

BrunelLink

ALUMNI
MAGAZINE
2015

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AS 'WORLD-LEADING'

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ANNIVERSARY



Brunel
University
London



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Brunel research rated as 'world-leading'

Brunel has climbed the UK university research rankings in the latest Research Excellence Framework assessment.

8

From UB8 to the NBA – Brunel basketball through the years

From international stars and national coaches, to local success stories, Brunel is involved in Basketball at all levels.

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New online alumni network launched

We have recently launched a free platform to help our alumni network benefit from its diverse, experienced and supportive community.

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Brunel's 50th Anniversary

We will have a range of celebratory events and activities on offer for alumni in our anniversary year.

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Welcome



In our last magazine, I told you about some significant changes that were planned for the university and I am delighted to confirm that these are all now in place. Our new name, Brunel University London, and our new brand will help us to raise our profile regionally, nationally and internationally, benefiting both current students and our alumni. We have implemented a new structure comprising colleges and research institutes, thereby enabling collaboration between different departments to share best practice and build on our excellence in research. We are also investing millions of pounds in campus developments over the next few years. Read about these exciting developments on page four.

One of the highlights of the last year was the outcome of the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014. The 2014 results lift Brunel to 33rd among the UK's universities for research power – up from 37th in 2008. Our REF scores confirm Brunel is firmly within the top quarter of research universities in the UK. It is particularly rewarding that the significant impact of our research has been recognised for the first time. This achievement shows the importance of research that has a demonstrable public benefit – and we have shown we are extremely good at it. You can read more about our research on page six.

We have also had further success in other league tables. Brunel has jumped significantly in the 'Times Higher University World Rankings', and now sits among the top 250 universities in the world. We have also raised our 'QS University World Ranking' by five places since last year. The university was again named as one of London's top universities for student satisfaction, according to the National Student Survey in 2014, and three subjects have moved into the top ten in the Guardian newspaper's 'UK Subject Tables 2015'.

We have also had some outstanding achievements in our alumni community, including two BAFTAs, two

Commonwealth medals (page 26), and other various awards. Recent graduate, Solveiga Pakštaitė has had an incredible graduation year winning the James Dyson UK Award and the Mayor of London's Low Carbon Entrepreneur Award (page 17) for her innovative food expiry label design.

We are now looking ahead to our 50th anniversary year in 2016. We will be celebrating half a century of exceptional Brunel achievements, and there will be lots of ways for you to get involved. If you would like to be kept informed about events and opportunities, please ensure the Alumni Office has an up-to-date email address for you, using the contact details opposite. And be sure not to miss our Alumni Weekend on 2–3 July 2016 (page 31). We will also be hosting a number of alumni events overseas in the coming year and will let you have details of these shortly.

Finally, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the hundreds of alumni that have supported Brunel through volunteering, mentoring, offering work placements and graduate jobs, and to all those making donations to scholarships and prizes. You are enriching the lives of our students and providing them with invaluable opportunities to help them make a highly successful transition into employment.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julia Buckingham". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Julia Buckingham
Vice-Chancellor and President

Brunel Developments



A new centre will help teaching and learning

£150 million vision of the future

Brunel has set out its vision for its future campus, with a total planned investment of £150 million over the next five years, bringing the total investment to £550 million over 15 years. The university's Council has agreed a vision that improves facilities across teaching, learning, research and the student experience, and have asked the leadership team to continue to develop plans for

- a state of the art teaching and learning centre
- a new engineering complex
- a new Sports, Health and Wellbeing Centre

Professor Julia Buckingham explained the plans, "Brunel University London has begun a process of transformation which has already brought successes in student satisfaction and international reputation. This new investment will help us to ensure that, as London's only single campus university, our facilities continue to keep pace with our achievements".

Jane Kelly, Chair of Council, added, "These developments will strengthen our teaching and research and enrich our campus life, bringing benefits for all our staff and students as well as the local community. I am delighted to support these exciting plans and look forward to watching the plans take shape over the next five years".

Brunel awarded £5 million to boost to balance the gender gap

Ambitious plans by Brunel to re-balance the gender gap in science, engineering, technology and maths-based careers have been boosted by a £5 million capital grant from the Higher Education Funding Council for England.

Brunel will refurbish its facilities to grow its engineering undergraduate programmes five per cent a year for the next five years and further increase those taking the apprenticeship route through its sponsorship of the Heathrow Aviation Engineering University Technical College.

But key to the growth plans is working with schools and other stakeholders to create a step-change in the number of girls studying engineering and science subjects; at first locally in West London, and then nationwide.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Geoff Rodgers said: "Our

new facilities will be the springboard for a large increase in desperately needed engineering and other STEM subject graduates, and will take an integrated approach to attracting many more girls into studying maths, physics and computing to A-level and beyond.

"At the heart of our new facilities will be a STEM Outreach Lab which will wow up to 30,000 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.

"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.

"We also know from our pilot 'Women in Engineering programme' that female STEM students hugely benefit from mentoring and soft skills training and we will be looking at extending our current scheme to undergraduate and Diploma in Engineering level.

"But as one of the UK's top ten universities for STEM and one of the largest, we know we have a wider responsibility to helping crack the gender imbalance issue so we plan to become a national centre of excellence bringing industry, education and policy-makers together to solve it once and for all."

FACTS

Brunel will refurbish its facilities to grow its engineering undergraduate programmes five per cent a year for the next five years

STEM Outreach Lab will wow up to 30,000 school pupils a year on and off campus

Brunel reveals new identity and structure

You may have noticed that Brunel Link has something of a new look this year.

We adopted a new logo and a unified brand identity in response to the results of an audit, which identified the need to not only raise the profile of the university, but to clarify our position within the Higher Education sector and our location in London.

The first stage involved interviewing 80 external and internal people on a range of topics relating to the university's reputation and ability to communicate. From the findings we developed a detailed report, examining the evidence and themes put forward by interviewees. The report also included detailed sections on peer analysis, communications function and best practice as well as a qualitative survey with 500 Brunel alumni.

Utilising the findings from the report, we held a workshop and focus group to examine how we could turn Brunel's communications into refreshed messaging with a potential new visual identity. Re-introducing the crest to the new logo design reflected the feedback given from current students who felt that it "... represents that we are a credible, serious establishment."



The Central Research Laboratory will nurture innovation

With three Colleges and three Research Institutes, the new university structure will facilitate collaboration and the sharing of best practice. The new structure will ensure the sustainability of the university and enhance our national and international standing.

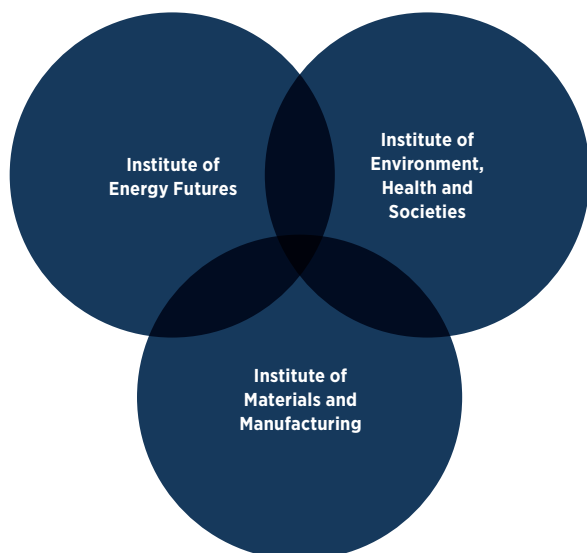
Brunel is working with the Cathedral Group on the development of an exciting innovation facility at The Old Vinyl Factory, at what used to be the EMI site in Hayes. As well as custom-built studio and incubator accommodation,

the Central Research Laboratory (CRL) will include a Fabrication and Prototype Production Space.

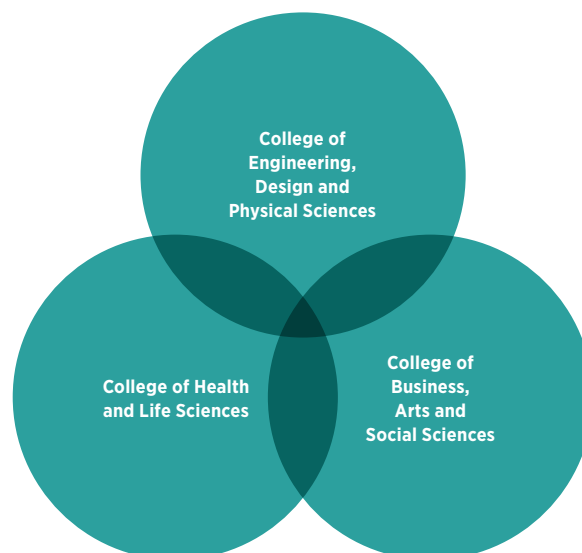
With its focus on manufacturing, the space will be available to students, alumni and local SMEs and various support packages are being developed to include facilities, funding opportunities, business support and mentoring.

The full facility is expected to open in the spring of 2016. If you would like further information, please email alumni@brunel.ac.uk.

RESEARCH INSTITUTES



COLLEGES



Brunel research rated as 'world-leading'



Public health and earth sciences saw 100 per cent of research graded as 'world-leading'

Research Excellence Framework results

Brunel has climbed the UK university research rankings by matching quality with quantity in the 2014 Research Excellence Framework (REF). Cited by the Times Higher Education as one of two universities to have shone the brightest in the assessment, Brunel rose 35 places to 40th.

Five areas of study had 100 percent of their submitted research impact recognised as world-leading or internationally excellent, placing them among the best in the country. These subjects were public health, sports science, art and design, politics, and environmental and earth sciences.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Our world leading research has increased by 54%

Percentage of 3* and 4* research is 61%

Work from a total of 577 researchers was entered in 2014, compared to 534 in 2008

100% of the impact of five units of assessment is world leading and internationally excellent

Engineering and Design ranked amongst London's biggest and best

Sports Sciences takes top five finish in the UK

For full details of Brunel's results, visit www.brunel.ac.uk/research/ref-2014

Drug and alcohol courts

Brunel has found great success in guiding government policy in the UK and internationally – something that has been recognised in its REF2014 success.

Painstaking research into specialist courts for families with drug or alcohol-addicted parents, led by Professor Judith Harwin in the Department of Social Work, has helped establish a new model country-wide.

Following the team's positive appraisal of the new Family Drug and Alcohol Court model, the London boroughs of Southwark and Hammersmith and Fulham adopted the approach. Such is the success of the new courts, the programme is now being rolled out across the UK.

Step forward in cancer approach

Scientists at Brunel have found a way of targeting hard-to-reach cancers and degenerative diseases using nanoparticles, but without causing the damaging side effects the treatment normally brings.

In a huge step forward in the use of nanomedicine, the research helped discover proteins in the blood that disguise nanoparticles so they are absorbed into cells without causing inflammation and destroying healthy cells.

Using the data from this study, carbon nanoparticles coated with genetically-engineered proteins are being used to target glioblastoma, the most aggressive form of brain tumour.

Professional approach prevents abuse of elderly

As financial abuse of the elderly becomes an increasingly widespread problem, Brunel academics have identified ways in which professionals can be helped to stop it in its tracks.

In the UK alone more than 70,000 older people each year have money stolen from them by people they trust. And with the number of elderly people placing their financial affairs in the hands of others rapidly increasing, detecting and preventing such abuse is an important national challenge.

Many of the most vulnerable suffer from cognitive impairment such as dementia, which can also lead to false accusations.

Professor Mary Gilhooly and her team from Brunel's Institute for Ageing Studies undertook a four-year project to help professionals caring for the elderly develop policy and procedures not only to uncover abuse, but to intervene effectively.

They found that, while many large financial organisations had guidance for staff, little was done to judge whether it was fit for purpose.

Using statistical modelling and quantitative analysis techniques, the Brunel team were able to tease out the most important "red flags" that abuse was occurring. From this, a series of web-based training tools was developed.

Not only did the work raise the awareness of this largely hidden problem, the project also had mayor international impact with the training on www.elderfinancialabuse.co.uk accessed by professionals as far apart as the US and New Zealand.

In the UK, the work has been endorsed by the College of Occupational Therapists, the Building Societies Association and multi-disciplinary fraud detection agency, CIFAS.

FACTS

In the UK alone more than 70,000 older people each year have money stolen from them by people they trust

Many of the most vulnerable suffer from cognitive impairment such as dementia, which can also lead to false accusations

New research projects

Cerebral palsy and resistance training



Brunel experts will lead the study

Academics from Brunel's physiotherapy and biomechanics departments have been awarded £250,000 to lead research into resistance training in young people with cerebral palsy.

Dr Jennifer Ryan, Dr Thomas Korff, Dr Cherry Kilbride and Professor Bill Baltzopoulos will conduct a three-year study, firstly to evaluate how feasible and effective resistance training is for youngsters with the condition and secondly to determine how resistance training changes the mechanical structure of muscles and tendons in this population.

Dr Jennifer Ryan will lead the study of 12-19 year olds with cerebral palsy in London. Anyone who might be interested should contact alumni@brunel.ac.uk.

UNICEF anti-bullying research

An ambitious new initiative aims to end bullying, discrimination and abuse of athletes by establishing a set of global standards for sport.

Formed by Brunel with the support of UNICEF, the world's leading children's organisation, Safe Sport International (SSI) is made up of a panel of experts in the fields of sport, child protection, security, education and sports medicine. Its aim is to ensure that sporting organisations have the advice, education and support they need to develop measures to protect athletes from harm.

Facial motion a clue for autistic adults

People on the autistic spectrum may struggle to recognise social cues, unfamiliar people or even someone's gender because of an inability to interpret changing facial expressions, new research has found.

According to the study by academics at Brunel, adults with autism spectrum disorders (ASD), though able to recognise static faces, struggle with tasks that require them to discriminate between sequences of facial motion or to use facial motion as a cue to identity.

The research supports previous evidence to suggest that impairments in perceiving biological motion more generally may underlie difficulties in social interaction. This is in contrast to suggestions that poor attention skills are at the root of the problem.

Dr Justin O'Brien, from the Centre for Research in Infant Behaviour in the Department of Psychology, and one of the authors of the study, said:

"Existing studies have suggested that biological motion deficits are accountable for impairment in social cognition, but there has been little investigation of facial motion when discussing adults with ASD.

"Our data indicates that people with ASD are unable to pick up on changing visual information that informs their judgment of someone's identity or emotional state, and that this could contribute to difficulties in social interaction."

The study involved 14 participants, each high-functioning individuals with ASD, who were asked to watch motion captured from actors and applied to a three-dimensional face. The moving images were then used to investigate whether the participants could perceive and discriminate facial motion.

It is hoped the research will help build up a better idea of how and why adults with ASD have social and communication issues, paving the way for better understanding and treatment.

From UB8 to the NBA

From those in senior national positions, to local success stories, Brunel is involved in Basketball at all levels. We found out about some of our alumni that are making a difference in the sport.

Leading

Bob Chappell

is a former staff member and Honorary Fellow who led the Borough Road / West London Institute basketball team; under his guidance they won numerous championships and established the Institute as a Centre of Basketball Excellence.

Upon leaving WLIHE, Bob conducted research including exploring racial stereotyping in basketball. The findings of his research are still relevant today.

Bob is now hoping that the England team will feature in the 2018 Commonwealth Games: "Now, that would be a nice way to finish my management career!" he said.

HIGHLIGHTS

Manager of the England Senior Men's Basketball Team since 2010

Thirty years' involvement in International Basketball

Six World University Games

Honorary Life President of the British Universities Sports Association for services to British University basketball

Four European Championships

Coaching

Mick Bett

(Maths and PE, BRC) was an international U17, U19 and senior player and in 1983 he represented GB at the World University Games in Edmonton. He is now a coach, teacher and commentator (Eurosport 2, Livebasketball.tv, 2012 Olympics).

HIGHLIGHTS

Forty three England caps

First player to go on to coach the national team when he coached England at a European Qualifying Tournament in 1992

Assistant Coach at the World University Games in Sicily in 1997

Basketball Coach at TASIS (The American School in England) for 28 years

Coached the winning team in the National Championships three times

Coach of the Year with Thames Valley Tigers in 1993 and 1994

Mark Clark

(PE and History 1984, Borough Road College) is GB Regional Institute Director at Barking Abbey Academy, nurturing young elite basketball players.

HIGHLIGHTS

Coached the GB Senior Women to promotion to Division A of the European Championships in 2007

England Basketball Senior Coach

Coached female national teams at U16, U18, U19 and Senior level

Coached England to the Commonwealth Championship Gold Medal in 1991

Assistant Coach for the Commonwealth Games Bronze Medal team in 2006

Assistant Coach for London Leopards winning back to back national titles and the National Cup



Alan Keane (left) and Peter Daines (right)

Other notable Brunel coaches

Alan Keane

(Physical Education 2006) is England Under 16 Men's Head Coach, London Regional Head Coach, London Area Performance Centre Head Coach and Head Coach at London Greenhouse Pioneers.

Peter Daines

(Sport Sciences & Leisure Management, 1997) is England Under 16 Team Manager and GB National co-ordinator of basketball in Prep schools. He coached Yateley Manor Prep to the National Prep Schools U13 Basketball title in 2014 and currently runs and plays for Yateley Silverbacks.

Together these two alumni led the England U16 Men into the top flight of European basketball in 2014.



Dan Lloyd (15), Mick Bett (9) and Paul Stimpson (8), Crystal Palace 1982/3

Nurturing

Dan Lloyd

(Sports Sciences 1996) moved to the UK from the USA in 1978, where he had played for Western Carolina University on a basketball scholarship.

Dan's exposure to elite level sport encouraged him to learn more about how to make players better, so he embarked upon studies at Brunel, saying it was "one of my proudest achievements being awarded the MSc in Sports Science".

Dan took his extensive experience and fed it back into the development of young players, taking on a job at Uxbridge College where he set up the Basketball Academy. He is now Head of School – Sport, Leisure and Public Services at the College. His team works hard to develop the talent of their students and he has seen several players invited to trial for the England U20 team. Some Uxbridge players continue to visit Brunel to see the 1st team, as well as the Brunel Ducks, in action.

Playing

Michael Olowokandi

studied Mechanical Engineering at Brunel in the early 1990s, where he played a number of sports, including athletics, rugby and cricket. But at seven feet tall, he realised his future lay in basketball. Michael moved to the University of the Pacific in California on a basketball scholarship where he represented the Tigers. He played professionally until 2007.

HIGHLIGHTS

Won 1998 Big West Conference Player of the Year

Number one pick in the 1998 NBA draft where he was selected as a centre by the LA Clippers

Played for Minnesota Timberwolves for the 2003–04 NBA season

Scored 4,135 points and 3,414 rebounds in his NBA career

Paul Stimpson

(Education 1981) made over 120 senior international appearances for England and GB. He is a former England captain who represented his country on a record 112 occasions. He was England Player of the Year in 1980 and played club basketball at Crystal Palace, Brunel and Kingston. He now heads up the television department at the International Basketball Federation in Geneva (FIBA).

Promoting

Sam Neter (cover photo)

played for, captained and chaired the basketball team at Brunel. He left with first class honours (Sports Science – Exercise & Fitness, 2008) and a huge enthusiasm for the sport. He was England Player of the Year in 1980 and played club basketball at Crystal Palace, Brunel and Kingston. He took a role with Albion London, as part of a grass-roots campaign, 'Back British Basketball', to promote the GB national basketball teams.

He launched his website, Hoopsfix in 2010. "For me growing up, there was no way of following top young players in this country or being able to keep up to date with the news because it doesn't really get any media coverage. So I thought 'why don't I do it?'"

Hoopsfix has been a resounding success, providing unprecedented coverage of British basketball. An online hub of basketball content, providing news, articles and video, it attracts over 30,000 unique visitors a month and has a large engaged hoops community. Sam has also launched *Viral Hoops*; a collection of viral basketball content from around the internet. He held his first Hoopsfix event at Brunel in 2014.

HIGHLIGHTS

Played for Doncaster Panthers, Crystal Palace, Manchester Giants and Portsmouth FC Basketball

Coached Portsmouth, winning the league title two years in a row

Fifty-five England caps

England captain from '79-'80

England Player of the Year in '79 and '81

Assistant Coach with England Men

Head Coach of England U23 team

Coach of England and GB Universities Teams

Matthew Johnson

(Leisure Management & Sports Science, 1995) Matthew is Performance Coach Co-ordinator for the South of England and the Lead Basketball Coach at John Madejski Academy for Sport in Reading. He founded the Reading Rockets, a club which has grown enormously over 18 years to incorporate 14 teams, 600 community members, 180 playing members and 80 volunteers. Matthew is now the Rockets' Director of Coaching.

He was on the advisory board for the new National Coaching directive, 'Areas of Emphasis', and previously held international positions including GB U20 Women's Head Coach and was an Assistant with England U16 and U18 Boys and at the World Student Games.

REVIVING: THE BRUNEL DUCKS

The Brunel Ducks were a community led basketball team in the 1980s. After a few turbulent years at the beginning, they won the Basketball League championship in 1987, as detailed in John Kirkland's book *Ducking and Diving*.

But the team disbanded shortly afterwards. After reading John's book, current Brunel Basketball enthusiasts managed to get financial support from the university to bring back the Ducks. They were re-hatched in 2014 and have enjoyed

spending much of their first season at the top of Division Four, with 17 wins and three losses at the time of writing, and a quarter final play-off pending. The team was re-launched with the idea of uniting the communities of Hillingdon and Brunel

behind a competitive Basketball team. The Brunel Ducks currently have a 50:50 ratio of students to members of the Hillingdon community in the line-up.

www.facebook.com/BrunelDucks



Being part of the action: Volunteers

Volunteering is a key part of Brunel life and our volunteering programme is led by one of our alumni, Priya Pallan (Law 2009). The scheme sees hundreds of students giving their time and using their skills to help the community, embedding a sense of value in helping others.

Last year students and staff at Brunel donated more than 11,000 volunteering hours to help others. From coaching sport in local primary schools, to cleaning up the canal towpath, to helping local charities; the volunteering programme makes a real impact both on and off campus. What's more, these students leave Brunel with an enhanced CV and a drive to make a difference in the world.

One of the major events in the Brunel volunteering calendar is Good Deed Day in January, which is run in partnership with the Uxbridge College. This year's Good Deed Day saw students and staff give 900 hours of their time to help others in one day alone. Good deeds included painting a room in Hillingdon Hospital, running a digital workshop in the Uxbridge library, bag packing in local supermarkets, litter picking and cleaning Shopmobility Scooters.

Alumni Volunteers

Volunteering remains part of the Brunel ethos long after graduation. Alumni volunteers are vital to enriching the student experience at Brunel. Our alumni volunteers include mentors, speakers and those helping to organise events around the world.

Mentoring

Our new Law Mentoring pilot scheme will see alumni helping current students by offering an insight into their future career. Our law mentors are able to advise on applying for jobs, help shape expectations of the first steps of their career and even introduce them to contacts.

The programme is expanding in October and we need a great many more Law alumni to be mentors. The programme would require making contact with your mentee an agreed number of times (usually around once per month) through email, telephone or in person and the scheme would usually last for about six months.

If you would like to be part of the Law Mentoring programme please contact us on alumni@brunel.ac.uk.

If you are not a Law alumnus but would like to mentor a student or graduate, you can do so through our online alumni network at www.brunelalumni.com.

“Thank you to all our student and alumni volunteers for making a huge difference to our community.”

Careers talks

Our School of Professional Development runs a series of events throughout the year offering students an insight into different careers. These are based around different subject areas usually involve a panel of alumni who have gone into various careers from this subject. Alumni give a short introduction to their job and students are given an opportunity to ask questions through networking. If you would like to participate, please email alumni@brunel.ac.uk with your course, job title and company.

Volunteering from overseas

If you are unable to get to the campus, but would still like to contribute, we have a range of opportunities where you can support your university community. Whether you could provide a short alumni profile showing where your degree has taken you, or you can help organise an alumni event in your home country, we would love to hear from you. We are also keen to hear from alumni around the world who might be able to talk to prospective students at university fairs in their home country.

Please email alumni@brunel.ac.uk if you are interested in getting involved.

IN FOCUS: TECHNOLOGY TEACHING FOR LOCAL SENIOR RESIDENTS

In November, student volunteers went to a local Community Centre to run a workshop where they helped older Hillingdon residents learn how to use their gadgets.

Brunel Alumna, Kerri Prince (Politics, 2014) took five students for the session at Townfield Community Centre, to help older residents in the community get to grips with iPads, mobile phones and computers. Fifteen residents benefited

from the two-hour Age UK workshop, aimed at enabling them to continue to live a fulfilling and independent life.

Kerri said she wanted to be involved because using technology comes naturally to many young people: “You can hand us a gadget and we’ll know what to do with it. We probably take for granted how easy we find technology, when there are people in the community for whom it is brand new.”

The session was a great success: “They clapped us as we left!” Kerri said. “We will be doing it again in the future. It is an ongoing scheme with Age UK, and next we’re looking at working with the cadets to do something on cyber crime.”



International alumni

International events planned for 2015

We are planning to hold events in the following locations over the next year:

- Ghana
- Switzerland
- China
- Hong Kong
- Japan
- South Korea
- The Middle East
- Brazil
- Singapore

If you are interested in hearing more about any of these events, please ensure your address and email details are up to date by contacting us on alumni@brunel.ac.uk, as will be publicising these by email, on social media and through our online alumni network. See page two for all our contact details.

If you would like to organise an event for alumni in your country, please contact us on alumni@brunel.ac.uk and we will help you arrange this. We would especially love you to hold an event during our 50th Anniversary Year so do get in touch to be part of the celebrations!

If you are already planning an event yourself, please do let us know so that we can contact other alumni in your region and help you grow your local network.



Alumni met in South Korea in March

Welcome

A new face has joined the Development and Alumni Relations Office team; Katharina (Kat) Stobbs is our new International Alumni Officer.

Our alumni living overseas can contact Kat to keep up to date with all the news from Brunel as well as any events taking place in their local area. Feel free to email Kat with any questions, ideas or suggestions for how to make your alumni experience the best that it can be.

Katharina.Stobbs@brunel.ac.uk
+44 (0)1895 265 633



Kat Stobbs, International Alumni Officer

Could your job inspire our students to work abroad?

With alumni living in more than 100 countries around the world, we have a truly global community at Brunel. We encourage our students to make the most of this international network and many graduates look to work overseas to gain invaluable experience.

The university is developing a website to showcase the kind of jobs that our graduates have in different countries to help inspire our students to consider international work experience and employment.

If you would like to feature on this website with a short profile about your job, please contact us on alumni@brunel.ac.uk.

Brunel in China

Brunel has been developing and strengthening links with alumni throughout China and Hong Kong in recent months. In the autumn term, the Vice-Chancellor led a visit to three major cities where colleagues met with around 200 alumni in the region.

In Hong Kong, our alumni joined us for a drinks and canapé reception at the Grand Hyatt Hotel. A lively and informal networking session saw alumni sharing experiences and making new connections. Several students have now either successfully set up their own companies or are working for leading national or multinational companies in the region and we thoroughly enjoyed hearing about their successes.

At the Peninsula Hotel in Beijing, alumni sat down to a superb evening meal at the launch of the Beijing Alumni Chapter. During a jovial networking session, alumni exchanged stories, memories and contact details. Even the local and regional press were in attendance to interview visiting Brunel representatives and find out about the partnerships and connections being forged between the UK and China.



Alumni networking in Nanjing

In the vibrant and dynamic city of Shanghai, an alumni reception took place at the historic Fairmont Peace Hotel. Well in excess of 100 alumni attended the festivities which included a presentation about Innovation, Knowledge and Organisational performance, as well as featuring the official launch of our Shanghai Chapter.

Elizabeth Huang (MBA 2013) said: "I found the event helpful because not only did it allow me to catch up with my MBA friends, it also gave me the opportunity to connect with other Alumni from the undergraduate programmes, which could lead to beneficial business collaborations in the future".

Brunel's Professor Amir Sharif reflected on the trip saying: "It was great to meet up with former students to cement old and new relationships with so many other like-minded individuals who are supportive of Brunel. China is a wonderfully modern, forward-looking and diverse country with a range of exciting opportunities for the University. We will extend and strengthen our relationships with our alumni, other universities and companies in the region in the near future."

Alumni dinners

In the Spring term, we hosted a series of alumni dinners in Nanjing, Shenzhen and Beijing when colleagues were visiting the region. More than 60 alumni came long to three enjoyable evenings of networking.

On Twitter, Adam Horton (International Business 2013) said "Congrats to @brunelalumni for a very successful event a Shangri La, Shenzhen. Proud to be there and hope to help with future events".

Thank you to all the alumni that have joined us at events in China and Hong Kong in the last few months. We will continue to encourage and support this large and enthusiastic community with future networking opportunities.



Celebrations are planned for 2016 in China

New online alumni network launched: www.brunelalumni.com

Join now!

We have recently launched a free new platform to help our alumni network benefit from their diverse, experienced and supportive community.

You can sign up in less than 60 seconds using your Facebook or LinkedIn profile (or an email) and get to work with finding others that can help enhance your network.

Features include:

Job postings

Whether you are recruiting or searching.

Photos

Tag your friends and share the memories.

Events

We publicise events taking place all over the world. And you can add your own reunions, conferences, performances and networking events.

Mentoring

Whether you are looking for a mentor in your field, or want to help support someone else, our mentoring tool allows you to connect with others to share professional experiences.

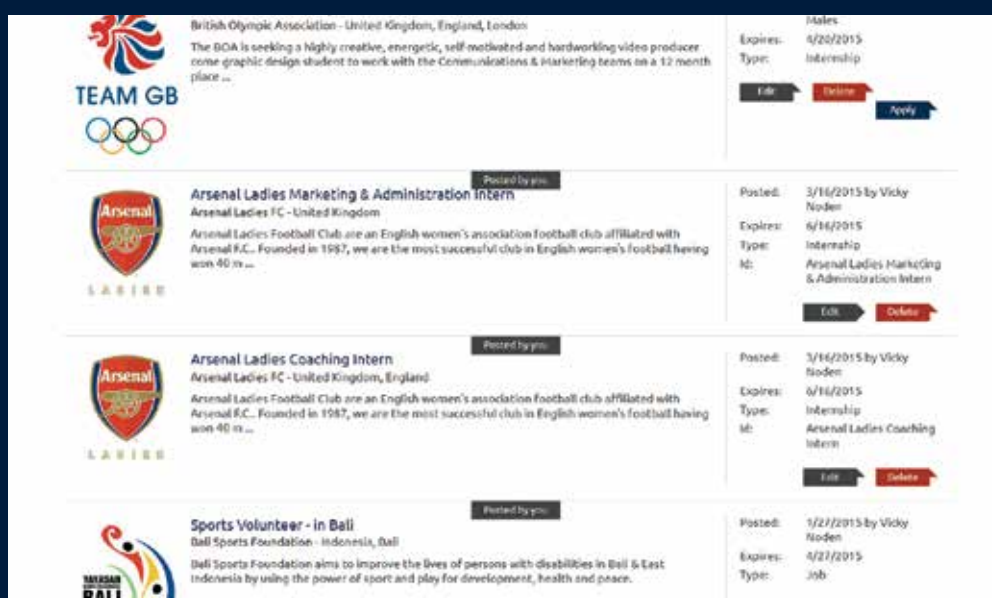
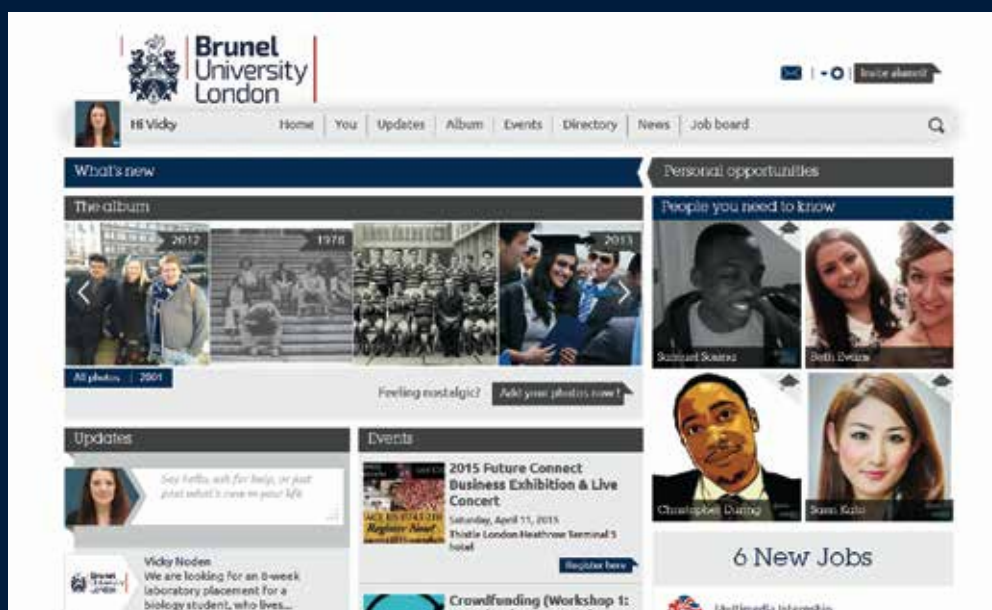
Noticeboard

Whether you are looking for an old friend or just want to post a memory of Brunel, you can share posts with the community.

Directory

If you are changing job or looking to work for a specific company, or you are trying to find old classmates, you can search for people in our directory.





Making a difference around the world

Empowering women and girls in Uganda

Cianne Jones (Law, 2007) is a family lawyer. But after six months of volunteering with International Citizen Service, she decided she wanted to make a difference to the lives of the women in Uganda.

In August 2014, Cianne founded Women in Leadership (WIL Uganda). The grassroots project, based in Busembatia, aims to raise the aspirations of future generations, empowering young women to become leaders in their own community.

By speaking directly to local women in focus groups, Cianne was able to tailor the scheme to their needs:

"We want women and men to get behind our campaign and give women and girls in Uganda opportunities which we sometimes take for granted".

WIL Uganda delivers four programmes to schoolgirls. The 'Leadership' programme focuses on female role models and qualities of leaders, aiming to build the capacity of girls to take on positions of leadership in their own communities. A 'Rights and Advocacy' programme aims to empower girls to realise and respect their rights, whilst enabling them to debate and advocate for change. The girls are also taught about sexual reproductive health and rights, as well as receiving careers guidance.

WIL Uganda also supports adults in the community. Upon learning that two thirds of illiterate adults in the world are women, Cianne knew she needed to work with local women to help them learn to read and write. Mwogezi Sarah said: "I appreciate the work of WIL Uganda so much. I have learnt so much and now feel confident to stand and even speak for others."

Cianne also runs a programme on business skills, and practical sessions help students deliver their business proposals. On International Women's Day, more than 60 women from the local community and local government joined together and spoke about the impact of the programme.

Schoolgirl Kyakuware Perina said: "Before the programme I did not know that women are allowed to be equal to men. I have learnt about equality now and this will help me to live my life without fear."

Cianne is working hard to ensure this project is able to continue. This is how the international Brunel community can help:

- Become a volunteer and help deliver the programme in Uganda
 - Support the programme through the crowdfunding appeal or donate on the website
 - Organise a fundraising event in the UK
- Visit the website at www.wiluganda.co.uk or email enquiries@wiluganda.co.uk.



WIL Uganda works with adults as well as schoolgirls

Mentoring African Entrepreneurs

Alumnus, Dr Jon Moon, (PhD Economics and Business, 2003) has had a very successful career. He launched his own business consultancy over seven years ago and has extensive experience working with blue chip companies, public sector organisations, universities and SMEs, delivering research and consulting solutions. He is now using his experience and expertise to support entrepreneurs in Africa as part of Grow Movement.

Grow Movement is a mentoring programme that connects experienced business professionals with SMEs in Malawi, Uganda and Rwanda. These Volunteer Consultants support entrepreneurs with the development of their businesses through Skype, email and telephone mentoring sessions.

"The premise for doing this is simple", said Jon "if the entrepreneur can grow their business and create good jobs that develop workers' skills and pay a living wage, then the country's society as a whole will benefit, become more stable and prosperous, thus helping alleviate poverty."

The success of projects carried out to date is leading to increased demand and, as such, the organisation is now looking to recruit 600 new Volunteer Consultants by June 2015 to help even more entrepreneurs.

If you are interested in joining Jon in becoming a Volunteer Consultant, please visit the website where detail about required commitments and skills are provided www.growmovement.org.

Brunel designs



ZipZag could transform luggage design and fashion

Taking zips in a new direction

Wendy Howard (Product Design, 2002) has won a global patent for her 3D zip design, ZipZag.

The product is a zip fastener capable of curving in all three dimensions. Whereas a straight zip creates difficult to access openings in many clothing and luggage applications, Zipzag solves this in one, enabling a much more accessible pocket, bag or container. Wendy's design, which uses reshaped teeth to fit bowed lines, could open up a new range of possibilities for fashion designers. Her team believes their compelling proposition for zip manufacturers

could also transform the luggage industry from being commodity-based to design-led. With her partners, Ray Pitman and Andy Honour, she has held discussions with companies both in the UK and further afield in a bid to get the design into production.

After her graduation, Wendy went on to work at Peter Symonds College as a Product Design Teacher before heading up Hampshire design consultancy, Twig Design Ltd. She developed her revolutionary zip design during her spare time: "I was doodling on the train while I was commuting and I thought, there's definitely something here," she said. With commuting hours well spent, and the patent secured, the future looks exciting for Wendy.

Bump Mark – the future of food labels?

Solveiga Pakštaitė (Industrial Design & Technology, 2014) has had an incredible graduate year. Her final year design project has won prestigious awards and generated national media attention.

While researching her project, Solveiga wondered how the visually impaired can check use-by dates.



Solveiga Pakštaitė

She created 'Bump Mark'. Bump Mark is able to tell you exactly the condition your food is in, simply by running your finger over the label. If the label is smooth, then the food is fine, but if you start to feel bumps, it indicates that the food is decaying.

She soon realised that her idea could also help everyone to reduce food waste by giving a more accurate indication of food freshness.

So how does it work?

Sealed inside the label is a bumpy layer of plastic, topped with gelatine. At first the gelatine is solid so the bumps underneath cannot be felt. But as the gelatine breaks down, it turns to liquid and the bumps are revealed. Gelatine is a protein and decays at the same rate as the protein-based foods within the package, mimicking the reaction of the food to changing temperatures.

'Best Before' or 'Use by' dates are often conservative and people throw out food before it has gone off. With Bump Mark, if the date on the package has passed but there are no bumps, the food is still good to eat and need not be wasted.



'Bump Mark' label

When speaking about the value of entering competitions, Solveiga has this advice: "The events you'll be invited to and the people that you'll meet are far more valuable than the time you'll spend writing an application. Your network is everything and the most successful people ensure that it is constantly expanding."

The product has a patent pending and Solveiga is meanwhile busy testing and refining it, while seeking a commercial partner to make it a reality.

SOLVEIGA'S HIGHLIGHTS

2014 James Dyson Award winner
£20,000 Mayor of London's Low Carbon Entrepreneur prize winner

TEDx talk at TEDxHultLondon, Jan 2015

Listed in The Grocer's Top New Talent 2014

1,000 Most Influential Londoners in 2014

Sport

2015 student sport

Weightlifting

Brunel Sports Scholar, Lewis Riddett, became Senior Champion with his Gold in the 85kg category of the English Weightlifting Championships.

Rugby League

Brunel Rugby League team, 'The Big Dogs', were crowned South East Champions in February. They successfully reclaimed the title that they missed out on in 2013/14, after a convincing home win against Cambridge.

Athletics

Brunel student, David Hall, broke the ten-year old Championship record on his way to 400m Gold at the British Universities and Colleges Sport Nationals in February. He clocked 46.91 in the afternoon's final, bettering Gareth Warburton's time of 46.96 set back in 2005. The BUCS Nationals also saw Jo Rowland secure Silver in both the long jump and shot put.

West London Varsity

In the annual contest against local rivals, St Mary's Twickenham, Brunel narrowly regained the title this year. With students competing across a wide range of sports including athletics, rugby, futsal, weightlifting, ultimate Frisbee, football, cricket and badminton, the campus was buzzing with excitement and sporting passion. This was the seventh Varsity event, with the all-time score standing at Brunel 6-1 St Mary's. Despite the historical success of the Brunel side, the competition is always a close one and makes for one of the highlights of the campus calendar.



Nigel Levine

Multi-Medal haul for Brunel alumni athletes

Two Brunel alumni took home medals from the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. Ashley Bryant won silver in the Decathlon. The 2013 Sports Science graduate took to the podium following an incredible PB of 4.07m in the pole vault. His score of 8,109 ensured he took home his first international medal. Nigel Levine (Engineering, 2013) then took home the gold in the men's 4×400m relay.

Other Brunel graduates to feature in the Games were Nathan Fox (International Business, 2013) who made it to the Triple Jump final, and Chloe Spiteri (Sport Sciences, 2011) who just missed out on a bronze medal in the wrestling.

Following his Commonwealth Gold in Glasgow in the summer, Nigel Levine had a strong start to 2015 with his fifth straight indoor 400m title, at Sheffield.

This was followed by an international win at the Sainsbury's Indoor Grand Prix in Birmingham just a week later, where Nigel achieved a Season's Best of 46.43.

Levine was not the only Brunelian on the podium in Sheffield. Triple jumper Nathan Fox won the British indoor title, and Nonso Okolo (Communication & Media Studies, 2011) came in just behind him in second place.



Ashley Bryant

Brazil looks to Brunel for footballing inspiration

Brazilian football is looking to science for answers as it comes to terms with the national team's humiliating 7-1 defeat at the hands of Germany in the 2014 World Cup.

State legislators in Belo Horizonte, the scene of the Brazilian team's shocking exit from the tournament, invited Brunel's Professor Mark Williams to talk on the subject of 'Changing football in Brazil: challenges of renovation' in recognition of the world-leading work by the university's Centre for Sports Medicine and Human Performance.

Professor Williams, an advisor to the English Institute of Sport and the Premier League, called on the country to put science at the heart of its vision for the beautiful game.

His speech, which was broadcast on Brazilian state television, highlighted the ways in which other countries are

using scientific research to inform talent-spotting and to develop elite athletes' performance.

Professor Williams, Head of the Department of Life Sciences, said: "Brazil has given us many of football's all-time greats, but in modern football raw talent alone is not enough. Science is key to bringing the World Cup back to Brazil's trophy cabinet."

Addressing the Legislative Assembly of the State of Minas Gerais, Professor Williams told his audience that cognitive and neuroscience insights on how instruction, feedback and practice scheduling affect skill development had changed coaching behaviour in the Premier League, while training

increasingly took into account decision-making and anticipation skills during high-pressure games.

He showed how animation and virtual reality technology was creating simulation-based training programmes that sped up how quickly players can learn these skills.

The final issue was talent spotting, with too many boys selected by size and strength over potential. He said that the majority of top players are born later in the selection year, meaning technical ability and game intelligence skills are more important.

Professor Williams proposed policy and structure changes to ensure equal opportunity for all athletes to reach elite levels.

FACTS

Professor Williams, an advisor to the English Institute of Sport and the Premier League, called on the country to put science at the heart of its vision for the beautiful game.

He said that the majority of top players are born later in the selection year, meaning technical ability and game intelligence skills are more important.

International study examines homophobia in sport

The first international study on homophobia in sport has examined how often gay, lesbian and bisexual people face discrimination on and off the playing field.

The study, called 'Out on the Fields', looked at the prevalence and forms of homophobia in the UK and other countries, among athletes and fans, allowing researchers to compare sporting culture in the UK with other Western countries such as the United States and Australia. It was conducted pro-bono by international sports market research firm Repucom, in partnership with academics at six international universities and a range of other organisations.

"There has been a lot of discussion about homophobia in sport, particularly in the past year. This historic research has helped us move beyond the stories and anecdotes to collect some hard, international numbers around the experiences of same-sex attracted athletes," said Brunel's Professor

Ian Rivers, one of several international experts involved. "We were also able to compare the UK with other major, English-speaking countries to see how well we are addressing this issue. The goal is to ensure that sports are welcoming and inclusive to everyone, whether watching or playing, regardless of sexuality."

Wales Rugby legend Gareth Thomas, who came 'out of the closet' in 2009, is one of many well-known gay and lesbian athletes who welcomed the research. "Many athletes around the world fear they won't be accepted by their teammates and others if they are honest about their sexuality. I was one of those athletes and I wish, at the time, I understood how many other people were experiencing the same thing.

"We need to change sporting culture so that sexuality is no longer an issue and sport is welcoming and accepting to everyone," said Thomas.

It was initiated by organisers of the Bingham Cup Sydney 2014, the world cup of gay rugby. They approached the world's leading experts on homophobia in sport who donated their time pro bono, because of the need for such research. The experts



The first international study into homophobia in sport

were from Brunel University (London), Pennsylvania State University, University of Massachusetts, Laval University and University of Winnipeg (Canada) and Victoria University (Australia).

The full research findings can be found at www.outonthefields.com.

Borough Road College and the First World War

By Phaedra Casey, Brunel Archivist



“Alas, the College has lost one hundred of its precious sons”

Graduates both recent and distant, current students and tutors; nearly 800 Borough Road College members served in the First World War. Their welfare and whereabouts was carefully and anxiously followed by those left behind.

Some students volunteered straight away, others carried on at Borough Road College until either the call to arms beckoned too strongly to resist, or as the war dragged on, they were called up.

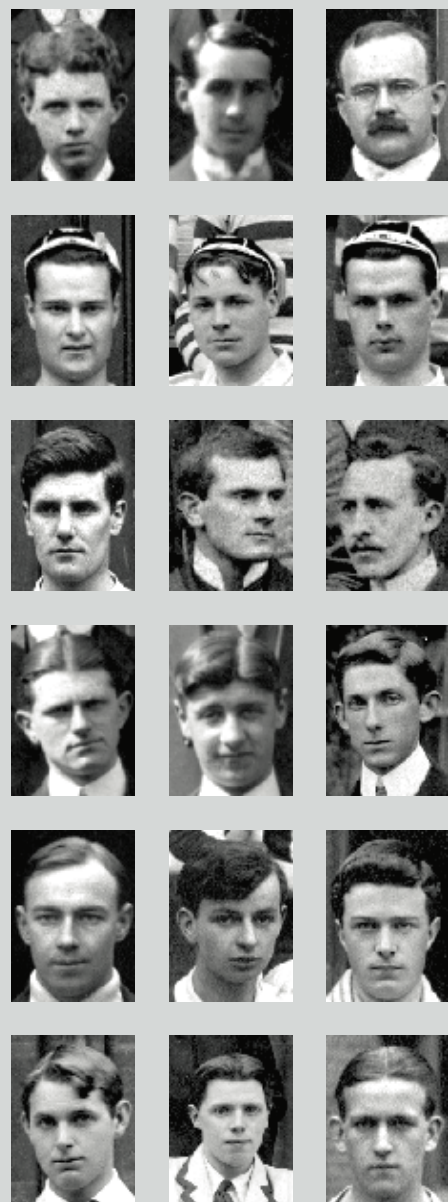
Very soon after the war started news of casualties and deaths started to trickle in. The sad news was occasionally alleviated by more cheerful anecdotes

of Old B's coincidentally meeting up in distant places, and former students on home leave popping into the college. As the amount of information about war service increased the Roll of Service and Old B's War Hum were produced, which we hold in the Archives.

In 2014, the world marked the 100 year anniversary of the start of the First World War.

After a year-long research project, Brunel University London Archives released profiles of the 111 Borough Road College men who lost their lives in WW1.

The profiles of the lost WW1 Borough Road College soldiers can be viewed at www.brunel.ac.uk/services/archives-management/ww1-profiles



“...we looked in vain for the faces of those who had not returned with us as students”

Remembered: of the 800 that served, 111 students and teachers at Borough Road College lost their lives in the First World War.

Borough Road College: The Home Front

Timeline Oct 1914 – May 1921

OCT 1914

The effects of the war started to touch BRC. The B's Hum (the student magazine) spoke of cancelled sports events due to missing of team members.

OCT 1915

“...we looked in vain for the faces of those who had not returned with us as students”. B's Hum 1915

1916

The College buildings were taken over by the War Office as a depot for the Motor Transport Department of the Army Service Corps. The remaining BRC students who had not been called up were transferred to Richmond Theological College, together with students from Westminster Training College.

MAY 1917

Only 26 of the 46 students on roll at the start of the academic year remained.

AUTUMN 1917

Only 10 BRC students remained on roll.

11 NOV 1918

The First World War ends. Nearly 800 students, former students and tutors of Borough Road College had served in the forces and of these 111 lost their lives. They had served both as officers and in the ranks and 44 of them had obtained military honours, including five Distinguished Service Orders, 19 Military Crosses and seven Military Medals.

DEC 1918

“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.

JULY – OCT 1919

The military vacated the college and following extensive repairs paid for by the War Office, Borough Road College reopened to 143 students.

MAY 1921



The stone war memorial which still stands at the top of College Road in Isleworth was unveiled. At the same time a brass tablet containing the names of the 111 men who had lost their lives was unveiled in the college vestibule. This is now in the British and Foreign Schools Society Archives at Brunel.

Made in Brunel



The Doodle Café saw members of the public unleash their creativity

In addition to Brunel's established and popular annual showcase, this year the team launched its first ever pop-up event: 'The Doodle Café'.

Thanks to sponsorship from Santander Universities the team secured a fantastic venue for the four-day event in February.

Based in gallery@oxo on London's Southbank, the team encouraged passers-by to unleash their creativity with activities to get them thinking like a Made in Brunel student.

Guests were invited to doodle on the walls, sculpt with science putty, peruse the Made in Brunel magazine with a cup of coffee, or simply to chat with the enthusiastic and passionate team.

The event was a roaring success with more than 1,600 visitors joining in and exercising their creative muscle.

Joanne Hinsley, Made in Brunel Events Manager, said: "The pop-up was a huge success, with people commenting

on how nice it was to have an indoor public space in the heart of London with no pretences that allowed them to be creative for creativity's sake. No matter what age, profession, or artistic skill, everyone proved a deft doodling hand at The Doodle Café. It was also great for us to spread the word about who we are and allowed us to make new industry contacts".

The team has access to the gallery space again during the Made in Brunel Showcase from 18 to 21 June – follow the event updates at www.madeinbrunel.com.



Leading brands set epic student challenge

Chanel, Rolls Royce and the Early Learning Centre were among the companies putting Brunel design students through their paces, in an intensive design marathon in the spring term.

More than 200 students worked around the clock in the Made in Brunel '24-Hour Design Challenge', in which the team was set briefs by 18 companies – all to be digested, explored and resolved in the space of just one day.

Far from being an academic exercise, the industry briefs were real and each design concept, which held genuine commercial value, was presented back to the company.

Alex Millington, Product Design student and Made in Brunel Director, completed a year-long placement with Lego in Denmark. Thanks to this connection, the students worked on a brief from the toy giant examining how the small plastic bricks might join the "Internet of Things".

This is the second year that Brunel's design students have undertaken this test of their creativity under pressure. If your company would be interested in setting a brief for our design students in the future, please contact us on alumni@brunel.ac.uk.



A showcase of the best work from Brunel designers

FRESH PERSPECTIVES

by **MADE IN BRUNEL™**

Made in Brunel is always one of the highlights of the University calendar. The creativity and ingenuity of Brunel's design and engineering students was once again on show this year with an inspiring exhibition at the Bargehouse on London's Southbank. Hundreds of visitors attended, including leading industry professionals, budding designers from local schools, alumni and passers-by.

Projects included a 'Spider Robot', an ASD sleep aid and a bicycle braking system.

The Spider Robot

With a total of 19 servo motors distributed into legs, head and abdomen the nature of the robot allows it to traverse and navigate through various uneven or unstable environments. It has multiple uses and was even programmed to fetch drinks from a refrigerator and collect mail.

ASD and Sleep

This sleep aid is designed for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder. The bedside character is set to gradually fall asleep during reading time. The action of the head gradually tilting forward, the eyes closing and a light gradually fading indicates that it is almost time to sleep for the child.

Mechanical Antilock Braking System for Road Bikes

This is the first fully mechanical antilock brake and the first antilock brake to be put on a bicycle. By creating a braking system that improves control and reduces braking distances in harsh braking conditions, not only does it make the act of cycling safer but also aids confidence.

To see more projects, visit portfolio.madeinbrunel.com.

The mentors



Almost 80 mentors are involved in the Women in Engineering programme

The journey

Alex first worked for Anaxys developing an asthma and COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) diagnosis and monitoring tool. She then joined Frazer-Nash Consultancy in 2007 and has steadily risen through the ranks to her current role as Consultant Engineer.

"I am motivated by achievement and making others happy, so the most rewarding things I do involve understanding what a customer really needs, developing that into a programme of work and successfully delivering it to exceed customer expectations."

FACTS

Alex joined Frazer-Nash Consultancy in 2007

Won the First Woman Award 2011

For example, while at Frazer-Nash, Alex helped develop a rehabilitation system for injured soldiers to use at Headley Court Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre. The team had to understand the customer's requirements, turn that into a design specification and then create a completely new piece of equipment. This is now in constant use as part of rehabilitation for many soldiers.

Alex cites her proudest moment as the day she won the First Woman Award 2011 – Engineering and Manufacturing category: "This recognised a combination of work I had been doing outside my job, to encourage kids to consider engineering, and also the successes I'd had in my job leading some large, complex engineering programmes and developing new business in the company's Medical Engineering sector".

Women in Engineering

"Unfortunately I think there is still a general perception that engineering is not a career for women" Alex reflects. "I think one of the main obstacles women can face in engineering is overcoming initial preconceptions and having to prove that you are a capable engineer. However, I think the situation is slowly improving and as more women come into the profession then it will be less of a novelty, so less of an issue".

"I think the root cause of the problem boils down to a general lack of understanding about what being a professional engineer actually entails across society in general. When I've spoken in schools about this, I've come across both kids and parents that

Alex Knight is passionate about engineering. Since graduating in 2003, she has progressed steadily in her field, collecting professional awards and industry recognition along the way. Alex joined our Women in Engineering Mentoring Programme in 2014 and we caught up with her to find out why she wanted to get involved as a volunteer.

assume being an engineer means you fix stuff with a spanner. We need to spread the word about what being a professional engineer really involves and make people more aware of the fantastic opportunities for anyone in engineering.

“Doing a degree in engineering trains you to be able to think in a certain way that makes you a good problem solver and able to innovate.”

Giving back

Alex first read about the Women in Engineering mentoring programme in an article in Brunel Link magazine: “I got in touch to ask if I could be involved as I thought it was a brilliant idea to have a scheme focussed on supporting women in engineering at that vital stage of making their first steps into an engineering career.”

Alex has been helping her mentee with balancing her academic commitments whilst thinking about her next steps to a career. She has also helped her with her CV, interview preparation and networking. “My experience of the scheme so far has been great. I have met some amazing girls who are currently doing their MSc and built some relationships I’m sure will last a long time. It is very satisfying to feel like I am helping people kick start their careers in engineering by providing advice and support. It is certainly a worthwhile experience. You get the opportunity to support someone else in to the world of engineering and learn more about yourself in the process too!”

TAKE PART

If you are interested in mentoring at Brunel, please email alumni@brunel.ac.uk

Advice for new graduates

There is an engineering angle to her life philosophy too: “keep an open mind and continually evaluate what gives you most satisfaction and enjoyment in your career”, she says. Have confidence in yourself and don’t be afraid to promote your strengths. Push yourself outside of your comfort zone and take all the opportunities you can to broaden and deepen your experience. Find a good mentor and use them – they will be very happy to help you!”

Mentoring is available to all alumni, whether you are an engineer or not, via the Brunel Alumni Online Network. Simply sign up at www.brunelalumni.com and find someone that is willing to help with advice, CVs or industry expertise. Or you can offer your own expertise to help others.



Mentors share their experiences and advice with students

DIPESH PATEL

(Business and Management – Marketing, 2006)

During his time at Brunel, Dipesh made the most of all the opportunities he encountered. He took a placement at Renault UK as a Marketing Communications Assistant, and became a mentee on the Brunel Professional Mentoring Programme. After graduation he went on to work at MindShare Digital, the third largest marketing agency in the UK, working with clients including Virgin Money, First Direct, Nestle, Form, Pepsico and Heineken. He now works as Senior Marketing Manager at BSKyB.

Dipesh rejoined the mentoring scheme at Brunel in 2011, but this time as a mentor. This gave him the ability to ‘give back’ after

gaining so much from his own experiences at the university. His commitment and wholehearted involvement led him to win the ‘Mentor of the Year’ Award in 2012, along with his wife, Aarti.

“Through effective pairing, we found common ground with the students quickly” they said “and were able to agree what we wanted to achieve immediately. We felt that we got just as much out of the experience as our mentees did and we would recommend it to everyone.”

Using the skills gained mentoring students at Brunel, Dipesh has also been able to progress through the ranks at BSKyB. It has enabled him to coach team members and manage his team to deliver successfully each year.

JAMES DURRANT

(BSc eCommerce 2005)

James has worked at BDO, a national, leading accountancy and business advisory firm, for nine years and steadily climbed the ranks. He oversees the management and delivery of the majority of his firm’s UK IT internal audit services. His clients have included global auctioneers, housing associations, those in the retail and financial services sectors, and universities.

He was shortlisted for Corporate Livewire 2015 Innovation & Excellence Awards.

Outside of work James is very active in the local community, helping with Youth Work in a Hillingdon church. He is heavily involved in mentoring at Brunel, helping to guide and coach Brunel students throughout their studies and beyond. He uses his successful career to inspire others and to help them make the most of their time at Brunel.

Achievements and Accolades



Stills from Jennifer Majka's BAFTA winning animation

BAFTAs

Brunel graduates shone at the BAFTAs this year landing two gongs for their exceptional work; one in the Film awards and one in the Game awards.

Jennifer Majka (Creative Writing 2011) won British Short Animation, for 'The Bigger Picture', which she co-wrote with Director, Daisy Jacobs. 'The Bigger Picture' tells the stark and darkly humorous tale of caring for an elderly parent. The stop motion animation technique involves life size wall painted characters moving around in full size sets, interacting with real objects. You can watch the trailer for her film at www.thebiggerpicturefilm.com and you can see Jennifer collecting her award at awards.bafta.org/award/2015/film/british-short-animation. The film has won multiple other industry awards and was also nominated for an Oscar.



John Ribbins' 'OlliOlli' won Best Sports Game at the BAFTA Games Awards beating tough competition from established gaming giants including FIFA, Madden NFL and Football Manager. OlliOlli is a skateboarding video game featuring two-dimensional levels and a very basic control scheme. The player combines tricks performed with attempting to land perfectly, and failing to do so results in the game awarding only a fraction of the points that would have been earned with a perfect landing. The game was created by Roll7, whose Founder, John (Business & Management – Marketing, 2006), can be seen delivering his acceptance speech here: awards.bafta.org/award/2015/games/sport.

Brunel climbs the league tables

Brunel has risen to 25th place in the Times Higher Education (THE) worldwide ranking of the Top 100 universities under 50 years old, climbing 19 places since 2013. This places Brunel in third place of universities from the United Kingdom featured in the rankings.

In the wider picture, Brunel was also named among the top 250 universities of all ages in the world. The Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings placed the university a band higher than last year, while confirming that quality of teaching on campus has improved every year since the rankings' inception four years ago.

Student satisfaction on the rise

Brunel was named as one of London's top universities for student satisfaction, according to the National Student Survey in 2014 (NSS). Results show that 89% of students at Brunel University London were satisfied overall with their experience at university; up two per cent on last year. It means the university climbed nearly 30 places to 25th out of 154 Higher Education institutions.

Brunel arts subjects move to top ten in UK

Brunel English, Creative Writing and Music departments have moved into the Top Ten in the UK Subject Tables 2015. The rankings compiled by The Guardian, cited Brunel as gaining the most ground in English and Creative writing as these subjects moved from 38th to sixth this year. Music at Brunel also rose to seventh place in the rankings.

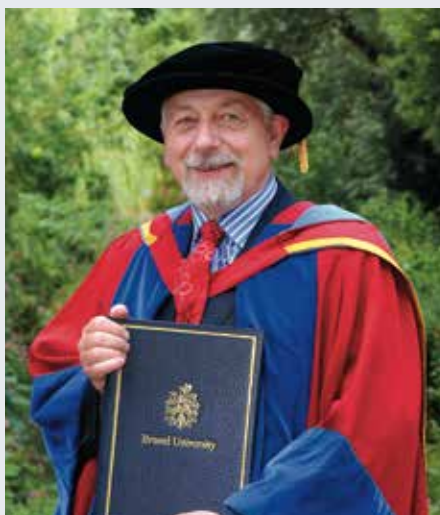
Honorary Graduates

Dr Ewan Birney Doctor of Science

Dr Ewan Birney played a vital role in annotating the genome sequences of the human, mouse, chicken and several other organisms; this work has had a profound impact on our understanding of genomic biology. He is one of the leading lights in UK Bioinformatics and Systems Biology.

Dr Christoph Wiesner Doctor of Engineering

Christoph joined The Welding Institute (TWI) in 1991. After nineteen years specialising in structural integrity, then Research and Technology, Christoph was appointed Chief Executive of TWI in July 2010. He sits on a number of UK Technical Advisory Boards and is a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering, IoM3 and TWI. Christoph has played a vital role in supporting and developing a strategic partnership between Brunel and TWI, that has seen both organisations commit to a 10 year project to build and develop the National Structural Integrity Research Centre.



Professor Richard Parish CBE

Professor Richard Parish CBE Doctor of Science

Richard has been a consultant and adviser to WHO for over 30 years. In 2005 Richard was appointed Chief Executive of the Royal Society of Health. He worked closely with Brunel, playing an important role in helping to establish our Public Health programmes. In 2013 the Royal Pharmaceutical Society conferred an Honorary Fellowship upon Richard. Previous recipients include Einstein, Marie Curie, and Crick and Watson.



Rosie Mayglothing

Rosie Mayglothing Doctor of Science

Rosie has been involved in the world of Rowing for over thirty years, and has represented Team GB as an athlete, coach and team manager. She graduated from Borough Road College. She was instrumental in setting up the Henley Women's Regatta (HWR). She worked closely with Brunel on the development of the Powerbreathe® apparatus for improving breathing in world class athletes.

Honorary Fellows – awarded in recognition of outstanding support for the University

Professor Martin Buxton

Martin Buxton is a world leading expert in health economics. He formed Brunel's flagship Health Economics Research Group (HERG) and directed it for 25 years. His research in the 1980s on the cost-effectiveness of the embryonic heart transplantation programme is widely regarded as one of the first health economic evaluations to directly influence UK national health policy. His economic evaluations informed decision-making on NHS screening for abdominal aortic aneurysms. In 2010 he was awarded the prestigious ISPOR Avedis Donabedian Outcomes Research Lifetime Achievement Award.

Peter Breckon

In 1986 Peter joined the staff of West London Institute of Higher Education and taught on the Primary and Secondary Teacher Training courses becoming in 1997 Subject Leader for Physical Education. In 2003 he received the Vice-Chancellor's Award for Teaching Excellence. At university he was a swimmer and diver, and was runner up in the British Universities Diving Championships. In the early 1980s he competed in the first three London Marathons before completing the first ever quadrathon in 1984.

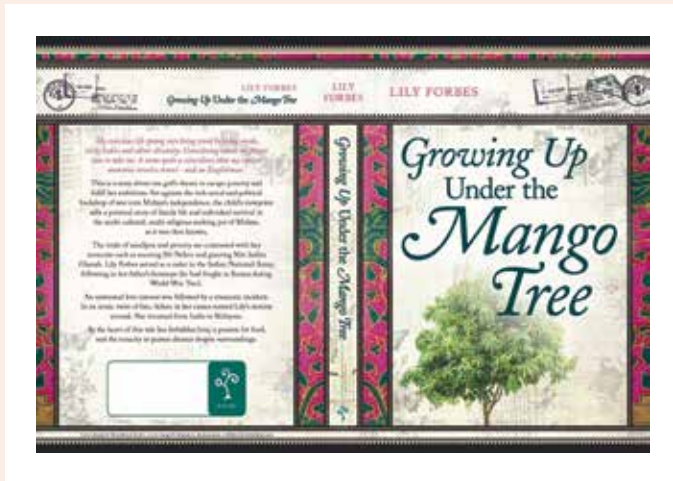
Adrian Dent

Adrian was responsible for the development of Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council's flagship ACME Programme which 'put manufacturing on the map'. He has since worked as a consultant with many universities (and companies) ensuring the best possible case is put to funding bodies.

Professor Celia Brackenridge OBE

Celia was the national Women's Lacrosse captain and coach. She joined Brunel to head a new research centre for youth sport and athlete welfare in 2006. She chaired the Organising Committee for the 2012 pre-Olympic International Convention on Science, Education and Medicine in Sport, completed two major research studies for the Football Association and served as the 'child protection expert' on the enquiry into Jimmy Savile at the BBC. Since the mid-1980s she has become the world's leading scholar-advocate on abuse and violence prevention in sport. Celia was awarded the OBE in 2012 for 'services to equality and child protection in sport'.

Brunel in print



Growing up under the Mango Tree

by **Lily Forbes**

(Social Anthropology of Children, 1993)

This is a story about one girl's dream to escape poverty and fulfil her ambitions. Set against the rich social and political backdrop of war-torn Malaya's independence, the child's viewpoint tells a personal story of family life and individual survival in the multi-cultural, multi-religious melting pot of Malaya, as it was then known.

CONTACT US

If you have recently had a book published and would like to feature in Brunel in Print, please email us on alumni@brunel.ac.uk with a synopsis.

A Lemon Compendium

by **Yasemen Kaner-White**
(English, 2005)

After much research, tasting and travelling, Yasemen has produced a fascinating and varied account of all things lemony, including health, beauty and household tips, historical accounts, as well as countless 'lemonicious' recipes from around the world. *Lemon Compendium* will appeal to those with a thirst for knowledge, an interest in healthy living and a love of the surrounding world, different cultures and their cuisines. The 'must-have' book for anyone who likes to dabble in the kitchen, conjuring up tasty delights.

Yasemen is offering £3 off for fellow Brunelians who quote brunel15 when buying through her website at www.lemoncompendium.com.

Notes from Other Worlds: A Series of Dramatic Monologues

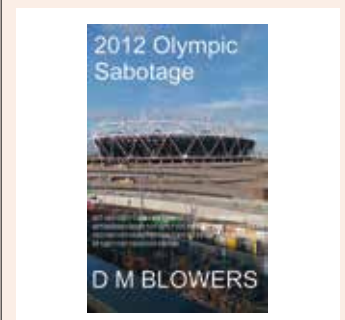
by **Susan Gray**
(MA Creative and Professional Writing, 2012)

Dealing with such futuristic themes as post-humanism, mass interstellar transit, physical invulnerability and a crime scene of hiveminds, this book delves into the ever-changing idea of the character, the human, the individual and the state in our present and future.

Scotland's Islands: A Special Kind of Freedom

by **Richard Clubley**
(Applied Biology, 1973)

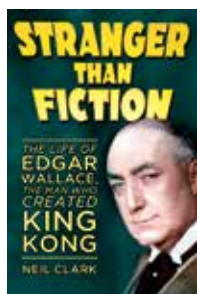
Richard Clubley shares the sense of freedom he finds in the Scottish islands as he discovers their individual character, beauty and diversity. He meets locals and learns a few realities of island life. He almost perished on Ailsa Craig, before finding fresh water dripping from the roof of a cave, but spends two idyllic nights alone on Mingulay, with a fabulous coal fire in a bothy.



2012 Olympic Sabotage

by **David Blowers**
(MBA, 2008)

When British company Eventsoft wins the software contract for the 2012 London Olympics, it is IT Director Steven Foster's proudest moment. But something is not right. Foster gets the distinct feeling that he is being watched.



Stranger than Fiction: the Life of Edgar Wallace

by Neil Clark
(Government and Politics, 1988)

The rags-to-riches tale of Edgar Wallace, who rose from great poverty to become the most popular author in the world and a global celebrity of his age. Perhaps best known today as the co-creator of King Kong, the most famous monster in movie history, Wallace's own life story was almost as fantastic as the plots of his best-selling adventure stories and mysteries.

The Skintaker

by Frazer Lee
(Lecturer in Creative Writing)

Written as a prequel to his 2011 book *The Lamplighters*, which was a finalist for the Bram Stoker Award® for 'Best First Novel', *The Skintaker* tells the story of reclusive teenager Rosie Shields whose debilitating skin condition leads her on a pilgrimage to the Amazon rainforest, which develops into a struggle for survival against the demonic deity known as The Skintaker.

Inspiring Darkness

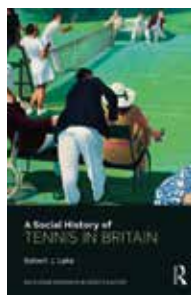
by Harpreet Sandhu
(Environmental Science, 2002)

A true story of an unscrupulous fertility treatment in London and how a mother found the light with her new-born.

Happy Hour at The Misery Bar

by Sean Macro
(English and Creative Writing, 2014)

A collection of 21 poems on the darker and more solitary aspects of human nature, this is a deeply personal, introspective, and at times philosophical collection.



A Social History of Tennis in Britain

by Robert Lake
(Sports Sciences PhD, 2008)

Tennis might be known as the gentleman's game, but Lake reveals how closely the history of the sport reflects the racism, elitism and gender conflict that has shaped British society in modern times.



Saragarhi: The Forgotten Battle

by Jay Singh Sohal
(Politics and Social Policy, 2005)

On 12 September 1897, 21 Sikh soldiers from 36th Sikh Regiment held the small post of Saragarhi against the onslaught of 10,000 enemy tribesmen. Fighting to the last, their gallant last stand cemented the reputation of the Sikhs as the bravest and most fearsome of British Indian soldiers. This is the factual story of their heroism, using primary sources and never-before-seen images Jay Singh-Sohal narrates the historic event as never before – and details why it's still significant today.

Police Culture: Themes and Concepts

by Tom Cockroft
(PhD Criminology, 2001)

This book draws on research from the 1950s to the 21st century from the UK, USA and elsewhere to show how the historical trajectory of police work from its early origins through to the late modern present have imbued it with a complexity that is undermined by deterministic explanations that seek to simplify the social world of the police officer.

Flight Home

by Vivien Gilliard
(Psychology, 1983)

Flight Home takes the reader from late nineteenth century England to the end of the Second World War. The intimate letters give the reader a deeper insight into the lives of the members of two families through which the 'blast of war' echoed down two generations.

Sustainability: How the Cosmetics Industry is Greening Up

by Amarjit Sahota
(Applied Chemistry, 1993)

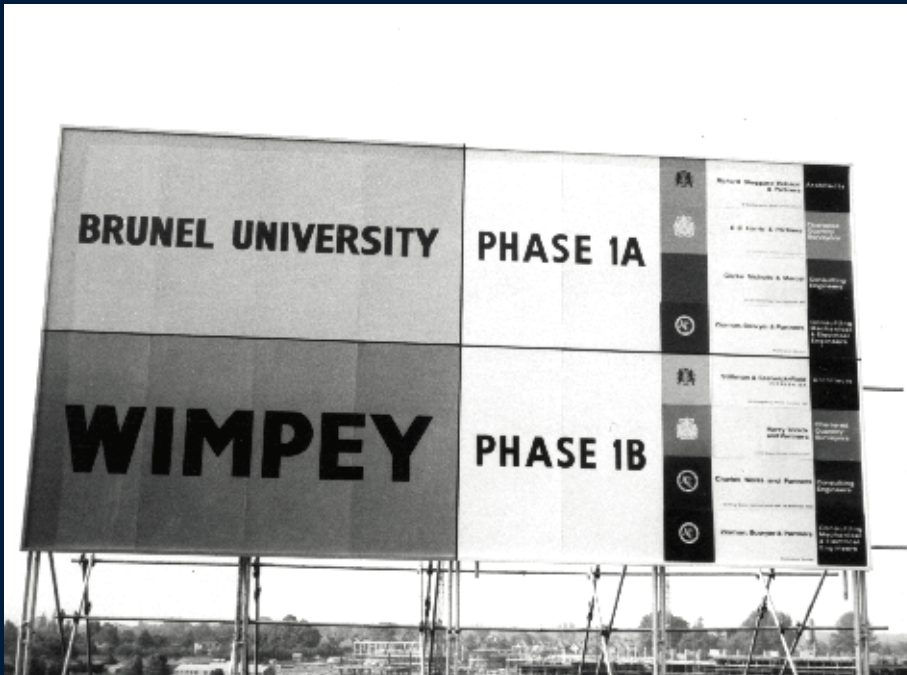
With growing interest in sustainability, this new book looks at the way the cosmetics and personal care industry is tackling its environmental, social and economic impacts.



The Garden of Shadow and Delight

by Rebecca Hubbard
(Creative and Professional Writing, 2012)

An anthology of prose poetry offering the garden as a locus of art, rhythm, healing, vision and remembrance.



Brunel's 50th Anniversary

Celebrating 50 years

2016 will see Brunel University London reach a major milestone as we celebrate our 50th anniversary. Over the next year we will have a range of celebratory events and activities on offer for alumni, staff, students and the local community.

We will be looking back over the achievements of our students, staff and alumni during the last 50 years and collecting memories and photos.

Furthermore, we will also be looking at our predecessor colleges and how they helped to shape Brunel into the university it is today.

This is a wonderful opportunity to get involved with Brunel and to make the most of your global network and we would like as many alumni as possible to be part of the celebrations, no matter where you are in the world.

Events

Alumni Weekend: Brunel University London, Uxbridge 2-3 July 2016

The biggest alumni event of the year will take place on the weekend of 2-3 July 2016 on the Brunel campus. It will be open to all alumni and their families. Details will be available on our website, social media pages and alumni eNewsletters once arrangements have been finalised. In the meantime, please save the date.

The 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 history, eat, drink and be merry!

We are also hoping to hold an alumni sports day during this weekend. Think your squad was the best Brunel team ever? Then get in touch!

If you are planning your own class reunion over the next year, we would love you to hold it at the Alumni Weekend. Please do get in touch and we will help publicise your reunion to your old classmates.

If you are interested in hosting an event outside of the UK, please contact us. We can help you get in touch with other alumni in your region to help make your event a success.

Other events throughout the year will include:

- International alumni events
- Charter Day
- Public debates and lectures
- 'Brunel in Fifty Objects' exhibition
- Film festival
- Arts performances and exhibitions
- Comedy Night
- and many more!

How to make sure you don't miss out

With 122,000 alumni across the world, most of the information about the anniversary year will be distributed by email or social media. If you don't currently receive emails from Brunel, please contact us on alumni@brunel.ac.uk and we will ensure you are kept informed of the anniversary events and opportunities. Please also add emails ending with @brunel.ac.uk to your safe senders list to ensure our emails reach your inbox.

Our dedicated website will have all the details of events and other activities taking place. Keep checking back for details about everything that is going on throughout the celebrations: www.brunel.ac.uk/50.

Your memories

A key part of the anniversary celebrations is the collection of photographs and memories of Brunel through the years to document the changes and developments over time. We would love you to share these with us. See the 'Staying in Touch' section for all the ways you can contact us with your nostalgic contributions. We will collate and display everything we can as part of the Alumni Weekend and online.

Missed your graduation?

If you did not get a chance to attend your graduation ceremony, and you might be interested in opportunities to have a formal presentation of your certificate, we would like to hear from you. Please email alumni@brunel.ac.uk to be kept informed and include whereabouts in the world you live.



STAYING IN TOUCH

Join our exclusive online network at www.brunelalumni.com - upload photos and tag friends, find events and share memories.

Twitter:
[@brunelalumni](https://twitter.com/brunelalumni)

Facebook:
facebook.com/brunelalumni

LinkedIn:
Add Brunel University London to your profile or follow us via the Education section

Google+:
+Brunel University London Alumni
Email:
alumni@brunel.ac.uk

Alumni 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. In a first for Brunel, we are very happy to see the 2015 award go to two alumni...

We received more nominations than ever before for the 2015 Alumnus of the Year. We saw an impressive range of alumni achievements and many examples of alumni continuing to support Brunel students through various types of volunteering. From the shortlist, you voted for your favourites, and after a close contest, we are pleased to announce that this year's joint winners are Greg Duggan (Sport Sciences 2008) and Damien Kennedy (Sport Sciences 2008).

Greg and Damien met at Brunel where they studied Sport Sciences together. After graduation, Greg went on to teach at The Charter School in Southwark, while Damien joined Barking Abbey Basketball Academy as Head Coach.

Then in 2012, thanks to their shared interest in good nutrition, they had an idea for a great tasting but healthy ice cream. They founded WheyHey – the world's first high-protein ice cream, which is low in fat and uses natural sweetener xylitol, which has no insulin response and is recommended by dentists.

“Greg and Damien have shared their incredible experience with students and inspired them in their business ventures”



Greg Duggan (left) and Damien Kennedy (right)

The response to their product was incredible. When their first large order of 1,000 pots came in from Holland & Barrett, the pair struggled to deliver such a substantial volume. The batch sold out in just three days and the customers wanted more. Wheyhey was a huge hit but they had to work tirelessly and pool all their resources to try and meet the demand. Eventually they managed to scale up their production and grow the business.

The company, which is now forecast to turn over £2.5m this year and employs nine full-time staff, was able to grow thanks, in part, to social media. But, in recognition of their innovation and pioneering approach, they also won the Virgin Media Pioneer Award. This

programme gives exciting new companies a range of resources and opportunities to help develop their businesses.

The ice cream has a growing number of celebrity fans including supermodel David Gandy and One Direction's Harry Styles.

Greg and Damien have also recently developed Coco Pro; a new protein-rich coconut water that is designed to provide the ultimate recovery drink.

Despite the incredible success of their business, Greg and Damien recently found time to return to Brunel to speak to students in the Entrepreneurs' Society to share their experiences and advice.

We are delighted to hear of their success and very proud to present the award to Greg and Damien this year.