



Brunel Link



Contents

3

Welcome

4

Brunel Impacts



50th Anniversary: Getting Involved

8

Looking Back: Pre-Brunel

10

The 1960's

12

The 1970's

14

The 1980's



Our Big Alumni Weekend!

18

The 1990's

20

The 2000's

22

The 2010's

23

Looking Forward

24

Our Global Alumni Network

26

Achievements and Accolades

28

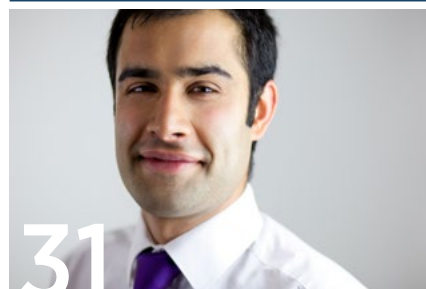
Our Year in Sport

29

#TeamBrunel and Sport Relief

30

Brunel in Print



Taming the Dragons

Contact us

www.brunel.ac.uk/alumni


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Many thanks for Brunel University London Archives team for supplying many of the historical photographs used within this publication.

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Welcome

In our last edition of the magazine, I mentioned that 2016 is a very special year for Brunel, as it is our 50th anniversary. Campus has come to life with events that celebrate Brunel past, present and future. We are really proud to have five decades of Brunel alumni; you are a huge part of what makes us great and many of these events are dedicated to celebrating your achievements and the strength of the alumni community.

We celebrate our diverse and international campus annually with an event called One World Week, but in our anniversary year, we wanted to include our international alumni with celebrations across the globe too. I was lucky enough to be invited to Singapore and Malaysia to meet with our alumni there and I am delighted that there was such warm support for helping current students in evidence at these gatherings. It emphasised how much of a global community we are. I am always pleased to hear about all the ways in which Brunel alumni help to support and inspire the next generation of students.

We continue to debate the 'Big Questions' of our generation in our exciting public debate series here on campus. We recently tackled the issue of what leaving the European Union might mean for students and employment and were able to invite some key players from education, business and government to state their opinion. We hope you will be able to join us at our forthcoming events and especially at our Alumni Weekend; a particular highlight which takes place on 2–3 July. We also celebrate 'Brunel on Film' in the autumn; a film festival which will include showings of famous films shot here on campus alongside new works created by our filmmaker-in-residence and talented alumni.

Back on campus, we continue to invest in our buildings and research to keep improving the facilities and environment for students. Our brand new STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Learning Centre will bring science and technology to life in the community and a new



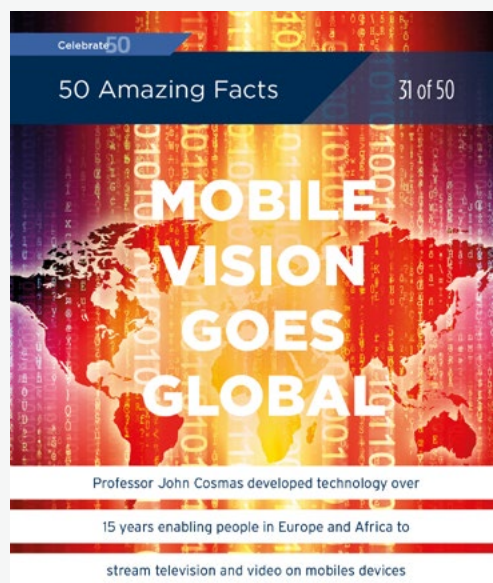
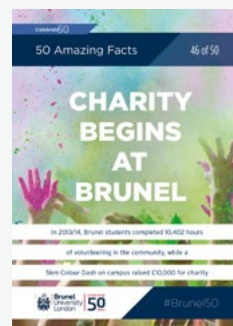
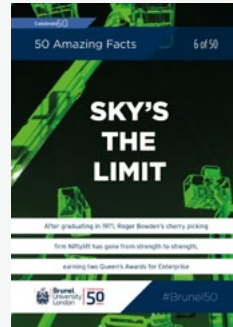
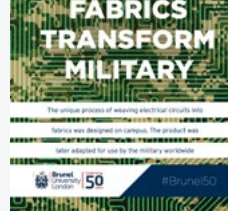
building for BCAST (The Centre for Advanced Solidification Technology), supported by public and private sector funding, will ensure that research innovations move from the laboratory, onto the factory floor. Our researchers continue to receive impressive funding for their work, which includes computing facilities for particle physics simulations, virtual engineering laboratories and Marie Curie Fellowships. We also recently retained our HR Excellence in Research accreditation which ensures that we can continue to attract the best researchers in the world to work here at Brunel.

2016 continues to be a year of success for alumni too; with an Oscar nomination for 'Best Documentary Short' for Adam Benzine who studied on the BSc Multimedia Technology and Design and a winning business investment from BBC's Dragon's Den for Brunel Business School graduate Deekpak Tailor. Do continue to share your stories with us.

In our anniversary year, we have been reflecting on the way in which Brunel has grown and developed in the past half a century. We would love for you to celebrate with us by coming along to our events, seeing our developing campus and reconnecting with friends. All of you can still join the celebration by using #Brunel50 in your messages or by leaving a memory of your time at Brunel on our anniversary website: www.brunel.ac.uk/fifty. Please do visit the site to leave messages, memories and update us with your own Brunel stories and experiences to inspire past and future Brunel alumni.

Julia Buckingham
Vice-Chancellor and President

50 AMAZING FACTS FOR 50 YEARS



BROUGHT TO LIFE

Analyzing rights and responsibilities in society

Brunel's Magna Carta Today exhibition marked the 800th anniversary of the signing of the Magna Carta in 1215. The exhibition has been a huge success, with more than 5,000 visitors.

Brunel University London Celebrating **50** years **#Brunel50**

50 Amazing Facts 15 of 50

ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE IN THE UK

Brunel became the home of the Centre for Manufacturing Technology in 1986, set up to find solutions to long-standing manufacturing challenges.

Brunel University London Celebrating **50** years **#Brunel50**

50 Amazing Facts 26 of 50

SETTING THE SPORTING STAGE ALIGHT

Brunel's sporting facilities have helped produce hundreds of elite athletes who have played on 26 Olympic and Paralympic medals between them.

Brunel University London Celebrating **50** years **#Brunel50**

universities, industry and government, our science park was opened in 1986 by HRH the Prince of Wales

Brunel University London Celebrating **50** years **#Brunel50**

Celebrate **50**

50 Amazing Facts 28 of 50

TAKING TRAVEL ONLINE

Brunel's 2010 alumnus of the year, Peter Ward, launched the world's largest travel and lifestyle social networking community, active in 193 countries

Brunel University London Celebrating **50** years **#Brunel50**

FIXING THE INJURED

Alexandra Knight developed a special system to rehabilitate injured soldiers, now used by the Ministry of Defence at its medical facility in Surrey

Brunel University London Celebrating **50** years **#Brunel50**

IN SPACE

Brunel's Institute for Biomechanics was behind the history-making mission to put Britain's first astronaut Helen Sharman into space in 1991

Brunel University London Celebrating **50** years **#Brunel50**

50 Amazing Facts 18 of 50

SAVING MILLIONS ON MEDICINE

Professor Ian Sutherland's team developed complex custom-fit chromatography systems to drug production across the globe

Brunel University London Celebrating **50** years **#Brunel50**

50 Amazing Facts 29 of 50

SCREENING STUDY SAVES LIVES

Brunel research into setting up a screening programme for abdominal aortic aneurysms has reduced by half the number of men killed by the illness every year

Brunel University London Celebrating **50** years **#Brunel50**

50 Amazing Facts 3 of 50

WORLD'S FIRST MIDLIFE CRISIS

Professor Elliott Jaques, founder of the School of Social Sciences, formed highly influential concepts of psychoanalytic study in the 1950s

Brunel University London Celebrating **50** years **#Brunel50**

Celebrate **50**

50 Amazing Facts

FIFTH BRUNEL BASKETBALL

Brunel Ducks, the first national leagues in side to national

Brunel University London Celebrating **50** years **#Brunel50**

Celebrate **50**

50 Amazing Facts 14 of 50

CHEMICAL RESEARCH CHANGES POLICY

Wide-ranging research into exposure to harmful chemicals has changed government attitudes and policy, earning the Queen's Anniversary Prize in 2011

Brunel University London Celebrating **50** years **#Brunel50**

50 Amazing Facts 34 of 50

LEADING THE WORLD'S UNIVERSITIES

Brunel graduates have gone on to head up leading universities and academic departments across the world, everywhere from Malaysia to Missouri

Brunel University London Celebrating **50** years **#Brunel50**

50 Amazing Facts 5 of 50

FINDING FAME ON FILM

Brunel's campus became the perfect backdrop for Kubrick's brutal A Clockwork Orange, and iconic TV shows, from Inspector Morse to Question Time

Brunel University London Celebrating **50** years **#Brunel50**

Celebrate **50**

50 Amazing Facts 50 of 50

FOCUS ON THE FUTURE

A £5million grant was secured to support a STEM outreach centre, opening in 2016 to encourage 30,000 students a year into science and maths-based subjects

Brunel University London Celebrating **50** years **#Brunel50**

50 Amazing Facts 8 of 50

MAKING SCIENTIFIC BREAKTHROUGHS

Brunel has produced thousands of scientific breakthroughs, from cancer research to neuroscience, making breakthroughs and improving lives every day

Brunel University London Celebrating **50** years **#Brunel50**

50 Amazing Facts 36 of 50

ENGINEERING HAS THE EDGE

The Brunel-built Colson 1000 robotic machine has helped UK and European companies compete in ultra-precision and micro manufacturing

Brunel University London Celebrating **50** years **#Brunel50**

50 Amazing Facts 9 of 50

BIRTH OF MEDICAL DISCOVERY

The Auditory Response Cradle, made to detect hearing problems in babies, was developed here in the 1950s - and the science is still used in hospitals today

Brunel University London Celebrating **50** years **#Brunel50**

50 Amazing Facts 40 of 50

MULTI-MILLION NATIONAL IMPACT

In 2009, Brunel contributed more than £750million to the UK economy, generating £6.30 from every £1 spent

Brunel University London Celebrating **50** years **#Brunel50**

50 Amazing Facts 4 of 50

PLASTIC HAS GREEN FUTURE

The world's first biodegradable plastic bag was designed by Gerald Griffin on campus using science that proved to be well ahead of its time

Brunel University London Celebrating **50** years **#Brunel50**

Celebrate **50**

50 Amazing Facts 7 of 50

CREATING A BUZZ

In 1972, Professor John David Gillett published unique research into African mosquitoes and tropical diseases - still vital for health workers in the field

Brunel University London Celebrating **50** years **#Brunel50**

50 Amazing Facts 42 of 50

DONATIONS HELP NEXT GENERATION

Supporters have donated more than £3.5million for

Brunel University London Celebrating **50** years **#Brunel50**

Celebrate **50**

50 Amazing Facts 35 of 50

CHARITY

Brunel University London Celebrating **50** years **#Brunel50**

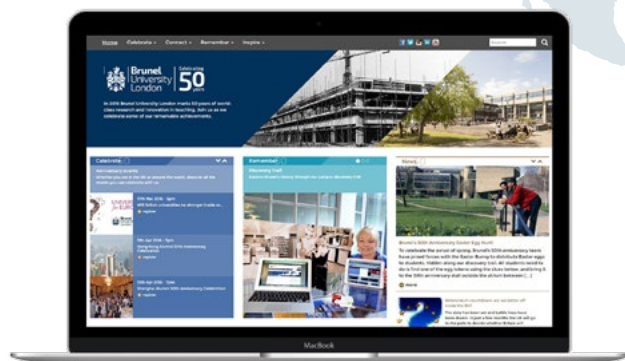
50 Amazing Facts 21 of 50

LIFTING LID ON ABUSE

Research by Professor Celia Brackenridge has made

Brunel University London Celebrating **50** years **#Brunel50**

Brunel's 50th Anniversary: getting involved, wherever you are



Leave a greeting on our interactive alumni map...

Our global alumni network is an incredible testament to the internationalism of Brunel. With alumni in over 110 different countries and territories throughout the world, we know that not everyone can join us in person for one of our celebratory events. This interactive greetings map allows our alumni from all over the world to share their congratulatory messages and wishes for Brunel's celebratory year, from wherever they may be. By leaving a greeting, you can also see which other Brunelians are in your area. You may find a new network of friends on your doorstep!

Brunel's 50th anniversary is a truly global celebration. With alumni in over 110 countries worldwide, we want as many people in our international alumni network to be involved and share in the celebrations. No matter where you are, Australia to Zimbabwe, we want to celebrate with you and make this anniversary a truly global event. With our dedicated anniversary website, we can do just that. **www.brunel.ac.uk/fifty**

Attend one of our events...

We have many events taking place throughout the world as part of our 50th anniversary celebrations. Events, whether they be large or small, are a fantastic way to meet other alumni in your area, grow your professional networks, and make new friends. Who knows who you could meet!

Events are being constantly added to our anniversary calendar, so make sure to contact our team to find out more: **alumni@brunel.ac.uk**

Share your memories...

Throughout the celebration of our 50th anniversary, we are collating and collecting as many memories from our alumni as possible. Photographs, mementos and video clips are being gathered to create a collage. This collage will be used to illustrate the numerous changes that Brunel has seen in its first 50 years. So dust off those old photo albums (or dig out that memory card) and share your photos and anecdotes with us!

Discovery Trail...

As part of our anniversary celebrations, we have created a fun and informative Discovery Trail around our campus, pointing out areas of interest and showcasing a variety of exhibits from our archives. Awaiting your discovery are 27 displays located in 13 different buildings on the site.

Highlights include the original Glovebox created by Heinz Wolff and the Brunel Institute of Bioengineering, a photographic display featuring classic campus shots from the 60s, 70s, 80s and 90s, and Brunel Rocks provides a photographic treasure trove of musical icons who performed at Brunel Students' Union in the 70s, from Fleetwood Mac to Erasure and ELO to the Sex Pistols.

The final exhibit on the trail was voted for by students, staff and alumni from a selection of designs submitted as part of the Imagine50 competition. The winning design will be unveiled by Prof. Julia Buckingham, Vice-Chancellor and President of Brunel University London, later in our celebratory year. Entitled 'Connect', this final exhibit which completes the trail embodies the university's values of innovation and unity in diversity.

Do not worry – a map will be provided to anyone who chooses to visit us on campus. If you cannot make it to Uxbridge, you can also follow the trail online at our anniversary website: **www.brunel.ac.uk/fifty**

Join the Online Alumni Network...

If you are a Brunel graduate, you can benefit from a global network of alumni ranging from new graduates to experienced leaders in their field. So whether you are looking for a mentor, have a job to advertise, or simply want to share your memories and photos with fellow Brunelians, this is the ideal place to make this happen. Signing up is free and takes just a minute. You can register with a LinkedIn or Facebook profile, or use your own email address. Join us at **www.brunelalumni.com** and start making the most of your network now.



Visit the Discovery Trail



Attend one of our events...



Help our students...

Help our students...

Whether you want to be a mentor, to offer a work experience opportunity, or to employ a new graduate, your time and knowledge is invaluable to our students. Our academics are always on the look-out for engaged and enthusiastic alumni to come back to campus to speak with current students, share their experiences, and help prepare them for life after graduation. If you would like to use your professional experience to help students at Brunel, please contact us on alumni@brunel.ac.uk.

Given the scale of our international network, we are always eager to help our students make the most of Brunel's incredible international opportunities, especially as many graduates look to work overseas to gain valuable experience. The University is developing a website to showcase a variety of jobs and careers that our graduates have in different countries to help inspire our students to consider seeking out work experience, placements, and employment outside of the UK. If you would like to feature on this website with a short profile about your job, please contact us on alumni@brunel.ac.uk

Spread the word...

With people moving house and changing email addresses, sometimes we lose touch with alumni and staff. If you are still in contact with your Brunel classmates or colleagues, please do encourage them to get involved in the celebrations as we may not have been able to reach them. The more the merrier!

More than
122,000
 BRUNELIANS AROUND THE WORLD

Pre-Brunel: 1798-1965...

Throughout our history, Brunel has seen many changes and evolutions. Though we did not receive our charter until 1966, our history of providing higher education to the people of West London and the wider world begins much earlier...

1798

Joseph Lancaster opens a school in Borough Road for poor boys living in his neighbourhood in Southwark.

1806

The 1806 register contains entries showing female students from Sierra Leone and New York as well as overseas teaching destinations such as Haiti, Antigua, Barbados, Cape of Good Hope and New South Wales. It seems Brunel's spirit of international community was just as strong 200 years ago.



1878

Maria Grey College was founded in Bishopsgate, London "to raise teaching to a profession as honourable and honoured for women as for men".



"...we looked in vain for the faces of those who had not returned with us as students". *B's Hum* (Borough Road College's Student Newspaper)

1902

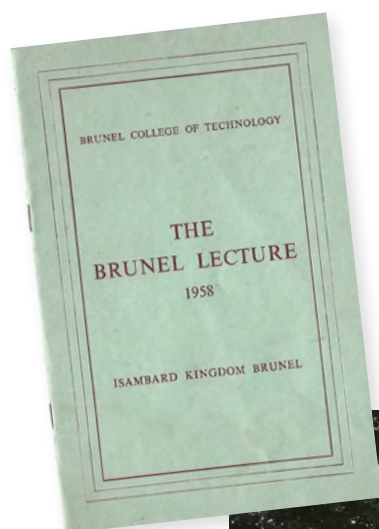
The pupil-teacher centre is established to offer training courses in handicraft and teaching. This becomes Shoreditch Technical Institute and moves to Englefield Green (the University's former Runnymede campus) in 1951. The college is later renamed the Shoreditch Training College then the Shoreditch College of Education.

1915

1914

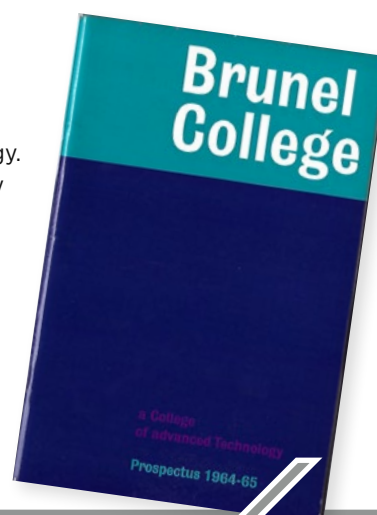
Graduates both recent and distant, current students and tutors; nearly 800 Borough Road College members serve in the First World War. Their welfare and whereabouts are carefully and anxiously followed by those left behind. Some students volunteer straight away, whilst others carry on at Borough Road College until either the call to arms beckons too strongly to resist, or as the war drags on, they are called up.





Brunel College is designated a College of Advanced Technology. It was agreed that a completely new college should be erected on a separate site. The site chosen was a 170-acre plot in Uxbridge, formerly the Lowe and Shawyer nursery and market garden. Building work begins in Uxbridge in 1965...

1962



1965

Ede and Ravenscroft are appointed the University's official robe makers in 1965. The Vice-Chancellor's gown is created by them specifically for the new Vice-Chancellor, at a cost of £112.



1957

Acton Technical College is divided into two, creating the new institution, Brunel College of Technology. The new college focuses on the education of technologists and, in particular, it pioneers the concept of the 'sandwich' courses, working with local employers to establish the best model.

The College buildings are taken over by the War Office as a depot for the Motor Transport Department of the Army Service Corps.

1916

1921

The stone war memorial which still stands at the top of College Road in Isleworth is unveiled. At the same time, a brass tablet containing the names of the 111 men who had lost their lives is unveiled in the college vestibule.



1918

By the war's end on November 11th, nearly 800 students, former students, and tutors of Borough Road College had served in the forces and of these, 111 lost their lives. 44 of them had obtained military honours, including five Distinguished Service Orders, 19 Military Crosses and seven Military Medals. "Alas, the College has lost one hundred of its precious sons". (Charles Venning, Editor, O.B.'s War Hum and Roll of Service Dec 1918 p. 1.)



Looking Back: 1966-1969



1966

June: Brunel College is awarded a Royal Charter, allowing us to become Brunel University.

1966

6 July is officially recognised as Charter Day! Each year, this momentous date is marked by an on-campus ceremony.

September: The 3rd Earl of Halsbury, becomes Brunel's first Chancellor with Dr. James Topping becoming the first President and Vice-Chancellor. Dr. Topping would serve in this position until 1971.

1966



"Graduation!" – Norman Hale

"I applied to Brunel and was accepted for the four year 'sandwich' course in Mechanical Engineering commencing in 1964. This entailed an equal number of weeks practical work experience during the four years in alternate six month periods. Fortunately I applied and received a position at Rotax (later Lucas Aerospace). This was wonderful since they were prepared to pay me for the whole of the period; I can still picture my father looking with amazement as my weekly (cash) envelope dropped through our letter box whilst I was at Brunel!..."

– Dr Michael Cox

1969



1968





BRUNEL UNIVERSITY

A SERVICE OF
THANKSGIVING AND
DEDICATIONHillingdon Parish Church,
Sunday, 27th November, 1966
at 3.00 p.m.

1966

"I remember dancing to the jazz bands in the early years; Eric Silk, Monty Sunshine, Acker Bilk and more. The photo is the front cover of (I believe) the first edition of Isam. Yes, that is me!" – Kate Brown (Wilde)

1966

"Graduation Day – the very first one for Brunel!" – Brian Taylor



1967

The first students move to Uxbridge

"Summer of 1968 I was on campus one day (my father was working onsite) watching an excavator digging the foundations for the new Science and Chemistry building (the modern-day Heinz Wolff building); the guy operating saw me watching and said if I came back on Saturday morning, I could have a go. That Saturday I helped dig the southwest corner foundations; 47 years later the building is still standing – not a bad effort for a 14 year old? Little did I know I would be working at Brunel two years later!" – John Bates

1968

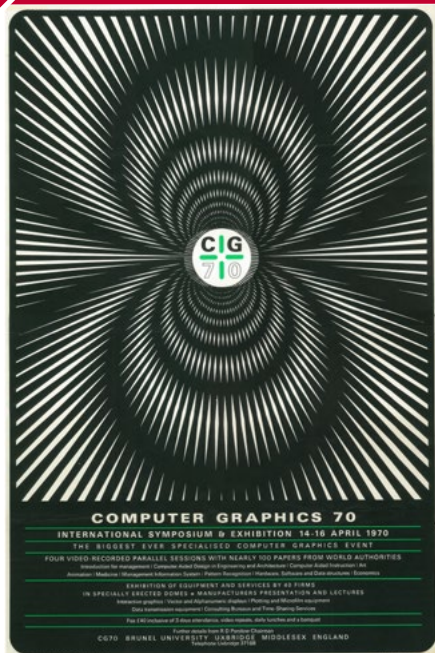


1968

Brunel University's official Opening Ceremony takes place on 4 July 1968 with Lord Beeching, who had been a member of the Governing Body of Brunel College of Technology, performing the ceremony. The University did not have an indoor space large enough to house the 1,000 people who attended the festivities at the time, so a large marquee which came to be known as the 'air-house' was erected.



Looking Back: 1970-1979

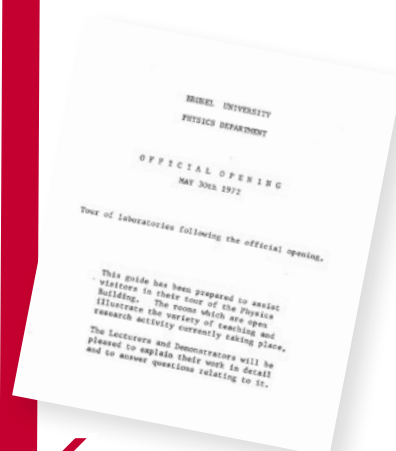


1970

The Computer Graphics 70 symposium and exhibition at Brunel University is the biggest ever held at the time on computer graphics. It is organised by Professor Mike Pitteway and Senior Lecturer Bob Parslow in the Computer Science Department, who thought that computer graphics was the 'new and up-coming thing' in the computer world. Over the three days, 98 papers are presented in four parallel sessions. More than 1,000 delegates attend from 23 different countries, with experts from across the UK and the USA.

1972

Brunel Physics Department opens.



1973

Britain, along with Ireland and Denmark, joins the European Economic Community.

1973

"I remember being lectured by Professor Robin Howell (who the Howell building is named after) on Information Theory. He stood at the front of the lecture theatre chatting to us in a relaxed manner, when I suddenly realised that he was giving the lecture and I needed to take notes (there was no PowerPoint in those days). He was a wonderful inspiration to me both as an academic and a good man." – Chris Hudson





Margaret Thatcher becomes the first female Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. Years later, in 1996, Baroness Thatcher would be awarded an honorary degree from Brunel University.

1979

1978

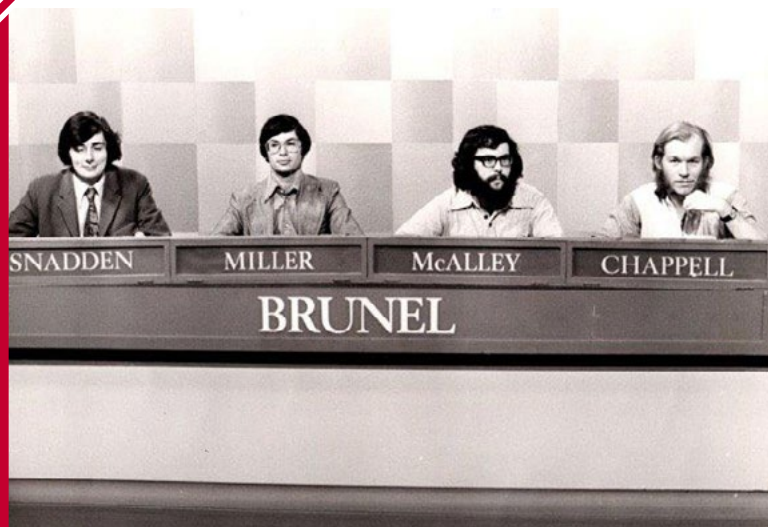
"Engineering students on the steps of the Library after last final exam..." – Ivan Morgan

1976

The West London Institute is created from the merger between Borough Road College, Chiswick and Maria Grey College.

1975

"The unbeatable (apart from by Churchill College Cambridge that is) University Challenge team from 1975. Famously, we were the only team ever to reach half time in a UC transmission without scoring any points at all..." – Bryan McAlley



1975

"In 1975, students dyed the front pond a bright red so that the next morning when the fountains started up, people were amazed/angry/stupefied. I don't remember the celebration if it was New Years or what... It had to be when students were there. Second, we used to launch old loaves of bread out of Chepstow kitchen windows using rubber inner tubes attached to the legs of the kitchen tables. We'd fire them right into the open windows of Saltash Hall kitchens. These were the very crazy moments of being students back in the 70's!" – Colin Rumary

1974

Genesis bass guitarist Mike Rutherford is quoted as saying "Brunel was their first professional gig." Suzi Quatro, Fleetwood Mac, Elton John, ELO, The Kinks, Thin Lizzy, The Stranglers, Sex Pistols, The Pretenders, Joy Division, Tears for Fears, Erasure and The Stone Roses were a few of the acts to perform at Brunel early in their careers.



Looking Back: 1980-1989

Ballet Rambert school is formed within the West London Institute of Higher Education.

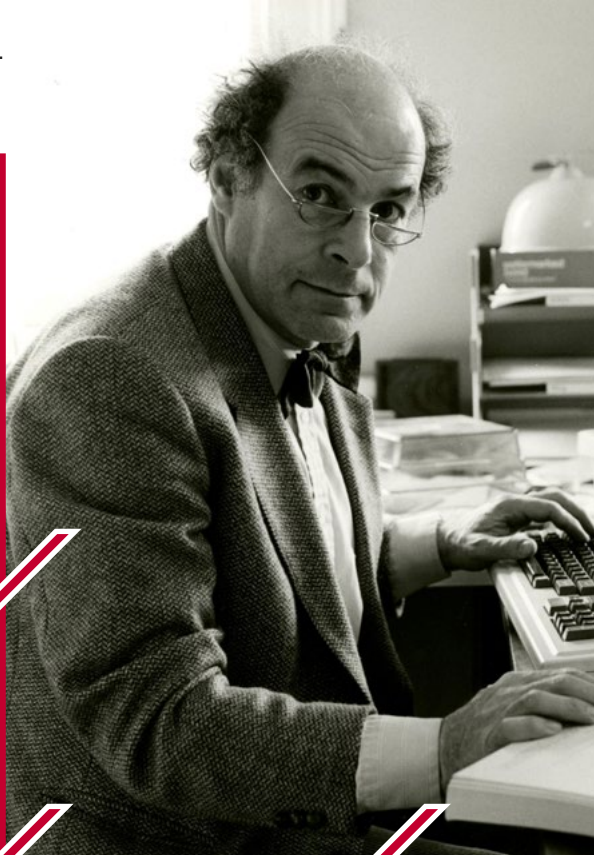
1981

1980

Brunel merges with Shoreditch College of Education, one of the leading teacher training colleges in the field of craft, design and technology, which becomes Brunel's Runnymede Campus. London School of Occupational Therapy join the West London Institute. Brunel establishes a joint Post-Graduate Research Centre with Hillingdon Hospital.

1983

Brunel Institute of Bioengineering is established with Professor Heinz Wolff as director.



1984

"My favourite Brunel memory is the embracing of change!"
- Mark Eidem

1986

"I remember campus life and the work placement opportunities, the experience of living in halls of residence with international students as well as locals and evening walks across campus grounds. Brunel was the safest university during my four years there (1983-1986)"
- Hasnah Abdul Hamid





Painting by Alan Bennett



1986

"My controversial Le Nurb article on the 1980s miners' strike." – Robert Corbishley

1988

"My favourite Brunel memories include the camaraderie of great friends from different parts of the world, and the campus life. All this, with great lecturers!" – Lee Leong Raymond Liew

1989

"One of the most memorable social events of the Runnymede year was the annual 'beach party'. Will Andrews and a group of friends got loads of sand delivered and several inches completely covered the floor in the kitchen, dining room and corridor. Everybody danced all night in beachwear. I don't think the cleaners were too pleased the following morning - there was sand everywhere for months!" – Harriet Kelsall

BIG ALUMNI WEEKEND



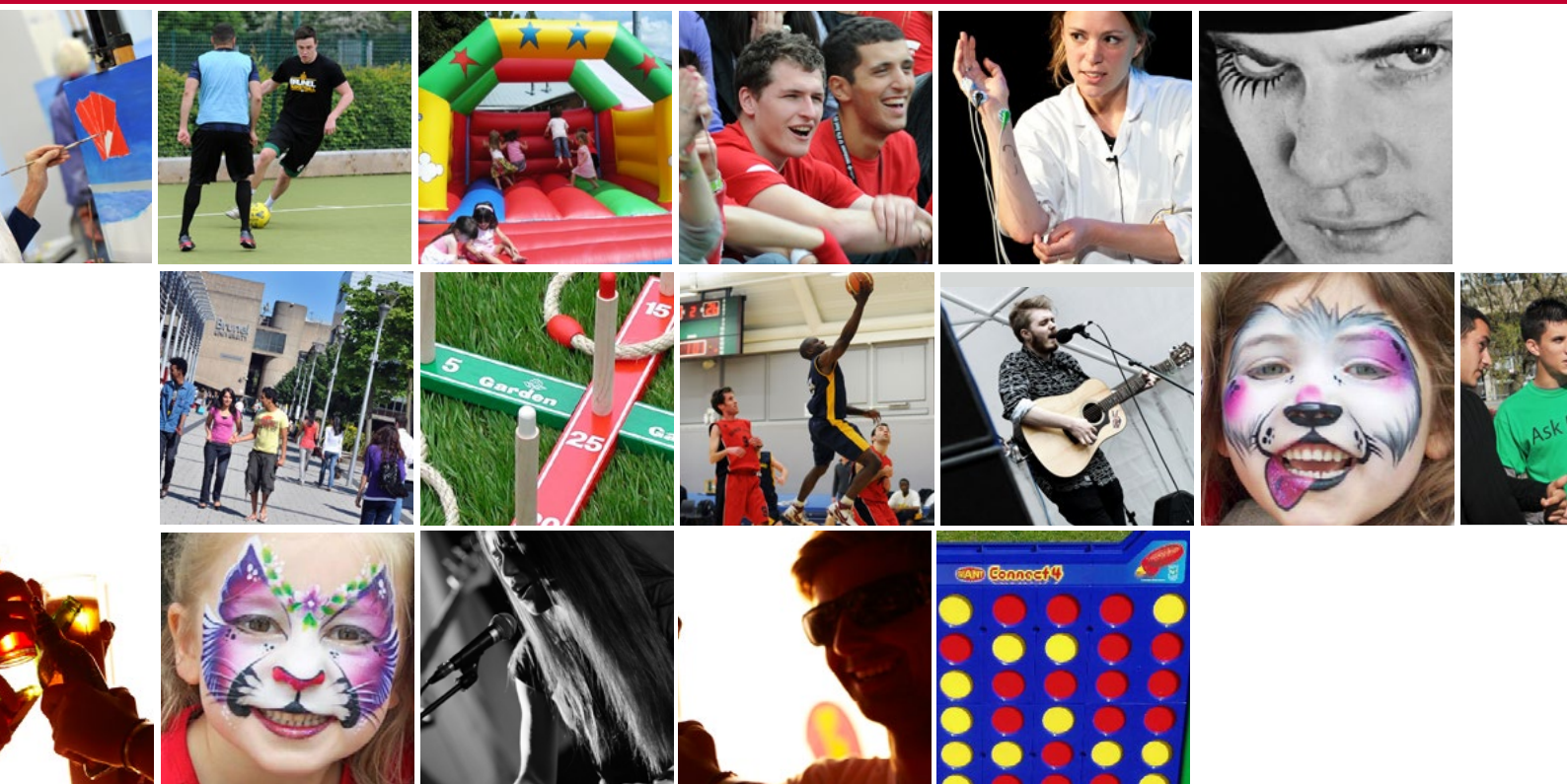
Mark your calendars for the biggest alumni event of the year!

Open to all of our alumni and their families, the Alumni Weekend will take place on the Brunel campus, during the weekend of 2–3 July 2016.

This weekend will give you the chance to return to Brunel, explore the campus, take part in a range of activities, meet up with old friends, share memories, see exhibits about Brunel's history, eat, drink and be merry! What more could you ask for?

Make sure you don't miss out!

To register for the celebrations, visit www.brunel.ac.uk/fifty



CELEBRATION FETE

Saturday 2 July, from 12 noon

Meet up with old friends

Take a trip down memory lane with photos and memories from the Brunel archives

See the work and impact of Brunel University London and its current students

Enjoy live performances throughout the day

Explore the campus

Comedy night featuring Brunel alumni*

Clockwork Orange film screening (over 18s only)*

Hands-on workshops including arts and design*

Academic lecture

Family activities including bouncy castle, garden games and roller disco

Silent Disco with music from the last 50 years

Option to book an evening meal for your group of friends

Bars, refreshments and a range of food concessions available

Accommodation on campus available*

...and much more!

SPORTS DAY

Sunday 3 July, from 12 noon

The second day of this exciting weekend focuses on Brunel's long history of sporting success. Brush off those old sports shoes, round up your old team mates and join in the activities!

Not an athlete? Come along and cheer from the side-lines!

Sports breakfast* to start your day right

Take part in team or individual sports – or come along to support Basketball, Netball, Football, Rugby Union and many more!

Open to alumni of all ages

Compete against alumni, staff and students

Sports therapies available*

Brunel Rocks! Closing festivities with Alumni musicians performing music from Brunel's 50 year history

Find out about some of our most successful sporting alumni

Join all the other competitors for a BBQ at the end of the day*

Anniversary medal for all competitors

Entry to the Alumni Weekend is FREE with the exception of items with an asterisk (*) for which you will need to buy a ticket or book a place in advance. For any queries, contact alumni@brunel.ac.uk

Looking back: 1990-1999

Professor Michael John Howard Sterling is appointed as the new Vice-Chancellor and Principal.

1991

1991

South Middlesex Hospital School of Physiotherapy joins the West London Institute.



1993

Brunel introduces the four-year thin-sandwich course, offering greater flexibility to students.

1994

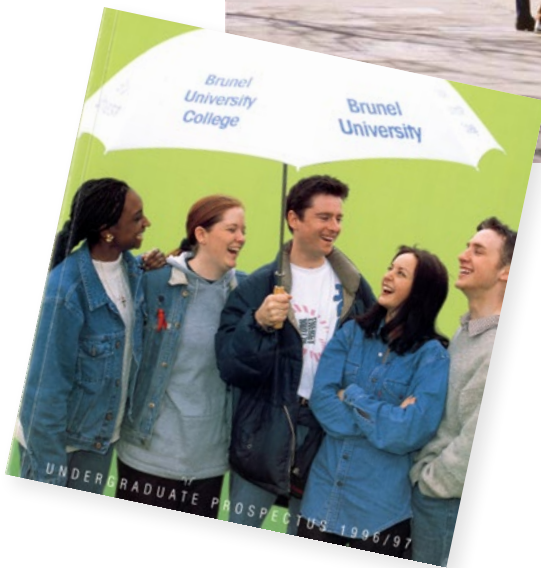
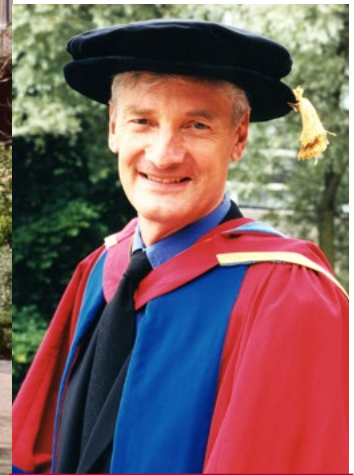
Brunel and Ecole Centrale de Lille in France celebrate their 10th anniversary of student exchange.



1995

West London Institute of Higher Education becomes Brunel University College, which merges with the University two years later. Until now, Brunel's traditional fields remained engineering, science, technology, social science, education, and management, but the merger added expertise in new subject areas and innovative modes of study with performing arts, humanities, geography, health, social work, sport sciences and business.





Brunel sees 10 current and former students compete at the Olympic games in Atlanta, USA. That same year, Brunel launches their MBA (Masters of Business Administration) programme, having previously validated degrees for the Henley MBA.

1996

1999

Britain votes to not adopt the single European currency, the Euro.

1999

James Dyson is awarded an Honorary Degree from Brunel University. The James Dyson Foundation continues to award a scholarship annually to between four and six final year undergraduate design students.

1997

"My favourite Brunel memories are evenings at the Academy!" - Clive de Silva

1997

The Rt Hon Lord Wakeham becomes Chancellor of the University.

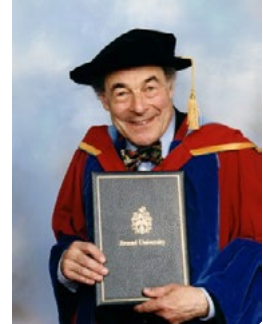


Looking Back: 2000-2009



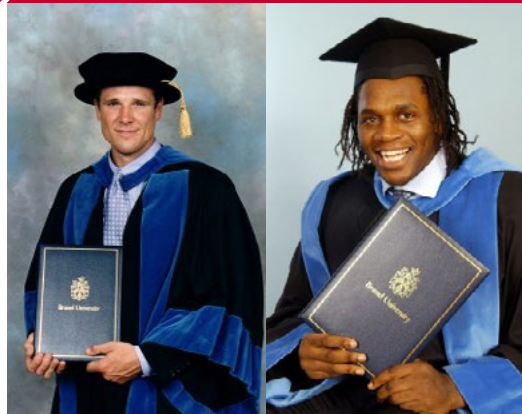
Fifteen current and former Brunel students compete at the Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia. Alumni Audley Harrison and James Cracknell each win a Gold Medal. Both have since been awarded Honorary Degrees from the University.

2000



2000

"I studied part time for my PhD at Newland Park. While there I discovered my ancestors had owned the property. I decided that if my viva was in a particular room, I would pass; it was and I did! Thank you Brunel; thank you ancestors." – Dee Burrows



2003

Professor Heinz Wolff is awarded an Honorary Degree from Brunel University.

"My favourite Brunel memory was when I met Usain Bolt while we were playing Badminton at the Brunel Sports Centre. I had the chance to chat with the fastest man on Earth. He then joined us for a couple of games, and I won!" – Rui Liu

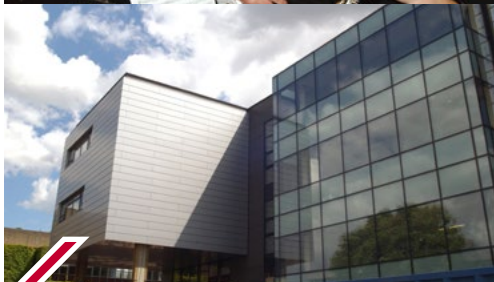
2008



2009

"One of my most memorable times at Brunel was the start of what will hopefully be a life long endeavour... I had been beatboxing here and there over a few years, mostly for fun and friends. This changed when I had the opportunity to perform at the Gala Dinner. This first major public performance gave me the confidence and increased my desire to share this skill with others. The warm reception I received at Brunel stayed with me till this day." – Daniel Brill





The Faculty of Design leaves the Runnymede campus to join the engineering departments in Uxbridge. The £6 million outdoor athletics centre is opened by David Moorcroft. The Bannerman Centre, named after 'Mother Brunel' Sheila Bannerman, opens.

2004

2003

"My favourite Brunel memory is meeting Tony Adams whilst waiting to enter the exam hall for my final paper in 2003. Seeing the worried look on the face of someone who captained a team who won the 'double' made him seem human!" – Azrieff Mohamad

"HRH The Duke of Edinburgh's visited our Cancer Institute in 2007. He was really well-informed, particularly about the cancer gene DNA sequencing that we demonstrated to him. He appeared genuinely very interested in our work and made a great impression on all of us with his considerable knowledge and intellect!" – Professor Rob Newbold

2007

2005

Twickenham campus is closed and Education moves to Uxbridge. The £7 million indoor athletics and netball centre is opened.



2006

2006 marks the 200th anniversary of Isambard Kingdom Brunel's birth, and the 40th anniversary of Brunel University's Royal Charter. The campus is visited by HM Queen Elizabeth II. The Queen unveils a plaque and officially names the new £10 million Health and Social Care building as the Mary Seacole Building, named after Mary Seacole, a pioneering Jamaican nurse and heroine of the Crimean War.

2005

"I met my husband, at Brunel, and both my brothers met their wives, which I think deserves some sort of commemorative bench! Possibly my favourite memory was our RAG hitchhike to Prague (still can't quite believe we made it there and back in once piece)." – Julia Harvey



Looking Back: 2010–2016



"Celebrating graduation with my friends and classmates." – Fengyun Zhao



2011

The Institute of the Environment wins the Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher Education for their research revealing the link between chemicals in rivers and reproductive health.

2014

2014

Brunel becomes Brunel University London following assent of its new charter.

2012

Professor Julia Buckingham becomes Brunel's first female Vice-Chancellor whilst Sir Richard Sykes is appointed as Chancellor.

2012

Olympic fever spreads throughout London and the UK, as the city hosts the Games of the XXX Olympiad. Brunel hosts the Korean Olympic and Canadian Paralympic teams.

2015

"Moving to Brunel University London for my university studies has literally been one of the best options in my life...I will miss all this and especially all those people I have met! I feel so honored to have my graduation photo next to the statue! Keep it up Brunel!" – Georgios Pischinas



2015

"Graduating my MA alongside my girlfriend who I met on the course. I gained so much during my time at Brunel, but I never expected to meet the love of my life! A very special memory..." – Samuel Aylett

Brunel University London celebrates its 50th anniversary since being awarded their Royal charter in 1966.

2016



The Future

Brunel University London has a bright and exciting future. Our mission and key messages remain the same:

- Brunel University London is a leading international university which addresses the challenges facing society through ground-breaking applied research and educational programmes.
- Our students are taught and prepared for their future careers in a supportive culture of excellence, enterprise, and innovation. Our work changes the lives of people around the world by bringing economic, social, and cultural benefits.

Having invested over £400 million in our campus over the last ten years, we are now developing plans for a further £150M investment.

New look for the Wilfred Brown...

Recent visitors to campus may have noticed that the Wilfred Brown building is undergoing a significant refurbishment. The building will house new research facilities which will be the springboard for not only a large increase in desperately needed engineering and other STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) subject graduates, but will take an integrated approach to attracting many more girls into studying maths, physics, and computing to A-level and beyond.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Geoff Rodgers said: "At the heart of our new facilities will be a STEM Outreach Lab which will wow thousands of school pupils a year on and off campus. Key to its success will be harnessing the enthusiasm and knowledge of our students as they go out as Brunel Student STEM Ambassadors. And we know that our programme needs to engage with pupils at different stages of their schooling so that the role model influence is regularly reinforced."

Academic Centre for Allied Health and Healthcare Sciences

We have recently been in positive early stage talks with The Hillingdon Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust about the potential to create a new Academic Centre for Allied Health and Healthcare Sciences at Brunel. Part of this collaboration could include building a new hospital and health campus linked to Brunel. It is far too soon to know exactly what might be possible, but it shows a great willingness for both organisations to work more closely together.

Here's to the next 50 years!



We have staff and students from over

110 DIFFERENT COUNTRIES

and alumni in almost as many!

Global Alumni Network

Brunel is privileged to be one of the most international universities in the world. We have staff and students from over 110 different countries, and alumni in almost as many! Though graduation may see you leave our beautiful campus behind, there are so many ways to ensure that you remain connected to Brunel.

Our global alumni chapters and volunteers are a worldwide network of institutional ambassadors. Groups provide a point of contact for alumni new to an area, help develop your personal, social and professional networks, and keep you in touch with Brunel.

- **Networking:** meet other Brunel alumni working in various fields. Networking can lead to business collaborations, or professional development opportunities. Whether you are seeking a new member of staff or looking for a new job, an alumni chapter will enable you to meet people you could work with, who could recommend you, or who know of vacancies or good candidates.
- **Mentoring:** meet inspirational and experienced people who could act as a mentor. Or experience the fulfilment often found in helping others to learn from your experience.
- **Welcoming:** meet alumni that are new to your area or country, who may need advice, recommendations, or just a friendly group to help them feel settled.
- **Reminiscing:** relive your Brunel days, share and compare memories, photos, and experiences with friends old and new.
- **Socialising:** make new friends in your area and expand your social circles.

One World Week 2016

One World Week is an annual week-long campus-wide event to celebrate Brunel University London's multicultural community of staff and students. Its aim is to create an engaging environment to promote integration and help to educate others whose cultures and traditions differ from their own. The entire Brunel community take part in nearly 100 events over a five day period, with each day being dedicated to one geographical region: Europe, the Americas, Africa, Asia and Middle East, Australasia.

Though the campus celebrations of this exciting festival are a staple of the University calendar, this year we invited alumni from across the globe to join us in this wonderful event. It was a wonderful week of alumni events throughout the world and so many of our alumni coming together to celebrate the university's international community.

Ghana: "The One World Week celebration in Ghana was held on 26 February 2016 at the Gold Coast Restaurant in Accra. The evening was full of laughter as we reminisce about life on Brunel campus. All alumni members were grateful for the various experiences they had from being students of Brunel University. Particular mention was made of the sandwich programme run by the school that helped the students gained work experience even before they formally completed their degree programmes. We hope this programme is still running, as it helped a lot of the students gain employment right after leaving Brunel." – Abby Sappor

Bogotá: We had a great time at the One World Week celebrations in Bogotá. In the venue we went to, they sing for your table depending of what you are celebrating. When we told them that we were celebrating Brunel's 50th anniversary, they decided that my husband would be Mr Brunel. They put a crown on his head and sang Happy Birthday to him!" – Milena Moreno

Singapore: Alumni in Singapore came together to create a unique piece of artwork, "One World Connected".



Our alumni in Beijing

Other International Events

Germany: Alumni in Berlin enjoyed an intimate gathering in January 2016 at the Union Jack Pub. Special thanks to alumnus Sam Aylett for hosting and organising the event.

Malaysia and Singapore: In November 2015, the Vice-Chancellor held alumni events in Kuala Lumpur and Singapore to celebrate Brunel's momentous anniversary. Both were a tremendous success with guests from all decades of Brunel's 50 year history attending. It was wonderful to see so many enthusiastic and emotional reunions between friends who hadn't seen each other since their graduation day. So many of our alumni were eager to find out how they could offer support to current and future Brunel students.

USA: It was wonderful to see so many of our NYC alumni together at the Churchill Bar in November 2015. Special thanks to alumna Mina Mistry for hosting and organising the event.

Pakistan: In February, our alumni in Pakistan enjoyed a fabulous evening in Karachi, celebrating One World Week and also launching their official Pakistan Alumni Chapter. It was wonderful to see so many people celebrating together, reminiscing and sharing stories of their university days. A specially created banner was signed by each guest at the event, and now has pride of place in the Brunel Alumni Office! Special thanks must be given to Usman Shafiq and his team of volunteers who made the whole evening possible.

China and Hong Kong: As we went to press, our alumni team was hosting 50th anniversary events in Hong Kong, Shanghai and Beijing with the Vice-Chancellor.



Alumni Associates

As part of our 50th anniversary celebrations during the 2015–2016 academic year, we want to make our incredible network of alumni even more accessible and prominent.

We are looking toward members of our alumni family to act as Volunteer Alumni Associates; individuals who will act as representatives of the University and the Brunel University London Alumni Association in their particular countries or cities.

Alumni Associates are the first point of contact for any and all alumni in their country and/or local area. They act as our 'eyes-on-the-ground' internationally, assisting us in organising social events, acting as ambassadors & contacts for Brunel alumni in their areas and helping us to promote the message of Brunel University London to an international audience.

What does an Alumni Associate do?

- Helps to run an International Chapter
- Organises social events and activities for alumni in the region
- Provides opportunities for professional networking and for alumni to offer their skills and expertise.
- Helps Brunel maintain an accurate record of alumni in the region
- Strengthens the relationship between Brunel and its former students
- Helps to promote Brunel University London on a local and regional level
- Provides links between prospective, current and past students

News & Research Highlights



£10m boost for liquid metals research

In November 2015, Universities and Science Minister, Jo Johnson, announced that a £10 million manufacturing research hub that will address major, long-term challenges facing the UK's manufacturing industries and capture opportunities from emerging research would be created at Brunel. The Manufacturing Hub in Future Liquid Metal Engineering is funded for the next seven years by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC). Led by Professor Zhongyun Fan, it will have a programme of innovative research in the engineering and physical sciences, related to the challenges in commercialising early stage research.

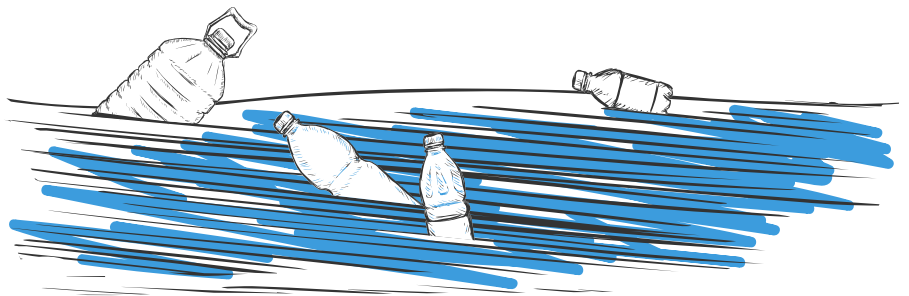
Brunel wins two West London Business Awards

Brunel's commercial services team has been recognised for its commitment to customers and excellence in staff training, picking up two West London Business Awards.

The team joined more than 300 guests at Heathrow's Sheraton Skyline Hotel for the ceremony, which celebrated outstanding achievements of organisations and individuals in three areas: economic growth; sustainable and responsible business; and sector leadership. Brunel was awarded both the 'Best Events & Meeting Venue' and 'Training and Development' awards, and was commended as a runner-up in the 'Employer of the Year' award. Among the plaudits, judges said the team demonstrated a 'clear commitment to the customer throughout management and facilities teams' and 'a strategic approach to staff personal development, with a clear programme and process'. Congratulations to all those involved.

Professor Beresford OBE becomes one of the Power 100 for 2016

Emeritus Professor Peter Beresford OBE, has been named on Power 100, a list of Britain's most influential people with a disability or impairment. Recognised for his work to advance the rights and voices of disabled people, Prof Beresford said: "I am very proud to be included again in the Power list 100 of disabled people. It shows just what disabled people can achieve when we get the chance. But too many are still being denied that chance, and this demands more government action, not just fine words." Peter recently took part in a podcast with Disability Now, the UK's leading website for, about and by disabled people with Disabled Students' Officer Kyle Jordan from University College London and journalist Grace Wong. Amongst other things, Peter discussed how being an 'out' mental health service user has affected his work on social policy, the growing revulsion towards the Welfare State and people who receive benefits. Congratulations, Peter!



Plastic pollution film "game-changer" features Brunel Professor

Director of the Institute of Environment, Health and Societies, Professor Susan Jobling, is set for big-screen stardom as she appears alongside Sir David Attenborough and Ben Fogle in *A Plastic Ocean*.

Aiming to gain the same worldwide attention for the perils of plastics pollution in seas and oceans as Al Gore's documentary *An Inconvenient Truth* did for global warming, the film is set for a cinema release later this year, with a trailer now available on YouTube.

The "adventure documentary" has the personal support of naturalist and broadcaster Sir David, who said: "We have to act now to try and clear up and repair some of the appalling damage we have made to the ocean...and that is going to require positive action."

As well as investigating how plastic enters the environment, the production chronicles seabirds dying from eating bottle tops, dolphins with chemicals from plastics in their bodies, and sea life entangled in discarded containers and fishing nets. It also examines the health risks for the human population from chemicals leaching from plastic and from the toxic chemicals in the ocean that stick to plastic fragments. The film provides solutions to the problems via technologies and behavioural change.

As well as appearing on camera, Professor Jobling was also one of the project's science advisors and is actively pursuing the creation of the world's first interdisciplinary ocean plastic research hub at Brunel as a legacy to the film and as a vehicle for increasing research, education, and public outreach activity on the topic. Said Prof Jobling: "The film is just the start. Across Brunel we have current research which is directly relevant to the risks of and potential ways of mitigating ocean pollution from plastics and other human activities."

Research track record leads to £1.4m PhD funding boost

Brunel's impressive track record in securing grants from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) means the university has received a £1.4 million boost to its PhD student programme.

Science Minister Jo Johnson, said: "We are committed to securing the UK's position as a world leader in science and innovation. This new funding builds on our protection for science spending by supporting research in our world-leading universities and helping train the science leaders of tomorrow."

Funding is allocated on a formula linked to an institution's EPSRC research grant income and fellowships. Previously known as Doctoral Training Grants, the new format is designed to allow universities with strong industry links, such as Brunel, to leverage the funding to support higher numbers of students.

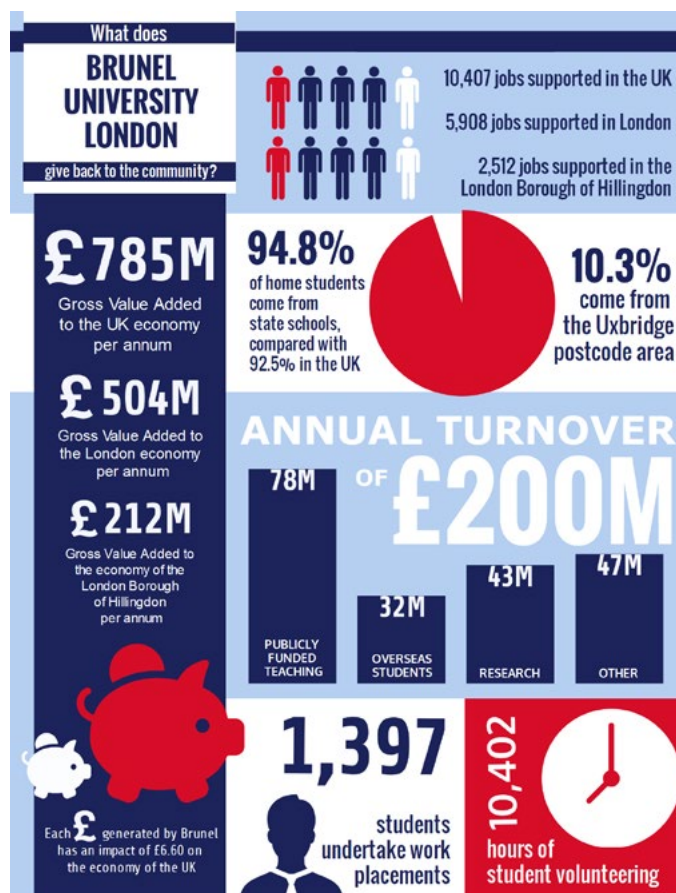
Welcoming the news, Professor Geoff Rodgers, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) said: "This funding for PhD students is based on Brunel's record of achievement in securing EPSRC grants and fellowships and only the top quarter of UK universities receive a share so it's yet more independent evidence of the strength and depth of our research effort."

The first students enrolled on the programme are expected to begin their studies from academic year 2016/17.

Students celebrate the Hillingdon community in 50 ways

Students celebrated Brunel University London's 50th anniversary year by performing 50 Good Deeds in the local community. The third annual Good Deeds Day, complete with its anniversary twist, was all about recognising the people of Hillingdon in their support of the university during the past half-century. More than 145 students from Brunel and Uxbridge College joined up with a number of charities to offer everything from free manicures to lunch, and took part in activities such as litter picking and bag packing in local supermarkets. Pro-Vice Chancellor for External Affairs, said:

"The annual Good Deeds Day brings together volunteers from Brunel University London, local schools and various charitable organisations to celebrate essential community values such as mutual support, human kindness and positive regard. It is a terrific way for us to show how much we appreciate the people of Hillingdon, and since it's our 50th anniversary this year we will do whatever we can to ensure that the local community can share in our celebratory spirit."



Brunel boosts local economy by £212m a year, report shows

Brunel University London generates more than £212 million annually for the London Borough of Hillingdon, supporting 2,512 jobs in the process, a new study has shown. The new report by leading independent consultancy BiGGAR Economics focuses on everything from the amount spent by the university on local goods and services to student expenditure and part-time employment in the region. It concludes that Brunel is quite unique among universities in London in that it has demonstrated a huge stake in the local community in the past 50 years.

Chief Operating Officer at Brunel, Paul Thomas, said: "Whether through volunteering and student placements, through its impact on visitors to the region or through the sheer number of local suppliers and service providers that the university needs to run efficiently, we know that Brunel places itself at the very heart of Hillingdon. This report tells us just how much benefit the university brings locally and it demonstrates the value of having such a close relationship with the local community."

In the same period, the university generated £785 million in the UK, with a total of 10,407 jobs supported. And for every £1 directly generated by the university, there was a total economic impact of £6.60 on the UK economy.

Brunel
currently
has

4

MO FARRAH
FOUNDATION SCHOLARS



BUCS Outdoors

THE STUDENTS' UNION SUPPORTS

OVER
50 student-led
sporting
clubs



Women's 4×200m relay team



Sport

2015 Rugby World Cup at Brunel

In August, the William Webb Ellis Cup made a flying visit to the Brunel campus as part of a 100-day trophy tour to promote the biggest tournament in international rugby. Brunel University London worked closely with the Rugby World Cup and the French squad made use of the university's world-class sports facilities in September for three days of training in preparation for their game against Italy.

BUCS Outdoors

In May 2015, Brunel's athletes celebrated the arrival of Princess Charlotte in Bedford where they were competing at the British Universities and Colleges (BUCS) Championships. These championships represent the traditional curtain-raiser to the outdoor season and attract more than 100 institutions. Despite an unrelenting easterly wind and frequent showers over the Bedford International Stadium, there was plenty to cheer for the Brunel faithful. The women's team finished second—their best result outdoors for 5 years—while the men's finished fourth.

Brunel Reign Supreme in National Inter-Varsity Challenge

The Brunel University London Athletics Club laid claim to being the best in the UK at the Inter-Varsity Challenge held on 3 February 2016. The other competing institutions were the "big five" athletics universities of Bath, Birmingham, Loughborough and Cardiff Metropolitan. Brunel won overall and were also victorious in both women's and men's competitions. In the women's competition they amassed 137 points and in the men's 122.5.

Brunel bags trio of golds

Athletes from Brunel University London brought home a trio of gold medals in a brilliant weekend at 2016 British Universities Indoor Athletics Championships in Sheffield. Four silvers, four bronzes, a clutch of personal bests, and a win for Brunel's duck in the mascot race topped their take-home success. Both Brunel men's and women's teams finished second overall amongst the 100 university teams, with the men just half a point behind arch-rivals Loughborough. The women finished equal second with Cardiff Metropolitan and narrowly behind Loughborough. Finette Agyapong, Shirin Irving, Clieo Stephenson and Lily Beckford powered the women's 4×200m relay team into a landslide gold medal victory.

West London Varsity

In the annual contest against local rivals St Mary's Twickenham, Brunel were narrowly defeated this year. With students competing across a range of sports including athletics, rugby, futsal, weightlifting, cheerleading, netball, football, and badminton, Brunel were strongly and passionately represented on the St Mary's campus in March. It was the 8th varsity event, with the score now standing at Brunel 6 – 2 St Mary's. The competition is always close and makes for one of the highlights of the campus calendar.



Jo Brand



Greg Whyte



#TeamBrunel and Sport Relief

Since Sport Relief began in 2002, famous figures from the world of entertainment have leapt out of their comfort zones and undertaken incredible challenges, helping raise money for vulnerable people in the UK and those who live in the most impoverished countries throughout the world.

For many of these famous faces, Brunel alumnus Professor Greg Whyte OBE (Combined Studies, 1989) has helped them on their way to success. His expert coaching, nutritional and fitness advice has helped many celebrities and athletes achieve their goals and complete their incredible challenges. From David Walliams' swim of the Channel, to John Bishop's 'Week from Hell', Greg has become the 'go-to-guy' for celebrity challenges. To date, he has helped to raise over £30 million for Comic Relief and Sport Relief projects both in the UK and overseas.

This year, Greg joined Radio 1 DJ Greg James on his 'Gregathlon'; five triathlons, over five days, in five UK cities. The gruelling target meant that James successfully completed over 50 miles per day – an incredible achievement, especially in the middle of winter. Greg also was involved in Lindsay Russell's attempt

to cross the Irish Sea in a Zorb, and he also joined forces with alumna Jo Brand on her 'Hell of a Walk'!

Jo's challenge saw the comedienne complete a coast-to-coast walk of Britain; the equivalent of five marathons. Walking the width of the country through the industrial north, from the Humber Bridge in Hull to the Royal Liver Building in Liverpool, Jo successfully completed over 135 miles and took more than 500,000 steps; quite a feat for a woman who famously stated; "My body is a temple – it's big and it doesn't move... I wanted to do this to raise shed loads of money for Sport Relief, because it helps a huge amount of people. Especially projects that mean a lot to me. But, I also wanted to show fat old women that they could walk!"

Throughout her challenge, Jo and Greg were joined by a number of famous faces, including fellow alumnus Lee Mack, comedian Bill Bailey and actor Alan Davies. Sponsored by BT, the challenge saw Jo walking in foul weather conditions, battling the gale-force winds and driving rain of Storm Jonas. Despite six inches of rain and winds of over 50mph, Jo completed the challenge successfully and has managed to raise over £1 million!

Greg Whyte has helped to raise
£30million
for Comic Relief and Sport Relief projects



Lee Mack





Brunel in Print

For the love of I...

by **Patsy Jawo (Communication & Information Studies, 1999)**

"Scrolling through the verse will mine a beautiful truth from this poetic author. She demonstrates the hidden secrets of the universe in her metaphors and prose and offers a continuing invitation to be true to the expressions of the heart. Patsy's truthful verse can open a vision towards the wealth and beauty of a new life hidden, silently sleeping within our imagination and dreams." – Julie-Ann Harper; Director, Pickawoowo Publishing Group

Resta Um

by **Isabela Noronha (Creative Writing, 2012)**

Lucia is a mathematician with a promising career at Sao Paulo University. When her only daughter Amélia disappears, leaving no trace, it shakes her ultra-rational worldview. There is no longer safety in numbers. Years later her marriage is behind her and her career is in ruins, but in the face of all the evidence, she has refused to give up the search for her lost child. And then one day she gets an email that changes everything, an email from someone who claims to know where her daughter is...

Ben the Outside Dog

by **Jenna Rothwell (Modern Drama Studies, 2005)**

First read 'Ben The Farm Dog,' then flip the book over to read 'Ben and The Fox.'

Two books in one that follows Ben's full day adventures on Cownley Farm. There's no rest for a Farm Dog. When you are all tucked up in bed, when the sun goes down and the stars come out, Ben still has jobs to do. Learn about the life and adventures of an Outside Dog.

Brett Bear and the Cheeky Chipmunks

by **Gurpreet Sihar (Film & Television Studies, 2013; Creative Writing, 2014) and Fran Clark (Creative Writing, 2014)**

Kyle and his family are out for the day. It's time for Brett Bear to have an adventure. There are six new friends for Brett to play with and he wants to have some fun. But his new friends are Cheeky Chipmunks whose idea of fun will get them into trouble. Including Brett! The Chipmunks go from causing chaos, to playing cheeky tricks.

Can Brett Bear put a stop to their antics before Kyle and his family come home?

Brett Bear and the Sad Santa

by **Gurpreet Sihar (Film & Television Studies, 2013; Creative Writing, 2014) and Fran Clark (Creative Writing, 2014)**

It's Christmas Eve. The children are asleep. It's time for Santa to deliver his presents.

Brett's too excited to sleep, so he decides to stay up and wait for morning. When he hears a noise on the roof, he goes to investigate and finds Santa and his Reindeer! But there's a problem. Santa is sad and can't remember what he's done with his sack of toys! It's up to Brett to come up with a way to cheer Santa up and save the day.

Another amazing adventure full of magic, fun and jokes with Brett Bear, an Elf, a herd of Reindeer and a very, very sad Santa.

When Mr. Putin Stole My Painting

by **Joannah Yacob (Creative Writing, 2007)**

Ten short stories: A portrait of an unidentified officer bought in Beirut provokes the unexpected visit of a World Leader. A cat tortured in pre-Revolutionary France wreaks its horrific revenge. In post-Ottoman Turkey, a judge hears the strangest case of his life and which leads to an inspiring revelation. A birdcage found in Portobello Road retains the spirit of its former owner and causes a family reunion of a most unusual kind. All stories reflect the author's travelled past and are told with style, elegance and an understanding of the complex problems life can bring, no matter what part of the world you live in.



Taming the Dragons



Deepak Tailor (Marketing, 2010)

In the few short years since his graduation, Deepak Tailor has been making waves in the business world. As the founder and managing director of www.thelatestfreestuff.co.uk, Deepak has won numerous awards, including 'Young Entrepreneur of the Year' at the Great British Entrepreneur Awards 2015. The author of a #1 best-selling Personal Finance book *How to Live For Free*, Deepak was recently featured on BBC's *Dragon's Den*, where he successfully pitched his company to the Dragons.

When did you first come up with your idea for Latest Free Stuff?

I'd been using similar sites for about five years, but none of them were really offering what I wanted. I've always been very entrepreneurial; while I was at Brunel I probably set up around 70 websites. None of them made huge amounts of money, but it was enough to help get me through university – I often describe it as beer money! I settled on fully developing www.latestfreestuff.co.uk because it was the one that had a UK wide appeal, and launched the year after I finished at Brunel in 2011.

What's the number one tip you would give to someone with their own idea for a product or business?

Get started on making an idea a reality as soon as you can – there's no point in having an idea in your head for years. Moving fast and getting your product out there is the best thing you can do to increase your chances of success.

How did your time at Brunel help you the most?

I think the most valuable thing for me really was the community I became part of and the skills I learnt around my degree. Learning to network, to stand up and talk to people and how to pitch ideas was vital. My time at Brunel really helped me develop my soft skills and made me more ready to enter the business world. In fact, nowadays when I'm hiring people I don't just look for a degree, I look for all the evidence of personal development around that.

What's your favourite memory of Brunel?

Is it bad if I say The Academy? I had so many great nights there when I wasn't working on my websites, of course.

Why did you choose to go down the Dragon's Den route, rather than look for funding from a more traditional source?

We're in the fortunate position that we're making a profit. So I approached the Dragons because it wasn't the money I needed at that point, it was a partner who can help us secure partnerships with larger brands and monetise more of our sites offers. As we raise money on an affiliate model, getting deals in place with the right people is all important.

Having said that, you were able to name drop some pretty impressive companies to the Dragons that you already work with: Vodafone, Amazon – how did you secure deals with them?

A lot of them were through affiliate programmes – we would apply to be an affiliate and show them our data and visitor numbers. Some of our best ones, though, were acquired through pitching and that's much tougher. You need to find the right person to approach and put a lot of work into your pitch to persuade them you're worth it.

Speaking of tough pitches, is the Dragon's Den experience as intense as it seems on TV? Is it true that you're not allowed to take any notes in with you?

Actually, my experience before going in was more nerve-wracking. They put you in a hotel for the night, wake you up at 5.30am and then drive you to this big abandoned warehouse where they film. Then you run through your whole pitch

with a producer before going back to the green room. I think I was there for about four hours waiting for my turn.

The actual Den experience wasn't as bad, despite how it looks on TV. I was in there for about an hour and a half, but most of that was the Dragons arguing with each other, which took the pressure off me a bit.

You received three offers in the Den – how hard was it to make your mind up, and do you think you'd have chosen a different partner if the percentages they wanted had been reversed?

Well, actually that was another bit of editing trickery in order to build up the narrative. Deborah was the first one to make the offer [on the programme it appears she was the final one]. As she was willing to take my original offer, and is probably the most well-known of the Dragons (and almost certainly has the biggest contact list) it was an easy decision to make.

What are your plans for the future – are you going to go down the route of capturing user data?

Dragon's Den was huge for us. Our website was almost overwhelmed with visitors during the programme and for the week after. I could have done with about 20 people at one point just to deal with all the support tickets. It has meant, though, that we are really moving forward as a business and attracting a lot more partnerships with companies.. We're also looking to launch in North America and Australia in the near future as many of our bigger partners are international and want to offer global deals. It's a really exciting time for us.

Visit www.latestfreestuff.co.uk to learn more about Deepak's Business (and to get your hands on some free stuff).

Brunel's Innovation Hub supports budding entrepreneurs through providing a collaborative and supportive network of successful entrepreneurs, experienced business mentors, investors and professional service providers. Visit www.brunel.ac.uk/services/pdc/innovation-hub for more information.

Alex Buchanan



Alumnus of the Year

Every year we celebrate some of the outstanding achievements in our alumni community, and the impact that these have on our students, with our Alumnus of the Year award.

This year, we received more nominations than ever before for the Alumnus of the Year award. We saw an incredibly impressive range of alumni achievements and accomplishments, and many examples of alumni continuing to support Brunel and its students. From the shortlist compiled by our judges, the alumni community voted for their favourite. After a close competition, we are very happy to announce that the 2016 award will be presented to Tim Backshall (Industrial Design, 1989).

Tim studied Industrial Design at Brunel at the course's inception, and was part of the first year to graduate from the programme. He went on to have a successful career in design before starting his own business, Integrity, in 1997. The company has two main objectives: outstanding client service and a dynamic workplace environment. The first aim drives them to provide a complete service to clients to achieve consistency across all aspects of their brand, ensuring that the values of the client organisation are properly represented in all aspects of their business. The second objective is to create a great place to work, where people are valued for their strengths, and where the benefits of teamwork create a strong culture around helping others to do their very best for clients. Integrity provides brand services to well-known companies, including Waitrose, Volkswagen, Virgin and CenterParcs, and also in the public sector for police forces, universities and the NHS.

Tim credits the skills and thinking that Brunel instils in its designers which helped him shape both the company and its unique service offerings, focusing on brand implementation – bringing brand vision to life. This also led Tim to look to Brunel in 2003 when he decided to take on his first placement student, and marked the beginning of a long and fruitful employment relationship with Brunel.

In the years since, Tim and Integrity have employed many placement students, as well as taking on a growing number of graduates. Currently, Integrity has 13 Brunel alumni amongst their staff of 19 people. During their involvement with Brunel, Tim has employed 14 placement students, six of whom returned to Integrity for permanent employment after graduation, and 18 Brunel alumni as graduate employees. This translates into 88 years'-worth of employment, with total salaries paid to Brunel graduates and undergraduates of over £2 million!

At Integrity, Tim has created an environment that encourages and nurtures development in young graduates. Four out of the five members of the company's current senior team originally joined as new graduates. Three of them are Brunel graduates and two undertook placements at the company during their time as students.

We are delighted to hear of Tim's success and cherish his ongoing relationship with Brunel. We are very proud to present the award to him this year.

