

Breaking down boundaries: a challenge on another scale

Meet the incredible alumnus who became a
mountain climber after losing both his legs

Also inside this issue:

- Alumnus wins BAFTA for Les Misérables
- Major Dementia research projects begin
- Tips for budding entrepreneurs
- Celebrating forty years of the Brunel Library

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Link Team

Editor Vicky Noden

Writers Alex Buchanan,
Joe Norman and Rachel Turvey

Photography
Neil Graveney and Sally Trussler

Artwork Richard Mitchell



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www.brunel.ac.uk/alumni



@brunelalumni



The Official Brunel University Alumni Group



Brunel University Alumni



Brunel University Alumni



alumni@brunel.ac.uk



+44 (0)1895 267775



Brunel University, Uxbridge, Middlesex, UB8 3PH, UK

Welcome

Over the past 12 months we have celebrated many great achievements at Brunel and I am delighted to share these with you. You will be aware that in October the Nobel Prize for Physics was awarded to the scientists who discovered the Higgs Boson. However you may not know that our physicists have been associated with the construction and use of the detector which helped in the discovery of the long-sought particle since 1995. In November our Business School was awarded the prestigious Times Higher Education Business School of the Year Award and a few weeks later the Times Higher Education magazine ranked our engineering and technology activities tenth in the UK and described us as one of the most international universities in the world. Furthermore, our Disability and Dyslexia support was voted as the best in London. You can read all about these developments on page 8; I hope you are as proud as I am of these achievements.

Brunel is a truly global University and we continue to nurture international partnerships in Bahrain, China (page 12) and elsewhere and our research is making a real difference to people across the world. We have secured funding to help those with dementia and to combat Schistosomiasis, a parasitic disease that affects millions (page 4).

There have also been many outstanding individual achievements in our community this year, across a range of disciplines. Sam Etherington won the UK round of the James Dyson Award and then was inducted into the Semta Engineering Hall of Fame alongside IK Brunel himself. Alan Selby was named Student Journalist of the Year and two alumni were named in the Top 100 UK Scientists (page 29). Their success is a true source of inspiration to our students and alumni.

Despite our great number of successes this year, we are not resting on our laurels. The UK higher education sector is going through a period of unprecedented change and we must adapt to ensure that we continue to be competitive and realise our strategic goal of positioning Brunel in the top quartile of UK universities. This will take a great deal of hard work,

which has already begun with our Transformational Change Programme. This will include the reorganisation of our academic activities into three Colleges and three Research Institutes:

Colleges

- College of Business, Arts and Social Sciences
- College of Engineering, Design and Physical Sciences
- College of Health and Life Sciences

Research Institutes

- Energy Futures
- Materials and Manufacturing
- Environment, Health and Societies

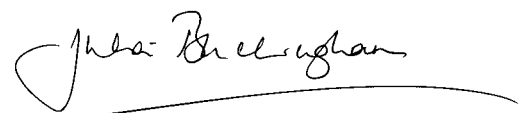
This new structure will increase the opportunities for sharing good practice and for engaging in collaborative and interdisciplinary research and teaching. It will also enable us to create critical mass in those areas of research where we are, or have the potential to be, at the forefront internationally. In addition two new Centres, the Brunel Educational Excellence Centre (BEEC) and the School of Professional Development (SPD) have been established to enhance the student experience. They will work closely with the Colleges, focusing on enhancing the quality of teaching and ensuring that our students acquire the broader 'softer skills' that employers increasingly require.

Probably the most noticeable change for our alumni will be our new brand. We have been speaking to many of you - along with staff, students and other stakeholders - about your perceptions of the university in order to develop the brand and raise the profile of the University. I hope you agree that Brunel has a lot to be proud of and that we should be far more visible on the national and international stage. On 1st August we will officially be renamed Brunel University London and we will introduce changes to our materials and our website which we hope you will agree truly reflect our values, mission and the work we undertake.

As we look to the future, we will also be reflecting on our past. Since the

last magazine we have celebrated the 40th anniversary of the move of our Library to what is now the Bannerman Building and reflected on the dramatic impact technology has had on access to learning and materials over the last four decades (page 14). We are now preparing for the University's 50th anniversary in 2016. We will be seeking help to ensure this landmark in our history is marked appropriately. Please complete the survey sent with our magazine, or visit www.brunel.ac.uk/alumni to complete it online. Your invaluable input will help to ensure that we provide the opportunities for you to participate, so that we may celebrate together as a community.

And finally I would like to extend my thanks, on behalf of everyone at Brunel, to those of you who have supported us this year. Whether you have offered work placements, given advice to our students, or you have provided financial support for scholarships, prizes, research or resources, we are truly grateful.



Professor Julia Buckingham
Vice Chancellor and Principal





Tackling Dementia

Researchers from Brunel are taking part in two major research projects into dementia.

Funding for the research was announced by Prime Minister David Cameron at the G8 Dementia Summit in December. The investment in these projects represents hope for the 800,000 people living with the disease in the UK. Both projects focus on helping people live well with dementia.

Project 1 Seeing what they see: compensating for cortical visual dysfunction in Alzheimer's disease

This £2.7 million project will be investigating what support can be beneficial to people whose vision is affected by Alzheimer's disease. "Problems with vision can affect behaviour and cause hallucinations or delusions," explained Brunel's Dr Mary Sullivan. "For example, people can become agitated because curved patterns on curtains are misinterpreted as snakes slithering down the wall."

"To date, most solutions focus on tools

which require the person to use their sight, such as written instructions or signs. But often simple remedies are most effective, such as using red plates on a white tablecloth so they stand out more. This type of support from carers will be the focus of this project."

Another area of research is Posterior Cortical Atrophy: a type of Alzheimer's disease which affects vision and not memory. By working with people suffering from this, researchers hope to

get an insight into how people whose memory has been affected view the world and in turn improve support available.

Dr Sullivan and Dr Anne McIntyre from Brunel will be leading the social science aspect of the study. The overall project is being led by Brunel's Professor Mary Gilhooly and Professor Ken Gilhooly along with Dr Sebastian Crutch of University College London.

Project 2 Improving the experience of Dementia and Enhancing Active Life: the IDEAL study

IDEAL is a major, five-year study of 1,500 people with dementia and their family carers, which looks at how people can be helped to live well with dementia. Researchers will examine how social and psychological factors affect people adapting to the effects of dementia, and how these challenges change as dementia progresses. Researchers hope to identify at what stage individuals, communities, health

and social care practitioners, care providers and policy-makers can best intervene to improve the quality of life for those with dementia.

Brunel's Professor Christina Victor said: "This will be the first large-scale study of its kind into dementia. Our involvement in this high quality research reflects the strength of ageing research at the Brunel. I am delighted

to be part of the IDEAL project team and to have the opportunity to make a real difference to the lives of people with dementia and their carers."

This £4 million project is led by Professor Linda Clare at Bangor University. Professor Victor will be leading on the impact, engagement and research capacity work stream.

Artificial snail could save millions of lives



The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has awarded funding to Brunel to help find a solution for Schistosomiasis, a parasitic disease which strikes 243 million people worldwide, and has the second largest human health impact after Malaria.

In order to become infectious to humans, the parasite must infect and transform within snails living in rivers. Having completed its life cycle in the snail, the parasite then returns to the water where it infects unsuspecting people by burrowing through their skin. Brunel's Dr Edwin Routledge has come up with an unconventional way to combat this, by developing an artificial 'decoy' snail which interrupts the parasite lifecycle to reduce transmission rates to humans.

In order to achieve this, the research will use bioassay directed fractionation techniques to isolate and identify specific chemicals released by the snail that attract the parasite towards it. These chemicals will ultimately be introduced into a biodegradable artificial snail. Being chemically indistinguishable to the parasites from live snails, the artificial snail will effectively draw the parasites into it, and away from the actual snail host. Once inside the artificial snail the parasite will be unable to replicate. This break in the life cycle of the disease will reduce transmission of the parasite to humans by reducing the population of infected snails.

To date, approaches to tackling this disease have included improved sanitation and hygiene, or snail control through the use of molluscicides, which could have negative impacts on the river ecology and also local fishing. In addition, treatment of humans with an antihelmintic drug (Praziquantel) is effective only as long as people stay away from the infected river.

As a leading light in research into the impact of chemicals in rivers and with an established body of snail research, this exciting research work will find a natural home at Brunel. Dr Routledge, who is leading the study, said: "I have always been motivated by research that will make a difference. I see this as a great opportunity to use ecotoxicology approaches in a different way to help solve an important global human health issue."

In this funding round, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation received over 2,700 applications, out of which 84 were funded across 14 countries.

Double support for FGM research

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is still practised across the world and is particularly prevalent in parts of Africa. Furthermore, within the UK it is estimated that an average of 6,500 girls are cut each year. Sarah Penny, Lecturer in Creative Writing, is investigating the practice and has received support from two organisations to carry out this research.

Penny's Winston Churchill Trust grant is to fund her to travel to central Kenya to work with a group of Masai girls who have successfully refused FGM. A subsequent Wellcome Trust Grant allows her to expand the scope of the project.

Working in partnership with an African dramatherapist, Penny will collect narratives both about how the girls

came to refuse FGM, and how their mothers have felt about accepting an uncircumcised daughter back into the community. These stories will then be shared with another community of girls in the north of Kenya where FGM is still practised.

The overall aim of the project is to bring the stories and experience back to the UK, as the starting point of a wider project to try to support British mothers in refusing FGM on behalf of their daughters. There are currently about 65,790 victims of the practice living in the UK.

For further information about these or other research projects at Brunel, please contact the Alumni Office on the details on page 3.





Jess wins Team Gold

First-year Sport Sciences undergraduate, Jessica Andrews, won an U23 team gold medal for Great Britain and Northern Ireland at the European Cross-Country Championships in Belgrade, Serbia. The GB team finished ahead of Russia and The Netherlands.

The delighted distance runner came 16th overall at the championships: "I am overwhelmed to be part of GB's winning team on my first international outing," she said. "To finish with a team gold, standing on the podium and singing the national anthem was absolutely amazing!"

Andrews has had an outstanding domestic season so far, including winning the South of England Cross Country championships and finishing fourth at the British Universities Cross-Country Championships in Stirling.

Andrews hails from the Isle of Wight and is guided by the esteemed distance coach Mick Woods. She is one of four Mo Farah Foundation Sports Scholars at Brunel.

Brunel and the Rugby World Cup 2015

Brunel has been confirmed as one of the approved team training bases for the 2015 Rugby World Cup.



With the world-class sports and conference facilities on Brunel's Uxbridge campus being less than ten miles from iconic Rugby World Cup venues Twickenham and Wembley, Brunel is ideally placed to provide an inspirational training environment for the very best teams.

A Team Base must include an indoor and outdoor training facility, a gym, an indoor swimming pool and a hotel. These facilities must meet international team training standards and be located in close proximity to one another. England 2015 requires up to 50 bases for use during the tournament.

Brunel is able to offer a one-stop-shop of sports facilities, hotel accommodation, bespoke catering, and meeting venues to suit individual team requirements.

The University has previously hosted international teams for major events, having been the

official training camp venue for the Korean Olympic team and Canadian Paralympic team in 2012, and the regular summer base for Usain Bolt's Racers Track Club since 2009.

Director of Sport, Paul Dimmock said: "It is fantastic news that Brunel has been confirmed on the shortlist for Rugby World Cup 2015 Team Bases. It builds on the legacy of our London 2012 training camps and our longstanding relationships with world class sports programmes.

"This, coupled with our investment in rugby facilities this year, will provide a boost to the University's Rugby Performance Programme, which aims to re-establish Brunel as one of the UK's premier rugby universities."

The 2015 tournament, which is the world's third largest sports event, will see the top 20 nations compete for the coveted Webb Ellis trophy.



The science behind the Ultimate Workout Playlist

Brunel researcher, Dr Costas Karageorghis, has worked with the popular digital music service Spotify to compile the *Ultimate Fitness Workout Playlist*, drawing upon his long-running research programme into the psychological effects of music.

Through an analysis of 6.7 million workout playlists conducted by the Spotify market research team, and the application of a new theoretical model that he developed, Dr Karageorghis crafted the playlist by considering the global popularity of contemporary tracks, along with their psycho-acoustic properties (referring to the scientific study of the perception of sound), rhythmical qualities, tempo or beats per minute (bpm), and lyrical content.

As Dr Karageorghis explains, "My research group has examined the effects of music on physical activity from many different perspectives – using experimental techniques such as functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI), respiratory analysis and heart rate variability to a broad range of qualitative approaches such as observations, surveys and interviews."

The findings show that well-selected music can have a positive influence on how you feel at exercise intensities that are commonly associated with negative feeling states. "This means that at the point at which your body is shouting 'STOP', the music has the power to lift your mood and beckon you on" Dr Karageorghis explains. "We came to the conclusion that, during high-intensity exercise, there is a ceiling for music-tempo preference of approximately 140 bpm."

This conclusion has important consequences, as Dr Karageorghis outlines: "Prior to the work done at

Brunel, it was thought that music tempo should rise in a linear manner with exercise heart rate. Many commercial albums and playlists have made their selections directly predicated on our published findings."

Dr Karageorghis describes a "sweet spot" for music in the exercise context associated with a tempo range of 120 - 140 bpm with "good psychological and information processing-related reasons for the efficacy of this narrow range."

Based on the Spotify listings, *Can't Hold Us* by Macklemore & Ryan Lewis feat. Ray Dalton is the most frequently appearing track on workout playlists. This hip hop tune with a relatively fast tempo of 147 bpm, close to the sweet spot, is therefore especially suited to cardio training and very high intensity workouts, whereas Daft Punk's summer disco hit *Get Lucky*, for example, with a tempo of 116 bpm, is better for warming up.

The Ultimate Playlist has been developed to accompany the various sections of a typical workout – warm up, the gradual increase of exercise intensity during cardio training, strength training, and warm down – with the music tempo matching each phase of the workout.

Spotify users can listen to the *Ultimate Fitness Workout Playlist*, and view more details about the track selection, through the Spotify webplayer.



Brunel bags two Golds in Wild Water Racing Championships

Brunel University has made a strong entrance into the world of down river canoeing, taking part in the BUCS Wild Water Racing Championships for the first time.

The event in November saw Jon Schofield dominate the Single Kayak class, picking up gold in both the classic race and sprint events. Rachel Jones put in a strong performance to finish fourth in the women's sprint, and a majority of the Brunel team finished in the top ten, in a tough competition against rival clubs from Durham, Newcastle and Loughborough.

Brunel already has a strong record of attracting world class athletes for sprint canoeing events, but down river events require a significantly different skillset, making the results a testament to the dedication of the competitors.

Alice Shute, Vice Chair of the Brunel Canoe Club said: "It was a brilliant event, and great to see our club paddlers and the world class athletes join forces to represent Brunel University. The support we got from the Student Union and University management helped make this the success that we had all hoped for."



A new structure for Brunel University London

The university is currently going through a number of significant changes that are aimed at improving quality, performance and our contribution to the wider world. The new structure will see new Colleges formed covering three broad academic areas:

- **College of Engineering, Design and Physical Sciences**
- **College of Health and Life Sciences**
- **College of Business, Arts and Social Sciences**

With an increased emphasis on research, there will also be three research institutes:

- **Energy Futures**
- **Materials and Manufacturing**
- **Environment, Health and Societies**

You will also notice new branding on all Brunel publications and communications from later in the year, as we officially become *Brunel University London*, following extensive consultation with students, staff, alumni and other stakeholders.

To keep up to date with the changes, please keep an eye on our website at www.brunel.ac.uk. If you have any specific questions, please contact us on alumni@brunel.ac.uk.

Brunel Physicists celebrate Nobel Prize for Higgs Boson Scientists

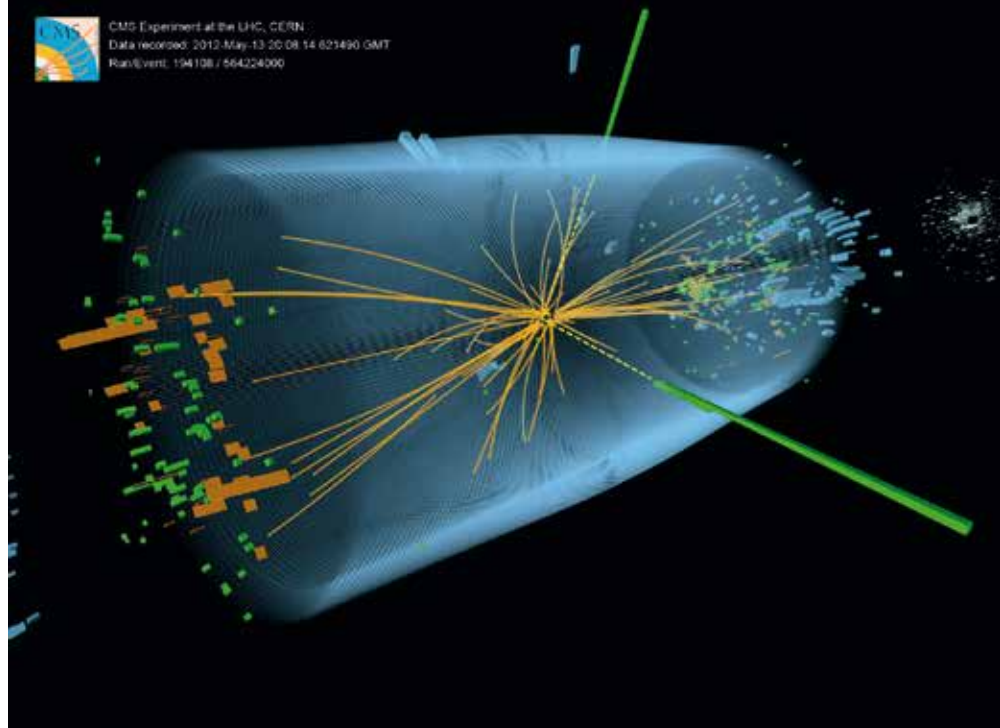
The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics to Peter Higgs, from the UK, and Francois Englert from Belgium, for their work on the theory behind the discovery of the Higgs Boson.

Physicists at Brunel are delighted to have been associated since 1995 in the construction and use of the Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS) particle detector, which, with its friendly rival ATLAS, helped to discover the long-sought Boson in 2013.

Brunel has been involved primarily with the design, construction and operation of the endcap electromagnetic calorimeter, which measures the energies of electrons and photons, and also of the central tracking detector which uses over 200 square metres of silicon to measure the momentum of charged particles in a 3.8T magnetic field.



CMS Experiment at the LHC, CERN
Data recorded: 2012-May-13 20:08:14 (621490 GMT)
Run/Event: 194108 / 564224000



Business School of the Year

Brunel Business School won the Times Higher Education Awards *Business School of the Year 2013*.

The judges commented: "The School has been able to demonstrate, without being boastful, genuinely impressive progress towards achieving a set of transformational strategic targets.

"It has taken significant steps towards its ambition of being a genuinely international quality business school."

Professor Zahir Irani, previous Head of School, said: "This award is a significant recognition that our focus on striving to provide quality teaching, research and student experience has, and is, having an impact. As such, we are committed to focusing on improving student employability and graduate outcomes. Congratulations to all who have contributed to this success."

In its entry, the School had described 2011-2012 as a 'watershed' year during which many of its plans and initiatives came to fruition. The judges agreed that its winning submission showed "ambition, commitment and impact". They were impressed that graduate prospects had improved significantly, and that due to an increased emphasis on employability in the curriculum, the number of leavers gaining graduate-level jobs had grown.



Centre for Comedy Studies Research launched

For sociologist Dr Sharon Lockyer, comedy is a serious subject for study, and is important for understanding human behaviour. Dr Lockyer is the Director of the UK's first Centre for Comedy Studies Research (CCSR), which launched at Brunel in October.

"If a student is reading Sociology and Communications," said Dr Lockyer "understanding the role of comedy in society is absolutely fundamental," she said. "Comedy is really important to society. For example there is a rise in the number of disabled comedians who use comedy to break barriers and raise an audience's awareness of its own possible prejudices."

The multidisciplinary aims of the Centre are to integrate research in the fields of media and communications, sociology, psychology, theatre, drama, film and television, computing, English, creative writing and social work, using comedy as the common denominator.

The new research centre will cover stand-up, literature, clowning, television comedy, and the joking and humour that is used in daily life.

Brunel alumni and stand-up comedians, Jo Brand and Lee Mack helped launch the centre at a conference in October.

Also on the panel were Geoff Rowe, founder of *Dave's Leicester Comedy Festival*, and performer Steve Best, co-founder and the only non-disabled member of *Abnormally Funny People*.

The Centre will promote an international, interdisciplinary approach to understanding comedy and is supported by five CCSR Ambassadors, including Eastenders actor Nitin Ganatra, who plays Masood, as well as Jo Brand, Lee Mack, Geoff Rowe and Simon Minty.

News in Brief

Aviation college to open

A new University Technical College (UTC) in Uxbridge, sponsored by Brunel University and focused on developing future aviation engineers, will open its doors in September 2014. The Heathrow Aviation Engineering UTC aims to meet the growing local need for technically competent, employable young people to join the expanding aviation industry.

Students build microlight aircraft



The first microlight aircraft built by students at Brunel took to the skies from a small airfield in north London in October and flew a series of test manoeuvres as part of a flight test programme to obtain a permit to fly.

Best in London for Disabled and Dyslexic students

Brunel is the best university in London for Disabled students, according to the latest Trailblazers' *University Challenge* report.

How do you encourage physical activity?

Brunel's Health Economics Research Group has been awarded over £400,000 to conduct research into the effectiveness of interventions designed to encourage people to take more physical exercise.

Students help the local community

Over 200 students from Brunel University and Uxbridge College took to Uxbridge High Street and the Pavilions for a day of mass volunteering in November. More than 530 volunteering hours were recorded by students and staff as they undertook a variety of pre-arranged and spontaneous good deeds. This was followed by a week of intensive volunteering in the community during Volunteers Week in February.



Drama alumnus delivers master class

Brunel welcomed Will Edelsten (Modern Drama Studies, 2008) back for a master class in January.

Will was a Brunel Music Award student. Together with Ben McMath and former Alumnus of the Year, Ross Ramgobin, they performed both on and off campus, combining their singing and acting skills in a unique cabaret act *Boys Aloud*.

Since graduating, Will has combined his musical and drama performance skills with his talents as a director. He has been appointed as the Assistant Director of the Royal Opera House's 2014 summer production of *La Bohème*. He shared his experience skills and advice with arts students working on their production of *Oh What a Lovely War*.

Law graduate appointed as Judge

Barrister Michael Salter (LLB Law 1998), the Head of Employment at Ely Place Chambers, has recently been appointed as a fee-paid judge of the Employment Tribunals (England & Wales).

After reading Law at Brunel, he then attended the Inns of Court School (now known as City Law School), and read the BCL at Brasenose College, Oxford before commencing pupillage at 10 King's Bench Walk.

Rainbow Pencil product launch kick-started



Duncan Shotton (Industrial Design and Technology, 2008) raised almost £50,000 via the Kickstarter website to develop a range of pencils made from recycled paper. Duncan's idea generated so much interest and support from the public that he raised more than four times his original target.

The pencils' Rainbow effect comes when they are sharpened, creating beauty out of otherwise discarded pencil shavings.

Duncan currently runs his own small design studio in Tokyo, and says that the 'cute' aspect of many of his designs is a much more important factor in Japan than in western markets. Other examples of his work include his popular Real Boy drawing pins inspired by Pinocchio and a cassette tape dispenser.

He cites his time at Brunel as very important to his career development. While exhibiting at Made in Brunel, he met the design director of award-winning design consultancy Kinneir Dufort, where he was to spend his first four years after graduation.

You can see all Duncan's products online at dshott.co.uk.



BRUNEL ENGINEERS

Brunel Engineers Showcase 2014

Thursday 22 May

6.30 – 9pm

WBB and MSB,
Brunel University

www.brunelengineering.com

Olympian alumna announces retirement

Heather Fell (Physiotherapy, 2004), who won silver in the 2008 Olympic Games, has announced her retirement from Modern Pentathlon. Heather, who was Alumna of the Year in 2009, also won the European Championships in 2007 as well as gold at the 2008 and 2012 World Cups and silver in the 2009 and 2010 World Championships.

She has taken to road cycling as a way of staying fit, and completed a Land's End to John O'Groats ride last summer. She is pursuing a career in the media and has already worked for the BBC.





Creative Writing Networking Evening



We were delighted to meet a group of budding writers at our Creative Writing Networking Evening in November.

Alumni gathered at the Royal Society of the Arts in central London to exchange ideas and advice about pursuing a career in writing. The group included published and aspiring novelists, playwrights and poets, as well as marketing and communications professionals, all of whom took this opportunity to learn from one another's experiences.

The evening included two inspiring talks about careers in writing. The first came from alumna Shaheen Hashmat. Shaheen graduated from English and Creative Writing in 2008 and won two prizes for her dissertation: a short story about her youth spent as the youngest daughter of corner-shop owners in central Scotland.

Shaheen explained how meeting someone at a networking event she attended several years before, led her to secure a job working with Lord Puttnam. As part of her role she helped write speeches for the film producer and Labour peer. Inspired by the importance of the written word for advocating social change, Shaheen became determined to use her skills to tackle an issue close to her heart; that of honour abuse, which can include forced marriage, domestic violence, genital mutilation, imprisonment and trafficking.

Alongside writing her first book, a memoir borne out of her dissertation, Shaheen is now working to establish a free mental health service for those that have suffered honour abuse. She also writes a blog around this topic at www.shaheenhashmat.com. Her advice to her fellow alumni was to write about an issue that means something to you personally.

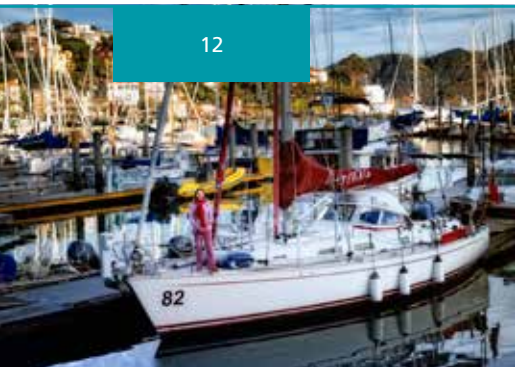
Next up was the renowned performance poet, Benjamin Zephaniah, who is Creative Writing Chair at Brunel.

Benjamin spoke of his experiences with publishers in the early days of his career. His work was met with one rejection after another, as he approached publishers in London. Eventually the East London publishing cooperative, *Page One Books*, saw something special and published 'Pen Rhythm'.

His poetry was finally in print, but it was Benjamin's performance that really started to cause a stir. He found that the publishers who had rejected him finally sat up and took notice. For this reason, Benjamin advised the group that they should always perform their poetry.

Benjamin echoed Shaheen's advice stressing that writing from the heart, about something you know, will produce far better results.

As the event drew to a close, contact details were exchanged and connections were made. We hope that our alumni will continue to make the most of this supportive network. And perhaps next year we'll be seeing some more of their names at the back of this magazine in *Brunel in Print*...



Awards for solo circumnavigation

The Cruising Club of America (CCA) presented Jeanne Socrates (Numerical Analysis, 1970) with its *Blue Water Medal* for her completion of a solo nonstop circumnavigation of the world on her third attempt. She became the first woman to sail nonstop around the world from North America and the oldest woman to sail solo nonstop around the world.

The Blue Water Medal was first awarded in 1923 and is given "for a most meritorious example of seamanship, the recipient to be selected from among the amateurs of all nations."

In addition, she received the Ocean Cruising Club's *Barton Cup* in April and the Royal Cruising Club awarded her the *Seamanship Medal*. She was also short-listed for *Yachtsman of the Year* at Trinity House and chosen as one of the *2013 Yachtworld Heroes* finalists at the Miami Boat Show.

You can read all about her fascinating story at www.svnereida.com.

Palavi is an advocate for UK study

Palavi Kele (Cross-Cultural Psychology, 2012) has joined Renaissance Strategic Consultants in Pune, India, as a Trainer Consultant. She helps clients with cross-cultural communication and cultural sensitivity. She is also currently promoting study in the UK as one of the British Council in India's star alumni.



Alumna wins Brazilian literature prize

Isabela Noronha (MA Creative Writing: The Novel, 2013) has won the Barco a Vapor, one of Brazil's top children's literature prizes.

Isabela won the award for a story written as part of her course during a 'Writing for Children' seminar, which led to the publication of a children's book in 2014. Her work was chosen from a total of 1,300 entries by a jury comprising Brazilian academics, writers and editors.

"My story is aimed at six-to-seven year-old children," Isabela explained. "It's about Tom, a boy who has to learn to say goodbye." In Portuguese, the book is called *O Garoto que Engolia Palavras*, which means 'The Boy Who Swallowed Words'.

Earlier this year, Isabela also won the Curtis Brown prize for her MA dissertation.



Brunel one of the "most international" universities

Brunel University has been ranked as joint 15th in the Times Higher Education (THE) list of the 25 most international universities in the world.

The list was compiled using the 'international outlook' indicator of the THE's world ranking of universities, which is calculated using a university's international student numbers, its percentages of international staff and the proportion of its research papers published with a co-author from at least one other country.

Vice Principal (Education and International) Andrew George said "this result is a reflection of the huge importance that Brunel University places on internationalisation, and the diversity of our students and staff which brings so much to our campus community. This awareness of our strength in this area provides a clear platform for our future plans for growth and development of key international partnerships in the next few years."

International Events

Malaysia

The Vice Chancellor met with a group of Brunel alumni in Kuala Lumpur in July, after attending a convocation ceremony at one of Brunel's partner universities, the University Teknologi MARA in Selangor. The group shared their experiences of their studies and their careers over a networking dinner.

Alumni interested in taking part in future events should contact the Alumni Office on alumni@brunel.ac.uk or join our Brunel Alumni Malaysia community on Google+ (see page 2), where you can chat with other alumni in the country.

USA

A small group of alumni met up in Washington DC and had a social evening of drinks and nostalgia in the capital's Dupont Circle. The graduates ranged from the Class of 1984 right up to the Class of 2013.

The next evening, Brunel's first alumni gathering in New York saw a jovial get-together in the vibrant Meatpacking District. The ten Brunelians, who graduated over a period of 40 years, compared notes of their experiences at university and life since graduation.

Both groups were keen to hold future events and offered some words of encouragement to other alumni in the region:

"The US Colleges have a very strong Alumni network that help each other out. There is no reason fantastic individuals from Brunel should not do the same" - New York alumnus

"The great feature of the USA is its diversity. However it would be so nice to remain in touch with our roots. A base (or place) such as an alumni gathering would be an opportunity to achieve that. As long as there are enough people to track down a source for Trebor Extra Strong Mints!" - New York alumnus

"For an American alumnus of Brunel University, this event is a must-go. There are not too many alumni in the area, but this only helps to create a small, personal meeting that allows for good conversations about our lives and days at Brunel." - Washington alumnus

If you are interested in joining them, please email alumni@brunel.ac.uk.

Brunel in Bahrain

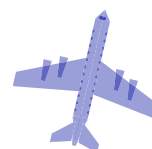
Professor Julia Buckingham visited Bahrain this year, to help further the long-standing collaboration between Brunel Business School and Ahlia University.

On the 'PhD without Residence' programme, 45 Brunel students are undertaking funded PhD research projects relevant to the Gulf region. A member of Brunel staff has also started a three-year secondment at Ahlia University.

The delegation from Brunel also visited the Deputy Prime Minister of Bahrain who reiterated his support for this collaboration and expressed interest in its expansion. Brunel is seeking to further collaborate with Ahlia in several ways including a student exchange programme between the two institutions.

During the stay, the Vice Chancellor also launched the Brunel Alumni Bahrain Chapter, which was attended by over 60 Brunel alumni who graduated from across the University over the past two decades.

If you are interested in joining this Bahrain alumni chapter, please email alumni@brunel.ac.uk and we will put you in touch with the chapter leader.



Upcoming events

Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong

The Vice Chancellor is planning to visit mainland China and Hong Kong later in 2014 and hopes to host a series of events for alumni. We would be delighted to welcome you there. For more information, email alumni@brunel.ac.uk.

Celebrating 40 Years of the Library

By Rob Wannerton, Brunel Library

In December Brunel Library celebrated 40 years since its new building opened. As many of you may remember, although there had been a Library before that, it had moved around various spaces on the campus. The opening of the Library in 1973 represented the start of a new phase at Brunel, providing state of the art facilities in a purpose-built, cutting-edge building.

To celebrate the anniversary in a suitably forward-thinking way, we used a number of social media channels to highlight the history of the building and the development of services, and also to provide opportunities for previous staff and students to share memories of their time here.

Other online activities which are still available to view and take part in include an electronic timeline (<http://bit.ly/brunlib>) showing key stages in the development of the current Library service. This contains nuggets of information such as the arrival of fax machines in the library, the existence of a "typing room", and a favourite from 1985 when an online search could take up to two hours and involved a 30-minute interview with a librarian, who then conducted the search.

The timeline was backed up with a Pinterest board which brought together images shared by staff and students, as well as those from the University Archive. There are images of different activities, layouts and events in the Library - it is worth having a browse through these.

The board also resulted in former members of staff getting in touch to share their stories, and helped us to fill in some of the gaps in our knowledge about how our service developed.

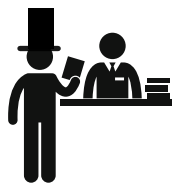
Our current staff team got involved in more than just the organisation of events and activities; Tim Harris, our most Rock 'n' Roll Librarian, composed a *Library Song* especially for the occasion. The accompanying video featuring staff from all departments can be viewed on Facebook (you don't need to be a member to see it) at <http://bit.ly/libsong>. This video also gives a chance to see some of the ways the building may have changed since you were last at Brunel.

We are still keen to hear more from our past students, in particular if you have any photos from your time here showing the Library in use. We would like to hear any recollections of what the Library was like and how you used it. If you use Twitter, you can read and share experiences using #Library40 - this also works for Instagram. If you would prefer to use more traditional methods, please contact us on the address on page two.

If you would like to come back and look around, then please do get in touch, as we are very happy to arrange visits. If you live nearby and wish to use the Library regularly, reference access is free for Alumni and if you wish to borrow we provide annual memberships at a reduced rate. You can find more information on our website, www.brunel.ac.uk/services/library/visitors, and we are happy to answer any questions by email on library@brunel.ac.uk.



1973 – New Brunel library building opens



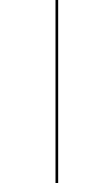
1978 – DIALOG online information system available



1980 – 100 online searches done in a year – each taking up to two hours



1982 – Books relabelled using barcodes



1983 – Clinker Collection bequeathed to the library (now part of Special Collections)



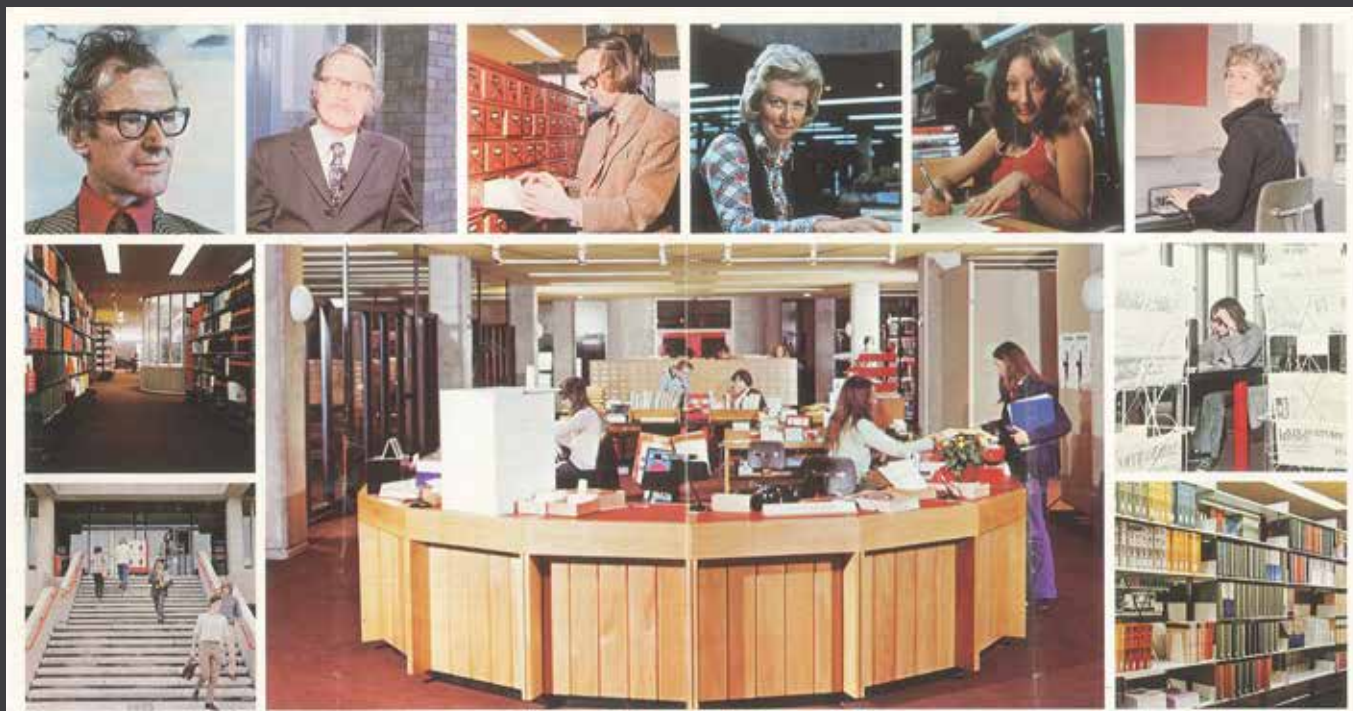
1984 – Computers for student use arrive



1984 – Garnett Railway Books donated (now part of Special Collections)

1988 – Online catalogue available

1990 – Thames TV film *Rumpole of the Bailey* in the library



Photos courtesy of Brunel Archives



On LinkedIn we asked you: What are your memories of the library...?

Alan Morris "Participating in a shuffling conga through it, then using the static build up from the nylon carpets to generate some impressive electrical discharges..."

Reza Joyub "Seeing Arsenal Legend, Tony Adams, sat two tables away from me with a pile of books"

Naveed Islam "Lots of late nights during final year in the library with friends are good memories. Books as well as online resources such as IEE journals helped me a lot. Couldn't have completed my final year project without the Library."

Paul Bright-Thomas "In my first year, someone made a spoof James Bond film and created an excellent sequence where they faked abseiling down the library by filming in the horizontal as if it was vertical ... falling into what was actually a wall."

David Dewhurst "I remember as President of the SU being on the architects' planning committee and us cutting down on insulation to save costs. A few years later I saw a pigeon nesting with young on a window-ledge in midwinter. Nick Childs, the librarian, I thought was a wonderful man. I particularly liked his bravery in instituting the 'Comments' book where he responded to each comment in longhand promptly, straightforwardly and courteously."



- **2003** – E-Journals Gateway launched
- **2003** – Channel Tunnel Association archive donated (now part of Special Collections)
- **2003** – Self-issue machines installed
- **2004** – Bannerman Centre extension opens
- **2005** – Assistive Technology Centre opened providing facilities and software for those with disabilities
- **2006** – Birth of BURA (Brunel University Research Archive)
- **2008** – Brunel's e-Library launched
- **2011** – Launch of LibAnswers – the online library assistant
- **2012-13** – More than 4.25M online searches, taking just seconds
- **2013** – Mobile website launched



@Brunel_Library



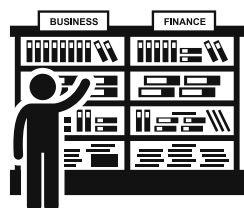
www.facebook.com/bruneluniversitylibrary



brunellibrary



Brunel University Library





Telephone Campaign

In 2013, we spoke to more than 1600 alumni during our telephone campaign. Many of you shared your anecdotes about your time at university and the advice you offered our current students helped inspire and motivate them to make the very best of their time at Brunel. We offer our sincere thanks to those of you who took the time to speak to our students.

Many of those called also kindly provided support for Brunel students through donations to our Scholarship Fund. The total raised was a staggering £99,000 which will enable us to support hundreds of students. In addition to this, some alumni also offered their time to help students through mentoring and work placements. We are truly grateful for this incredible support from the Brunel community.

We will be contacting more alumni throughout June for our 2014 campaign.

Scholarships

Thanks to our many alumni and friends, we are able to support driven and talented students each year with scholarships and other funding. Without this support, many students would struggle to make ends meet and find their studies being negatively affected.



This year, the Mo Farah Foundation has launched four scholarships for exceptional athletes to provide financial, technical and practical support. We caught up with one of the Mo Farah Foundation Scholars, Sam Randle, to find out how he manages to balance a full-time law degree with being a Rugby pro.

Why did you choose to study law?

I have wanted to become a lawyer since the age of 15 or so, but I delayed studying it until now because I was worried the amount of contact time and reading would not allow me to play rugby. However Brunel are really good in terms of lecture and seminar scheduling in the sense that I miss minimal training and still receive excellent tuition.

What has been the most interesting part of your course?

Definitely the modules covered in my final year, Law of the European Union to name one. It is very much a 'Marmite' relationship in that some weeks I find it extremely interesting and easy to comprehend, others it feels like trying to learn Mandarin!

How is your training going? And what has been the season's highlight?

Unfortunately I've had a string of injuries in the past two months which hampered my training somewhat. However, it gave me the time to correctly rehabilitate them with my strength and conditioning coaches and physios and now, fingers crossed, will be injury free and fit leading into the Sevens season. My season highlight

was definitely making my professional debut for Ealing in December against Moseley RFC.

How has your scholarship made a difference to your studies?

My Mo Farah Foundation Scholarship has helped immensely with the things that everyone forgets about when combining studying and training. The financial assistance is invaluable and means that I don't have to sacrifice study time or training hours in place of a part time job.

How do balance your studies with your rugby commitments?

I train five days a week. Balancing club and university club commitments was relatively simple as both sets of coaches were very understanding to each situation. The simplest answer to balancing your training and studies is prioritising and time management. If you want to succeed in anything you need to be able to prioritise training and lectures/seminar work ahead of things like going out. Also, a midday post-training, pre-lecture nap for 20 minutes never hurts.

Where do you hope to be in five years' time?

I have always aspired to playing the highest level possible and I got a glimpse of that last year representing Great Britain [in Rugby 7s]; if I could do that again it would be a dream come true. But in terms of five year plans I am not too sure really. Law has always been my plan and so hopefully I see myself working as a successful newly qualified solicitor in London, but having reached and attained all my aspirations in rugby first.

Honorary Fellows

Honorary Fellowships are awarded to local people or others who have established close working relationship with the University, making a significant contribution to its development.

Kevin Ambrose

As Vice-President responsible for metal packaging at Crown Technology, Kevin has actively supported Crown Packaging's training programmes for young engineers and bursary awards to Brunel students over the past three years. The company employs 50 Brunel graduates.

Natasha Baker MBE (pictured)

Natasha is the reigning double Paralympic Dressage Champion. She recorded three personal bests and three Paralympic records as well as two gold medals at the London 2012 Paralympic Games. She studied at Brunel before pursuing her riding career full-time. She lives on the family farm near Uxbridge.

John Churchly

In the course of his roles at Severn Trent Water and WatStech Ltd, John has worked closely with staff in Brunel's Institute for the Environment on a number of projects concerning water treatment.

Christine Craik

Christine retired as Director of Occupational Therapy in 2009 after more than 14 years' service. She was responsible for establishing the Centre for Professional Practice Research at Brunel and still acts as a mentor for doctoral candidates.

Dr Ray Holland

A Brunel PhD Alumnus, Ray was Director of Brunel's postgraduate Design Strategy courses between 2000 and his retirement in 2011. He is now an Associate Professor for Asia from his new home in Thailand.

John Langdon

Having joined Brunel's Department of Mechanical Engineering in 1969, John rose to the position of Supervisory Chief Technician, helping create laboratories for biomedical engineering, civil engineering, motorsport and aerodynamics, including the flight simulator.

Margaret Lenton

The former principal of Slough Grammar School and Deputy Mayoress of the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, Margaret Lenton, has demonstrated outstanding support for the university, having served on the Brunel Council for eight years.

Cllr Mary O'Connor MBE

Following a career in nursing, which saw her awarded an MBE in 2000, Mary was elected Mayor of Hillingdon in 2011. She used her time in office to raise local awareness of a number of mental health charities.

Gareth Williams

Gareth became CEO of Interoute in 2007, working to strengthen the company's position as a major Cloud services provider. Interoute has recruited Brunel placement students and graduates for the last four years and Gareth has championed this ongoing working relationship.

Honorary Graduates

Brunel awards Honorary Doctorates in recognition of outstanding scholarly achievement, service to the local, national or international community, or service to the university.

Professor Nicholas Collings

Nick was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Engineering for his work on internal combustion engines, gas sensors and emissions as Professor of Applied Thermodynamics at the University of Cambridge.

Barbara Jenks

Alongside her work as a therapeutic counsellor, Barbara's support for Brunel started when her husband was appointed Vice-Chancellor in 2006. She took a very active part in university life and has been an outstanding ambassador for Brunel.

The Rt Hon the Lord Lingfield DL

The Lord Lingfield was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Education in recognition of his outstanding services to education and to Brunel. He has been a teacher, researcher, lecturer and education policy maker. He was Pro-Chancellor at Brunel from 2006-13.

David Riley

Appointed Brunel's Entrepreneur-in-Residence in 2010, David has been involved in advice sessions, masterclasses, the Dragon's Den competition and Brunel Entrepreneurs' Society. He has also employed Brunel graduates and interns and is a committed ambassador for the university.

Dr Mike Short MBE

Currently Telefónica Europe's Vice-President of Public Affairs, Mike's career spans 39 years in electronics and telecommunications. Mike has supported Brunel for many years, including giving lectures, serving on an industrial advisory panel, sponsoring events and working on collaborative projects.



The university's new **Women in Engineering Programme** provides students with financial support, mentors and contacts in the industry and opportunities to visit various companies.

Women in Engineering



Petra Gratton

(Building Services Engineering 1985) is an alumna whose relationship with Brunel has come full circle. Her degree and accompanying work placements launched her into a successful career in building services engineering. She spent ten years as an engineer in the field, then ran her own business, became a Quality Auditor and then the President of the Women's Engineering Society. But she was looking for the next challenge and her considerable industry experience eventually led her back to Brunel where she is now implementing a programme for female postgraduate students, to help them pursue a career in engineering, as she did.

Why has this programme been launched?

In October 2012, the Royal Academy of Engineering identified the need for at least 100,000 STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Maths) graduates a year to maintain the status quo of the UK economy, while at that time only 90,000 STEM students graduated annually. Furthermore, as around a quarter of engineering students choose non-STEM occupations, there was already a shortfall.

Figures show that female engineering graduates have not traditionally been as attracted to professional practice as their male counterparts. The Women in Engineering Programme is part of the initiative to encourage this much-underrepresented group to rise through engineering careers and form the future leaders of their discipline.

The programme aims to put women in contact with others further along the career path to help them envisage their future in an engineering role and allay some of the concerns they might

have. For Petra being a woman in a male-dominated profession was not an obstacle, but was something that took some getting used to. "Sometimes being the only woman in the office was a bit daunting", she explains. "But it wasn't really a problem, just a bit isolating. I found that everybody was supportive, but often erring towards being a little patronising. And I think it's important not to patronise."

"What I found more difficult," Petra continues "was that I was working in a construction industry that was not full of graduates as many of my colleagues had come through trade and training on the job. Thankfully I had the opportunity of getting some work experience at university, so I acquired at least some credibility in that way and I wasn't totally naïve of what was going on".

The Women in Engineering Programme is aimed at postgraduates in particular as it gives them the opportunity of gaining some business acumen through exposure to people who are currently working.

"If you can't get a substantial period of time working in industry (as is the case for many postgraduates)" suggests Petra, "the next best thing is to get exposure to people who are working in industry and gain from their experience; listen to what they've done". She stresses that with the industry ever changing, it is important to connect with professionals working in the field.

Engineering jobs are very nuanced, which can often be hard to comprehend when coming directly from academic study. "You might have special responsibility for production, environmental control or health and safety" Petra explains. This programme helps people learn about the various aspects of the roles that people perform in the workplace. "It's not a case of graduating and saying 'right, I am going to be an aeronautical engineer. I'm going to design an aeroplane' – you might actually only get to design the tiniest part of it. And although this was only a small part of your course, it becomes your life for a year or so."

Mentoring opportunities

As meeting industry contacts is a large factor in the programme, a mentoring scheme is being initiated. The mentors that have joined so far include existing industry contacts, Brunel alumni and existing PhD students.

"Primarily we are looking for women engineers to be mentors" says Petra, "because we have women studying engineering who would like to be engineers and would like to be in contact with people who are ahead of them in the career path. But it may well be that some of our mentors aren't women, or aren't engineers. We are hoping to match the mentors with the aspirations of the mentees."



Inspiring industry visits

Further to mentoring, those working in industry are also able to help inspire the next generation of female engineers by hosting them on site visits. Whether your company runs a local energy plant, is designing the next passenger jet or constructed the latest addition to the London skyline, we would love to hear from you.

Financial support

In addition to industry connections, the Women in Engineering Programme participants will benefit from substantial financial support. There are forty UK and EU scholarships, plus an additional forty scholarships for non-EU students.

The scholarships cover **both the MSc course fees of £7,750 and provide a living allowance of £15,000.**

Petra's advice, to students and alumni alike, is to take the approach she has taken to her career: "It's about seeing an opportunity and then making something of it."



Can you get involved?

Our alumni can help make this programme a real success story by:

- becoming a mentor to a student who is interested in your line of work
- offering site visits to your work place
- participating in online discussions with current students

If you are interested in getting involved please contact us on **alumni@brunel.ac.uk** for further information.

If you are an engineering graduate interested in taking part in the programme as a student, please visit **www.brunel.ac.uk/sed/women-in-engineering**.



Toilet Revolution

Dr Shyama Ramani is an expert in economics. When the tsunami struck the coast of India in 2004, she felt compelled to go and help. What she found in the village she visited was a need to challenge existing approaches to providing aid. She recently delivered an inspiring talk at a TEDx event in Maastricht, sharing her experiences of her project looking into improving sanitation in Indian coastal villages.



Dr Ramani was completely new to the subject area of sanitation when she set out to help. She armed herself with research and came across some alarming statistics: 2.4 billion people don't have access to a toilet that functions and one billion do not have access to any toilet. With diarrhoea being the number one killer in most developing countries, she soon realised that she needed to introduce toilets to the village she was visiting.

She set up her own non-profit organisation *Friend in Need* to address this issue. But she found that delivering toilets to the communities in need was not enough. Education was essential before, during and after the process, in order to get buy-in from the villagers. What's more, men and women had different perspectives on sanitation. The men of the village still preferred to use the beach instead of the toilets so they had to find a way of tackling

this. The result: the world's first "Toilet Beauty Contest" in which neighbours competed for the best kept toilet. The families – including the men – had to commit using the toilets for six months in order to be eligible for the lucrative prizes, so neighbours monitored one another's use of the facilities. The competition was a success, but soon afterwards, the residents reverted back to their old ways.

The world's first "Toilet Beauty Contest"

So Dr Ramani found a way of turning the project around after many years and letting it take its own, more sustainable, course of life. Instead of

it being delivered as an aid project, Shyama gave the initiative back to the community – turning *Friend in Need* into a social business and employing the villagers as part of it with the hope that it will become sustainable within three to five years. It was the turn of the community to own the ambition of building, maintaining and using toilets in order to create a clean environment for them to live in. A key part was education about sanitation. This turned into a slow-growing but sustainable business; a service delivered by some within the community to their fellow neighbours at low cost.

Dr Ramani continues her work with *Friend in Need*, with a view to sharing what she has learned to help other communities. She is also in need of volunteers to help her run the programme (please visit www.facebook.com/finindia for more details).



You can watch **Dr Ramani's TED talk** and find out more about her organisation at www.friend-in-need.org





Education archives donated to Brunel

By Mandy Mordue, Head of Archives and Records Management

In 1798 Joseph Lancaster set up a school for poor children in Southwark, south London. He developed an innovative system of 'monitorial' teaching whereby the older children taught the younger ones. It proved a great success both within the UK and overseas.

The development of his monitorial system and the concept of 'education for all' can be found in the British Foreign School Society (BFSS) archive,

an internationally significant archive on 19th century elementary education and teacher training.

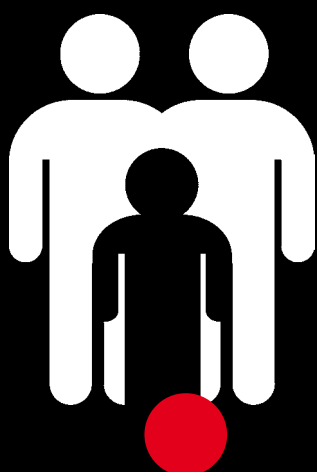
The archives include the formation of the early Society, such as the secretaries' papers, minute books and correspondence with schools within the UK and overseas (including West Indies, Latin America, Africa, India, Canada and Australia). They also feature the records of the individual teacher training colleges – Borough Road College, Stockwell College, Saffron Walden and Darlington.

The college records include log books, student applications and testimonials, student and staff magazines, photographs of staff, students, college buildings and sporting teams, as well as examples of student work such as coursework and needlework.

Following the merger with the West London Institute of Higher Education (WLIHE) in 1995, the University established close links with the BFSS. On 11 December 2013, the Society gifted their archives to Brunel.

www.brunel.ac.uk/brunelarchives

Two generations



Every now and then we hear of two generations of our alumni coming from the same family. Arthur and Michael Vincent graduated 45 years apart and Arthur told us about life at Borough Road College, as well as the successful path his son has taken.

Arthur Vincent (Borough Road College, 1949) and Michael Vincent (Sports Studies/American Studies 1994)

In 1947 I began a two-year training course at Borough Road. Mr Hamilton was then Principal. Most of this year group were, like myself, ex-servicemen (Boro' being then all-male). In one sense at least we were unique in that we were much older than a normal first-year intake of 18-year olds and not the freshers that the second years would usually have expected.

After the rigours and discipline of war-time soldiering, life at Boro' was much more relaxing, though we were expected to comply with rules and regulations which students of today would not tolerate. One irksome rule required us to sign-out if going out for the evening and to sign back in by a certain time when doors were locked. Of course anyone unlikely to be back by curfew could bypass the signing-out, having arranged for a ground floor window to be left ajar...

At a reunion a few years ago in Uxbridge, I did meet up with Jimmy Biddle and two or three others of my year. Sadly Jimmy has since died, as have Ken Hammond and Derek Waters, two of my close friends.

I often wonder what became of Les Lewis. He represented Great Britain in the 1948 and 1952 Olympics. Running against him in the College sports events taught me the real meaning of 'also-ran'! George Robb was a very good footballer. I believe he played for Spurs.

My son, Michael, graduated from Brunel in 1994 and obtained a post in Oklahoma as Regional Director with British Soccer, a company promoting soccer among young Americans.

Mike is now a United States Soccer Federation A-licensed coach and has a number of other coaching credentials to his name. In 2010-11 he received, for the second time, the *NSCAA High School Boys' State and Regional Coach of the Year Award*. He assisted in the production of a DVD *Drills and Small-sided Games for Shooting and Finishing*. He also contributes articles to *Soccer Coach Weekly* and is co-author of a coaching manual *Modern Attacking and Goal Scoring*. He also wrote *Luke's Big Game* an illustrated story inspired by his young son's passion for and active participation in soccer.

Perhaps we could see a third generation of the Vincent family at Brunel in the future...?

MADE IN BRUNEL™

2014



Made in Brunel returns this year for another exceptional exhibition of our students' innovative creations.

Each year the Made in Brunel exhibition features projects undertaken by Design and Engineering students. These range from human-centred designs to innovations in transport, alongside projects focusing on sustainability and behaviour change. In addition to this, we also present our thinking on the future directions of well-known brands, based on predicted contextual issues in society over the next 15 years.

One of the designs from last year's show saw a graduate enter the SEMTA Hall of Fame (see page 29).

Made in Brunel 2014 will run from the 12-15 of June at the Bargehouse on London's Southbank. Admission is free. Please join us to see the finished projects and meet their creators.

For more information and to find out about some of the projects, visit www.madeinbrunel.com.

24 HOUR Design Challenge



The Made in Brunel 24 Hour Design Challenge was an event like no other in which 157 design and engineering students worked their way through eight challenging briefs.

These briefs were provided by prestigious companies from all over the world including Rolls-Royce, Lego, SeymourPowell and IDEO.

The intense event was broadcast live over the internet, showcasing the creative minds and talent of Brunel designers. Tackling the briefs in three-hour sessions meant each team had to

work quickly; generating, developing and presenting concepts back to the client live on camera.

This fast-paced creativity left all involved feeling proud of what they were able to achieve in such a short period of time.

We received hugely positive feedback from our eight clients and the overwhelming enthusiasm from those following our progress online has made the months of preparation for the event worthwhile. The outcomes exceeded all our expectations.

Rob Millar (Product Design)

During the 24 hours we....

- achieved over 4000 live broadcast viewers
- drank over 200 cans of energy drink
- created 24 unique concepts for eight briefs
- and achieved less than seven hours sleep in total between the event coordinators.

All of this in just one incredible event!

The early design steps

The products and ideas exhibited at Made in Brunel are the culmination of a year of thorough research and intensive design work. We take a look at the research behind three of this year's projects before they take their final form.

CALMING AUTISM WITH AUDIO

Rob Mafrić

Industrial Design and Technology



Rob has been researching brain function in order to understand how he can best help children with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

"The current model of the brain sees it compartmentalised into disparate sections, each dealing with specific functions such as language or visual processing. The way in which these brain regions reciprocate creates our conscious thought and distinct behavioural patterns.

"In autistic minds, the efficiency of this reciprocation is stunted as the connections between brain regions are altered. This can create repetitive behavioural patterns,

difficulties in processing sensory input and other cognitive, social and sensory issues.

"In order to help reduce symptoms of autism, research suggests that by stimulating certain areas of the inner ear, it is possible to trigger specific cognitive states more conducive to learning, concentration and socialisation. Other audio techniques can help keep the child calm, combating panic attacks and inducing restful sleep."

Rob is using this research to develop a product that can be used in everyday life to calm some of the symptoms of autism in children.

EXOSKELETON FOR OLDER PEOPLE

Rory Southworth

Product Design



Rory has been developing a mechanical device, known as an exoskeleton, which is attached to the outside of the body to assist with movement.

"Many current mobility aids are rejected even before use because of their stigmatising effect, with the instant label of being 'disabled' or 'old'. My project investigates what the wearers really need and want from an exoskeleton by looking at how this device would integrate into their lifestyle.

"By taking a human-centred approach, I have used observations, interviews, focus groups and co-design sessions. Meeting with experts and involving my focus groups in the design process has helped me understand the needs of the target market. It is really important to personally get to know the people involved,

to understand what makes them tick, and be able to dig deep into the reasons behind their thoughts and feelings.

"The findings of my work have further confirmed that the current designs of mobility aids are just not acceptable and that the way to change this is not just to design 'more styled' products but to change the current process used to design them in the first place."

Rory has been awarded a £1000 scholarship to support the development and realisation of his project as part of the James Dyson Foundation Scholarship Programme. He was considered to have shown a real empathy with the people who would benefit from the design.

VISIBILITY OF URBAN CYCLISTS

Andrew Mason

Industrial Design and Technology



Andrew always knew he wanted his final project to involve cycling. In order to find out the best area to focus on, he compiled a cycle diary to explore cyclists' routines, habits, motivation and concerns.

"Not surprisingly, a lot of people were concerned about safety, and rightly so. There are over 19,000 serious injuries and deaths on the roads in the UK each year and this number is rising.

"I explored the most common collision scenarios. These include: a motorist turning across the path of a cyclist and a motorist emerging into the path of a cyclist. The common problems across these are the visibility of the cyclist and potential blind spots of the motorist.

"After a few concepts were devised, one was generated that ticked all the boxes. This increases the visible footprint of a cyclist. Using projections on the road that enclose the cyclist in a virtual bubble makes the cyclist a more prominent figure on the road, not only extending their visibility outside blind spots, the perception of being bigger means oncoming traffic will give them more space. This improves the detection phase of a driver in a collision sequence."

Andrew is developing this further to include multiple light beams at both the front and rear of the bike, as well as considering the impact of the existing lighting in urban environments.



A sound approach leads alumnus to a BAFTA

Since graduating in 2001 with a BA in Film and Television, Lee Walpole has worked on more than 60 television shows and feature films, including *The King's Speech* and *Les Miserables*, specialising in sound. He is now a company director at Boom and counts an Emmy and a BAFTA among his many accolades.

Lee's awards, nominations and accolades to date

2009

Won an Emmy for Best Sound Editing, for HBO's *Generation Kill*

2010

BAFTA and a Royal Television Society Award nominations for Best Sound, for BBC's *Cranford*

2011

BAFTA nomination for Best Sound with *The King's Speech*

2012

Won three Conch Awards for Film Sound Editor of the Year, Best TV soundtrack for *Strike Back - Project Dawn* and Best Film Sound for *The King's Speech*.

Won IPA Satellite Award for Best Sound as Supervising Sound Editor on *Les Miserables*.

2013

Won BAFTA for Best Sound for *Les Miserables*.

Listed in Debrett's *People of Today*

Lee Walpole

How did you secure your first job after graduation?

A month after graduating I attended a two-week, council-run, film 'summer school' in Swindon for 14-21 year olds. I was kicking about in London applying for various running jobs in Soho and my mum who was living in Swindon at the time spotted the course in her local paper. Tuition on the course was by industry professionals and I figured every contact and bit of experience I could gain would only serve to benefit me in the long run. One of the tutors on the course was a 25-year old re-recording mixer called Stuart Hilliker. We got on well on the course and he invited me to come and take a look at his studio in Soho when we were both back up in London. This company was called Boom; I started working there as a runner and fell in love with the place and the world of sound. Now twelve years later I am one of the company Directors.

How did your degree help prepare you for your career?

My degree was largely theoretical. I learned to deconstruct films and to understand how the technical aspects of filmmaking could have as much impact on the storytelling as the script. I have carried this forward into my role as sound designer, using sound to help tell stories. This could be plotting a clear path through the soundtrack in an action scene, using sound selectively to guide the viewer's attention to points of significance within the frame. It could be sound designing unsettling and spooky atmospheres to add tension or fear into a scene. It could be creating a world of audible atmosphere beyond what you see on the screen giving a film a sense of period and geography.

What advice would you give to today's graduates?

Grab every opportunity and experience offered to you. In this industry contacts are everything. Don't take no for an answer, persevere and eventually it will pay off. Generally speaking we all start at the bottom, so try and get your foot in the door somewhere working as a runner. Don't expect things to happen overnight, whatever tasks you are given take pride in them and perform them to the best of your abilities; a good runner will get noticed.

If you were employing a graduate in a role like your first job as a runner, what would you look for in a candidate?

We expect our runners to be polite, articulate and well presented. One can encounter difficult personalities and tense atmospheres when working with actors and directors; a runner needs to be sensitive to gauging these situations and treating people accordingly. They need to demonstrate a keen interest in film and specifically film sound. Running is not a glamorous job but it opens doors for you. You need to help yourself in order to progress, staying behind after hours, learning to use the kit, gaining as much hands-on experience as you possibly can.

What has been your favourite show/film to work on?

Working as Supervising Sound Editor on *The King's Speech* was a great experience. We were aware from viewing the first cut that the film was something special. From a creative point of view *Generation Kill* really stood out for me. The show had no musical score at all. For a sound designer this offered so much scope, space and freedom to create a rich atmospheric world.

What has been your proudest moment to date?

Winning the BAFTA for *Les Miserables* marked something of a milestone for me. It was my third BAFTA nomination and was something I had always aspired to achieve. Shortly after winning the BAFTA I was invited to join British 'film royalty' and attend a reception at Windsor Castle hosted by the Queen to celebrate British film. I felt a little bit like the invitation had landed on my desk by accident and like something of an imposter but it was quite an incredible thing to happen.

Have your career and achievements met or exceeded your expectations? What do you have your sights set on for the future?

I have always been extremely ambitious but it is probably fair to say that my career has somewhat exceeded my expectations. I have been fortunate enough to learn from and work alongside some hugely talented individuals. It would also be fair to say I have had some lucky breaks, which I have taken full advantage of. Going forward I will take things as they come. I hope to continue to work on exciting, challenging projects with talented individuals and will continue to hone my craft and produce the best soundtracks I can.

What is next for Lee Walpole?

My next project is a film called *The Imitation Game*, directed by Morten Tyldum. The film tells the story of Alan Turing who worked on cracking Nazi Germany's Enigma code during the Second World War.

Tips for budding entrepreneurs

Barry Hodges-White

Barry Hodges-White is Brunel's Entrepreneurship and Employability Consultant. He joined the university to help establish a support facility for student entrepreneurs. Barry has extensive experience of launching businesses – whether as an adviser or owner. He offers some tips for the aspiring entrepreneurs among you.



In 20 years as a corporate and commercial banker I saw so many ways in which people earn money that nothing surprises me anymore. I have worked with businesses at every stage of their lifecycle from new the start-up to early stage investment, fundraising, public listing and sometimes (sadly) liquidation.

In amongst all of this I have also run two businesses – one successful and one catastrophically unsuccessful, so I tend to be able to spot now where a business is going wrong as well as what they are doing right.

So if you are thinking about setting up your own venture there are some things that you should pay attention to:

- **Plan ahead** – Most successful business owners are successful in part because they have plotted out the road ahead, they can see most of the pitfalls and twists in the road before they happen and can therefore do something about it. A good plan, including financial projections enables you to run a quick diagnostic and make adjustments if things are not going to plan.
- **Just do it!** – Every development, website, new technology or piece of software has a point when it is useable but not perfect. As developers we do not want anyone to see our creation until it is 'ready'. For a business owner who relies on clients being exposed to the new idea or technology for income this can be the kiss of death, so you need to find the balance between useable and finished. As a rule of thumb I say if it is useable then release it, you can always continue to make improvements and your customers will thank you for it.
- **Know who your customers are** – Businesses who do not understand their clients and customers fail. If you do not believe me look at Woolworths. If you have a firm understanding of who your customers are, what they expect, what they want and why they want it then you have a fighting chance of winning their loyalty and building a good business. Apple, Microsoft, Volvo and Google are all great corporate examples of this – all of them grew from small acorns. Money Penny and the Cambridge Satchel Company are great examples of successful SMEs adopting this same principle.
- **Do not listen to the naysayers** – There will be plenty of people who do not like your idea for whatever reason they have. Ignore them. Find a customer who does and build on it. All you need is a decent size section of customers, you do not need people who say 'no'. Look at Microsoft and Apple.

In a free capitalist economy good ideas tend to flourish. The strangest idea I have ever financed? A mobile cow incinerator. Everyone else thought the guy was crazy - who needs a mobile incinerator when farmers can either do it themselves or send livestock to an abattoir? I saw a small but profitable market for this so we funded the first mobile incinerator unit in the UK. Nine months later the BSE crisis hit...

Samuel Kasumu

Samuel Kasumu (Business and Management – Accounting, 2009) set up *Elevation Networks* at the age of 19 while he was still studying at Brunel. *Elevation Networks* tackles youth and graduate unemployment, and delivers the National Citizen Service for school children through the Cabinet Office in the Midlands and South East. They are also delivering £1 million of StartUp Loans for the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills. *Elevation Network* has 1000s of members across the UK, and is based in London Euston. Samuel tells us about his journey to success.



What made you decide that you wanted to set up your own business?

I've always felt that I would set up and own a business one day. Perhaps it was because I grew up in an entrepreneurial household, or maybe I just love the idea of being able to bring an idea to life.

How did you come up with the idea for *Elevation Networks*?

I was the President of the African & Caribbean Society at Brunel at the time when I first got the idea. The following year when I was Vice-President at the Students' Union I really started to think about how I could create something that made a difference on a national scale.

At what point did you realise that this was going to be successful venture?

That's an interesting question. I think when attempting to set up your first business you cannot really afford to allow doubt to ever creep in. There will be many ups and downs, but you must always have faith that what you are attempting to build will actualise and become successful at some stage.

What has been your proudest moment through this process?

I think my proudest moment is probably winning a Great British Entrepreneur Award in 2013. To even be in the same category as some of the other nominees was an amazing privilege, and showed just how far my team and I had come over the years.

What has been the most challenging aspect?

The most challenging aspect, like most businesses, is managing cash flow. Not only is it important to plan ahead, but also not to overspend, particularly at start-up stage. Doing things like spending heavily on marketing or having a grand launch may sound wise, but great businesses are built over time and find creative ways to reduce spending.

What was the best piece of advice you received about your business?

I'm not sure what the best piece of advice is, but certainly the one that has stuck with me was from the Founder of a large energy firm. He told me to never hire someone after the first interview. It is important for any organisation to have the right people in place, and it is much harder to hire than fire someone.

What would be your top three tips for those thinking of setting up a business?

- *Make sure you plan well, but don't wait for things to be perfect before you start... because things may never be perfect;*
- *It is very important to have a team when setting up a new venture. Not all of them will be there with you throughout the journey, but you'll learn many lessons and benefit from the diversity of skills during that early stage;*
- *It may be a cliché but cash flow is king. Many great businesses have failed because they have not managed their finances. Get someone in place that loves numbers and keep them close. When all is said and done, no matter how amazing your business is, business will always remain a game of numbers!*

What is next for Samuel Kasumu?

My new organisation, EN Campaigns, is currently the fourth largest provider of Start-Up Loans in the UK. We are currently focusing on growing our work across the country, and will hope to extend it within emerging markets this year. For more information people can visit: www.encampaigns.com.

Norman Croucher OBE

*Education, 1965,
Borough Road College*



At the age of 19, Norman Croucher lost both his legs. In the 54 years since his accident, he has climbed more than 100 mountains. Now, despite having recently tackled bowel cancer, he is about to embark on another epic adventure...

In his teenage years, Norman had already got a taste for climbing. When he fell onto a rail track, into the path of an oncoming train, he was lucky to survive but had both legs amputated

below the knee. It was very shortly after he got his first prosthetics that he began climbing again, exploring the Cornish coastal cliffs. It was clear that he was not going to allow the accident to beat him or stand in the way of his dreams and ambition. He decided that at some point in his life, he would scale one of the world's fourteen 8,000m mountains.

And so his training began. In 1969, Norman completed the gruelling 874 mile walk from John O'Groats to Land's

End (a feat he would later repeat with his wife, Jude, in 1990).

Over the next few years came a series of climbs in the Alps including the *Matterhorn*, *Eiger* and *Mont Blanc*. He went on to climb the White Needle in the Himalayas in 1981. On an expedition to Argentina later that year, his left artificial leg broke because of metal fatigue. Rather than admit defeat, he set off on one leg to crawl and walk on crutches to the top of a 5,115m mountain!

Norman finally achieved his dream at the fourth attempt in China in 1995. He scaled the sixth largest mountain in the world, *Cho Oyo*, which stands at 8,201m. On the descent, the Sherpa had to go on ahead to get a replacement for a broken torch, leaving Norman to spend a night out at 7,800m without a tent or sleeping bag. His survivalist spirit prevailed: he removed his legs and got inside his large rucksack to keep warm.

Norman's approach to mountaineering is to take every step deliberately and slowly; he does not take the risks that some other climbers take. He always walks with crutches and cannot dig his crampons in as deep as others. But he has discovered there are some distinct advantages to being a double-amputee climber. He finds that he oxygenates more efficiently, which is particularly beneficial at the higher altitudes. He also stays warmer due to having less surface area on his body.

Norman has been a long-term advocate for disabled adventure sport and was the first disabled person appointed to the Sports Council. In 1977 he was awarded an OBE for his voluntary work with the disabled.

In 2012 Norman was diagnosed with bowel cancer and has undergone a period of difficult but successful treatment. He is now planning his next trip with his team of survivors. One of his team mates, Claire, battled a very dangerous brain tumour, and another, Ian, survived a broken neck. They aim to tackle two or three peaks in Chamonix, in the Alps, raising money for Hospiscare as they go. The team sets off in June and anyone wishing to support their efforts can do so at www.justgiving.com/norms-survivors.

You can read more of Norman's story at: www.normancroucher.co.uk.

Student Journalist of the Year

Brunel journalism graduate, Alan Selby, has won the prestigious "Student Journalist of the Year" title from the National Council for the Training of Journalists (NCTJ). He received his award from ITN foreign correspondent Mark Austin at the NCTJ's Annual Skills Conference. Mirror Group trainee, Alan, graduated from Brunel with an MA in journalism and an NCTJ certificate in 2013.

"I was absolutely delighted to hear of the award," he said. "The last couple of years have been such hard work. I had no idea this is where I would be when I started at Brunel. I can't thank everybody enough for supporting me."



Graduate enters engineering Hall of Fame



In last year's edition of Brunel Link, we introduced Sam Etherington (Industrial Design & Technology, 2013), with his design for a wave power generator. Since graduating, Sam has received multiple accolades for his work.

He won the UK round of the James Dyson Award for his design, which can harvest energy no matter which direction the sea is moving, helping to overcome the limitations of current wave power technology.

Sam was then voted into the SEMTA (Science, Engineering, Manufacturing and Technology Alliance) Hall of Fame, which recognises the top 100 engineers of all time. Sam was shortlisted for the Contemporary British Engineers section, alongside



the likes of James Dyson and Apple designer, Jonathan Ive. He won the public vote and joins our very own Isambard Kingdom Brunel in the Hall of Fame.

Sam was selected for demonstrating outstanding innovation and having had a positive impact on society in his work.

Red Dot Awards

A group of six graduates won two awards for their project 'SKYNEX', which shows their vision of air travel in 2030. The project was designed as a catch-all solution for travelling by air, encompassing everything from passports and security, through to luggage monitoring and shopping. Jennifer Gomez, Allen Tsai, Jinwoong Seo, Myungjin Song, Sandra Mileikyte, Tien-Fang Yu (Design & Branding Strategy / Integrated Product Design, 2013) were presented with 2013 Red Dot and Core77 Awards.

Double Brunel win at PRECIOUS Awards

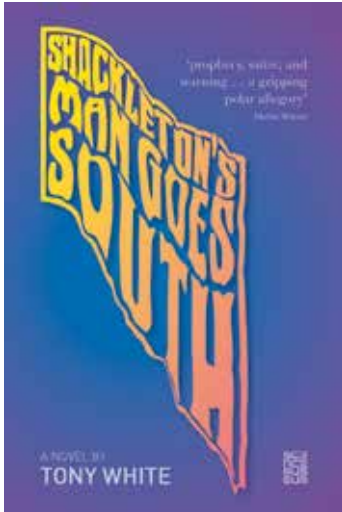
Two Brunel alumni were presented with PRECIOUS Awards in October. Pilar Nalwimba (Business and Management Accounting, 2010) won Best New Business for her start-up *My Social Media PA*. She was joined by former Alumnus of the Year, Nathaniel Peat (Mechanical Engineering 2001 / Advanced Manufacturing Systems 2003), who was named as Man of the Year. The PRECIOUS Awards was founded to recognise and celebrate the achievements of inspirational entrepreneurial black and Asian women who are running businesses in the UK.

British Comedy Awards

Lee Mack (Drama with Film and TV Studies, 1996) won Best Male Television Comic at the 2013 British Comedy Awards. This was in addition to winning the Best Comedy Panel Show for *Would I Lie to You* and a nomination for the King of Comedy. Jo Brand (Social Sciences, 1982) also went home with the award for Best Sitcom for *Getting On* as well as a nomination for Best TV Comedy Actress.

Three Brunelians in Top 100 Scientists

Two Brunel alumni and a Professor were named in the list of the Top 100 UK Scientists. Greg Whyte OBE (Combined Studies, 1989) and Hannah Critchlow (Cell and Molecular Biology, 2003) were both given the honour, alongside Professor Alison McConnell in the elite list compiled by the Science Council.



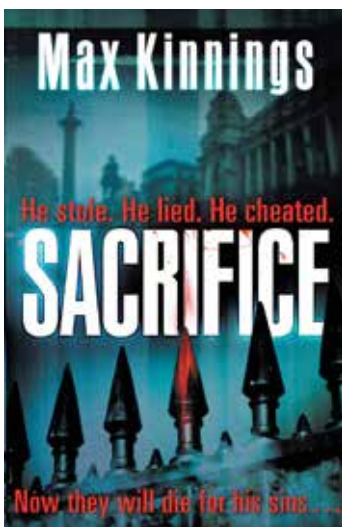
Novel published by Science Museum and nominated for award

Shackleton's Man Goes South, the latest novel by Brunel Creative Writing visiting lecturer Tony White, has been nominated for a British Science Fiction Award (BSFA) in the Best Novel category.

Tony's novel was published by the Science Museum, and it was accompanied by a display in the Museum's Atmosphere Gallery. It was distributed using an innovative touchscreen eBook dispenser. Users could hear a short audio extract of the novel, read about its related issues (such as climate change), and email

themselves a full copy of the novel in various formats, for free.

"It is the first novel they have ever published," explains Tony, "but this is an important point: as the physical square footage of the book trade literally diminishes, whether you are a writer, a publisher or a retailer, everyone is looking for new ways to go where readers are. With millions of visitors a year, huge footfall, and incredible understanding of their visitors, the Science Museum seemed just such a place."



New Crime Thriller from Head of Creative Writing

The Head of Creative Writing, Max Kinnings, has published the second novel in his series featuring protagonist Ed Mallory, a blind DCI who is the top hostage negotiator with the London Metropolitan Police.

The new thriller, *Sacrifice*, which sees Mallory at a bloody siege in Belgravia, follows the character's debut in *Baptism*, which Kinnings is adapting into a screenplay working with award-winning director and producer Phil Hawkins.

Max, who teaches screenwriting at Brunel, says, "Learning how to write scripts is also very useful for fiction. Being adept at script development can make you a better novelist. Studying screenwriting theory provides transferable skills."

"There's a misconception that Creative Writing courses are focused entirely on literary fiction. We encourage students to work with drama, film and television, feature writing, copy writing, performance poetry and all types of genre fiction."



"Spellbinding" novelisation of Shakespeare's 'Dark Lady'

Dark Aemilia, the third novel by former PhD student Sally O'Reilly, will be published around the world in 2014 by Myriad Editions publishing. Rights have also been sold in Italy, Turkey and the US, where the novel will be published by Picador in June. Described as a "spellbinding novel of witchcraft, poetry and passion," Sally's work of historical fiction formed the basis of her PhD research. It narrates the life of real-world poet Aemilia Lanyer, known to many as the 'Dark Lady' of Shakespeare's sonnets.

In her research for the novel, Sally visited relevant locations in London, and consulted historical documents and contemporary accounts, as well as works by Shakespeare, Jonson and Marlowe. She even invented a hybrid form of speech for her character: "a twenty-first century pastiche of Jacobean speech".

Despite portraying Aemilia as a 'modern' woman in the sense that she refuses to accept social inequality, Sally's research revealed that her character's real-life counterpart had "consulted a famous astrologer about conjuring spirits". This crucial discovery led Sally to portray Aemilia as someone who believes "absolutely in the occult", therefore challenging conventional representations of Early Modern people as rational and materialistic in their world-views.

Sally says the task of a historical fiction writer is: "to be absolutely accurate about everything that can be known, absolutely audacious about everything that cannot be known, and to tell a good story."

Her next novel focuses on the playwright Aphra Behn.

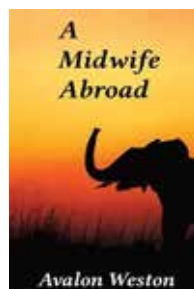
Alumni in Print



Samuel Kasumu
Business and Management - Accounting 2009

Winning the Race

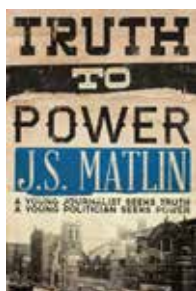
The story of how the author overcame the barriers and stereotypes of being a young black man, the son of a single mother from London, to become one of the foremost leaders of his generation. It is a story of vision, faith and determination.



Avalon Weston
Creative Writing: The Novel, 2013

A Midwife Abroad or the Snake in the Grass

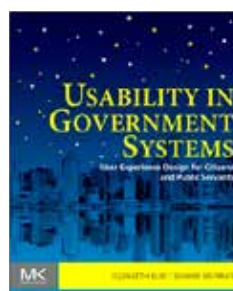
An adventure that began one night in an English country lane leads Annie the midwife to her dream job in Southern Africa. But gradually, she realises something is wrong. Mothers and babies are dying when they shouldn't and drastic action is required.



John Matlin
American Studies, 2006

Truth to Power

Two childhood friends rekindle their acquaintance: Driscoll, a journalist and Doyle, a politician. But a cat and mouse game soon ensues, set across the political and criminal backdrop of Prohibition America as each man tries to best the other.



Dianne Murray
Computer Science, 1983

Usability in Government Systems

Aimed at Usability/UX specialists and interaction designers working with the public sector, this book includes guidance from more than 30 experts to help increase cost effectiveness, operational efficiency, and public engagement.



Ken MacLeod
Mechanical Engineering, 1988

Descent

When something falls out of the sky on the hills near his small Scottish town, Ryan finds his cynicism can't identify or explain the phenomenon. Why can he find no evidence of the UFO, nor anything to shed light on what occurred? Does the very idea of a cover-up hide the biggest secret of all?



Barrie Dunn
Metallurgy, 1968

Metallurgical Assessment of Spacecraft Parts, Materials and Processes

Helping scientists and engineers, in a wide range of fields, to select the ideal material or processes for particular applications and problem solving. Including case studies, failure investigations and illustrations.



Liesel Schwarz
Creative Writing, The Novel 2012

Sky Pirates (due for release June 2014)

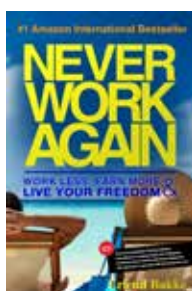
The third book in this steampunk series. As a routine cargo mission to the Sudan offers unforeseen opportunities; the council of Warlocks has fallen under the sway of the Shadow Master, and he has plans for the Oracle, Eleanor 'Elle' Chance



David Price
Business and Management Studies, 2000

Introducing Entrepreneurship

This book that reveals a blueprint for success for the modern-day entrepreneur who wants to start a business. It will reveal many important areas of what it takes to start up a business and grow it, including business plans, branding, partnerships and referrals.



Erlend Bakke
Design and Branding Strategy 2006

Never work again

A wake-up call on a tube train led Erlend to change his path in life. He dramatically changed his approach to entrepreneurship. Here he shares his advice for running a business on your own terms, drawing on his own experiences.



Kieron Blake
Politics and Social Policy, 2005

You Can't Have your Cake and Eat it

The tale of a young male, fresh out of university who is struggling with the demons of his sexuality. A big decision means facing the fallout from his conquests who don't understand, along with a truth that will shake his faith to the core and test the true power of love.



2013 Alumnus of the Year: Jordan Chitty

Since establishing his business, Naked Creativity, upon graduating from Brunel, Jordan has maintained good links with the university. Jordan has seen a real benefit in helping his business grow, through recruiting Brunel placement students and graduates.

Since winning last year's award he has been working on establishing two independent, but complementary, elements of his business. The first has been in driving forward LCA Calculator – an eco-design tool for product designers and engineers (www.lcacalculator.com). Whilst this has been in development for some time, Jordan has been closely working with Jaguar Land Rover over the past year to refine the tool to their requirements.

To tie in with a move to new offices and retail space in 2013 Jordan has also been focusing on growing large format print business Captain Cyan (www.captaincyan.com), something which grew out of the hard work of early Brunel placement students.

"The great team that we have built continues to deliver real results for our clients" said Jordan. "While the team are not exclusively Brunel graduates, I do believe that the unique mix of teaching on the design courses has contributed to this approach. I look forward to our continued work and links with Brunel."

2014 Alumna of the Year

Each year we recognise some of the exceptional achievements and contributions of our alumni. These individuals are a true inspiration to our students and are nominated by our university community. The final shortlist was open to an alumni vote and we are delighted to introduce your 2014 Alumna of the Year.



Dr Hannah Critchlow

Presenter, Editor and Producer of Naked Neuroscience at The Naked Scientists, Cambridge University

At Brunel, Hannah Critchlow studied BSc Cell & Molecular Biology and graduated with First Class Honours in 2003. During her degree she was awarded three university prizes as 'Best Biologist'.

She went on to complete a PhD in Neuropsychiatry at University of Cambridge, where she was awarded a Magdalene College, Cambridge University Fellowship.

Dr Critchlow was named as one of the UK's 100 leading scientists by the Science Council this year. She was featured in the 'Communicator Scientist' category for her "energy and enthusiasm for communicating complex science issues in an accessible way". Hannah presents on the weekly BBC radio programme The Naked Scientists. Many of her

presentations can be found on YouTube and the BBC iPlayer.

The Naked Scientists are "a media-savvy" group of physicians and researchers from University of Cambridge who promote science to the general public in a fun and accessible manner, "stripping it down to its bare essentials". The programmes are aimed at those aged 14 and upwards.

Hannah has just started working with Headcase (<http://inmyheadcase.com>), a new mental health awareness project, empowering people through open discussion and knowledge about the brain.

We are absolutely delighted to present the award to Hannah this year.

If you would like to nominate one of our alumni for this award in 2015, please contact us on alumni@brunel.ac.uk.