A PERFECT DAY

GRADUATION IS A TIME OF CELEBRATION
Welcome

The greatest pleasure of my job is to meet our alumni. You are such a diverse group of people, covering a significant range of nationalities, backgrounds, careers and ages – as well as subjects studied. But all with the common bond of the University of Sheffield. A highlight of 2017 has been my conversations with Sir Alan Dawtry CBE, TD (LLB Law 1977, Hon LLD 2007), who reached the magnificent age of 102 earlier this year, during which I learnt of his mother’s connection to the University, or rather to University College, Sheffield, the precursor of the University. Kate Kevan trained to be a teacher at the very end of the 19th century, achieving a certificate in May 1900. We have included a photograph of her in this magazine (see page 44).

Established in 1829, and created from the Medical School, Firth College and the Sheffield Technical School, University College was co-educational from the first across much of its provision. The Medical School caught up with the granting of the Royal Charter of the University of Sheffield in 1905, which stated that, “It is a fundamental requirement of the University to promote equal opportunities.” The first congregation to award Sheffield degrees took place on 2 July 1908, and recipients included 10 women, almost 40 years before Cambridge followed suit. Prominent Sheffield alumnae from subsequent years include Amy Johnson (BA Latin, French and Economics 1925), who also attended engineering lectures here, and famously went on to become an outstanding pilot, flying her De Havilland Gipsy Moth solo to Australia in 1930. In recent months, we have been celebrating her achievements on campus as part of the national Amy Johnson Festival. One focus has been A Moth for Amy, an artist-decorated giant moth located in the Diamond building which has been of great interest to current students. By a strange coincidence, Kate Kevan also has a connection to the Diamond. It is built on the site of St George’s Terrace, opposite St George’s Church, where she lived during her time at University College. A dramatic addition to the University landscape, the Diamond was officially opened by Dr Helen Sharman OBE (BSc Chemistry 1984, Hon DSc 2017) during graduation week this summer. Another pioneering alumna, this time into space as the first British astronaut in 1991.

I encourage you to find out more about the University by joining us at our reunion events. There is much to be proud of – please share the good news with your friends, family and colleagues. Rather than trying to recall a hazy memory, come back and find out what’s happening now and add currency to your own degree. Our alumni are, and have always been, our greatest advocates and ambassadors.
I am proud to say that the University of Sheffield, during a period of enormous change and challenge for the UK and higher education, is an active national and global advocate for the values of learning and our international community of scholarship.

We are international to our core. Our work to strengthen society, to create a strong economy and to answer aspiration has never felt more relevant than during the months since the momentous referendum vote by the British electorate to leave the European Union. Our vision and values as a place of global scholarship are being put to the test.

Throughout our history, we have taken understanding and put it at the service of society. Our truly international community of students and staff work together with a deep commitment to use knowledge for good: we welcome students from 125 countries and 20.4 per cent of our staff are non-UK (European or international).

All over the world, this vision of society is being challenged. Faced with constraints on our economies and unprecedented displacement of people due to conflict, our societies are facing real pressures to strengthen barriers. The desire for the perceived certainty of the past and fears about the future are challenging the way we see ourselves and others.

This is the world in which our students will make their futures, begin their careers, create homes, start families and try to make a difference. On graduation day, young people from around the world join the generation that is addressing climate change, international conflict, food security, sustainable development and demographic change.

During the past year, I have been privileged to meet many of our international alumni in their own countries. I joined the India UK Tech Summit 2016 in New Delhi that was attended by the prime ministers of our two countries. I believe that the relationship between the UK and India in our modern times is most positively found between those who have studied in our two countries. I joined the India UK Tech Summit 2016 in New Delhi that was attended by the prime ministers of our two countries. I found the same in China when I visited Shanghai and Nanjing to develop existing collaborations and meet our Chinese partners in our award-winning Confucius Institute – twice named a Global Confucius Institute of the Year. The UK and China also have much to gain from long-term partnerships, and we are now working together in ways which create opportunity and prosperity in both nations. The links between our University and the world’s fastest developing economy, where we have some 10,000 Sheffield graduates working in all industries and government, are already strong. But these are not partnerships in name only. Our medics and scientists are developing new approaches to medical engineering and novel materials. We are providing manufacturing expertise to the Chinese space programme and working together on industrial processes, such as casting, to create jobs and technical education for young people who may otherwise not have access to university education in both countries.

We have undertaken collaborative research to address shared challenges in medicine, energy and food security. There are over 2,300 Sheffield graduates in India, and I enjoyed meaningful discussions with a number of them. The issues they face – from affordable healthcare to sustainable energy – are the very same challenges which confront our graduates from London to Shanghai to Rio.

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We have taken our founding mission to be a university for the people and committed to putting education at the service of society. As we do so, I am deeply proud that we are both providing a first-rate education to our students, which prepares them well for the challenges of their careers, and that we are also demonstrating tangible public good for those who may never study at a university but who benefit from our work.

I believe that, if the UK really does want to be open to the world, it should learn something from our universities. We are places of hope and excellence precisely because we are international. I have been grateful for the support of Sheffield graduates of all ages in the UK and around the world for the role our University has played in leading advocacy in support of our international universities, inspired to speak by the teachers and fellow students who shaped your time in Sheffield. I can assure you we will continue to do so. The diverse and cosmopolitan character of the University of Sheffield enhances not only the city and the region, but also has influence far further afield.

#WeAreInternational

The campaign, co-founded by the President & Vice-Chancellor and Abdi-Aziz Suleiman (BA Philosophy 2014), former President of the Students’ Union, now has more than 100 universities and organisations across the UK supporting efforts to welcome international students, staff, research and collaborations in higher education. It is backed by sector bodies including Universities UK, the National Union of Students, the British Council and the Foreign Office.

As part of the campaign, we asked our international alumni to share their memories of their time at Sheffield. We received more than 150 responses from all over the world, with some dating back to the 1950s. A selection now appears on the University’s website, on a special section focusing on #WeAreInternational, and we welcome additional contributions for inclusion.

www.sheffield.ac.uk/global/we-are-international

We are international to our core.
The best student experience

The University of Sheffield's Students' Union is the best in the UK - for the ninth year running. The Times Higher Education Student Experience Survey 2017 also placed the University number one in the Yorkshire and Humber region and third best nationally (and the best Russell Group university). The University Library was in joint first place out of 122 institutions, and the University was ranked third for both 'good community atmosphere' and 'good social life'. The survey's categories cover academic experience, university facilities, societal experience, student welfare, accommodation, industry connections and security. The vote reaffirmed the status of the University as an institution giving students an unrivalled, rich experience. The result was the latest top place for the Students' Union, which also achieved the highest satisfaction rating among all institutions surveyed in both the International Student Barometer and Student Barometer, with an overall student satisfaction rating of 98 per cent. These surveys, run in autumn 2016 by i-graduate, compare the decision making, expectations, perceptions and intentions of students from the stage of applying to graduation. The Union was also voted the best in the UK for the fifth year running in the National Student Survey 2016.

Welcome Week.

Sanctuary in Sheffield

Six former asylum seekers joined our University community as students at the start of the 2017/18 academic year, thanks to fully funded scholarships. These were made possible in part by the Big Walk fundraising events that involved many alumni, students, staff and Sheffield residents in June 2016. The Sheffield Walk for Refugees, a three-mile walk from Forge Dam to the Students’ Union concourse, attracted more than 200 participants; the Big Walk itself saw staff walking over 120 miles over six days along the Trans Pennine Trail. Over £54,000 was raised.

In 2004, Sheffield was the first UK city to welcome refugees under the United Nations High Commission for Refugees’ Gateway resettlement programme. In 2007, Sheffield became the first UK City of Sanctuary and, since then, the people of Sheffield have continued to demonstrate their commitment to making refugees welcome. The University is also committed to supporting academics who are in danger or exile by giving them financial and practical help to continue their careers in a place of safety, and is working in partnerships with the Council for At Risk Academics and other similar international organisations.

New partnerships with McLaren and Boeing

Two of the world’s leading manufacturers have announced new partnerships with the University’s Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre (AMRC) with Boeing. Luxury sports car producer McLaren Automotive will open a purpose-built Composites Technology Centre to develop and manufacture advanced carbon-fibre chassis for their supercars. Boeing is creating a new manufacturing facility in the city – their first in Europe. Named Boeing Sheffield, it will bring in-house the manufacture of high-tech actuation components and systems used in Next-Generation 737, 737 MAX and 777 aircraft.

The announcement of these developments builds on the continued international success of the AMRC as an epicentre of regional and national economic impact, a source of apprenticeship opportunities for young people in industry and a large-scale innovation hub for some of the world’s most dynamic businesses.

Time is of the essence

Researchers from the Grantham Centre for Sustainable Futures and Energy 2050 institute shared their expertise on food security and sustainable energy with leaders and delegates from across the world at the United Nations Climate Change Conference, held in Marrakech in November 2016.

www.amrc.co.uk

www.shef.ac.uk/alumni/sheffieldscanner/energy2050.ac.uk/cop22
Memorial honours award of VC

A ceremony in memory of brave doctor, alumnus and Sheffielder Major William Barnsley Allen VC, DSO, MC and Bar (1892–1933) (MBChB Medicine 1914) was held on 3 September 2016 at the Cenotaph War Memorial in Barker’s Pool. The date was significant as it marked the centenary of Major Allen’s actions at Mesnil, on the Somme, on 3 September 1916, which resulted in the award of the Victoria Cross (VC). The Lord Mayor, Lord Lieutenant, High Sheriff, Master Cutler, members of the armed forces and the Royal British Legion joined family members, representatives of the University and members of the public to witness the unveiling of a memorial stone.

The London Gazette of 26 October 1916 reported: “The first shell…exploded the ammunition and caused several casualties. Captain Allen saw the occurrence, and at once, with utter disregard of danger, ran straight across the open, under heavy shell fire, commenced dressing the wounded, and undoubtedly by his promptness saved many of them from bleeding to death. He himself was hit four times…but he coolly went on with his work till the last man was dressed and safely removed.”

Major Allen is also commemorated in the Medical School and the Somme Barracks, on West Street, where a selection of memorabilia is displayed in the Allen VC Room. In 2014, a student competition resulted in an accommodation block being named William Barnsley Allen Court (or ‘Allen Court’) in his honour.

New campus development

Work is underway to create the Heartspace for the Faculty of Engineering, a quadruple-height atrium between the Grade-II-listed Sir Frederick Mappin Building and the 1885 Central Wing. The atrium will be housed under an impressive curved glass roof and will house new laboratories and offices, creating a dynamic social and research space between two of our oldest buildings. The two existing buildings are also being completely refurbished.

Visit www.shef.ac.uk/efm/estatesdevelopment/projects for the latest updates on Estates Development projects across the campus.

All the fun of the circus

The major donation of the archive of the Circus Friends Association to the National Fairground Archive, based in the Western Bank Library, has resulted in the entire collection being renamed the National Fairground and Circus Archive. The NFCA now holds the UK’s largest publicly accessible collection of circus archives, including posters, programmes, handbills and photographs. The archive also covers early cinema, fairs, magic, wild west shows, menageries, variety, seaside entertainment and amusement parks. It is a living archive with close links to companies, show families and performers, and contributes to the organisation and promotion of shows and festivals.

www.shef.ac.uk/nfca

The challenge to Move More

A city-wide initiative aiming to make Sheffield the most active city in the UK by 2020, Move More encourages people to increase their movement in everyday activities. The catalyst for Move More was the establishment in Sheffield of one of the three hubs of the National Centre of Sport and Exercise Medicine. The centre is a London 2012 Olympic legacy project, and brings together researchers and institutions from across the city who are working to create a culture of physical activity in the region. They include Elizabeth Goyder, Professor of Public Health in the School of Health and Related Research, and Fabio Ciravegna, Professor of Exercise Medicine. The Centre of Sport and Exercise Medicine is part of a London 2012 legacy project, aiming to make Sheffield the most active city in the UK by 2020. Move More is a city-wide initiative encouraging people to increase their movement in everyday activities. The catalyst for Move More was the establishment in Sheffield of one of the three hubs of the National Centre of Sport and Exercise Medicine. The centre is a London 2012 Olympic legacy project, and brings together researchers and institutions from across the city who are working to create a culture of physical activity in the region. They include Elizabeth Goyder, Professor of Public Health in the School of Health and Related Research, and Fabio Ciravegna, Professor of Exercise Medicine.

www.shef.ac.uk/nfca
100 YEARS

In their centenary year, the Departments of Civil and Structural Engineering, Electronic and Electrical Engineering and Mechanical Engineering have been holding celebration events and collecting alumni memories on their web pages:
www.shef.ac.uk/civil
www.shef.ac.uk/mecheng/centenary
www.shef.ac.uk/eee/alumni/centenary

70 YEARS

The Department of Extramural Studies was established in 1947, formalising the University’s provision for part-time mature students. Today, its successor is the Department for Lifelong Learning.
www.shef.ac.uk/dll

50 YEARS

The academic year 2017/18 is the Department of Landscape’s 50th anniversary and a series of events and celebrations is being planned: visit www.shef.ac.uk/landscape for details. Alumni and former staff are also invited to share their memories of their time at Sheffield. Please send your stories and photos via email: landscape50@sheffield.ac.uk or post: Department of Landscape, The University of Sheffield, Floor 13, The Arts Tower, Western Bank, Sheffield, S10 2TN.

Over 80 Russian and Slavonic Studies’ alumni, current and former staff, and students joined in two days of celebration to mark the department’s 50th anniversary in October 2016. www.shef.ac.uk/russian

30 YEARS

The Management School was created in 1986 (then known as the School of Management and Economic Studies).
www.shef.ac.uk/management

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Round-Up

Nobel Prize for former member of staff

Professor Sir J Fraser Stoddart FRS, FRSE, FRSC (Hon DSc 2008), a former member of staff in the Department of Chemistry, was a joint recipient of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2016, with Jean-Pierre Sauvage and Bernard L Feringa, “for the design and synthesis of molecular machines”. It was research undertaken at Sheffield into a class of molecules known as rotaxanes that formed the basis of his award. Professor Mike Ward, Head of Department, said, “It is wonderful to see Professor Stoddart’s work in supramolecular chemistry honoured in this way. He, along with the two other winners, popularised the field of molecular topology in which molecules can be mechanically interlinked without a chemical bond between them, or can be folded up into elaborate structures such as complex knots.” Sir Fraser joined the University in 1970 as an Imperial Chemical Industries Research Fellow before becoming a lecturer, followed by promotion to a readership. He left the University in 1990. The influence and impact of his work may be drawn from a few statistics: three of his 1,000 plus publications have been cited by other researchers more than 1,000 times; he has given more than 1,000 plenary/invited lectures; and 500 PhD and postdoctoral students have passed through his laboratories. He is currently the Board of Trustees Professor of Chemistry at Northwestern University, in Evanston, Illinois. He returned to Sheffield in March 2017 to deliver the Krebs Lecture on ‘The Rise of Mechanical Bond: From Molecules to Machines’. He also attended a special poster session where current postgraduate researchers and fourth-year students presented their work to him.

sirfraserstoddart

SIX OF THE BEST

Sir Fraser joins a distinguished group of five Nobel laureates connected with the University:
Lord Florey (Hon DSc 1955) (Joseph) Hunter Chair of Pathology 1933–55) for isolating and purifying penicillin and discovering its therapeutic effect in infectious diseases.
Sir Hans Krebs (Hon DSc 1958) (Lecturer in Pharmacology 1955–65, Professor of Biochemistry 1945–54) for the development of the Krebs Cycle.
Lord Porter (Hon DSc 1968) (Professor of Physical Chemistry 1955–60) for his discovery of flash photolysis.
Professor Sir Richard Roberts (BSc Chemistry 1955, PhD Chemistry 1965; Hons DSc 1968, Hon DSc 1994) for his discovery of ‘split genes’.
Professor Sir Harry Kroto (BSc Chemistry 1961, PhD Chemistry 1965, Hon DSc 1996) for discovering a new form of carbon, known as ‘buckminsterfullerene’.

And 2017 marks the 40th anniversary of the World Snooker Championship first being staged at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield.

And the 90th anniversary of the School of Management (then the School of Management and Economic Studies).

Nobel laureate Professor Sir J Fraser Stoddart delivered the Krebs Lecture 2017 and is seen here with President & Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir Keith Burnett outside the Diamond.
Research in the News

A selection of research stories that have attracted attention from national and international media.

 Revolutionary ‘miniature’ MRI scanner for babies

A ground-breaking, prototype ‘miniature’ MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) scanner, one of only two in the world, has been installed in Sheffield’s Jessop Wing Maternity Hospital as part of a two-year research project into the feasibility and benefits of scanning babies in the neonatal unit. Paul Griffiths, Professor of Radiology and Honorary Consultant at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, and Martyn Paley, Professor of BioMedical Imaging, have been working on the concept and design of the scanner for 12 years. It can be situated within or close to a neonatal unit, and allow new-born babies to be scanned without having to be moved to another part of a building or even another hospital. This means scans can be performed more quickly, and the risks and difficulties associated with moving vulnerable babies are dramatically reduced.

[Image of the MRI scanner]

The greatest Formula One driver

Dr Andrew Bell, of the Sheffield Methods Institute, has used statistical analysis to work out that five-times World Drivers’ Champion Juan Manuel Fangio (1911–95) is Formula One’s most accomplished competitor, followed by Alain Prost and Fernando Alonso, once the effects of team and car quality are controlled out. The statistical model revealed that team effects are more important than driver effects (and increasingly so over time), although their importance may be reduced in wet weather and on street tracks. The study also revealed some surprising results. For example, the relatively unknown Christian Fittipaldi is in the top 20, while three-times champion Niki Lauda is not in the top 100. A similar model could be used to answer a variety of questions in society, such as how much is worker productivity affected by individuals, teams and companies, or how much educational attainment is affected by classes, schools and neighbourhoods.

[Image of a Formula One car]

Unlocking linguistic DNA

A collaborative venture between digital humanities experts and linguists, led by Professor Susan Fitzmaurice of the School of English, is developing sophisticated algorithms to uncover previously invisible patterns and relationships between concepts and ideas in over 60,000 early modern printed texts. The result will be a set of matrices into cutting-edge data visualisations. These will allow the team to explore the history, linguistic features and characteristics of word formation and vocabulary in early modern printed texts. The result will be a set of automated processes that mine the dataset to reveal the evolving associations between words and concepts through three centuries of English print. The processed data will be converted from enormous, computer-readable matrices into cutting-edge data visualisations. These will allow the team to explore the history, linguistic features and characteristics of word formation and vocabulary in the evolution of modern western thinking. “It’s a major undertaking involving complex data,” said Professor Fitzmaurice. “The possibility of mapping the linguistic and conceptual changes that quite possibly started modernity has long been a Holy Grail of the arts and humanities.”

[Image of a computer screen with data]

Revolutionary ‘miniature’ MRI scanner for babies

Susie Thorns’ son Toby benefitted from the use of the MRI scanner, after being born six weeks premature by caesarean section and spending a week in neonatal intensive care.

[Image of a baby in a hospital]

Air-cleansing poetry

A revolutionary, air-cleansing poem – In Praise of Air – has removed molecules that can be washed away. Oxygen free-radicals. In turn, these react with water to make peroxide, more reactive. They break the oxygen in the air apart to make two pollution-eating particles of titanium dioxide. When light shines on this material on which the poem was printed was coated with microscopic surface and section and spending a week in neonatal intensive care.

[Image of a titanium dioxide particle]

Air-cleansing poetry

A revolutionary, air-cleansing poem – In Praise of Air – has removed molecules that can be washed away...
Pregnancy, specialised epithelial cells within the organ gets rid of dead cells and surplus milk. In the female breast to better understand how the cancer. They made the breakthrough while studying which is linked to a variety of diseases including clearing them to minimise damaging inflammation, to gobble up dying neighbouring cells, efficiently have discovered that the Rac1 protein causes cells of the Department of Oncology and Metabolism, its removal in the drying-up period that follows. Over 90 per cent of cancers come from epithelial cells, which is why unlocking the mystery of how they work is essential.


Breakthrough in nerve cell transplantation

A chance discovery during a transplant experiment on the ear, using cell lines developed by Sheffield researchers, could result in a new, non-invasive technique to transplant cells into the nervous system. The procedure was the culmination of a long collaboration between Professor Matthew Holley, of the Department of Biomedical Science, and neurosurgeon Dr Tetsuji Sekiya, of Kyoto University’s Graduate School of Medicine. Dr Sekiya injected cells into damaged nerve tissue in the ear, using a commonly tested procedure known as intra-neural transplantation. Several weeks later, the team discovered that some of the cells that had spilled on to the tissue surface appeared to have migrated into the nerve by themselves and survived. Repeats of the experiment resulted in the cells burrowing into the nerve and then forming functional connections between the auditory sensory cells in the ear and the cells in the hindbrain. The work revealed hidden properties of scar tissue following nerve damage, which could have profound implications for treating neurodegenerative disorders.

- Research published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, www.pnas.org/content/112/26/E5431

Protein helps to prevent inflammation

A team of researchers, led by Dr Nasreen Akhtar of the Department of Oncology and Metabolism, have discovered that the Rac1 protein causes cells to gobble up dying neighbouring cells, efficiently clearing them to minimise damaging inflammation, which is linked to a variety of diseases including cancer. They made the breakthrough while studying the female breast to better understand how the organ gets rid of dead cells and surplus milk. In pregnancy, specialised epithelial cells within the breast grow to form alveoli that secrete milk. When the milk supply is no longer required the alveoli die and the breast reverts to a non-pregnancy state. Gene deletion studies now show that the Rac1 protein is crucial both for the secretion of milk and its removal in the drying-up period that follows. Over 90 per cent of cancers come from epithelial cells, which is why unlocking the mystery of how they work is essential.


A sustainable power supply

Research into sustainable energy is helping Pearson Pally, a remote village in West Bengal, India, to access electricity for the first time. Dr Mark Walker, of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, has collaborated with UK and Indian partners to install a sustainable system from biological waste and novel, solar photovoltaic technology. He led the biogas project, which is designed to provide basic electrical energy needs and has the additional benefit of providing biogas for cooking. The villagers clear local lakes and woodlands of weeds and other plant material and this, along with locally collected food waste, provides the raw material for anaerobic digestion, which in turn produces power. The challenge to the scientists was to make such processes more effective and to integrate them into an electrical energy system. This involved process modelling so the system can be designed to cope with sudden changes in demand.

- www.energy2050.ac.uk

Tackling the challenges of energy storage

As the demand for energy increases, storage systems are needed to balance supply. The University’s Centre for Research into Electrical Energy Storage & Applications has a £4.8 million, 3MWhr battery energy storage system research facility at Willenhall substation, near Wolverhampton. This 2MW grid-connected research facility, utilising a lithium titanate battery, is designed to offer enhanced frequency response to peaks in demand, and is available to be used by other academic and industrial projects for their research and to test new control methodologies.

- www.energy2050.ac.uk

Discovery of the gene that controls butterfly colour

A team of researchers, co-led by Dr Nicola Nadeau from the Department of Animal and Plant Sciences, have discovered that a gene called cortex controls some of the major differences in butterfly warning colour patterns. They studied *Heliconius*, a group of brightly coloured butterflies found in the rainforests of Latin America and also known as the passion-vine butterflies. Their colours warn predators that they contain toxins, which they get from the passion-vine plants they eat as caterpillars. The colours are extremely variable, and the same species of butterfly often has very different patterns. Predators in a particular area will only recognise and avoid the patterns of butterflies found in that same area, which stops any one pattern from spreading to other places. The cortex gene was previously thought to only be involved in producing egg cells in female insects, and is very similar to a gene that controls cell division in everything from yeast to humans.

What inspired you to study and work in politics?
I was inspired to both learn about and participate in politics by my own upbringing. My grandfather read to me from what was then the Daily Herald (a left-wing daily newspaper somewhat more political than the Daily Mirror), a history teacher who taught me to learn about the past but not to live in it and, of course, the experience of my father’s premature death in a works accident and the struggle that my mother had to survive.

How does the University compare now to when you started here as a mature student in 1969?
Most obviously, the number of students, and the range of backgrounds from which they come, has changed dramatically. Both in terms of ‘class’ – in the sense that the massive improvement in the education system has allowed many more young people from disadvantaged backgrounds to make it into university – but also ethnically and in terms of gender. The diversity of background, the ratio of men to women and the range of courses on offer have all been transformed.

What memories stand out from your time here?
My memories are bound into the circumstances in which I found myself; not least because of the struggle I’d had through night school and day release to get to university. I spent more time ensuring that I did not waste the three years than might otherwise have been the case. In simple terms, I worked damned hard, had less of a social life and therefore the enjoyable side of university life, and was far too serious. In addition, my political activity had led me to stand for Sheffield City Council so I was both practising politics and learning about theory and practice at the same time. I had to do it that way, and I have never regretted it, but it was a shame that I wasn’t able to mix a more balanced social life with hard work, and a bit more youth with my growing maturity.

What advice would you like to give to your first-year self?
Make the most of university in every possible way – culturally, socially and personally. But always remember that this is a privilege, so make the most of the academic opportunity to read, to debate, to think and to contribute. That makes for a rounded human being who will look back and think, “That was a phenomenal time but I grew up, and I am able to make a better contribution to my own life and to the well-being of others because of it.”

Why is it important for alumni to continue a connection with the University after graduation?
I think it’s very important for alumni both to give something back, for the privilege and support received, and to be able to play a part not just in helping a new generation but also in the work of the University as a whole.

Where is your favourite place in Sheffield?
I would like to say the Hillsborough football stadium, where I have experienced so many good and so many disappointing times – but just at the moment the disappointments override the hopes. So, on a day-to-day basis, the wonderful woodland that makes Sheffield the place it is – to walk, to hear birdsong, to relax and to think and still be in Britain’s fourth-largest city.

What have been the highlights of your career so far?
Walking into the Department for Education and Employment on 2 May 1997 and to be able to start the process of transforming education from early years through to universities and skills, to see young people getting a job for the first time and to contribute more widely to Cabinet discussion, has to be the highlight of my public life – although leading the City of Sheffield for seven years is a very close second!

The Rt Hon the Lord Blunkett (BA Politics 1972, Hon LittD 2016) is Professor of Politics in Practice at the University of Sheffield. A former Labour MP, he served as Education and Employment Secretary, Home Secretary, and Work and Pensions Secretary. He reflects on his time as a student and subsequent career.
Talking Migration

In today’s increasingly interconnected world, international migration is a reality that touches nearly all corners of the globe. According to the United Nations, the number of people living outside the country of their birth has continued to grow rapidly over the past 15 years, reaching 244 million in 2015. In 2016, the total number of refugees stood at 65 million – the highest since records began. Understanding the many reasons why people leave their homes and their subsequent experiences is an expanding field of research.

The University of Sheffield is adding to our sum of knowledge in exciting and sometimes surprising ways. A simple search for ‘migration’ on our home page brings up hundreds of results, of which a good proportion are linked to active research by academics and students. The umbrella of ‘migration research’ now covers the entire campus. Topics include the earliest global migrations investigated in the Department of Archaeology, the involvement of students from Social Sciences in a Global Forum on Migration and Development in Berlin, and a book on UK media coverage of asylum seekers and refugees co-authored by a lecturer in the Department of Journalism Studies.

One important focus for this work is the Migration Research Group (MRG), an interdisciplinary network of scholars conducting research on global migration and mobility. Its approach is informed by a broad understanding of migration encompassing motives for migration, effects on sending and destination countries, as well as the broad range of impacts (legal, social, economic and political) and experiences of migration in various geographical regions. The Co-Directors of MRG are Dr Majella Kilkey and Professor Louise Ryan, of the Department of Sociological Studies. What is being done in Sheffield is seen as important externally. We are one of only four UK universities to be a member of IMISCOE (International Migration, Integration and Social Cohesion in Europe), Europe’s largest interdisciplinary research network in the field of migration, integration and diversity studies.

An international platform is also provided by membership of a major European Research Council-funded project led by Professor Andrew Geddes, of the Department of Politics, and involving the Head of Department, Professor Nicola Phillips. Entitled Prospects for International Migration Governance, the international team are exploring the drivers of global migration, focusing on Europe, North America, South America and the Asia-Pacific region. Is migration viewed in the same way in Canada as in South Korea, or Germany as in Australia? Many issues are remarkably similar, such as the move of labour into countries with low birth rates. How do perceptions and attitudes shape the governance of migration at state, regional and international levels?

A second strand of the research coming out of Sheffield is the area of forced migration, human trafficking, slavery and asylum seekers. Alongside research activities, staff and students are also helping to form University policy towards asylum seekers through their knowledge and expertise. One example is Rebecca Murray, an Economic and Social Research Council-funded PhD student in Geography, supervised by Dr Deborah Sporton BA Geography 1986, PhD Geography 1990 and Emeritus Professor Paul White, who is investigating widening access to higher education for forced migrants in collaboration with the Helena Kennedy Foundation. As a result of the lobbying undertaken by people like Rebecca, the University
Local responses to migration – that affect the provision of education, health and housing in Sheffield and the region – form a third strand of inquiry. This is an important dimension, that puts into practice some of the theoretical arguments made by social scientists, scientists and health professionals. How do migrants flow into South Yorkshire and the city, and what is their impact on the population already here? Dr Mark Payne, of the School of Education, is running a five-year study funded by the Academies and Enterprise Trust, which explores the nurturing of Slovakian Roma children in a local secondary school, and the whole-school and curriculum adjustments and adaptations made in light of the new arrivals. He has also undertaken ethnographic fieldwork trips to schools and villages in eastern Slovakia, with a focus on the village of Bystrany, west of Prešov.

Dr Payne’s research provides an excellent opportunity to begin to understand more about the impacts of migration and settlement in a new country with a new language and culture, and to do so in the context of a changing Europe and, now, post-Brexit UK. Our researchers are responding to a fast-changing landscape. This isn’t new. Population mobility and the causes of it have been the subject of research for a long time across the University. It has shifted over time across departments, partly due to the pressing issues of the day and also as researchers come and go. Students are hugely interested in migration issues and student societies are very active in volunteering with local groups. The latest Students’ Union elections have seen a focus on calls for the University to continue to provide support for refugee students. Migration is, and will continue to be, a constant theme of debate and action.

Visit mrg.group.shef.ac.uk for details of migration research at the University of Sheffield.

The People’s Choice

Foodhall is Sheffield’s ‘pay as you feel’ dining room and freecycling food network. Sited in a former funeral parlour on Eyre Street, the project has attracted national and international interest in its commitment to taking social responsibility seriously.

It won two Sheffield Design Awards in 2016, including the People’s Choice, and was highly recommended by the Royal Institute of British Architects’ MacEwen Award, which recognises Architecture for the Common Good. The brainchild of alumni Louis Pohl (BA Architecture 2014) and Jamie Wilde (MPlan Urban Studies and Planning 2015), who are now co-directors with architect Samuel Atkinson (BA Architecture 2011, MA Architecture 2015), Foodhall is the result of an app designed by Louis to bring people together to promote food sharing. Jamie explained, ‘Feedback from users made us realise that Sheffield was lacking communal spaces. We took the idea forward to help tackle food poverty, food waste and social isolation. We begged and borrowed to transform the building, and now Foodhall is a gathering place for anyone who wants company.”

Run by volunteers, the building opened as an experiment in October 2015, with the ‘pay as you feel’ café launched the following January. It now cooks food in the onsite kitchen. Clever use of cheap or donated building materials has resulted in furniture and flexible room dividers that ensure the space can accommodate anything from reading groups to NHS addiction groups. The open doors offer an implicit welcome. You can just come in and make yourself a mug of tea.

Foodhall has received support from ReNew Sheffield, the project that works with ‘meanwhile uses’, pop-ups, temporary and entrepreneurial start-ups, and from University of Sheffield Enterprise. Jamie said, “I spent four years of my degree considering how planning can improve people’s lives. I wanted to go on to work on something that could make a positive impact, that was socially useful. Foodhall is a project that we’ve set up on top of ‘real’ jobs – I’m a town planner for Integreat Plus, a Sheffield-based social enterprise, and Louis and Samuel have set up their own design practice, Studio Temple. In a few years, we want Foodhall to have stability, own the building, be open longer and partner with more organisations.”
A Perfect Day

The University puts on its most public face for two weeks each year, as families, friends and staff come together to celebrate the successful culmination of our graduands’ hard work and dedication.

Work goes on behind the scenes throughout the year to prepare for the degree congregations in July and January. The format of these special occasions is drawn from Oxbridge tradition. Our own ceremonies are distinguished by meticulous professionalism, combined with friendliness and a personal touch.

However, anyone graduating today would be struck by what their predecessors of a century ago witnessed at their own ceremony. The Yorkshire Telegraph & Star of 30 June 1917 reported, “As the congregation procession entered the Firth Hall it was greeted by ‘The Animals Went in One by One’… It was impossible owing to the noise of singing, motor horns, one or more whistles, and other weird instruments, to hear the names of the graduates presented to the Vice-Chancellor… As a fitting conclusion to the proceedings the bloods harmonised ‘The end of a perfect day.’”

Order descended in the form of Sir Irvine Masson, Vice-Chancellor from 1938–52. He demanded silence at degree congregations and made strenuous attempts to enforce it. Graduation moved to City Hall in 1947 and it was only then that the required ‘solemn’ atmosphere was achieved. The Octagon Centre was first used for the ceremonies in 1984.

Wendy Hobson, Associate Director and Head of Events, has been involved with the ceremonies since 1996 and overseen their organisation since 2003: “It’s a massive exercise and we work with people across the University to make sure each ceremony is a celebratory, inclusive experience. I think we get the balance right between formality and warmth. Graduation is the end of one chapter and the beginning of the next for so many of our students, and we aim to make sure that they and their families have a day to remember.”

Then and Now

In his speech at the ceremony, Vice-Chancellor Professor William Ripper reported that 577 men from the University had joined the Army or Navy since the outbreak of war in August 1914, including 518 students. The numbers of degrees conferred show how few men remained at their studies long enough to graduate in 1917.

2016/17 (15 summer & 7 winter ceremonies)

- Graduates who attended:
  - Summer: 4,719
  - Winter: 2,300

- Degrees conferred by Faculty:
  - Arts and Humanities: 1,256
  - Engineering: 1,709
  - Science: 1,402
  - Medicine, Dentistry and Health: 951
  - Social Sciences: 4,401
  - International Faculty Provision [Lifelong Learning]: 372
  - Board of Extra Faculty Provision: 31

- Programmes:
  - 25,550

- Certificate:
  - 10,122

- Guest tickets:
  - 19,316

- Paramedics on duty:
  - Two

- Floral arrangements in the Octagon Centre:
  - 21

- Cleaning:
  - Three cleaners prepare the hall between ceremonies: the quickest turnaround has been just six minutes!

Music

A saxophone quartet has provided music as audiences settle at the ceremonies since July 2007, and Dr Sophie Redfern (BMus Music 2007, PhD Music 2014) is the one original member to have played at every one. She recalled, “We’re particularly good at noticing graduands wearing the wrong hoods with their robes. Once, in a sea of 200 red-trimmed hoods there were 15 gold ones randomly dotted through. We helped to alert the Events team to weed them out and watched them make a last-minute dash back to the robing area and then reappear, wearing the correct robes for their big moment walking across the stage. I love being part of such a big celebration. And yes, I played at both my own graduations. I performed in my robe, the Events team were cheering me on, and both times the quartet got a special mention in the speeches. It felt really personal, even though it was slightly odd being on the other side!”

Two paramedics on duty and 21 floral arrangements in the Octagon Centre refreshed every morning.

www.shef.ac.uk/alumni 23
Understanding Disease: the next leap forward

We have launched the SheffieldScanner campaign to raise £2 million for an MRI-PET scanner – the first of its kind in the Yorkshire and Humber region – to transform the way we research and treat diseases. MRI-PET combines the simultaneous power of whole body Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) and Positron Emission Tomography (PET) in a single scan, capturing minute details and producing superior three-dimensional images. It is a game changer in the field of medical imaging.

With this innovative technology, our ambition is to develop new knowledge and treatments for patients more rapidly. An MRI-PET scanner would provide enhanced patient care and diagnosis in the hospital, and deliver insights and impact for a wide variety of serious conditions including cancer, dementia, heart and lung diseases, motor neurone disease, Parkinson’s disease and stroke,” explained Professor Dame Pamela Shaw, Vice-President & Head of Faculty (Medicine, Dentistry and Health).

“The University of Sheffield is an outstanding centre for health research, finding new solutions to the significant health challenges facing us today. Our commitment to bring MRI-PET technology to Sheffield was a key factor in securing a prestigious award from the National Institute for Health Research for a Biomedical Research Centre in Translational Neuroscience for Chronic Neurological Disorders. Investing now in an MRI-PET system will enable us to leverage additional research funding, and attract more collaborators and experts from around the world to work with us in the search for, and development of, better treatments.”

MRI uses strong magnetic fields and radio waves to show detailed information of the organs, tissues and structures of the body. A PET scan measures important body functions, such as blood flow, oxygen use and sugar metabolism, to evaluate how well organs and tissues are functioning. For example, PET scans can reveal how cancer cells use sugar or oxygen, while MRI highlights fine detail such as changes within the tissues of the brain.

The combination of MRI and PET technologies has only been available in the last two to three years. When used for anatomical imaging, the radiation dose for patients is half that of the next best technology. The combined scanner also reduces the need for patients to make multiple visits, and diagnosis is faster because imaging and overall information available from the scan is clearer. Professor Shaw and her colleagues felt that their patients were potentially losing out because, for example, clinical trials testing for new Alzheimer’s treatments rely on this level of imaging to show what’s happening in the brain. Patients who require detailed imaging prior to surgery to alleviate epilepsy seizures are being sent to London to have the scans. An MRI-PET scanner is needed so that patients in Yorkshire can benefit from the latest trials and treatments closer to home. Taking a wider perspective, the research potential of the scanner will benefit patients across the UK and beyond.

Professor Shaw added, “We will be able to measure functions in the brain that will tell us at an early stage whether treatment is likely to be working or not – at the present time, we have to do long studies over several years. Fundraising events are taking place across the campus, and I have enjoyed meeting alumni at special events in London and the US to introduce the campaign. I am also delighted that this year’s Big Walk challenge is fundraising for this campaign. This is a compelling project. We have reached a pivotal moment in our ability to address global health challenges. An MRI-PET scanner would help us to answer major questions about disease and overcome current obstacles to the development of new treatments.”

MRI-PET is a game changer in the field of medical imaging.
Landscape and the City

Valuing green space in cities is vital but also a challenge, particularly where there is pressure for space, resources and development. Sheffield has long promoted itself as England’s greenest city, and the partnership between the University’s Department of Landscape and Sheffield City Council is resulting in exciting, dynamic interventions across the cityscape.

“Our staff, students and alumni are all having an increasing impact locally. We are taking advantage of circumstances and opportunities to develop the outward-facing nature of the department and get involved with real projects across Sheffield,” explained Professor James Hitchmough, Head of Department. “How do you ‘do’ urban green space effectively? Our expertise, based on world-leading landscape education and research, is helping to answer this question as our partners are open to taking novel approaches and risk something new.”

Once the heart of Victorian Sheffield’s nightlife and later the site of the inner ring road, the emerging Riverside Business District has been transformed by the first phase of the £3.6 million Grey to Green Corridor, an eye-catching display of colourful wildflower beds, trees, public art and benches that help to beautify a new urban drainage system. This multi-award-winning project is a direct response to the nature-like planting schemes for the London Olympic Park devised by Professor Hitchmough and Professor Nigel Dunnett (PhD Animal and Plant Sciences 1996), Director of External Relations, Engagement and Impact, and the reputation of the department in the field of urban water-sensitive design. Simon Ogden (MA Town & Regional Planning 1976), Head of City Regeneration at Sheffield City Council, decided he wanted to bring something similar to central Sheffield.

Interaction between the council and the department was already well established. However, a chance meeting between Simon and Nigel at the Institute of Water Engineers some three years ago developed quickly into a far more integrated collaboration. Simon introduced the idea of sharing expertise to transform 1.2 kilometres of redundant roads running between West Bar, near the Combined Courts, through Castlegate to Exchange Street.

Nigel set the whole project as the main output for a third-year undergraduate design studio, and their artist’s impressions and visualisations were used to promote the scheme to the wider council for approval. A further project for postgraduate students, again in collaboration with Simon and the council’s own award-winning Landscape Team, was used to develop the plans, introduce the concept to the local community, and was part of successful funding applications to the European Regional Development Fund and the Sheffield City Region Investment Fund.

The department has provided advice on new approaches to green space design and management since 1998. Increasingly specialising in integrating naturalistic landscapes into the real world, their Landscape Services helped to develop the planting medium used in Grey to Green and enterprise Green Estate has been applying the design of rain gardens and bioswales (to protect against flood), which now form the UK’s largest retrofit sustainable urban drainage system, and on the planting design of the complete scheme.

Across the city, not-for-profit social enterprise Green Estate has been applying new approaches to green space design and management since 1998. Increasingly specialising in integrating naturalistic landscapes into the real world, their Landscape Services helped to develop the planting medium used in Grey to Green and

Sheffield is a hotbed for new ideas.
The Architect of SPIN

Known as ‘The Professor of Professional Selling’, Neil Rackham (BSc Psychology 1966, Hon DSc 2017) is one of the world’s leading experts on sales techniques. Now based in the United States, he regularly returns to the University, particularly in his capacity as a visiting professor in the Management School. We caught up with him to find out what first brought him to the city, and what keeps him coming back.

Neil arrived in Sheffield in 1962 following an intermittent education in the UK and Borneo, where his father was a colonial official. What he lacked in formal qualifications, he made up for with a passion for knowledge. It was this desire to learn that convinced Professor Harry Kay of his talent and secured him a place to study psychology. Neil credits his unconventional upbringing with sparking his enthusiasm: “School hadn’t managed to knock out my love of learning,” he quips. He continued to be an avid student throughout his degree, remembering, “You weren’t constrained by just going along to lectures on your subject. You could go to any lecture on anything. And I did! I don’t think I would have done that had I not been brought up outside ‘the system’.

He was elected Secretary of the Students’ Union for 1964/65 – only the second year of all officers being given a sabbatical break from their studies. He stood for election because he was interested in serious left-wing politics, but then found that running an organisation was more rewarding – a foretaste of his future career spent analysing organisational cultures and practices. His was an eventful year at the Students’ Union, including the President’s resignation and a notable visit by Malcolm X, the American black activist, at Neil’s invitation.

After graduation, he continued at the University as a researcher, focusing on human interactions such as teacher-pupil and therapist-patient relationships. When a colleague suggested he turn his attention to sales interactions, he was unimpressed: “I said, ‘I’m a respectable researcher! Sales is about stealing, lying and cheating, why would I do that?’” However, by his early 30s, he had established a reputation for his data-led research. From his evaluation of successful sales, he created a memorable methodology that he entitled ‘SPIN selling’ – based on analysing a client’s situation, problems, implications and needs. The resulting best-selling book, also called SPIN Selling, involved the largest piece of research in sales history, analysing 35,000 sales calls in 20 countries over a period of 12 years. It has been credited with revolutionising the way businesses approach selling internationally.

Three of Neil’s books have featured in the New York Times bestseller list, he has advised some of the world’s leading businesses and over half of the companies on the Fortune 500 list train their salespeople using sales models derived from his research. So why does he choose to come back to Sheffield? He is grateful for the chance Professor Kay gave him and of the education he received here: “I come from a generation whose university fees were paid and I was even given a grant to live on. That’s a great act of trust and it puts on many of us a feeling of obligation that we were given an opportunity that’s enabled us to be successful.”

He has chosen to respond to this obligation by helping to close a gap that he felt was missing when he studied at Sheffield. “I had a wonderful time here... but there was nothing that taught me how to work with people,” he notes. “After all, the purpose of education is to enable students to be successful and productive in the life that follows university.” Today, students can gain ‘soft skills’ beyond their academic learning – skills such as communication, project management and presenting – and Neil is sharing his expertise to develop these opportunities.

He is leading a group of researchers in the Department of Psychology looking at the effectiveness of individuals and the teams in which they operate, most recently with students from the Faculty of Engineering. The findings will benefit graduates in the increasingly competitive jobs market, where employers expect them to be able to work effectively as part of a team. This is a subject that Neil is passionate about. So much so that, despite achieving international success, he is most proud of helping the next generation of Sheffield alumni achieve their potential.
Keeping it in the Family

We asked readers of our winter 2016 Sheffield Alumni Bulletin if they came from families that could trace their connections with the University through several generations. Thank you to everyone who responded.

For full quotes please visit www.shef.ac.uk/youruniversity

The cross-generational memories, and coincidences, include those of father and son Nick Young (BSc Botany and Zoology 1974) and Dr Tom Young (MBiolSci Ecology 2010, PhD Biological Sciences 2014). Nick said, “I was so pleased that Tom chose to read ecology at Sheffield, and during his eight years at the University I greatly enjoyed nostalgic visits to the biological sciences building, the campus and the wider city. The sense of continuity was heightened by the fact that Tom used the same laboratories, and met Professor Philip Grime and worked with Professor Sir David Read, two of my own tutors from 40 years ago.”

Dr Helen Davis (MBChB Medicine 2011) followed her father Dr John Davis (BSc Biochemistry 1973) to Sheffield. John commented, “I actually think Helen went to Sheffield despite the fact that I went there rather than because of it, but she had heard me singing its praises over the years. She graduated on the same date I did, 21 July, exactly 38 years later. Of course, we both loved our time at Sheffield!”

Several families can trace their links to the University back through three generations, and we have one family with eight members who are alumni. We also have a family of four siblings who all chose to study law.

The Lee/Roper Family

Professor Peter Lee (BSc Physics 1956, PhD Physics 1959); Emeritus Professor of Physics, Lancaster University

Sarah Roper (née Lee) (BSc Pharmacology and Chemistry 1985): Vaccines National Private Account Manager, MSD

Joseph Roper (MEng Civil and Structural Engineering student)

“I feel very proud that my daughter and grandson followed in my footsteps to Sheffield, where we have all made good friends and lots of happy memories.”

Professor Peter Lee

The Watson/Bacon Family

Lawrence Watson (Architecture student in 1945): architect, college lecturer and head of department


Esther Bacon (née Watson) (BA Sociology 2006): midwife, Melbourne, Australia

“I was attracted to a small city that had a reputation as a ‘University Town’. The location was close to friends in neighbouring cities, easily accessible, but far enough from home that I felt I’d made a move.”

Esther Bacon

The Graham/Cumberland Family

Rev George Graham OBE (Metallurgy 1944): an industrial metallurgist before joining the clergy. He was also a respected botanist, receiving an OBE for services to botany.

Sidonie Cumberland (née Graham) (BA Geography 1986): primary school teacher

Timothy Cumberland (BSc Geology 1986): assistant head teacher

Ben Cumberland (Medical student) and Tristan Cumberland (Civil Engineering student)

“Where else can you get the bus for £1 to the Peak District and be climbing in 30 minutes?”

Tristan Cumberland

For full quotes please visit www.shef.ac.uk/youruniversity
The Beckford Family

Dr Diane Cummins (née Beckford) (BSc Chemistry 1971, PhD Chemistry 1974): retired, most recently Colgate-Palmolive Worldwide Director Oral Care R&D

Dr Philip Cummins (BSc Chemistry 1971, PhD Chemistry 1974): retired, most recently Estée Lauder Executive Director R&D

Dr Howard Beckford (BSc Chemistry 1975, PhD Chemistry 1981): retired, career recently Abbott Labs

Telse Beckford (née Hass) (Visiting Erasmus student 1980/81): German teacher


“As the first in our family to go to university, I was fairly naive, lacking in useful knowledge and had no real help in selecting and applying. Sheffield was actually my fourth choice, but after visiting six universities, I came to my senses!”

Dr Diane Cummins

“I also met my partner while studying there – there’s clearly something in the Sheffield water for our family!”

Meike Beckford

The Shabir Family


Naz Shabir (LLB Law 2012, MA Legal Practice 2015): In-house Commercial Counsel and Solicitor, AESSEAL plc, Rotherham

Ihtishaam Shabir (LLB Law 2016): Property Assistant, PM Law, Sheffield

“As we grew older, it became more obvious that we all shared the same dreams and more importantly all shared the same passion and love for the law, its intricacies and its sometimes quirky way of working. The traditional LLB degree was the obvious path into the profession. We were born to be a family of lawyers!”

Sumera, Misba, Naz and Ihtishaam Shabir

Alumni Board

The Alumni Board was established in 2014 to represent the global alumni community within the University of Sheffield. We are an advisory body, working alongside the Development, Alumni Relations & Events office (DARE) to help develop alumni engagement worldwide. The Chair and Deputy Chair of the Alumni Board are also members of the University Council. Over the past 12 months the Board has met three times, twice in Sheffield and once in London.

Among the items that we have discussed and debated are:

- Library access and services for alumni
- The future management and use of the Convocation Fund, following the suspension of Convocation in 2016
- The establishment of University Charter Day
- Fundraising and philanthropy in particular the current campaign to raise £2 million for the SheffieldScanner Appeal
- International Alumni Ambassadors and grant funding of international groups
- Granting of Alumni Ambassadors and grant funding to international groups
- Granting of Alumni Ambassadors and grant funding of international groups

Future items scheduled for consideration in 2017–18 include:

- How alumni can provide support for the Students’ Union
- Developing the Alumni Portal as well as a regular forum to provide feedback from alumni
- In 2018 we also intend to hold the first Convocation Lecture, delivered by a well-known alumnus/alumna of the University
- A copy of the Alumni Charter and full minutes of our meetings can be found at www.shef.ac.uk/alumni/alumniboard. I am always very happy to hear from fellow alumni and we welcome your ideas and suggestions at alumniboard@sheffield.ac.uk

Richard Mayson (BA Geography 1983)
Chair, Alumni Board
Dates for Your Diary

2017

Open to all alumni, the annual Annual Alumni Reunion
Saturday 9 September 2017
On campus
Open to all alumni, the annual reunion recognises in particular those marking significant anniversaries since graduating from the University. The classes of 1997, 1992, 1987 and 1977 are the focus for our 2017 celebrations.

Alumni returning to Sheffield can take part in a selection of daytime activities and tours, as well as a delicious buffet lunch. In the evening, we are pleased to announce we will be holding a four-course dinner celebration, with a live band and special guest speaker, hosted by the President & Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir Keith Burnett.

Pop Tarts Reunited
Saturday 9 September 2017
On campus
All Sheffield alumni are invited back to Bar One to relive memories from your student days at the one-and-only Pop Tarts Reunited.

Heritage Circle Lunch
Friday 27 October 2017
On campus
A special lunch served in Firth Hall for those alumni who are interested in leaving or have left a gift to the University in their Will. Email d.meadows@sheffield.ac.uk or call 0114 222 1073.

2018

Alumni Fund Celebration Event
March 2018 (date tbc)
On campus
Alumni, friends, staff and students join together to thank donors for their generosity over the past year, recognising and celebrating the achievements made through donations to the University. Email l.arnold@sheffield.ac.uk or call 0114 222 5598.

Sheffield Alumni Pub Quiz
February 2018 (date tbc)
On campus
The annual pub quiz is back for its seventh year. Who will beat their fellow alumni to take home the trophy? Invitations will be sent by email in late 2017.

Alumni Sports Day
Sport Sheffield saw a record number of football teams return to the Goodwin Sports Centre to take part in one of the favourite and most entertaining events in the sporting calendar; the Alumni Sports Day. This year 36 teams participated and the final was between Crookslodian Thistle Old Boys and Fly Me To The Moon (last year’s winners). After a full day of football, Crookslodian started to feel the strain and the youth of Crookslodian ended the day shone through, which saw them crowned champions for a second year running.

Tournament winners Fly Me To The Moon.

After the Tournament all the teams headed down to Bar One to take part in the famous Alumni Quiz, and to round off the perfect day with an evening at Pop Tarts Reunited.

Annual Alumni Reunion 2016
On Saturday 3 September we welcomed over 150 alumni back to campus for the Annual Alumni Reunion with a special focus for those alumni who graduated in 1978, 1986 and 1991. Alumni joined us from all over the UK, as well as from overseas, with guests returning to Sheffield from as far afield as Spain, Malaysia and Montserrat. The day was packed with tours of old and new landmarks on the campus, and plenty of opportunities to catch up and reminisce. The evening gave two options – a barbecue in the garden outside the Union’s Bar One or a formal dinner in Firth Hall, hosted by the newly appointed Vice-President & Head of Faculty (Science), Professor Nigel Clarke (BSc Physics 1991, PhD Physics 1994). The Vice-Chancellor of City University London, Professor Sir Paul Curran (BSc Geography 1976) was kind enough to join us as our guest speaker, sharing recollections of his time at Sheffield as well as thoughts on the current climate in higher education, and what it means to be part of an alumni community today. The festivities came to a close back at Bar One, where guests took to the dancefloor for a special alumni Pop Tarts Reunited.

Heritage Circle Lunch
Friday 27 October 2017
On campus
A special lunch served in Firth Hall for those alumni who are interested in leaving or have left a gift to the University in their Will. Email d.meadows@sheffield.ac.uk or call 0114 222 1073.

House of Lords Alumni Reception
April 2018 (date tbc)
London
Join fellow alumni in the impressive surroundings of Westminster for this popular reception. Guests will also have the opportunity to go on private tours of the Houses of Parliament. Tickets are allocated via a ballot system, details of which will be emailed in the New Year.

Alumni Sports Day
April 2018 (date tbc)
On campus
Meet your friends back in Sheffield for the annual sports day and compete against fellow alumni in a variety of sports. Email g.unwin@sheffield.ac.uk or call 0114 222 6966.

Pop Tarts Reunited
April 2018 (date tbc)
On campus
Carry on the Alumni Sports Day celebrations with a trip to the Students’ Union for a night of pop pleasure.

University Quiz Night
Thursday 19 April 2018
On campus
Teams of alumni, staff, students and friends are invited to take part in the annual quiz, with prizes for the winners and runners-up. More details to follow. Email eventsteam@sheffield.ac.uk

Reunion Luncheon for the Class of 1968
Saturday 23 June 2018
On campus
A celebratory luncheon in Firth Hall, to mark the 50th anniversary of alumni graduating from the University. Invitations will be sent out in the spring to all those from this class year for whom we hold contact details.

American Alumni Reunion
Saturday 5 May
Boston, MA
This flagship event for US alumni will take place in Boston, Massachusetts in 2018. Invitations to the evening reception and dinner will be sent in March. To find out more, email helen.rey@sheffield.ac.uk

Reunion Luncheon for the Class of 1953 and 1958
Wednesday 9 May 2018
On campus
A special event for alumni celebrating 65 and 60 years since graduating from the University. Invitations will be sent out in the spring to all those from these class years for whom we hold contact details.

Annual Alumni Reunion
Saturday 15 September 2018
Open to all alumni, the annual reunion recognises in particular those marking significant anniversaries since graduating from the University. The classes of 1998, 1993, 1988 and 1978 are the focus for our 2018 celebrations.

● For a list of all our UK and overseas events visit www.shef.ac.uk/alumni/events/upcoming
In Profile

Dr Chris Sexton

BSc Genetics 1977, PhD Genetics 1983

After 42 years as a student and a member of staff at the University, Chris Sexton retired as Director of Corporate Information and Computing Services (CiCS) at the end of 2016. She guided the University through the transition from paper to digital in the 1990s, the subsequent expansion of the network and the revolution in student learning spaces across the campus. One of her final ‘acts’ as Director was to represent the University at Funny Business Sheffield, a stand-up competition organised by Weston Park Hospital Cancer Charity, which she won!

“I became the Director of CiCS in early 1996, I saw the opportunities of delivering services through the web and wanted to do the job. I’m a great believer in talking to people and putting trust in the experts. I understood enough about IT and what it could do – I didn’t need to understand the technical side. We couldn’t take risks with the underlying network or elements such as the payroll system. However, we could try something new if we saw a benefit. In 1997, we were the first university in the UK to make the student records system available in a browser so students could change their own details. And we were also the first Russell Group university to give staff and students access to Google and cloud computing services. I’ve enjoyed the excitement of helping the University to manage incredible changes.”

Wayne Garvie

PhD Economic and Social History 1989
Chief Creative Officer, International Production at Sony Pictures Television (SPT)

Wayne Garvie is responsible for driving creative development across SPT’s global network of production companies outside the US. He joined SPT in 2012 from All3MEDIA, where he was Managing Director of International Production. Previously, he was Managing Director for Content and Production at BBC Worldwide, and has held senior positions in UK broadcasting, including Head of Entertainment for the BBC and Director of Broadcasting for Granada. He has taken part in our Sheffield connections volunteering programme, returning to the University to talk to students about his career and working in the television sector.

“When I was at Sheffield I soon realised that a career in academia wasn’t right for me. I had no idea what I was going to do and was so desperate I actually went to the Careers team to ask for advice. That turned out to be really useful as they suggested I go to BBC Radio Sheffield, which had a youth access programme. We made a weekly programme and there was a great group of people, a mixture of local kids and students, some of whom have gone on to great careers, at the BBC and Spotify. I thought, ‘This media lark seems a good laugh’ and started to apply for jobs. I got really lucky with one at Granada as a sports researcher. I had the unfortunate job of having to look after Manchester United and Liverpool.”

Guilherme Guimarães

MSc Sport and Recreation Management 2008
General Manager, Ativa Esporte

Guilherme Guimarães is the General Manager of Ativa Esporte, the Brazilian sports marketing consultancy, and former Director of Sports for Twitter Brazil, the British Council in Brazil and Geo Eventos. He has worked on major sports projects, including the Rio 2016 Olympic Games (and bid) and the 2014 FIFA World Cup Brazil. He is a member of the University’s Alumni Board.

“Sport management is a very young science and this is an even bigger truth in Brazil. So it was clear that it would be a great advantage for me to go abroad and learn from countries more advanced in the subject. On top of that, I truly believe everyone should experience different cultures. I started researching the best universities in the UK, and Sheffield was one of the few that offered a Masters in Sport Management. Professionally, the degree helped me position myself in the sports marketplace, in which I had little experience prior to going to Sheffield. Personally, it gave me a perspective of viewing things through other people’s eyes, since I was part of a completely different culture, and people never (or seldom) judged me for my diverse attitudes and behaviour.”

May Tan

BA Economics, Accounting and Financial Management 1979

May Tan retired in February 2017 as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Standard Chartered Bank (Hong Kong); she was the first woman to hold this position since the bank was established over 150 years ago. She joined the bank in 2009 as Vice Chairman, Wholesale Bank Asia. She was previously the CEO of Cazenove Asia, the capital markets, corporate finance and institutional brokerage business, where she was the first female and first Asian partner. She is a council member and the Vice Chairman of Oxam Hong Kong, and an executive committee member of Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation.

“I first moved to Hong Kong in 1984. This was a turning point for the city, during which it transformed itself from a manufacturing to a financial hub and secured its position as a gateway to Mainland China. It was an exciting and rewarding time to begin my career, and I had an opportunity to play an instrumental role in the development of equity markets. I’m proud to have broken the glass ceiling and paved the way for young women in the financial industry. I’ve gained a lot of knowledge and experience during the last 37 years, and I will continue my involvement in promoting gender diversity within the financial industry through mentoring and advocacy.”

For longer versions of the profiles visit www.shef.ac.uk/youruniversity
In Profile

Lisa Burger

BMus Music 1983
Executive Director, National Theatre

On graduating from Sheffield, Lisa Burger trained as an accountant as she was interested in business but her heart was set on a career in the performing arts. She joined Welsh National Opera as Chief Accountant in 1986, before moving to London and as Chief Accountant in 1986, joined Welsh National Opera in the performing arts. She was interested in business but as an accountant as she was trained. On graduating from Sheffield, Lisa Burger trained as an accountant as she was interested in business but her heart was set on a career in the performing arts. She joined Welsh National Opera as Chief Accountant in 1986, before moving to London and as Chief Accountant in 1986, joined Welsh National Opera in the performing arts. She was interested in business but as an accountant as she was trained. On graduating from Sheffield, Lisa Burger trained as an accountant as she was interested in business but her heart was set on a career in the performing arts. She joined Welsh National Opera as Chief Accountant in 1986, before moving to London and as Chief Accountant in 1986, joined Welsh National Opera in the performing arts. She was interested in business but as an accountant as she was trained. On graduating from Sheffield, Lisa Burger trained as an accountant as she was interested in business but her heart was set on a career in the performing arts. She joined Welsh National Opera as Chief Accountant in 1986, before moving to London and as Chief Accountant in 1986, joined Welsh National Opera in the performing arts. She was interested in business but as an accountant as she was trained. On graduating from Sheffield, Lisa Burger trained as an accountant as she was interested in business but her heart was set on a career in the performing arts. She joined Welsh National Opera as Chief Accountant in 1986, before moving to London and as Chief Accountant in 1986, joined Welsh National Opera in the performing arts. She was interested in business but as an accountant as she was trained.

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In Memory

Professor Peter Blundell Jones

Professor of Architecture at the University from 1994 and architectural historian of international repute, Peter Blundell Jones (PhD Architecture (by Publication) 2014) died on 19 August 2016, aged 67. Emeritus Professor Bryan Lawson delivered an obituary as part of a memorial event organised by the School of Architecture. We quote a short extract here:

“If you were lucky enough to attend his [Peter’s] lectures, sit in with him during research student supervisions or join him in one of the many public critiques of student design work, you quite simply recognised the highest imaginable quality of teaching. You were in no doubt that he had been thinking out arguments in front of students and had invited them to participate in this process. He was the toughest critic imaginable, able almost instantly to get right to the heart of any flaws in a student design proposition. There is no doubt that students feared his critical ability but, I think, never dreaded it. He was not harsh, unkind or unfair but just demanded you lived with his level of argument. He was not harsh, unkind or unfair but just demanded you lived with his level of argument. He was not harsh, unkind or unfair but just demanded you lived with his level of argument. He was not harsh, unkind or unfair but just demanded you lived with his level of argument. He was not harsh, unkind or unfair but just demanded you lived with his level of argument. He was not harsh, unkind or unfair but just demanded you lived with his level of argument.

- Visit www.shef.ac.uk/architecture/people/pbj for the full tribute by students, staff and colleagues.

1950s

Professor Alan Dyer (BSc Chemistry 1954) received a citation from the International Natural Zeolite Association in recognition of his lifetime of achievement and contributions to the field of natural zeolites (hydrated aluminosilicate minerals).

1960s

The Deadwood, which was adapted from an article he wrote about the plight of pensioners in Nigeria. He sadly passed away on 6 June 2017.

1970s

Dame Hilary Mantel (BJur Law 1973, Hon LittD 2005) received a President’s Medal from the British Academy for services to the humanities and social sciences.

A big-screen adaptation of one of the Jack Reacher series of books by Lee Child (LLB Law 1977, Hon LittD 2009) was released in late 2016 – Never Go Back starred Tom Cruise.

Her Honour Judge Anne Molyneux MBE (LLB Law 1979) has been appointed a Circuit Judge at the Central Criminal Court.

Your Notes and News

We are always interested to discover what our alumni are doing now. Here is a small selection of news from people who have been in contact with us or who we have spotted in the media.

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1980s

**Professor Graham Ogden**
(BDS Dentistry 1980), Professor of Oral Surgery at the University of Dundee, has been appointed Vice President (Dental) of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow.

Andrew Hosty** (BSc: Materials Science and Engineering 1987; PhD Ceramics 1992) has been appointed Chief Executive of the Sir Henry Royce Institute for Advanced Materials, based at the University of Manchester. Its founding partners include the Universities of Sheffield, Leeds, Liverpool, Cambridge, Oxford and Imperial College London.

Chris Hutchinson** (BEng Metal Science and Engineering 1987) is the Headmaster of the Royal Russell School, Croydon, a co-educational, independent day and boarding school.

1990s

**Dr Malcolm Butler** (PhD Materials 1993) has been appointed the University’s Director of Global Engagement.

**Dr Soultana Maria Valamonti-Kapetanaki** (MSc: Environmental Archaeology and Palaeoeconomy 1990, PhD Archaeology and Prehistory 2001), an associate professor at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, has been awarded an European Research Council grant for a project on ‘Identifying the food cultures of ancient Europe’.

**Scott Green** (BEng Chemical Process Engineering 1995), who joined South Yorkshire Police in 1995, has been promoted to Chief Superintendent and appointed as Barnsley District Commander.

**Phil Wilkinson** (MEng Mechanical Engineering with a Modern Language 1995), an Executive Manager for the Australian Institute for Refrigeration, Air-conditioning and Heating, received the Deni Greene Award 2016 for his work on improving sustainability in the built environment.

**Helen Sharman** received the Chancellor’s Medal from Lord Dainton in 1991.

Ambassador for the Harrogate District by the Institute of Directors.

2000s

**James Harkin** (BA Mathematics and Physics 2000) is head researcher and head writer for the BBC quiz show QI.

**Michael Edwards** (BSc Informatics 2002) has been appointed the Sporting Director at Liverpool Football Club.

**Arun ‘Arnie’ Singh** (BMus Music 2002, MA Leisure Management 2005), Managing Director of Sheffield City Taxis, was named Sheffield Business Person of the Year 2016.

**Micha Witoft** (LLB European International and Comparative Law 2003), a senior legal counsel at Scorpio Group and meditation teacher, delivered a talk on ‘How to reclaim control in our busy lives’ at a TEDxMonteCarlo event.

2010s

**Dr Leandro Berti** (PhD Chemistry 2010) has been appointed Head of Key Enabling Technologies of Brazil’s Ministry of Science, Technology, Innovation and Communication.

**Scott Woodley** (MA Law 2008) is a co-founder of Tutors, an online platform that helps parents and families find the best tutors who are local to them. The company was launched from the co-working space at University of Sheffield Enterprise and is still based in Sheffield.

**Joel Katz** (MA Psychology for Musicians 2013) has received a three-year fellowship from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, Canada, to support his PhD research into singers’ memory processes at York University, Toronto.

**Natalie Jones** (MSc Clinical Research 2015), a Clinical Services Manager in Acute Therapy Services at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals, won the UK Occupational Therapy Research Foundation Award in recognition of her pioneering research with stroke survivors.

Rio Olympics and Paralympics 2016

Congratulations to the six Sheffield alumni who competed at the Games, with five representing Great Britain and one representing Kosovo: **Dame Jessica Ennis-Hill CBE** (BSc Psychology 2007, Hon LittD 2010) won silver in the heptathlon; **Bryony Page** (BSc Biology 2015) won silver on the trampoline; **Jazmin Sawyers** (studied Law and Criminology 2012–13) competed in the long jump; **Hollie Webb** (BA Economics 2013) won gold in the hockey; **David Wetherill** (BSc Biological Chemistry 2012) competed in the table tennis; and **Lum Zhaveli** (BSc Computer Science 2013) competed in the swimming (50m freestyle).
**Alumni Honours**

**Birthday Honours 2016, New Year Honours 2017**

**Professor Paul Curran (BSc Geography 1976)** Created a Knight Bachelor for services to higher education.

**Sir Roger Bannister (Hon DSc 1978)** Appointed a Companion of Honour for services to sport.

**Barbara Cox (Gert Botanical Illustration 2001)** Awarded a BEM for services to Hollinsclough School, Derbyshire, and the Chernobyl Children’s Projects (UK).

**Paul Doe (BA Geography 1978)** Awarded an MBE for services to housing and voluntary service to tackling homelessness.

**Cara Eastell (MA Librarianship 1995)** Awarded an OBE for services to public libraries.

**Jessica Ennis-Hill (BSc Psychology 2007, Hon LittD 2016)** Created a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire for services to athletics.

**Clive Furness (LLB Law 1990)** Awarded a BEM for services to young people in Newham.

**Professor Vernon Gibson FRS (BSc Chemistry 1960, Hon DSc 2010)** Appointed a Companion of the Order of the Bath for services to defence.

**Dr Jeremy Grantham (BA Economics 1961, Hon DSc 2012)** Awarded a CBE for philanthropic service to climate change research.

**Peter Hilton JP (BEng Engineering 1968)** Awarded an MBE for services to education and the community in Manchester.

**Nicholas Lowles (BA Social History 1995)** Awarded an MBE for services to community cohesion and combating extremism.

**Roger Mackintosh (MEng Transportation and Traffic Engineering 1986)** Awarded an MBE for services to transport.

**Kathleen Slack (BA Geography 1977)** Awarded an OBE for services to the economy and the community of South East England.

**Professor Carol Smart (MA Law and Criminology 1975, PhD Criminology 1983)** Awarded a CBE for services to the social services.

**Hollie Webb (BA Economics 2013)** Awarded an MBE for services to hockey.

**Anne Western (a student of Social Policy and Sociology in 1997)** Awarded a CBE for services to local government.

**Sheffield Alumni Volunteer Awards**

The advice, experience and support offered by our alumni volunteers is greatly appreciated by the University. The annual Sheffield Alumni Volunteer Awards recognise their outstanding contributions.

**Winners 2016**

**Pioneering Alumni Award**

For a recent graduate who has demonstrated outstanding commitment and enthusiasm as a volunteer: **Catherine Rankine (MEng Structural Engineering and Architecture 2013)**

**Alumni Leadership Award**

A member of our alumni community who has shown exceptional leadership skills in their involvement with the University, often juggling personal, professional and other voluntary commitments: **Mirela Arqimandriti (MBA Business Administration 2004)**

**Sheffield Alumni Volunteer Project of the Year Award**

Recognising alumni volunteers and staff involved in delivering an outstanding project, activity or event that has had substantial impact on its beneficiaries: **Madhu Rao (MSc Software Systems and Internet Technology 2011)**

- Find out more about our alumni winners at [www.shef.ac.uk/alumni/volunteering/why/volunteer_awards_2016](http://www.shef.ac.uk/alumni/volunteering/why/volunteer_awards_2016)

**Sheffield Connections**

**Sheffield Alumni Volunteer of the Year Award**

A member of our alumni community who has demonstrated commitment, enthusiasm, inspired others, and gone above and beyond the expected role of a volunteer:

- Find out more about our alumni winners at [www.shef.ac.uk/alumni/volunteering/why/volunteer_awards_2016](http://www.shef.ac.uk/alumni/volunteering/why/volunteer_awards_2016)

**The Professor Robert Boucher Distinguished Alumni Awards**

These awards give the University the opportunity to acknowledge the achievements of alumni who have made outstanding contributions to business and community life. They were established in 2011 to honour the memory of Professor Robert Boucher (Hon DEng 2009), the former Vice-Chancellor who set up the Development and Alumni Relations Office in 2002.

**Award winner 2017**

**Brian Wrigley (BJur Law 1968, LLM European and Commercial Law 2001)** was honoured in recognition of his tireless support of the University, its students and alumni. In 1972, he joined the executive committee of Convocation, the voluntary body that had served alumni since the University was established in 1905. He served as Secretary and, from 2009, Chair, and was instrumental in the merger of the Sheffield University Association of Former Students with Convocation in 2007. He served as the alumni representative on Council from 1983 until his retirement in 2015, where his particular interests included campaigning for greater gender balance on Council and the conservation of the Arts Tower. In 2014, he became a founder member of our Alumni Board, which replaced Convocation as the representative body for alumni.

- Find out more about our alumni winners at [www.shef.ac.uk/alumni/volunteering/why/volunteer_awards_2016](http://www.shef.ac.uk/alumni/volunteering/why/volunteer_awards_2016)

**Award winner 2016**

**Adeola ‘Ade’ Solanke (BA English Literature 1964)** was nominated for her achievements as a critically acclaimed, award-winning screenwriter and playwright. She is the founder and creative director of Spora Stories, which produces original plays and films that reflect family dynamics and the experiences of the African diaspora. She has been the British Film Institute Writer-in-Residence and a Royal Literary Fund Fellow. Her debut play, Pandora’s Box, was nominated at the 2012 Off West End Theatre Awards. The second part of the trilogy, East End Boys, West End Girls, premiered in London in 2015, and Ade is planning to present the third part during 2017.

- Find out more about our alumni winners at [www.shef.ac.uk/alumni/volunteering/why/volunteer_awards_2016](http://www.shef.ac.uk/alumni/volunteering/why/volunteer_awards_2016)

To nominate one of our alumni for this annual award, please submit their biographical information and a letter of nomination (of no more than 500 words) to: Claire Rundstrom, Head of Alumni Relations, The University of Sheffield, Development, Alumni Relations & Events, 40 Victoria Street, Sheffield, S10 2TN, or email [alumni@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@sheffield.ac.uk) with the subject ‘Professor Robert Boucher Distinguished Alumni Award nomination.’ The deadline for nominations to be considered for an award in 2018 is 24 November 2017.

- Further details can be found at [www.shef.ac.uk/alumni/our_alumni/distinguished](http://www.shef.ac.uk/alumni/our_alumni/distinguished)
Honorary Degrees

The University of Sheffield confers honorary degrees (or degrees honoris causa – as a ‘mark of honour’) on people who have given distinguished service or brought distinction to the University, the City of Sheffield or the region. Alumni who received honorary degrees from the University in 2017:

Professor Angola Gallop CBE (BSc Botany 1971, Hon DSc 2017) Chief Executive of Axiom International and Forensic Access.

Neil Rackham (BSc Psychology 1965, Hon DSc 2017) an author, consultant and academic, known for ‘consultative selling’.

Dr Helen Sharman OBE (BSc Chemistry 1984, Hon DSc 2017): the first British astronaut and Operations Manager, Department of Chemistry, Imperial College London.


Dr Lee Elliot Major (BSc Physics 1990, PhD Theoretical Physics 1994, Hon DSc 2017): Chief Executive of the Sutton Trust.

Professor Peter Blundell Jones (PhD Architecture (by Publication) 2014) Professor of Architecture in the School of Architecture, and a member of staff from 1994–2016 (also see page 31).

Dr Alan Watson Reader in the Department of Civil and Structural Engineering, and a member of staff from 1973–2002.

Ann Watson A technician in the University Library, and a member of staff from 1979–2004.

Dr Terry Pratt Senior Lecturer in French in the School of Languages and Cultures, and a member of staff.

Dr Alan Watson Reader in the Department of Chemistry, and a member of staff from 1948–68.

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The oldest connection?

A conversation between one of our oldest living alumni and Miles Stevenson, Director of Advancement, has uncovered a family connection back to University College, Sheffield. In 1897–99, Kate Dawtry (née Kevan) was a student at the Sheffield Day Training College, a part of University College, Sheffield, the precursor of the University. She was awarded a teachers’ qualification in May 1900. Her son, Sir Alan Dawtry CBE, TD (LLB Law 1937, Hon LLD 2007), who celebrated his 102nd birthday this year, recalled, “She joined the Union of Students and I believe at the time of her death in 1958 was still on paper a Vice President. She married in 1913, by which date she had become headmistress of a girls’ school. This employment, as was then the custom, ceased on her marriage.”

Obituaries

Alumni and friends of the University may submit obituaries – for an alumnus/alumna or former member of staff – to Development, Alumni Relations & Events for inclusion on our website. Please email alumni@sheffield.ac.uk

We have been informed of the following deaths of University staff in the past year:

Professor Tim Birkhead FRS (Animal and Plant Sciences) has received the Zoological Society of London’s Award for Communicating Zoology for his book, The Most Perfect Thing, which looks at the science behind birds’ eggs.

Dr Joseph Cook (BSc Geography 2008, PhD Geography 2012) (Geography) was named one of the 2016 Rolex Young Laureate award winners for his Ice Alive project on glacier microbiology and climate change.

Emeritus Professor Tony Crook and Professor John Henneberry (MA Town and Regional Planning 1976) (Urban Studies and Planning) received the Excellence in Planning Research Award 2016 for their book Planning Gain: Providing Infrastructure and Affordable Housing.

Professor Nigel Dunnett (PhD Animal and Plant Sciences 1996) (Landscape) designed the Royal Horticultural Society’s flagship show garden at the Chelsea Flower Show to mark the RHS Greening Grey Britain campaign, of which he is the national ambassador.

Factory 250, home to the Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre’s Integrated Manufacturing Group, was named Project of the Year at the Constructing Excellence Awards 2016.

An interdisciplinary team of students – iGEM Sheffield – were nominated for Best Diagnostics Project and won a gold medal at the international iGEM Competition 2016 for a device that uses synthetic biology to diagnose bacterial infections.

Dr Mark Rainforth (Materials Science and Engineering) and Professor Zi-Qiang Zhu (Electronic and Electrical Engineering) have both been elected Fellows of the Royal Academy of Engineering.

Sheffield Solar (Physics and Astronomy) received the Smart Solar Industry Award from Smart Solar UK.


Professor Brendan Stone (BA English Literature 2000, PhD English Literature 2004) (English) received the Excellence in Patient Experience Award from the NHS Yorkshire and Humber Leadership Academy in recognition of his work to improve support services for people with mental health issues.

Professor Tim Birkhead.

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Professor Tim Birkhead.
Fanfare for the New Chancellor

When The Rt Hon Lady Justice Rafferty DBE (LLB Law 1971, Hon LLD 2005) was installed as the eighth Chancellor of the University of Sheffield in 2015, she entered Firth Hall to the uplifting sound of a special fanfare composed by Music student Emily Compton.

The quality of the piece has been recognised by the award of the Eileen Sellars’ Composition Prize, named in honour of an alumna who specified that her legacy to the University of Sheffield be used by the Department of Music.

Eileen Sellars (née Walsh) (BA Latin and French 1943) was "a lady of immense musical talent who inspired so many people towards the appreciation of music”.

Emily expressed her delight in receiving the prize by writing a poem, which includes the words:

"Thank you, Eileen, for this Composition Prize and Thank you, Eileen, for keeping the arts alive.

Listen to the fanfare at www.shef.ac.uk/alumni/fanfare"
Reasons to be Proud of the University of Sheffield

Over two tonnes of pollution has been removed from the atmosphere thanks to Simon Armitage's innovative air-cleansing poem, *In Praise of Air*, on the side of the Alfred Denny Building.

The Big Walk 2017: Over 260 alumni walked up to 50 miles in just 24 hours, raising money for the University's SheffieldScanner campaign.

A team of Sheffield students has won a prestigious European Space Agency competition. Their low-cost telescope design will be lifted into space by helium balloon to observe the sun.

A remote village in West Bengal now has a sustainable power supply thanks to a collaborative project with our Energy 2050 research institute.

Students voted us the number one Russell Group University in the Times Higher Education Student Experience Survey 2017. Our Students' Union was also voted best in the UK for the ninth consecutive year.

Leading LGBT charity, Stonewall, has recognised the University as a top employer for workplace equality.

We welcomed HRH The Duke of York back to Sheffield to open the £43m Factory 2050 at the AMRC. The state-of-the-art research facility will be used by some of the world's leading manufacturing companies.

We claimed the Varsity trophy for the fifth consecutive year against local rivals Sheffield Hallam.

Over the past five years, 650 undergraduates have received scholarships totalling £2m, all from generous donations.

Former member of staff Professor Sir J Fraser Stoddart was a joint recipient of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry – our sixth Nobel laureate.

Our #WeAreInternational campaign proudly celebrates the contribution international students and staff make to the University, the city and the UK as a whole. It’s been adopted by over 100 other educational institutions since its launch in 2013.

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