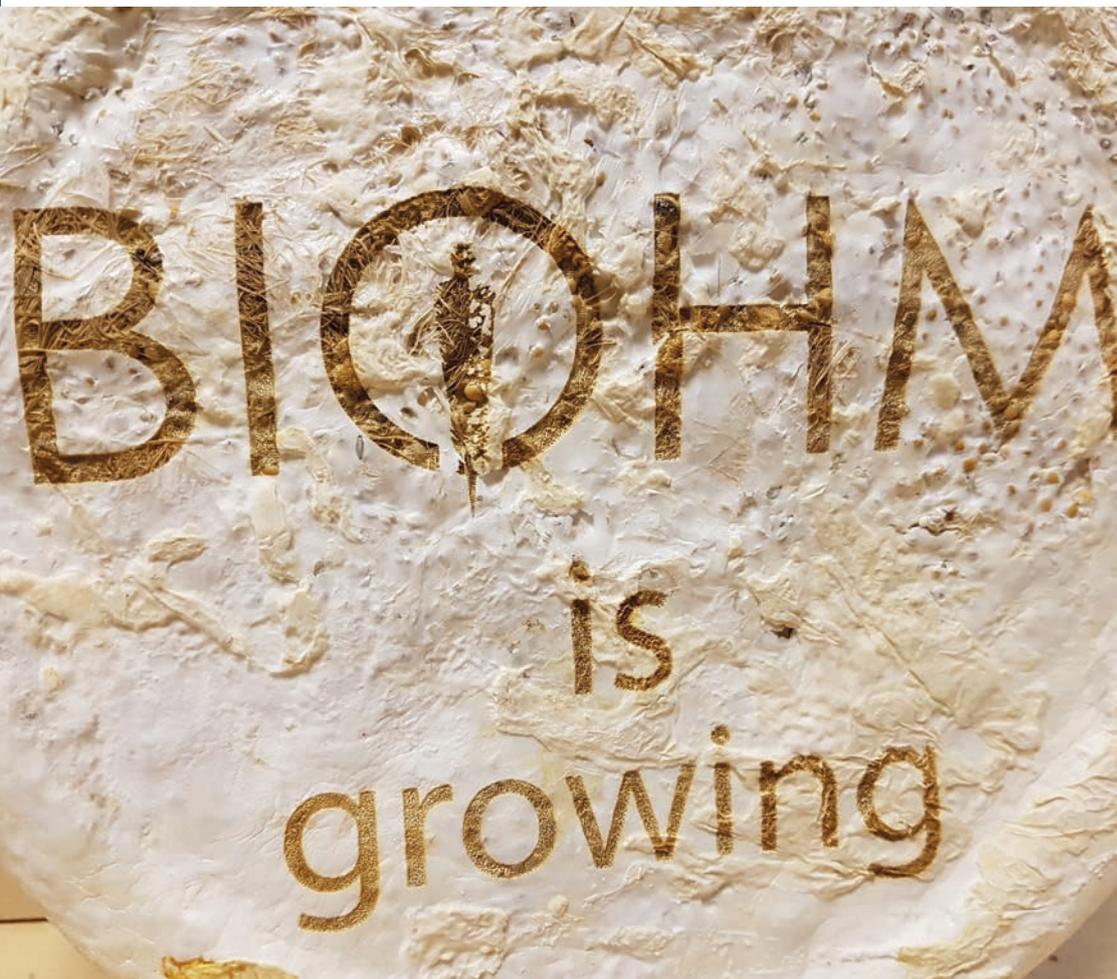
In 2017, Ehab impressed judges at the final of the Mayor of London's Entrepreneur competition with his durable, robust and reusable panel-based construction system, Triagomy. Taking inspiration from nature, Triagomy's design is based on sections of a hexagon, and is an interlocking construction system that can create affordable buildings in 8% of current build times and reduce their environmental impact by up to 90%. It allows buildings to be deconstructed and reconstructed at any stage of their life, eliminating demolition and making recycling and reuse a much easier process.

Nearly 600 students were involved in the London-wide competition, with only 10 projects making it to the final. Ehab missed out to a project from City, University of London, but was energised by his participation and the feedback he received.

"Becoming a Mayor's Entrepreneur finalist offers my company, Biohm, the recognition and acknowledgement that allows us to keep moving forward, and confirms that what we are doing is of great importance for the environment, the human and the economy."

Ehab will now be working on life-size prototypes of Triagomy and continue to develop the concept with the resources and facilities available to his company, whilst continuing to apply for more competitions and funding opportunities. He has also submitted and led a multi-million-pound bid to an Innovate UK competition involving multiple universities and small and medium enterprises, collaborating on 'Project Living Building'. The project aims to create living buildings that are intelligent, hyper-connected, self-sufficient and have restorative and regeneration effects on the environment and occupants.

You can read more about Biohm at [www.biohm.co.uk](http://www.biohm.co.uk)



# BRUNEL ALUMNA EMPOWERS ENTREPRENEURS TO PUT THEIR WELL- BEING FIRST



Ten years on from graduating, Modern Drama Studies (2008) alumna Tania Diggory empowers entrepreneurs to put their wellbeing first through her business, Calmer. Taking the time to share her perspective for those starting their own business, we caught up with Tania to learn more about her journey as an entrepreneur...

**TOP TIP: GET TO KNOW YOUR 'WHY'.**

Why do you want to be an entrepreneur, what is your inspiration, what is the change/difference you want to make through your work?

Understanding this on a deep level will serve as your biggest motivation, as well as resonate with your audience/clients when it comes to marketing your work.

**TOP TIP: CREATE BOUNDARIES FROM THE GET-GO.**

Working for yourself can create blurry lines as to when your working day starts and ends. Remember not to lose sight of all the other things in your life that are important, to help ensure balance. Running a business won't feel enjoyable if you're disengaging from other aspects of your life that bring you joy, or are feeling constantly burnt out and starved of energy. Your business is one aspect of your life - remember to make time for yourself, other people and activities that nurture your wellbeing.

**TOP TIP: NEVER STOP LEARNING.**

Whether it's through mentors, coaches, workshops, books, networking events... there are endless opportunities for growth.

**TOP TIP: BUILD YOUR SUPPORT NETWORK.**

Whether you're just starting out or have been running a business for a while, it doesn't have to be a lonely experience - far from it. Seek out opportunities to meet like-minded entrepreneurs, take a look at the variety of courses and membership groups that are available and see which ones resonate with you.

Seek out mentors and learn from experienced professionals who have succeeded in the industry you work in.

**TOP TIP: BE YOURSELF.**

As Oscar Wilde said, "everyone else is already taken." People invest in people - whether it's their time, collaboration, partnerships, financial investment or otherwise. Being yourself and sharing your vision is your biggest strength and asset. Use this to your advantage to create valuable, meaningful long-term connections.

**Tell us a bit about your business...**

Calmer helps entrepreneurs and their teams to manage their mental health and wellbeing while running a business. We offer business development training for individuals and organisations, with a strong focus on nurturing wellbeing, health and happiness - a vital attribute that can often be overlooked when you're growing a business.

**How did the opportunity to start your own business arise?**

I didn't really have the urge to start my own business until my twenties. My passion has always been focused on creativity - dance, drama, singing, art, writing - hence studying Modern Drama and Creative Writing at Brunel University London. I began working as a performer after finishing school and then gained an agent while studying at Brunel. I performed professionally for a few years and it wasn't until I was twenty-four years old that I discovered my passion for teaching and trained as a qualified dance teacher. As a freelancer, I was always interested in creating my own opportunities in my career and so running a business seemed like the logical next step. I decided to set up my own dance school and then everything else has grown from there - now, I can't imagine doing anything other than being an entrepreneur.

**You have said that starting up your own business takes courage - what key advice would you recommend to new entrepreneurs?**

There are a few key aspects that have been essential to my success so far. 1) Surrounding myself with good people. Mentors, coaches and like-minded entrepreneurs, as well as those close to me in my personal life, who have encouraged me, helped me stay focused and inspired me to be the best I can be. The entrepreneur life isn't designed to be a lonely experience; even if you're setting up a business by yourself there are endless opportunities to seek out help and support, as well as advice from those who have walked the entrepreneurial path. 2) There is no quick-fix when it comes to growing a business - it requires patience, understanding and perseverance. Use every opportunity and challenge as a chance to learn and grow from your experiences. 3) Get to know yourself on a deep level. Understand your values, what's important to you and what your strengths are, so you have a heightened awareness of who you are and what keeps you grounded.

**Calmer supports the health and wellbeing of entrepreneurs, helping those you work with to grow their business and create a wellbeing balance that works for them - where did your passion for this area stem from?**

Nurturing your wellbeing is essential in order to achieve long-term success in business - I learnt this the hard way. Three years after setting up my dance school, I went through a big transition to launch an international events business, educating the history and evolution

of street dance and hip-hop culture. This came with incredible rewards yet also steep learning curves and a variety of challenges - both with regards to managing the business and managing my own mental health and wellbeing. As a result of going through various trials and tribulations running two different businesses, I became very passionate about helping others to achieve their full potential in business - as I like to say, nurturing both their inner and outer success. It's not all about what people see from the outside; by prioritising your time effectively to ensure you're looking after yourself, I've found this will ultimately be reflected through your work and help to ensure a positive long-term impact.

**Research (via [www.startupgrind.com](http://www.startupgrind.com)) has revealed that 72% of entrepreneurs are affected by mental health conditions. Why is it so important to recognize this and have opportunities available to enhance the wellbeing of entrepreneurs?**

On average, more than half of new businesses cease to trade within five years (via [www.ft.com](http://www.ft.com)). There are a number of reasons for this and one of them is burnout. It's one thing to come up with a viable business plan but if your health and wellbeing isn't factored into that process - i.e. how you'll manage your time effectively, who you will delegate specific tasks to, where you'll get help, who can you partner with etc. - then you're setting yourself up for long-term issues. Particularly when it comes to scaling your business, there's only so much time in a day and only so much one person can do. So if you're looking to grow then you'll need to put systems in place in order to manage the growth, otherwise the experience becomes completely overwhelming for one person to manage.

I believe that having opportunities for entrepreneurs and their teams to enhance their wellbeing is vital. Whether it's through workshops, events or digital platforms, by creating the space to take ownership of your health and wellbeing, assess any challenges you're facing with a proactive mindset and connect with other like-minded people, this provides invaluable support that is needed on the entrepreneurial journey. Ultimately, if you don't take stock of your health and happiness as you grow your business, this can significantly affect the output of your work and therefore, the quality of your business overall.

**What Brunel opportunities have helped you along the way to achieving your goals?**

Well, alongside being a member of the dance society at Brunel and taking part in various public shows at the University, Brunel is where I chose to host our first international festival ([www.pioneershstorydance.com](http://www.pioneershstorydance.com))! It felt very meaningful to go back to where I studied and utilise the fantastic sports and studio facilities at the University as the platform to deliver our festival activities. The whole experience provided so many valuable learning curves for our future festivals.

**If you are an entrepreneur or are in the process of running your own business, take a look at how Calmer can help you: [www.thisiscalmer.com](http://www.thisiscalmer.com)**

A young man with short, dark hair and a light beard is the central focus. He is wearing a dark brown, textured three-piece suit (jacket, vest, and tie) over a white dress shirt. He is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. The background is a blurred city skyline at dusk or dawn, with the Shard skyscraper being the most prominent feature on the left. The sky is a mix of blue, purple, and orange.

# THE ULTIMATE APPREN TICESHIP



## ATTITUDE

Always be positive. Always have the mind set which says you can do it. Don't let anyone tell you that you're not good enough.

“Be calm, be collected, think about what you're saying, and just show Lord Sugar that you don't crack under pressure”

Speaking in early November 2017 – at the time having successfully made it through to week six of popular BBC1 show 'The Apprentice' – Sajjan Shah (International Business, 2014) gave us a run down of his time on the show...

“Going in to that bottom three was tough,” said Apprentice star Sajjan, speaking about week five on the show. “I thought to myself, ‘be calm, be collected, think about what you're saying, and just show Lord Sugar that you don't crack under pressure.’”

Week five was a tricky one on the hit BBC1 show for Sajjan. Nominated by his fellow candidates to lead the boys on a hunt for Lord Alan Sugar's 70th birthday presents, he ultimately found himself narrowly on the losing side when his team failed to secure the timely purchase of an Amstrad computer. As the project leader, he was automatically put at risk of elimination.

“At the end of the day, we were all part of the task, we all had to handle each other's mistakes – there was no point in just throwing someone under the bus. I was honest about what happened in the task, and I took responsibility on my side for what I did. But in that bottom three it's a very pressurised situation, and the most important thing to do is to stay true to yourself and explain the way things are, and not be shy about saying what you really think.”

He did just that, and survived to fight another week.

Surviving tough situations is something Sajjan has learnt to take in his stride. Born in Kenya, his parents decided to move to London after the then 8-year-old Sajjan was kidnapped for ransom whilst on his way home from school. Although the ordeal was over within 12 hours, it took a heavy toll.

“Luckily, I overcame it by the time I was 16. In the boardroom I wanted to show Lord Sugar my resilience, which I know is always something he looks for. Hopefully from last week he's seen that in me.”

Sajjan's road to The Apprentice started not long into his first year at Brunel, when he used his burgeoning business skills to spot a gap in the local sweet market.

Knowing students have an appetite for late-night candy, he set himself up as the go-to man on campus for tasty treats.

Away from his extracurricular activities, Sajjan credits his course with preparing him for The Apprentice, saying that the work he did for his final project – which required him to devise a business plan for a restaurant – proved particularly useful.

“Learning from your tutors and working with people from different backgrounds gives you that edge when you go into business,” said Sajjan. “In business you need to get along with people. I became a Head of HR at 22, so that interaction was very important to me as a businessman.”

“When I actually went to do my business plan to get on The Apprentice, I had a good idea of how to structure it and what information I needed. Because I'd done all that at university, it was quite easy to put that all in to one plan.”

Alongside leading a HR department, Sajjan has set up and run a number of companies, including Talent 4 Tomorrow, a recruitment agency which specialised in placing millennials with start-up and high-growth companies. He's now partnered with the charity Young Enterprise, who he will work with from February to try and find the UK's new business star.

“We'll be going to lots of schools, colleges and universities looking for the next British business mind who has innovative ideas they want taking to the next level. I'm passionate about helping young people – whether that's helping get them jobs through recruitment, or making them successful business people.”

**Following a solid effort during his time on The Apprentice, Sajjan was fired from the show in Week seven.**



## RESILIENCE

It's a big world and no one will hold your hand when you go out into the world of business. Things don't always go your way – you have to be able to handle it. You've got to be strong and take it in your stride. Just keep to what you're good at.



## ALWAYS TAKE RISKS

Whatever your idea is, you'll never know how good or bad it is until you take the risk – it's probably the most honest entrepreneur skill you can have.

“I'm passionate about helping young people”

# AWARDS AND SUCCESSES

This past year has seen a range of awards and successes for our Brunel community and campus. These are a small selection of the accolades we are pleased and proud to have learned about:

## AWARDS



### Queen's New Year Honours 2018

**Marcella Phelan (Government, Politics and Modern History, 1978 / Certificate of Qualification in Social Work / Public & Social Administration, 1988) – MBE for Services to Young People.**

MIT Technology Review's  
Inventor of the Year

**Solveiga Pakštaitė (Industrial Design & Technology, 2014)** – scooped the 2017 award for her design work.

Best University Technology Award

**Thomas Fudge (Sustainability, Entrepreneurship & Design, 2016)** – WASE's founder and Technology Director – crowned Best University Technology at the UK Energy Innovation Awards 2017.

GQ Woman of the Year 2017

**Adwoa Aboah (Modern Drama Studies, 2013)** – using her platform to inspire young women to discuss mental health.

Inaugural Heatrae Sadia Awards

**Jennifer Wong (Product Design, 2017)** – scooped a £10,000 prize for her unique water heater design.

STEM Rising Star Award

**Siobhan Titre-Johnson (Biomedical Sciences, 2012)** – claimed the title at the Black British Business Awards 2017.

Mars Chocolate Design  
Thinking Awards

**Sophie Copley (Product Design, 2017)** – won a four week placement in the Mars Design Studio and a £1,000 prize for her Little Heroes project enhancing the experience of children in hospital.

MCV Women in Games Award

**Rosa Carbo-Mascaell (Digital Games: Theory & Design, 2015)** – winner of Games Campaigner of the Year award, Games for the Many

International Lifetime  
Achievement Award

**Roger Bowden (Special Engineering Programme, 1971 / Honorary Graduate, 2006)** – the Founder and Chairman of Niftylift Ltd. scooped the award at the International Awards for Powered Access (IAPAs).

Emerging Talent Award

**Damson Idris (Drama with Film & Television Studies, 2013)** – won the 2017 award at the Screen Nation Film and Television Awards.

## SUCCESS STORIES

British Council UK Alumni  
Awards, Saudi Arabia – finalist

**Dr Nahla Samargandi (PhD Economics and Finance, 2015)** – finalist for the Social Impact Award.

BBC New Comedy Award – finalist

**Andrew Field (Creative Writing, 2015)** – successfully made it to the finals of the 2017 award.

Guest Editor – National  
Geographic Magazine

**Archie Panjabi (Business Management Studies, 1996)** – selected as one of twelve notable British figures to guest edit the UK issue, in celebration of 130 years of the world's most read magazine.

GamesIndustry.biz 100: future talent list

**Rosa Carbo-Mascaell and Tim Phillips (both Digital Games: Theory & Design, 2015)** named in the top 100 rising stars of the UK games industry.

Featured poet

**Dr Emma Filtness (Creative & Professional Writing, 2009 / PhD English Research, 2015)** – Emma's poetry was selected from over 1000 entries to be featured at the National Poetry Library's Instagram Poetry Exhibition.

Social Enterprise

**Toyin Ayedun-Alase (Politics & Sociology, 2013)** – launched 'Women After Greatness' – birthed to encourage, empower & inspire the younger generation through mentoring and coaching.

Directorial feature film debut

**Clare Anyiam-Osigwe (Drama with Film & Television Studies, 2006)** – made her directorial film debut with 'NO SHADE' – premiering at the British Urban Film Festival.

Football club success

**Paul Wycherley (Sport Sciences, 2007)** – appointed as General Manager for Cork City FC

Series in production

**Alexander Hughes (Film & Television Studies, 2011)** has successfully had his first full series produced – a 9-part comedy series entitled 'Dreaming Whilst Black.'

Forbes – 30 under 30 list

**Rita Ekwere – aka Ray BLK (English, 2015)**

Honorary Graduates 2017

**Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock MBE** (Space Scientist and advocate)

**Professor Sir Leszek Borysiewicz FRS, MA, PhD, FRCP, FMedSci** (former Vice Chancellor of the University of Cambridge, founding Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences, Fellow of the Royal Society, honorary Fellow of Wolfson College and current Chair of Cancer Research UK)

**John Holland-Kaye** (CEO of Heathrow Airport Holdings Ltd.)

**Julia King, the Baroness Brown of Cambridge, DBE, FEng, FRS** (UK's Low Carbon Business Ambassador, Chair of STEM Learning Ltd and the Henry Royce Institute for Advanced Materials)

**Professor Karen Middleton CBE, FCSP, MA** (Chief Executive of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (CSP) and former Chief Allied Health Profession Officer at NHS England)

**Kate Richardson-Walsh OBE** (Brunel Sport Sciences, 2003 and former Captain of GB and England women's hockey teams)

**Professor Tie Jun Wang PhD** (founding Dean of XJTU School of Aerospace Engineering and Director of State Key Laboratory for Strength and Vibration of Mechanical Structures)

**Professor Ian Sutherland PhD** (Director of Brunel Institute for Bioengineering)

Honorary Fellows 2017

**Paul Turnock MDesRCA, FCSD, FRSA** (champion for Design and instrumental in forming the Design cornerstone of the College of Engineering, Design and Physical Sciences at Brunel)

**Janet Anne Al-Karaghoul** (former IT procurement specialist at Brunel for nearly 43 years)

**Dr Martin E. Bradley BEng, PhD, CEng, MIET** (Industrial Supervisor for PhD students and post-doctoral research)

**Martin Jarrett MSc, FIMMM, CEng** (Operational Excellence and Technology Director at Constellium and established the new Constellium University Technology Centre at Brunel)

**David Brough BSc (Econ), FRGS** (former Head of Democratic Services for Hillingdon Council)

## SPORTS ACHIEVEMENTS

### Commonwealth Games – Gold Coast 2018

The Commonwealth Games kicked off on Australia's Gold Coast in spectacular style earlier this year in April, where 71 teams battled it out over ten days for sporting supremacy.

Once again Brunel University London was proud to be represented at the games, with eight current and former students competing for the home nations. These included: **Amar Aichoun (Current Scholar, Sport Sciences)** – T28 100m / **Finette Agyapong (Current Scholar, Law)** – 4x400m relay and 200m / **Lorraine Ugen (former student, Broadcast Media)** – Long Jump and 4x100m relay / **Nathan Fox (International Business, 2013)** – Triple Jump / **Shelayna Oskan-Clarke (Sport Sciences, 2011)** – 800m / **Melissa Courtney (Sport Sciences, 2014 / Sport & Exercise Psychology, 2017)** – 1500m & 5000m.

We were so proud to watch the inspiring performances from all our athletes. Achieving medal glory and making it on to the podium were Melissa Courtney, securing the Bronze medal in the 1500m and Lorraine Ugen taking home the Gold medal in the 4x100m relay.

### IAAF World Indoor Championships – Birmingham 2018

Leading the team, having been voted as a co-captain by her British Athletics teammates, British champion **Shelayna Oskan-Clarke (Sport Sciences, 2011)** put in a fantastic performance in the 800m to secure a PB of 1:59.81 and the Bronze medal.

### Brunel Bobsleighers – Winter Olympics, PyeongChang 2018

Bobsleigh – a sport where teams of two or four hurtle down an ice tube in a bullet-shaped sled – might not be the obvious sport of choice for those who grew up in southern England, an area which, for all its charms, is somewhat lacking the pre-requisite snow and ice.

But for three enterprising Brunel Olympians – **Toby Olubi (Economics, 2008)**, **Brad Hall (Sport Sciences, 2013)** and **Montell Douglas (Sport Sciences, 2008)** – such hurdles are just there to be overcome. Although not making it on to the medal podium, our bobsleigh trio did a sterling job at representing Team GB.



# MEET THE BRUNEL RISING STARS OF THE UK GAMES INDUSTRY



Having both graduated from Brunel's Digital Games: Theory & Design MA in 2015, both Rosa Carbo-Mascarell and Tim Phillips are making big waves in their field, recently being named in the top 100 rising stars of the UK games industry by GamesIndustry.biz 100. Rosa is also fresh off the back of her MCV Women in Games 'Games Campaigner of the Year' award for 'Games for the Many.' Here they tell us a little more about their work, their inspirations and how the Games Industry is a powerful force for raising money and awareness for great causes...

Tell us a little bit about your own work and style...

**ROSA:** I describe myself as having many hats in the games industry. Primarily I work at Digital Liberties where I designed and did a little bit of production on the viral election game, CorbynRun. Now I'm producing games with research bodies and charities that try to affect positive social change.

I've also organised plenty of game jams in London. They're weekend events where game developers and artists get together and make a game around a theme. I'm an admin on the DevSpace community and organise community events for independent game developers. I'm also a Women in Games Ambassador and try to help women seeking to enter the games industry.

Then there is the academic side, where I bring my BA in Architecture into the mix. The Digital Games Research Association published one of my papers on psychogeography in games; the architecture and games journal *Heterotopias* recently published one of my essays; and I've done maps of the game *Dear Esther* for The Chinese Room.

It's a non-traditional way to work but it's versatile and a lot of fun.

Where do you draw your inspiration from during the creative process?

**ROSA:** There is a lot to learn from experimental game exhibitions. 'A MAZE' and 'Now Play This' are particularly great at stimulating thought. However, usually most of my inspiration actually comes from outside of the games sphere whether that is social situations, a trip, a book, a piece of architecture or an art exhibition. I think the games industry has a lot to learn from other media.

**TIM:** Although it's important for game designers to play lots of games, in my experience, inspiration won't strike if you stay inside gaming all day. Have good conversations, read as many books as you can, go somewhere new, pursue all of your interests – and make sure to get plenty of sleep!

You both have links to GamesAid – a video games charity using the talent and enthusiasm of the Games industry to raise money for great causes. How important is it for your industry to pay it forward in this way?

**ROSA:** The games industry is larger than film, TV and music combined. It brings so much money into the UK, and games impact so many lives. It's important that the games industry steps back and recognises its power and influence and thinks critically about its positioning in the grand scheme of things. I see GamesAid as the industry taking that stance and deciding to do good.

**TIM:** I think it's important for all industries to support charity work. Sometimes the games industry gets negative or sensationalist press and it's also important for me to try

and counter that rhetoric by showing what good we can do as a community and how many wonderful people are part of it.

What's next in store for you in Games Design?

**ROSA:** I'm currently making a game for a charity around social integration. We are hoping to make a game for young adults that inspires empathy towards immigrants. There is nothing much I can say about it yet other than it will be a bit like *The Breakfast Club* meets *Bury Me, My Love*. It's particularly exciting and I'm currently building a team for it. I'll be posting more on my twitter as the game evolves.

**TIM:** I may have secured an exciting new position recently, I'm not sure how much I can talk about it, but it fuses Game Design with research and development into AI – watch this space!



What would be your hope for the future of Games Design?

**ROSA:** I'd love to see the games industry think of itself more critically. Often it still sees itself as mindless entertainment but I believe it can be so much more. Games are art and have the power to intensely move us.

It also needs to be more accessible. Sadly, so much of the industry is still who you know, making it a very difficult industry to enter, particularly for women. This is why I've been trying to welcome students to my game jams and invite them to our community gatherings at DevSpace.

How have your studies at Brunel helped you to get where you are today?

**ROSA:** Studying at Brunel was fundamental to where I am today. It's where I started to make the contacts that support me, where I built the projects that shaped me and found the opportunities to advance me.

Brunel has so much to offer to a proactive student. I met so many established game developers at the guest lectures, which later went on to advise and help me. I also took part in the Global Game Jam, organised by the University, which was the start of my game jamming career. Together with a team we made a game which was exhibited at 'Now Play This' in 2015. Since then, I've been exhibiting there every year.

My paper published in DiGRA was my Master's dissertation at Brunel. My lecturers encouraged me to submit it for publication and helped me polish it up. It was accepted, and in 2016 I got to travel up to Dundee to present it in front of leading game studies academics.

A group of us on the course also banded together and started up a games studio called Ludic House. We got funding from Horizon 2020 and made a game around pollution. It was, in a way, the start of a career making purposeful games.

**TIM:** Before studying the MA in Digital Games: Theory and Design at Brunel I had no expertise in games at all, so my whole career is a direct result of having studied at Brunel. Having a games-related MA has been an essential component of all the jobs I've had since graduating, both in terms of application and execution.

Why would you recommend the MA at Brunel for anyone keen to study Games Design at postgraduate level?

**ROSA:** Brunel offers a great mix of experienced lecturers, a 24/7 computer lab in which to learn from peers, a rigorous curriculum and opportunities to connect with industry. It is a tough MA but also an incredible opportunity for growth. Brunel can be the fuel for an engaged and proactive student to really reach for the stars. At Brunel I made some of my most wholesome and fulfilling memories. As soon as I graduated I wanted to go back and do it all over again!

**TIM:** The MA at Brunel strikes an ideal 50/50 balance between the practical and theoretical considerations of Game Design study. The weight put on the theoretical understanding of games particularly, affords a variety of conceptual tools that have been essential for me in developing my understanding of games.

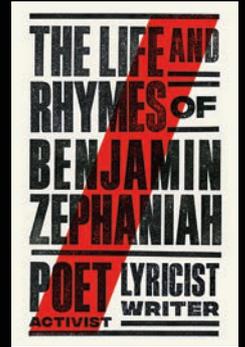
The staff are fantastic and the overall atmosphere is positive and enthusiastic, with the Game Design labs open to all games students across the BA and MA, creating a space in which it's easy to keep abreast of what others are working on and where there are always people around to help out or offer feedback.



You can learn more about Rosa and Tim's work by following them on Twitter at @moreelen (Rosa) and @tpcphillips (Tim). You can also take a look at Rosa's work over on her website: [www.rosacarbo.co.uk](http://www.rosacarbo.co.uk).

If you're considering a postgraduate qualification in Games Design, head over to our website for a full course outline and details of how to apply: [www.brunel.ac.uk/games-design](http://www.brunel.ac.uk/games-design)

# BAD BOY'S LOVE FOR LEARNING



He's 'very' dyslexic. Left school at 13 unable to read or write and drifted into petty crime and gangs. Ended up doing time. Now one of the biggest names in poetry, with 16 honorary doctorates, a hit TV role and a new autobiography out in May, Brunel Poetry Professor Benjamin Zephaniah talks education...

Learning is clearly something he's passionate about. Born and raised in Birmingham, the 60-year-old dubbed Britain's 'people's laureate' is fiercely anti-establishment – he rejected an OBE because the word 'empire' reminded him of slavery. He'd considered himself semi-retired when Brunel's Creative Writing team first approached him. "The idea of joining the establishment, an institution... I had just never done that."

Curiosity got the better of him and he came to have a look. "I spent a lot of time just coming and meeting various members of staff because I wanted to know what was involved. Then I started hanging out in the bar with students and really enjoyed it. That was when I saw it from both sides and could see how I could contribute. I thought I can add something to the creative journey of the students and the life of the university."

Inspired by the charismatic preachers at church, Benjamin first started performing poetry aged 10. While a lot of black singers say they learned to sing in church, he wasn't into that. "But preaching. I loved it. I'd look at the preacher and think 'what you're saying is obviously not true, but the way you're saying it, I almost want to believe it'."

In parallel, his part in the hit BBC drama *Peaky Blinders* is based on a Jamaican preacher called Jimmy Jesus. Jimmy, a real character, fought with a battalion from Birmingham in the First World War. He later landed back in Brum 'slightly off his head' and started roaming the streets preaching hellfire and damnation. The similarity ends there. Benjamin Zephaniah doesn't do God. "I'm into spirituality. But I'm not religious. I believe in God without the religion. I think religion stops us getting close to God. A poet is a spiritual teacher."

At Brunel University London, he teaches a module called writing poetry for performance. "A lot of people write poetry just for the page and end up reading it. This is about bringing it to life and really lighting up the stage."

He starts his module by telling the students that "on paper, you are all more educated than me. I left school at 13 unable to read and write. But how did I get here?"

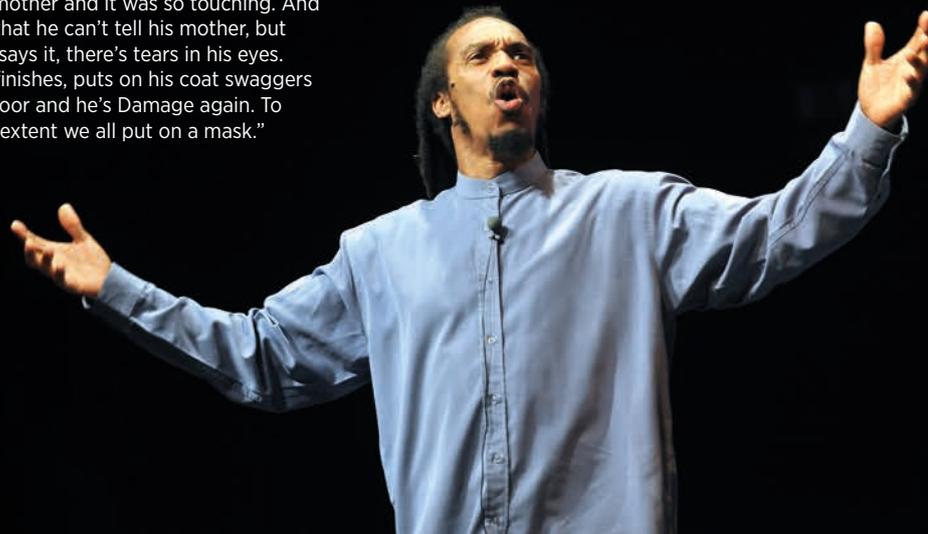
Some take his module to build confidence speaking in public. Others want to teach poetry. Some find it a challenge, he says – particularly guys. "That's because it is about bearing your soul in public, talking about your feelings." For some it is stage fright, or a lack of confidence. "I had one student who said 'I'm white, I'm middle class, I have not suffered any pain, so I have not got anything to say.' Then a friend of hers was injured in Afghanistan. After that, boy did she have something to say about a lot of things."

"Students open up in front of me. Some burst into tears." He launches into the story of a massive guy whose nickname was Damage. "He'd come in here and take off his coat and take out these poems about his relationship with his mother and it was so touching. And it's stuff that he can't tell his mother, but when he says it, there's tears in his eyes. Then he finishes, puts on his coat swaggers out the door and he's Damage again. To a certain extent we all put on a mask."

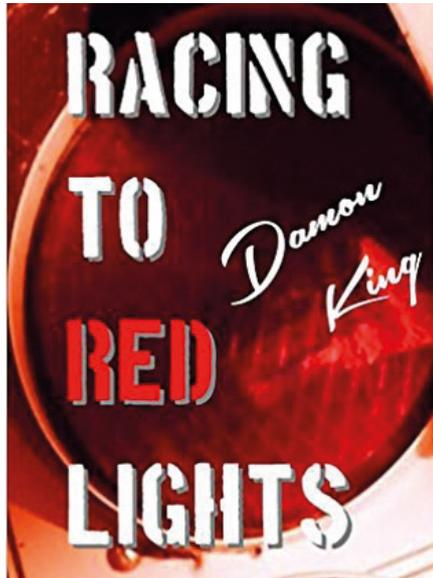
Benjamin's own work, which has a political edge, spans dub poetry plus novels and plays. Dub is a performance poetry using Jamaican rhythms – an art form born in the clubs of the 70s and 80s – something he and a handful of others in Britain created. He's made it his mission to fight the dead image of poetry in academia and brings it crashing into life with his performances.

"The thing I am most proud of is I was out somewhere doing a gig for TV and two of my ex-students' names were on the line-up. That's what's important, when I see my students who have left and they're out there working, making a name for themselves."

'The Life and Rhymes of Benjamin Zephaniah' is published by Simon and Schuster, priced £20 and, for early May, was BBC Radio 4 Book of the Week.



# BRUNEL IN PRINT



Damon King (Politics & Modern History, 1996)

## Racing to Red Lights

From crossword addicts to car thieves, bullies to burglars, layabouts, drunkards, cons, ex-cons, hooligans and murderers; this collection of both new and previously published stories introduces a cast of characters that are often darkly grotesque yet humorous and moving.



## ACCOUNTING FOR FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

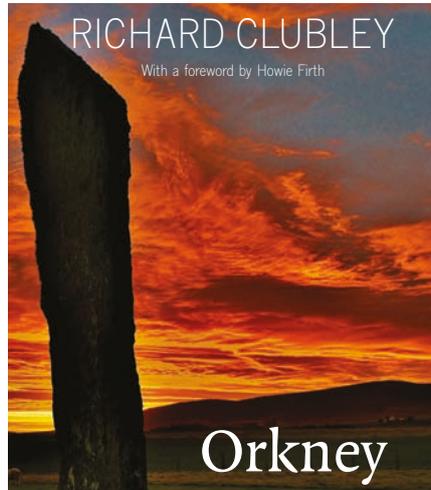
A Guide to Valuation and Risk Management

Emanuel Camilleri and Roxanne Camilleri

Dr Emanuel Camilleri (MBA, 1999)

## Accounting for Financial Instruments

Accounting for Financial Instruments is about the accounting and regulatory framework associated with the acquisition and disposal of financial instruments; how to determine their value; how to manage the risk connected with them; and ultimately compile a business valuation report.



Richard Clublely (Applied Biology, 1973)

## Orkney – A Special Place

In this book, Richard portrays the northern Scottish islands fairly and honestly, with stories that even Orkney locals may not have heard before. He gathered interviews with lighthouse keepers, farmers, archaeologists and climbers – and many others! On dreich afternoons during the short days of winter, Richard ate home bakes with locals and recorded their memories.

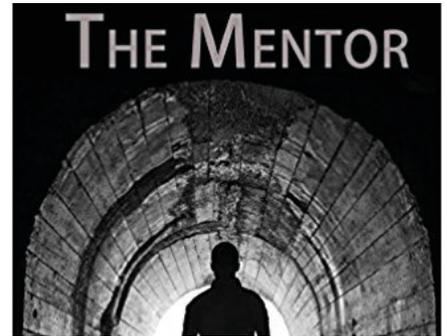


## Breaking of the Butterflies

Dominic Williams (Drama, 1994)

## Breaking of the Butterflies

Set during World War One, Breaking of the Butterflies is the story of Captain Dillon Reed, who joins the fledgling Military Foot Police of the British Army after a successful career as a Detective in the Metropolitan Police. Dillon is asked to investigate the death of a potential Victoria Cross winner, Private Skelton, it is in the early stages of the investigation that he is confronted with the murder of the Brigadier who ordered the original investigation.



Kieron Blake (Politics & Social Policy, 2005)

## The Mentor

Set during the London riots in 2011, Kevin Johnson decides to become a mentor in order to gain experience for the social care positions he wants to apply for. Furthermore, he wants to pass on his knowledge and experiences gained as a young man growing up in London to someone less fortunate as him. Kevin is paired up with Mason, who has lived with foster parents all his life. As their relationship develops, it is plain to see mentoring is not as easy as Kevin perceived it to be.



Tova Bergman (Creative Writing, 2017)

## One Word Titles

One Word Titles is a collection of six short stories and two poems. The stories are different from each other, written over the course of three years, but all more or less connected by either style or theme. While these are not ghost or monster stories, they fully live up to their cover image and would be suitable Halloween reads. Expect blood and gore, a few laughs, intense emotions, and perhaps to feel a little exhausted by the world we live in.

## Contact us

If you would like to feature your work in Brunel in Print, please email us at [alumni@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@brunel.ac.uk) with a synopsis.

# BRUNEL SOUNDS

If you know a budding musician, or are yourself looking to add a Music degree to your name, take a look at our Music courses. With the largest proportion of active music practitioners of any UK university or conservatoire, Brunel is the ideal place to develop your particular interests in contemporary music-making. Find out more at: [www.brunel.ac.uk/music](http://www.brunel.ac.uk/music). Below are just a few of our current music stars!



Georgia Cooke (Music, 2015)

## Music for Flute

Georgia is a performer and composer. Since graduating Georgia has completed a postgraduate diploma at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance. During this time she immersed herself in writing for the flute, culminating in her new EP 'Music for Flute'. She is the flautist with Ensemble Entropy (a free improvisation group), and has just formed a Flute Choir called The Silver Pencils, with upcoming concerts around London. You can read more about Georgia's work at: [www.georgiacookemusic.com](http://www.georgiacookemusic.com)

Benjamin Zephaniah (Chair in Creative Writing)

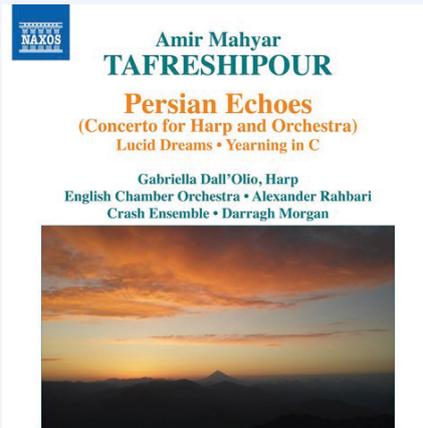
## Revolutionary Minds

This album showcases a new revolutionary approach to music and poetry from reggae poet Benjamin Zephaniah – <https://benjaminzephaniah.com/music/revolutionary-minds/>

Phil Maguire (Musical Performance, 2012)

## Working Title

Phil's explorations into sonic art have seen him in demand at many of the international festivals for electronic music. His latest release is 'Working Title' – a collaboration with third year music student and noise-improviser, James L Malone – is available at: <https://philmaguire.bandcamp.com/album/working-title>



Dr Amir Tafreshipour (Music PhD, 2016)

## Persian Echoes

Amir is a Composer and his new album has recently been released on the Naxos label – you can hear more at: [www.naxos.com/catalogue/item.asp?item\\_code=8.579023](http://www.naxos.com/catalogue/item.asp?item_code=8.579023)

Jack Goldstein (Music, 2016)

## A Tiger Shark Might Eat A Bull Shark, A Bull Shark Might Eat A Blacktip Shark And A Blacktip Shark Might Eat A Dogfish Shark

Jack featured on BBC Introducing in Oxford – you can watch him perform 'Lovely Time' live in session from his new album at: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=LOeVxtvo6eE&feature=youtu.be](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LOeVxtvo6eE&feature=youtu.be)

Chase Emery Davis (Composition, 2017)

## It's In the Mind

Chase is a singer / songwriter. His single 'It's In the Mind' was released last September with a brand new video. You can follow Chase's work at: <https://chase-emery-davis.com>



Lola de la Mata (Experimental Music, 2017)

## REMISE EN BOUCHE

REMISE EN BOUCHE, which translates as 'palate cleanser' or 'in the mouth,' is both an act of refreshment for the ears, and a commentary on the misogyny women experience in the creative industries. The album combines field recordings, classical rifts, untrained voice, violin, and transformed feedback – you can download the album at: [www.panyrosasdiscos.net/pyr245-lola-de-la-mata-remise-en-bouche/](http://www.panyrosasdiscos.net/pyr245-lola-de-la-mata-remise-en-bouche/)

Jack Rosies (Musical Performance, 2014)

## Coffee in the Lobby

Jack is a singer / songwriter – his latest release is his 'Coffee in the Lobby' EP – you can find out more at: [www.jackrosies.com](http://www.jackrosies.com)

## Contact us

If you would like to feature your work in Brunel Sounds, please email us at [alumni@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@brunel.ac.uk) with an overview.

# HOW OUR BRUNEL LAW SCHOOL AND ALUMNI EVENTS ARE JOINING FORCES

Always keen to celebrate alumni success and offer networking opportunities, this past year has seen the Alumni Relations team and the Brunel Law School host two key events as part of our annual programme for the alumni community and our current students. With the generous support of Law alumnus' Shailesh Vara MP (class of 1984) and Tony Coyne (class of 1985), we have enjoyed events at the House of Commons and the Blake Morgan LLP London offices. Shailesh is Brunel's first Government Minister, having held multiple ministerial positions, whilst Tony is an Honorary Professor at Brunel and Partner at Blake Morgan LLP – both are great friends to the University in their support and enthusiasm of these events.

**On 16 November 2017, Brunel Law School staff, students and alumni were welcomed to the House of Commons for an evening of networking. Hosted by Brunel alumnus Shailesh Vara MP, the sold out event was an opportunity for current students to gain some wisdom from our graduates and a moment for our Law class of 1984 to reunite and catch up on old times.**

During the evening, attendees also had the chance to go on a House of Commons tour and hear more about two new mentoring schemes from the Professional Development Centre – in-person and e-mentoring – being launched in partnership with the Brunel Law School.

Alumni from the 1970s through to 2017 were present, supporting our current students with advice and tips for their future careers. One alumni guest commented on “splendid surroundings with a gracious host” and went on to say that they “enjoyed talking to current students about alternative employment avenues which their Law Degrees might take them.” Another member of our Law alumni community remarked that “it was great to find out how the Law School had developed and how alumni could help through the mentoring scheme.”

Following the success of this event, on 7 March 2018 the Alumni Relations team and the Brunel Law School hosted the next in the annual events programme – ‘In Conversation with Eniola Aluko.’ Attended by alumni, students and staff, Eniola was engaging, funny and full of interesting insights to share with interviewer Prof Bill Leahy – Deputy Vice Chancellor – and the audience.

Since graduating from Brunel University London in 2008, Law alumna and international footballing star, Eniola, has had a career in both the legal and footballing world spanning both sides of the Atlantic, and increasingly in the media as well. With 102 appearances for England and having played in three World Cups, she has been at the heart of the growth of women's football in England.

“Eniola is a fantastic role model – I was very impressed with her poise, her drive and her generosity.”

Hosted at the Blake Morgan LLP offices in central London, generously arranged by alumnus, Tony Coyne, we were thrilled to have the chance to talk to Eniola about her amazing career since leaving Brunel and her plans for the future. Graduating with a First class honors degree in Law, and maintaining her sporting career throughout, Eniola went on to give tips and advice to our students and alumni in the room, highlighting the importance of “realising your weaknesses & bouncing back from failure” and always taking the “opportunity to learn and succeed.”

Inspiring our students and alumni was one of the big highlights of the event. Tapiwa, a final year Law student, commented on Twitter that “Eniola is the best – thank you [Brunel] for making this possible.” Anthony Inglese from our Brunel Law School also shared his thanks for the evening, noting that Eniola “exemplified both

sporting and academic excellence with great dignity.” adding that he “liked her concluding message of hard work and networking.”

Summing up the event, Prof Bill Leahy remarked that “Eniola is a fantastic role model – I was very impressed with her poise, her drive and her generosity. It shows our students what they can aspire to and what their future could look like.”

**We're always keen to shine the spotlight on various subject areas and open the doors to industry insights and networking opportunities. In the footsteps of alumnus' Shailesh and Tony, could you also get involved in hosting a subject event at your place of work for our alumni community and current students? If so, we'd love to hear from you – contact the team at [alumni@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@brunel.ac.uk).**



# HOW CAN YOU VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME TO INSPIRE OUR STUDENTS?



With so much knowledge and experience between you, our alumni are a wonderful source of support and guidance for our students. There are lots of ways that you could help, including talking about your career journey, offering work experience, writing a profile, becoming a mentor or guest lecturing at the University to name a few.

These are just some of the ways that our generous alumni community have recently supported our students...

## Profiles

Writing a profile for the Brunel website and prospectus is an excellent way of sharing your career journey, experience and advice for prospective and current students as well as fellow alumni. Just recently we've received brand new profiles for our new-look profile section on the web which all contain fantastic insights into various career industries.

Completing a profile couldn't be easier – head to our online form on our website to start inspiring our students.

## Mentoring

Jacqueline Ekwe (Electronic & Electrical Engineering, 2016) and Emily Siddaway (Civil Engineering with Sustainability, 2016) both volunteer their time as mentors on our Women in Brunel Engineering & Computing (WiBEC) programme.

Jacqueline chooses to volunteer because "I remember how much I gained from the mentoring experience during my days as a student. If I can do the same, it will help someone like it helped me and encourage women in technology and engineering to grow."

For Emily, volunteering for the WiBEC programme is "particularly important, as there aren't a lot of female engineers out there, so being able to support someone through the time of applying for a job and completing a degree is very rewarding. I wouldn't be where I am today without the help of my volunteer mentor."



## Making a scholarship gift

With your support, we aim to secure as many scholarships as possible to help alleviate the financial pressures that may prevent students from starting or finishing their degree. Our generous alumni regularly choose to donate to support these scholarships, contributing over £200k in the last three years alone, and helping hundreds of students go to university each year.

Whatever you are able to contribute either individually or through a company, your generous donation will help Brunel students fulfil their potential.

## Career Journey Advice

Having our alumni return to campus to take part in a variety of subject related career talks and share their experience is invaluable to our students as they start to plan their own career steps after university.

On a recent visit to campus to inspire our Electronic and Computer Engineering students were Tom (Electronic & Computer Engineering, 2014), William (Electronic & Computer Engineering, 2015) and Stephen (Electronic & Electrical Engineering, 1986) who all did a fantastic job of talking passionately about their careers since graduating and offering advice.

## Keen to get involved?

If you'd like to volunteer your time to inspire our students, or make a financial gift towards our scholarships, we'd love to hear from you.

Take a look at our website for more information on volunteering or making a gift at [www.brunel.ac.uk/alumni](http://www.brunel.ac.uk/alumni) or pop us an email at [alumni@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@brunel.ac.uk) to see what opportunities are cropping up and how you can get involved.



# TEDx BRUNEL: EXPLORING THE FUTURE OF US

“Very few other institutions can boast the sheer range of expertise and personality that was on display, and I’m very much looking forward to future events like this.”

Life without plastic, extendable shoes for Syrian refugees and the role of religion amongst tomorrow’s youth were some of the hot potatoes being kept aloft at Brunel University London’s first TEDx event, hosted here on campus on 20 February 2018.

Hosted by the Union of Brunel Students, the packed event invited an eclectic group of speakers – including some of Brunel’s own staff, students and alumni – to tackle the theme ‘The Future of Us’ and deliver inspiring talks on their vision of the future of humanity. Amongst the topics explored were youth engagement in politics, work-life balance and the power of networking.

TEDx is an offshoot of the popular TED platform, which invites those with an idea worth spreading to talk on their chosen subject for up to 18 minutes.

Dev Aditya, Vice President (Student Activities) for the Union of Brunel Students, said: “I’m proud to have brought this great idea to Brunel and give our students the opportunity to share their unique ideas to a global audience and strengthen their careers.”

Professor Bill Leahy, Deputy Vice-Chancellor at Brunel said: “What a fantastic day of TED

talks – it really was the perfect showcase for Brunel’s diverse and inquisitive community. Very few other institutions can boast the sheer range of expertise and personality that was on display, and I’m very much looking forward to future events like this.”

All TEDxBrunel videos from the day are now available for you to view on the Brunel YouTube channel at [www.youtube.com/user/BrunelUniversity](http://www.youtube.com/user/BrunelUniversity)

Speakers and topics from the day to feast your ears and eyes on include:

- x The journey to the world’s first...  
**Faisal Tayan**
- x How to live a ROCK lifestyle from B to D  
**Dhamen Khanna**
- x Learn, Understand, Share, Heal  
**Sola J Browne**
- x Can the UK be plastic neutral by 2030?  
**Bridget Boylan**
- x Learning by doing  
**Nathaniel Peat**
- x How 20 eggs showed me the solution to the Balkan crisis  
**Albion Thaqi**
- x A plant-based lifestyle  
**Sarah Devos**
- x Youthquake: fake or real?  
**Councillor Mete Coban**
- x The power of connectivity  
**Councillor Reena Ranger**
- x I don’t believe in work-life balance  
**Andrew Agerbak**
- x How to empower a billion people  
**Ryan Raghoo**
- x The future of US is ‘ME not US’  
**Satish K Sharma**

Time to grab a cup of tea and pop your feet up whilst you have a listen and be inspired.

# THERE'S NOTHING WE LOVE MORE THAN AN ALUMNI REUNION EVENT!

Back to the 1960's with Production Technology!

With the majority of the group not having seen each other for 30 years – and even then only once since they graduated back in the heady summer days of 1963 – it was great to have the Production Technology graduates here on campus in March for a get-together.

Thanking us for allowing the group to “marvel at the facilities now available to students,” Christopher King from the group – passionate about his days as a student – said: “Many congratulations on being a part of an amazing University;” adding that the Brunel standing today is “a very far cry from the building and facilities of Brunel College of Advanced Technology in Wood Lane, Acton where we started in 1959!”

A fantastic day of reminiscing over old times...

Design... with international connections

It was great to see some of our Design graduates from our Korea alumni chapter enjoying a reunion dinner in Seoul back in March. Hosted by Ian de Vere (Head of Design) and Weiwei Xu (Head of International Recruitment), the food and conversation were both flowing.

70th birthday reunion celebrations

For those that graduated in the summer days of 1969, 1970 and 1971, a special birthday is on the cards...or may have already been

recently celebrated! To mark the occasion, our alumni from these graduating classes planned a very special June party here on campus.

We hope you were able to attend and catch up with your classmates – be sure to keep your eyes peeled on our alumni network for all the pictures!

Coming soon...

Fancy listening to some of our Music alumni perform at a special Brunel gig? Join fellow Brunelians at The Half Moon in Putney, London (one of the original Rock 'n' roll pubs, hosting performances from The Who, U2 and Rolling Stones back in the day!) on 15 October 2018 for all the action from a fantastic line-up.

If you're keen to attend, drop us an email at [alumni@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@brunel.ac.uk) for more information and to register your interest.

Living internationally? Look out for details of our upcoming international visits from our Vice Chancellor and President, Professor Julia Buckingham, and members of our Alumni team, who will be visiting locations in East and West Coast USA, Canada, Australia and Malaysia later in the year. There'll also be visits to China in 2019 to look forward to.

Keep your eyes peeled at [www.brunelalumni.com](http://www.brunelalumni.com) for more information about the schedule as soon as it goes live!

**If you'd like to arrange a reunion with your graduating class or subject area, let us know if we can help with the planning – drop us an email at [alumni@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@brunel.ac.uk).**



# HELPING YOU WITH YOUR NEXT STEPS AS A BRUNEL GRADUATE

Whether it's for careers support or your plans for postgraduate study, we're here to help

## Careers Support

- > Boost your graduate job search with access to graduate vacancies from around 4,000 employers
- > Continued access to the daily 15 minute Quick Query appointments on campus – ideal for CV checks and quick advice
- > Longer one-to-one guidance appointments with your specialist Careers Consultant to help you identify target roles, give advice on creating great applications and offer guidance in preparing for interviews and assessment centres
- > If you live some way from campus, our Careers Consultants can also offer advice via Skype, phone or email
- > Access to a variety of graduate events including the 'Uncovered' industry insight sessions, recruitment fairs, employer pop-up stands and workshops

Graduated more than three years ago? You'll still find information on accessing vacancies and tips for sources of careers advice and information.

Head to [www.brunel.ac.uk/pdc](http://www.brunel.ac.uk/pdc) for more information or email [careers@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:careers@brunel.ac.uk) to seek advice from your Careers Consultant team.



## Postgraduate study – a fantastic time to return to Brunel

There are many reasons why continuing to study at Brunel is a great choice: from staff you already know to world-changing research projects you can be a part of, all on a campus that's been your second home and with friends you've made along the way.

You can also:

- > Take advantage of the 15% fee discount for alumni
- > Secure an added 15% fee discount with our Academic Excellence Scholarship if you have a first class undergraduate degree
- > Enjoy dedicated PG accommodation in the Isambard Complex

With over 170 Postgraduate courses and Research degrees to choose from, there's plenty of choice in finding the perfect next step for your studies. Why not take a look at some of our brand new courses?

**Environmental Management MSc:** Addressing the management principles necessary for the sustainable development for a healthy planet, this course allows you to develop an understanding of how human activity can affect the environment and applies this to both the legal framework and management decision-making activities.

**Disease Mechanisms and Therapeutics MSc:** This course will provide you with a specialist theoretical and practical knowledge and understanding in molecular biology and its impact on biomedicine.

**Advanced Clinical Practice MSc:** Specifically for experienced allied health professionals, this course will assist in career progression as a clinical practitioner. The programme enables the development of specialist clinical knowledge and will allow you to tailor your own portfolio of modules within the degree.

**Bioprocess Engineering MSc:** Up and running for 2019/20 entry, this course bridges between engineering, materials, chemical, physical and biological sciences to give you knowledge in the state-of-the-art bioprocesses used in production and research for your future career in industrial Bioprocess engineering or related fields.

**Structural Integrity (Asset Reliability Management) MSc:** Advance your career with risk management skills and mitigation strategies. This course includes teaching within the context of international regulations. Scholarships have been announced for this course for September 2018 entry.

**Oil and Gas Engineering MSc:** Take your career upstream and become a specialist in the design, analysis and construction of oil and gas installations, in surface services. Scholarships have been announced for this course for September 2018 entry.

## Scholarships

In 2018 Brunel are offering over 400 scholarships to Home and International students. In addition to the various tuition fee discounts available – including the exclusive 15% fee discount for Brunel alumni – we also have a range of postgraduate scholarships, prizes and further fee reductions on offer that you are able to use alongside your alumni discount. A small selection of those currently on offer include the following:

### Postgraduate Care Leaver Bursary

Offering £5,000 as a cash award or fee waiver, our Bursary is provided to encourage care leavers to progress to and successfully complete a postgraduate taught course.

### Postgraduate Academic Excellence Scholarship

If you've obtained a First Class Undergraduate degree, you could be in line for a 15% tuition fee discount.

### MBA Scholarship

The Brunel MBA can be studied part-time and full-time with 50 scholarships available ranging from £6,500 – £11,000 in tuition fee waivers for September and January start dates for both options.

For more information on the full list of Postgraduate scholarships, prizes and fee reductions available, along with eligibility criteria and details of how to apply, please head to: [www.brunel.ac.uk/study/postgraduate-fees-and-funding/scholarships](http://www.brunel.ac.uk/study/postgraduate-fees-and-funding/scholarships)

# STAY IN TOUCH

Because it never has to be a final goodbye after graduation: Keep up to date with everything Brunel, share your stories and connect with your fellow alumni...

Join the official Brunel Alumni Network today and see what everyone's talking about: [www.brunelalumni.com](http://www.brunelalumni.com)

#### Re-connect

Find and reminisce with classmates, see what they have been up to and stay in touch.

#### Get ahead

Leverage your network to grow your professional opportunities. With 1000's of Brunel Alumni profiles online, you can open doors all over the world.

#### Give back

Give back to Brunel students through mentoring, offering advice, opening doors to students, employment opportunities and placements ... the list goes on.

Create your own eye-catching profile, identify the right mentor for you or publicise an event in your area.

You can even download the free mobile app. Just search for 'Brunel Alumni' in the Android or Apple app store and get involved today!

Sign up is quick and easy and takes just 5 minutes at [www.brunelalumni.com](http://www.brunelalumni.com) - it's even quicker if you choose the option to import your Facebook or LinkedIn profile.

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