Age better, live well
The power of technology
A note from your editor

It’s been an exciting year for the University and also one of change. We will say goodbye to our President and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir Keith Burnett, who is retiring in September (page 27); the Students’ Union was voted best in the UK for the 10th year in a row (Times Higher Education Student Experience Survey 2018); the University was recognised as one of the ‘most international’ universities by Times Higher Education; and the Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2018 names us as the top university in the north of England for producing employable graduates.

Thanks to support from the Sheffield community and beyond we are also well over three quarters of the way in our mission to raise £2 million to fund the Sheffield Scanner (page 10) – a pioneering MRI-PET facility that will transform our research into some of the most devastating diseases. More than 7,500 people have contributed towards the total with the aim of Sheffield becoming the home of Yorkshire’s first MRI-PET facility.

You can read about these stories and many other aspects of University life in the following pages. I hope you enjoy the magazine.

Sarah Hopkins
(BA English Language with Linguistics 2003)
Alumni Communications Manager
1918: a pivotal year
How did the end of World War I affect the University of Sheffield?

The power of people
Professor Sir Keith Burnett FRS reflects on his time leading the University of Sheffield

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The Students’ Union

Voted best in the UK for the 10th year in a row – Times Higher Education Student Experience Survey 2018

The University of Sheffield was announced as one of the ‘most international’ universities by *Times Higher Education*, based on data collected for the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2018. We were ranked 42nd out of the 800 leading universities worldwide.

A place in the highly regarded top 50 marks a significant increase in Sheffield’s international reputation in 2018. A key factor in this success has been the concerted effort at building overseas partnerships with the world’s top universities and industry, efforts which open opportunities for staff and student exchange, research collaboration and inward investment in the local economy.

The diversity of our student and staff body, and the extent to which our academics collaborate with international colleagues are also signs of the University’s global outlook.

President and Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir Keith Burnett said, “The University of Sheffield has always been internationally minded but recently we have focused even more on the partnerships we know are crucial not only to our research but which will also create opportunities for our students and our region.

“I am deeply proud that this is a global university with over 140 nationalities represented on campus and that our city has always made clear that staff and students from around the world are welcome. We know these students and staff make a huge contribution to academic life, knowledge and our economic growth as a nation.”
Leading the way

The University has cemented its long-standing commitment to supporting economic growth in the north by becoming a Northern Powerhouse Partner. The agreement was signed during a visit by Northern Powerhouse Minister and alumnus Jake Berry (BA Law 2000) to the Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre (AMRC), where he was taken on a tour of the Factory of the Future, Factory 2050 and its Training Centre, meeting some of the University’s engineering apprentices. He said, “From Shanghai to London, everywhere I go people are talking about the AMRC, I just had to come.”

Professor Keith Ridgway, Executive Dean of the AMRC, commented, “Our research and innovation assets, coupled with a strong skills and talent base, are making the Sheffield City Region the go-to place for global manufacturing companies like Rolls-Royce, Boeing and McLaren. This is transforming the region into the Advanced Manufacturing Innovation District of the North: the place in the UK where digital meets manufacturing.”

Apprentice of the Year

Heavy duty diesel engine builder Leigh Worsdale is proving to be an outstanding ambassador for the AMRC Training Centre. The multi-award-winning apprentice, who works at Chesterfield company Foxwood Diesel, was invited to demonstrate Industry 4.0 (the 4th Industrial Revolution) technologies at a High Value Manufacturing Catapult event at the House of Commons. She is now sharing her passion for engineering with students, parents and teachers in the region: “I tell people that the AMRC will give you the skills to go as far as you want to go in life. My apprenticeship training allows me to gain real, valuable skills that are in demand from industry.”

More than 1,000 young people, employed by 250 small- and medium-sized companies across the Sheffield City Region, have been trained at the AMRC Training Centre, and a sister organisation is now planned at Doncaster Sheffield Airport.
Different ways of seeing the world

A partnership between the University and Siemens aims to accelerate digitalisation, boost digital skills, and promote technology and knowledge exchange to meet the needs of industry. The agreement marks the first collaboration for a new global digitalisation network to link universities with the Internet of Things (IoT) – the interconnection via the internet of computing devices.

The partnership is based on the Mindsphere Innovation Network (MINe) developed by Siemens to connect a university’s estate and research assets into its innovative IoT platform, Mindsphere. Located in the Diamond building, the Mindsphere Lounge is a bespoke space for collaboration and learning between students, academics, Siemens and other partner organisations. Here Mindsphere may be accessed to harness the value of the data produced from the University and the various projects connected to the cloud-based platform.

www.sheffield.ac.uk/business/partners-collaborators/siemens/mindsphere-lounge

Attracting major grants

The University is a founding member of the £20 million Institute of Coding – a consortium of more than 60 universities, businesses and industry experts tackling the UK’s digital skills gap. It brings together educators, employers and outreach groups to co-develop digital skills education at undergraduate and masters level for learners in universities, at work and in previously under-supported groups across the country. Professor Guy Brown (MEd Teaching and Learning 1997, PhD Computer Science 1992), Head of the Department of Computer Science, said, “We are delighted to be a founding member of the institute. We were among the very first universities in the UK to introduce a software engineering degree, back in 1988. Since then we have led the development of innovative approaches to work-based learning.”

Based in Sheffield, the National Technician Development Centre is tackling the shortage of specialist technical skills in the higher education sector. It provides access to information, expertise and tools that enable universities to create a sustainable future for their technical staff and services. Monies from the Higher Education Funding Council for England’s Catalyst Fund, the University and other partners represents a total investment of £1.125 million.

The leading men’s health charity, Prostate Cancer UK, has awarded two projects at the University a total of £600,000 for pioneering research to stop the spread of prostate cancer and prevent the disease from growing back after primary treatment. Claire Lewis, Professor of Molecular and Cellular Pathology and Head of the Academic Unit of Inflammation and Tumour Targeting, commented, “It’s only through years of research into the basic biology of cancer that we’re now in the position we’re in today. This is an incredibly exciting time for prostate cancer research and we’re proud to be part of a movement which could bring about real change for men within our lifetimes.”
Generous donations from Lady Kroto and our alumni community have resulted in the opening of the Kroto Schools Laboratory in the Department of Chemistry, named in honour of the late Nobel laureate Professor Sir Harry Kroto (BSc Chemistry 1961, PhD Chemistry 1964, Hon DSc 1995). This teaching space will welcome hundreds of local school children and young people each year to learn about science in an exciting and engaging environment.

Inside the big top

Circus! – a major exhibition at Weston Park Museum, created in partnership between Museums Sheffield and the University’s National Fairground and Circus Archive – marks the 250th anniversary of circus in Great Britain (it runs until 4 November 2018). It is part of a major partnership project between Museums Sheffield, the University of Sheffield, Norfolk Museums Service and Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums; concurrent exhibitions are on show in Norwich and Newcastle. Supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

www.museums-sheffield.org.uk

Circus Performers: Extraordinary Feats from Ordinary People, in the exhibition gallery at the University’s Western Bank Library until 14 December 2018, examines the stories behind pioneering showmen and circus performers.

www.sheffield.ac.uk/library/exhibition

The city’s hidden highlights

A new illustrated guide book showcases Sheffield to a new audience of visitors and residents, actively encouraging them to go off the beaten track to find the hidden places, stories, shops and neighbourhoods that unlock a city’s true character. 111 Places in Sheffield That You Shouldn’t Miss, by Sheffield-born poet and art critic Michael Glover, features the Alfred Denny Museum of Zoology, located in the University’s Department of Animal and Plant Sciences. Established in 1905, the museum is open on the first Saturday of each month for guided tours. Follow the museum at @admsheffield on Twitter.

Wild otter on film

A research team led by the Department of Animal and Plant Sciences has captured the first footage of a wild otter in the Peak District.

https://youtu.be/gMz6kWoJ48I
Confucius Institute 10 years

The Confucius Institute at the University celebrated 10 years of collaboration between Sheffield and China in September 2017. A special event was attended by senior representatives including Chinese Ambassador to the UK Liu Xiaoming, Paul Blomfield MP and President and Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir Keith Burnett. The institute is a partnership between the University of Sheffield, Nanjing University and Beijing Language and Culture University. It acts as a focal point for all China-related activities in Sheffield and the broader region.

www.sheffield.ac.uk/confucius

Erasmus+ 30 years

Thirtieth anniversary celebrations for Erasmus+, the world’s largest exchange scheme, took place in November 2017. With almost 400 students taking part in the Erasmus+ programme each year, the University is one of the most active sending institutions in the UK. For Sheffield students, France, Spain, Germany and the Netherlands are the most popular destinations to spend a semester or year abroad.

www.sheffield.ac.uk/erasmus

Automatic Control and Systems Engineering 50 years

The department is marking its golden jubilee in 2018 with a major celebration on 13 October. Find out more, including a timeline and memories from staff, alumni and students, on their website:

www.sheffield.ac.uk/acse/jubilee
Email acse50@sheffield.ac.uk for further details.

International Student Committee 50 years

Embracing Our Place in the World was the theme of this year’s International Cultural Evening at Sheffield City Hall, organised by the International Students’ Committee as the highlight of their half-century celebrations. Established as the Overseas Students’ Bureau in 1967, with its own Union office and budget, today the committee works towards integrating home and international students into One Student Community; their flagship events are the International Food Festival, World Week and the International Cultural Evening.

isc.union.shef.ac.uk

Vote 100 centenary

In April, a statue of the suffragist leader Millicent Fawcett was unveiled in Parliament Square, London, to mark 100 years since the passing of the Representation of the People Act. The installation by Turner Prize winner Gillian Wearing also features etchings of 59 key women and men who were central in the push for women’s suffrage. Dr Julie Gottlieb, of the Department of History, has written extensively on women’s political engagement in 20th-century Britain and was one of the historians who helped to select the 59 figures. She is also curating a strand on the centenary at Sheffield’s Off the Shelf literary festival in October, which received support from the Alumni Fund.
Graduate prospects: Sheffield top in the north

The University of Sheffield was named the top university in the north of England for producing employable graduates by the Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2018. This result reflects the preparation our students receive in their courses and a wide range of related activities, work experience, enterprise support and volunteering. Actor Helen Monks (BA English and Theatre 2014) – who has appeared in Channel 4’s Raised by Wolves and the BBC’s Upstart Crow – said the University played a key role in helping her realise the opportunities available to her post-graduation: “The Careers Service was so helpful, especially for students studying humanities. It helps you to work out how to be employable and gives you encouragement on how to use the skills you’ve learnt at university and apply them in the real world.”

The University has partnerships with a range of employers both in the UK and all over the world who work with us to boost the employment prospects of students. Paul Fennell, Head of Careers and Employability, added, “Leading employers recruit Sheffield students once they finish their studies but, importantly, they also work with our students during their degree through a range of workshops, internships and placements to boost their employability and prepare them for the graduate jobs market. A degree from Sheffield gives students vital skills to help them build a successful and rewarding career in their chosen industries.”

All-female line-up

The elections for student officers has resulted in an all-female line-up – for the first time in the Students’ Union’s history. Celeste Jones, Women’s Officer for 2017–18, developed the #SheShouldRun campaign to empower women across the campus and encourage them to take part: 58 per cent of all candidates were women, and 55 per cent of the 8,065 voters in the elections were women.
We can’t do it without you

Thanks to generous support from the Sheffield community and beyond we are close to our goal of raising £2 million to fund the Sheffield Scanner – a pioneering MRI-PET facility that will transform our research into some of the most devastating diseases.

More than 7,500 people have contributed towards the total so that Sheffield will become the home of the first Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) and Positron Emission Tomography (PET) facility in Yorkshire. These contributions have come in many forms – from large individual donations and generous gifts in Wills, through to cash in fundraising buckets at charity events. Each and every donation has made a difference.

THE VISION
As the artist’s impression shows, the new facility will be attached to the Royal Hallamshire Hospital (RHH), close to the inpatient entrance and the University’s Medical School, offering easy access for patients, clinicians and researchers. The University’s Sheffield Institute for Translational Neuroscience (SITraN) and the Cancer Clinical Trials Centre at Weston Park Hospital are both close by.

The facility will have two entrances: one on the ground floor beside the drop-off area and another on the second floor, connecting with the University and RHH radiology services. The second floor will house a comfortable waiting area, two pre-scan patient rooms, a suite of workstations for reviewing scan images and a fully radiation-shielded space for the MRI-PET scanner itself.

Professor Dame Pamela Shaw, Founding Director of SITraN and Vice-President and Head of the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health, said, “The new MRI-PET facility will be at the heart of our medical research campus and will integrate seamlessly with the hospital buildings, offering the best of both worlds for the University and our Trust colleagues. We are looking forward to welcoming our first patients once the Sheffield Scanner is up and running.”

THE IMPACT
Lung cancer

“Approximately half of all cancer patients receive radiotherapy to shrink their tumour and kill cancer cells. However, some patients can’t have radiotherapy, or their treatment has to be limited to avoid damaging healthy tissue. This is a real problem in lung cancer, where permanent scarring from radiation could leave patients struggling with breathlessness. We are developing techniques using MRI and PET that give us much more information on these hard-to-treat tumours. Having a combined MRI-PET scanner means we can do this more quickly, helping us treat more cancer patients with radiotherapy as effectively and safely as possible.”

Dr Matthew Hatton, Consultant Clinical Oncologist, Weston Park Hospital, and Honorary Professor in Clinical Oncology, University of Sheffield
Multiple sclerosis

“Multiple sclerosis (MS) is the leading cause of disability in young adults with 12,000 people affected in the UK. It is a complex disease, and a detailed understanding of the way it affects the brain is vital for successful treatment. Traditionally, MRI has been the ‘gold standard tool’ to diagnose and monitor MS. However, PET can provide invaluable ‘functional’ information that can reveal subtle changes undetectable by MRI. With MRI-PET, we will have a precise, non-invasive imaging method that could enhance our ability to diagnose and monitor MS – something that is vital for patient-specific precision therapy. This is why the Sheffield Scanner is hugely exciting for advances in MS clinical care and clinical research.”

Professor Basil Sharrack, Consultant Neurologist and Honorary Professor of Clinical Neurology, University of Sheffield

Alzheimer’s disease

“Most of us know someone who has been affected by Alzheimer’s disease. Like all forms of dementia, it can be overwhelming for people who have it and for their carers and families. Our ultimate goal is to slow or even halt Alzheimer’s disease before it has taken hold. MRI-PET is the best technique there is for detecting the earliest signs of Alzheimer’s disease. It can also show reliably how novel drugs affect these subtle changes to the brain. Leading centres in the UK and internationally are already using MRI-PET to test promising new treatments for Alzheimer’s disease. The Sheffield Scanner will ensure we stay at the forefront of this vitally important work, and give patients in Yorkshire the chance to take part in pioneering clinical trials.”

Professor Annalena Venneri, Professor of Clinical Neuropsychology, University of Sheffield, and Honorary Consultant, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
A centuries-old puzzle behind the meaning of mysterious paintings at Bolsover Castle has been solved by a team of researchers from the University. Led by Dr Crosby Stevens, Honorary Research Fellow, with the assistance of Angie Hobbs, Professor of the Public Understanding of Philosophy, their results suggest that 17th-century paintings decorating the castle’s keep, or Little Castle, were used as part of a series of private plays and entertainments. These were organised for friends and relatives of the then owners, the Cavendish family of Welbeck Abbey. The theme of the paintings was magical transformation, love and virtue.

The artworks were intended to be interactive and multisensory. As Dr Stevens explained, “Visitors could imagine that they moved in and out of curious painted worlds during banquets and bespoke amateur shows that featured music, dancing and dressing up – it was an early form of virtual reality. The site was used by the Cavendish family and their high-ranking friends for personal engagement with imitation and role play in the pursuit of both pleasure and virtue, encouraged by the paintings.”

King Charles I and Queen Henrietta Maria were entertained by a piece by Ben Jonson when they visited Bolsover in 1634 in which Eros appeared to have descended from the paintings to greet the King. William Cavendish and his daughters copied the idea and continued writing plays with characters that could have stepped down from the picture space to become part of the performance.

Professor Hobbs added, “The paintings illustrate a quest for transformation and spiritual enlightenment – these themes are playful reflections of the Neoplatonic ideas that imbued Renaissance philosophy. All the paintings in the Little Castle tell visitors that a celebration of physical, worldly love can be spiritually cleansing and a magically transformative experience.”

Bolsover Castle and its paintings can now be viewed on the English Heritage and Google Arts & Culture platform, which includes three virtual tours guided by Dr Stevens and Professor Hobbs. Visit g.co/EnglishHeritage and search for the Bolsover Castle section.
Virtual reality helping to improve healthcare

Bowel cancer is the second most common cause of cancer-related deaths in the UK. Optical colonoscopy is the preferred method of colonic examination – but it has many contraindications and the process is invasive. Computed tomography (CT) colonoscopy therefore offers an attractive alternative because of its minimally invasive nature. To aid this form of diagnosis, Research Associate Dr David Randall (PhD Image Processing 2017) has developed a system to enable clinicians to travel inside a patient’s colon, viewing its mucosal surface with an Oculus Rift virtual reality headset.

“CT colonoscopy, viewed on a 2D monitor, is a procedure performed routinely within the NHS where the structure of the colon is extracted from a CT image and its lumen is ‘flown through,’” said David. “While the radiologist transits the colon they look for pathological structures, for example polyps (pre-cancerous lumps). Reporting involves examination of both the CT data and virtual colonoscopy to reach diagnosis. We hope that by performing this examination with virtual reality technology we can offer potential improvements in efficiency and lesion detectability for CT colonoscopy examinations.”

David showcased the system to a wide audience through his appearance on BBC Radio 4’s Today programme when it was broadcast live from the University’s Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre in January 2018.

The work was developed through a collaboration between the Medical Physics Group in the University’s Department of Infection, Immunity and Cardiovascular Disease and the 3D Imaging Laboratory in the Medical Imaging and Medical Physics Directorate of Sheffield Teaching Hospitals. It was supported by the University’s Think Ahead SURE programme and funded by Bardhan Research and Education Trust of Rotherham and the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council.
The Sheffield Alcohol Policy Model is a mathematical model that was originally built for the Department of Health in 2008 by the Sheffield Alcohol Research Group (SARG), a world-leading centre in the School of Health and Related Research. Their research examines how policies affect alcohol purchasing, consumption, health, crime and employment-related harms for different population groups.

Many adaptations and updates of the model have since been developed for the National Institute for Care and Excellence, Public Health England, the Scottish, Welsh, Irish and Northern Irish Governments, and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. It has also influenced health policy debate in Australia, New Zealand and within the European Union.

Evidence from SARG underpinned the Scottish Government’s Alcohol Minimum Pricing Bill, which was passed in May 2012, paving the way for the introduction of a minimum price of 50 pence per unit in Scotland. A subsequent challenge by the alcohol industry led to a five-year battle through the courts. Finally, an appeal to the UK Supreme Court (2016–17), citing Sheffield evidence, resulted in the dismissal of the case. Scotland subsequently introduced a minimum unit price on 1 May 2018 – the first country to do so.

Professor Petra Meier, Director of SARG, said, “Minimum unit pricing is one of the most significant wins for public health since the smoking ban in public places. It raises the price of the cheap, strong beverages consumed by those who drink heavily, whilst having only very small effects on the consumption and spending of moderate drinkers.”

www.sheffield.ac.uk/scharr/sections/ph/research/alpol
The professional birdwatcher

From budding twitcher to award-winning teacher, Professor Tim Birkhead FRS is one of the University's leading academics. As he approaches retirement, he looks back at some of his achievements from his 42-year career at Sheffield, as well as his hopes for the future of an important study into one of the UK's most abundant seabird populations.
What first sparked your passion for birds?

Birds are both my passion and my life’s work. My love for them came from my father who was a keen birdwatcher. He very much saw it as a hobby and was certain I’d never be able to make a career of it. “You’ll never get a job birdwatching!” he said and I’ve been very pleased to be able to prove him wrong.

When did you begin to realise that you could turn your hobby into a career?

The idea of me working with birds started when I first went to university in Newcastle to study Zoology in 1969. It was around the time that universities were expanding and I was able to indulge this interest, undertaking my final-year project on bird behaviour and the design of bird skulls. I was very lucky to have academic supervisors who shared my passion and they supported me greatly in pursuing it further.

I then went on to do my PhD at the Edward Grey Institute of Field Ornithology at Oxford. It was there, in 1972, that I first began studying guillemots on the Welsh island of Skomer. I had no idea that the work I started then would go on to become such an important longitudinal study and that nearly 50 years later I would still be going back there each year.

Tell us more about Skomer and your work there.

Skomer is one of the most beautiful places in the world. It’s an uninhabited island off the Pembrokeshire coast which is brimming with wildlife – puffins, grey seals, cormorants and, of course, guillemots. They are one of our most abundant seabirds. Studying them is just like going to the cinema. They are a researcher’s dream to observe and monitor; their behaviour is fascinating because they are incredibly social. Unlike puffins, guillemots breed in the open which makes studying them much easier.

Importantly, guillemots are excellent indicators of the quality of the marine environment. They are desperately vulnerable to oil pollution, for example, and hundreds of thousands have died in oil spills. Partly as a consequence of such disasters, their numbers have fluctuated wildly over the past 80 years.

The population on Skomer is one of just a handful of UK guillemot populations that is doing reasonably well at present. But we shouldn’t be complacent. My study monitors both their survival and breeding success and provides a unique opportunity to understand the consequences of any environmental change on other seabird populations too – such as climate change and over-fishing.

We now have a very good feel for this. What’s crucially important is how long the adults live – they lead long lives. Our oldest bird will be 40 this year, a fantastic age for a bird. Knowing what proportion of young birds survive to breed has proved to be very important. It’s turned out to be quite high, and that has driven the population increases.

What is going to happen to this research once you retire at the end of the year?

I’m absolutely passionate about ensuring that this study can continue for as long as possible. It’s vital for the conservation of our seabird populations, so I’m very pleased to be handing over the reins to Dr Steve Votier. He’s one of my former post-doctoral researchers and a fantastic seabird biologist. In my final few months of work, I’m doing all I can to secure funding for the project. As long as I’m physically fit, I’ll continue to go to Skomer too.

Alongside your research, you’re also known for your dynamic teaching. What do you think makes a good lecturer?

I think it comes down to empathy. I’ve been inspired by the natural world. It has shaped me and given me a fantastic life and I want to share that with as many people as possible.”
because I was obsessed with birdwatching and wanted to be outside rather than sitting in a classroom. I found it a real challenge at times. However, a few teachers were truly inspirational to me and, despite my wayward manner, encouraged me enormously. It’s something that has always stuck with me. I still love teaching, especially first-year students. Had I been super smart and found everything easy, I may not have the empathy that I have when undergraduates struggle to understand things.

I also think it’s important to share your enthusiasm for a subject. I’ve been inspired by the natural world. It has shaped me and given me a fantastic life and I want to share that with as many people as possible.

You were a pioneer of innovative teaching methods. How did this come about and why do you think it is important?

When I first came to Sheffield in 1976, I simply did what I thought was right at the time. So, I bought a video camera – a Kodak Super 8 – to film the field courses. My colleagues loved it and we started using the films at open days to give prospective students a taste of what it was like to study here. Of course, that’s standard practice now, but no-one else was doing it back then. In terms of research-led teaching, I think students value someone who has been at the cutting-edge – it means they are learning from the horse’s mouth and it helps to bring a subject to life.

What have been the highlights of your career?

Managing to crack a particular problem that I’ve set myself; each time I’ve been successful in obtaining a research grant; getting good feedback from my undergraduate students; being inspired by some of my PhD students; working collaboratively with colleagues from other departments – the list goes on.

In addition, working with Sir David Attenborough on a film about birds’ eggs for the BBC recently was an absolute privilege. He’s such a knowledgeable, gentle man and so modest. The first time I met him it was like meeting an old friend. And of course, getting to spend my days birdwatching on Skomer – what better life could you have?

Support Tim’s study into the guillemots of Skomer Island www.justgiving.com/guilemotsskomer

An award-winning academic

Inspiring our students
2017: National Teaching Fellowship for outstanding impact on students’ learning experience, Higher Education Academy
2013: HE Bioscience Teacher of the Year, Royal Society of Biology
2009: Animal and Plant Sciences Teacher of the Year, University of Sheffield
2007: Senate Award for Sustained Excellence in Teaching, University of Sheffield

Breaking new research ground
2016: Godman-Salvin Medal for distinguished ornithological work, British Ornithologists’ Union
2016: Founders’ Medal for contributions to the history and bibliography of natural history, Society for the History of Natural History
2012: Medal for outstanding contributions to the study of animal behaviour, Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour
2010: Elliot Coues Medal for outstanding and innovative contributions to ornithological research, American Ornithological Society
2004: Fellow of the Royal Society

Reaching out to the public
2017: Stephen Jay Gould Prize for increasing public understanding of evolutionary biology, Evolution Society
2017: Clarivate Analytics Award for Communicating Zoology to a general audience, Zoological Society of London
2015: Eisenmann Medal for excellence in ornithology and encouragement of the amateur, Linnean Society of New York
2014: Silver Medal for contributions to the understanding and appreciation of zoology, Zoological Society of London
There is a growing need for innovation in healthcare – not only in the UK but across the world. Ageing populations and long-term care require radical solutions to help us lead independent, fulfilled lives. CATCH, the University’s Centre for Assistive Technology and Connected Healthcare, is focused on how the power of technology helps us to age better and live well.

Assistive technology supports users to self-manage their conditions – from an ‘intelligent’ shoe designed to improve a stroke survivor’s walking to delivering speech therapy through apps on a tablet. This isn’t a new concept. As Professor Luc de Witte of CATCH explained: “Glasses, hearing aids, smartphones – they are all assistive technology. What we need now are disruptive innovations that transform healthcare. We need to achieve more with less resources, not just in the West but in countries where there is a need to create healthcare systems from scratch. Collaboration on a global scale is required. Future healthcare without assistive technology is unthinkable.”

In a few short years, the University of Sheffield has become an international focus of research and development in this field. CATCH, established by Professor Mark Hawley (he is the Director) and based in the School of Health and Related Research (ScHARR), is truly multidisciplinary – in both its outlook and its practice. “We have health services researchers, clinical staff, engineers, biologists, biomedical scientists, economists, computer scientists, architects, psychologists, therapists and physicists,” said Professor Hawley. “We have access to the latest technologies and advanced manufacturing processes – not only across the campus but across the region as well. We are also developing productive international collaborations.”
partnerships. Current collaborators are in India, South Korea and China."

Professor de Witte describes the Sheffield City Region as having fantastic potential and energy for assistive technology research: "The future success of affordable healthcare provision relies on innovation and Sheffield is a real key player in assistive technology. The city is at the heart of the UK and there are many partners working in this field close by – the two universities with their expertise in robotics, advanced manufacturing and healthcare alongside industry, charities, medical device and technology companies, and a large NHS presence."

CATCH developed from Professor Hawley’s work with Barnsley Hospital, where he is an Honorary Consultant Clinical Scientist: "I started up a service for people with severe physical disabilities in the NHS. What we did ranged from communication aids through to devices to help people control the home. If you have a severe disability you can’t turn the TV on or you can’t get to the front door. We provide, through the NHS, the types of technology that allow people to do that."

The initiative grew to the point where NHS England now commissions the service at Barnsley to support people across the Yorkshire and Humber region. "But I always felt that we were missing out on some of the technologies that we really needed," Professor Hawley added. "I started working with the University of Sheffield to develop new types of technology and eventually did so much research that I decided to move to academia."

I set up a group of four researchers in SchARR and slowly began to build up contacts. "Caring for an ageing population is one of the UK Government’s Four Grand Challenges as outlined in its Industrial Strategy. Our needs-driven approach – working with users – received financial backing from the University. Ten years later, we have 70 academics from 18 departments across five faculties working on projects across the width and breadth of assistive technology. My philosophy is that users should be involved in the research and development of technology that is tailored for their own needs. They then get something that they will be able to use, rather than struggling with something that is developed by a technologist. We work with NHS doctors, nurses and clinical scientists and so have access to their patients. We also collaborate with other care providers, and we operate a Citizen Science Database of people who provide their own perspectives on what works and what doesn’t for conditions such as stroke or heart failure."

Professor Hawley is committed to seeing products developed through CATCH being available to people via the marketplace: "It is important for us to work with companies who might manufacture our products and then sell them on to the NHS from where they are provided to patients for free. Much of what we are doing is software development for use on smartphones, tablets and wearable devices. Grants from the Higher Education Funding Council for England’s Catalyst Fund are..."
allowing us to work with a number of private sector partners to develop these technologies. Sometimes they come to us with ideas; sometimes we approach them.”

CATCH and the University welcomed over 300 delegates – researchers, health and social care professionals and representatives from the healthcare industry – from around the world to the biennial conference organised by the Association for the Advancement of Assistive Technology in Europe in September 2017 (Professor de Witte is the association’s current President). Professor Hawley commented, “This is just one example of how we actively facilitate discussions, create networking opportunities and share research. We know the positive impact that carefully designed and relevant user-friendly technology can have on healthcare – and I am proud that CATCH is proving to be an international focus for this work.”

He explained, “The extent to which urban slum communities can access formal health services is very limited. While many organisations work tirelessly to provide care to these communities through health camps, mobile clinics, home visits and other initiatives, a wide range of barriers to access remain for many urban slum residents.

“We designed the mobile diagnostic and screening toolkit, harnessing e-health and mobile health technologies, to enable non-medically trained personnel to perform basic health screening tasks, and support them in identifying more serious cases that need referral to formal health services. The portable kit was trialled in Bangalore and a successful prototype developed. A company is now being set up in India to market it.”

VocaTempo
Working as an app on a tablet, VocaTempo recognises the speech of children with severe speech impairments, who cannot normally be understood, and speaks out a clear version of the message they wish to convey. Once the app is trained to recognise a user’s voice, it can be controlled vocally. It is a hands-free method of communication, allowing users with dysarthria (difficulty speaking) to communicate with everyone quickly, easily and without breaking eye-contact.

Professor Hawley is the lead researcher: “In 2017 we began working with Therapy Box, a London-based app development agency, and with funding from a Small Business Research Initiative grant, to build a proof of concept app for trial with real users. All major functionality was built into the test version, and the app was designed for ease of use for the therapists who would be setting it up. Early trials with young people with moderate to severe dysarthria have yielded very positive results.”

Mobile diagnostic and screening toolkit
This international project, led by Professor de Witte with collaborators from the Netherlands and India, developed a low-cost mobile diagnostic screening toolkit.

www.catch.org.uk

Age better, live well: the power of technology
The original ‘heart of the city’ will be uncovered during the coming months. Deep beneath 400 years of history lie the remains of Sheffield Castle. Built at the junction of the Rivers Don and Sheaf – the origin of the name ‘Sheffield’ – it was one of the largest medieval stone-built castles in the country.

In the centuries following the castle’s demolition after the English Civil War, the town grew, markets developed and industry flourished. City status was granted in 1893. The street pattern in the Castlegate area still reflects its medieval origins; however, wartime bombing and subsequent building work in the 20th century further contributed to the burial of the foundations of the castle itself. Covered by the concrete floor of Castle Market (many alumni will have fond memories of its collection of individual stalls, shops and stands), limited excavations during the last 100 years, with the latest in 2001, revealed evidence of substantial castle remains.

The demolition of Castle Market took place in 2015–17, and Castlegate is now the focus of an imaginative and innovative reinvention. A broad range of partners, including the City Council, the University of Sheffield and Sheffield Hallam University, the Friends of Sheffield Castle and of the Old Town Hall, hoteliers, local artists and makers, urban environmentalists and entrepreneurs, are collaborating to restore the vitality of this historical gateway into Sheffield.

John Moreland, Professor of Medieval Archaeology, chairs a University-wide Castlegate Steering Group, bringing together researchers across five faculties – archaeologists, architects, engineers, ecologists, computer scientists and town planners.
planners. They are working with partners to generate a mix of imagined spaces, practical solutions and real projects to inspire the transformation. Proposals by architecture students helped persuade City Council funders to release £800,000 to provide the platform for the regeneration. Their vibrant and creative visions for what Castlegate could become were very persuasive.

**Reassessing the evidence**

Led by the Department of Archaeology in cooperation with Museums Sheffield, the Castlegate Archives Project was made possible by a generous bequest to the University by alumna Pamela Staunton (BEd Education 1982, MA Archaeology and Prehistory 1993). “As a result of Pam’s kindness, we have looked at all the existing archives and objects related to Sheffield Castle in a way that has not been done before,” explained John. “We now believe that William de Lovetot, who built a ‘new’ castle in the early 12th century, planned a town to go with it, with a hospital, market and church. This information will feed directly into the archaeological dig that is taking place in 2018.”

**Digging deep**

Archaeologists are undertaking a major dig on the Castle Market site with plans to excavate 10 trenches. They will also work with community groups to explain their finds. John said, “By working down to the castle level, we aim to provide a full history of the site. We will also be able to confirm our deductions from the archives project. Most importantly, the excavations are the start of the regeneration project – our results will inform what happens next.”

**Revealing the castle**

Another innovative idea to come from our architecture students is a Castlegate Pier. This temporary construction will enable the public to view the castle remains during the dig. In addition a project led by Professor Dawn Hadley, involving Archaeology, Architecture, Computer Science and design agency Human Studio, has received funding from the Arts and Humanities Research Council to create an augmented reality model of the castle. Users of the associated app will be able to digitally experience Sheffield’s castle in the 15th century and student ideas for the development of the castle site; they will then be encouraged to join the conversation about its future.

**“Shedding new light on the origins of the city”**

Martin Gorman, Chair of the Friends of Sheffield Castle, appreciates the value of the University’s commitment to the Castlegate project: “Together, we are shedding new light on the origins of the city. Ideally, I would love to see the whole castle site excavated and preserved. However, I appreciate that there will need to be some commercial development and we are actively engaged in what that might be.”

Professor Moreland agrees, and goes further to say, “Personally, I think an iconic building that references the castle in some way – on a major entry point into the city with its hotels, waterways and station – would make a powerful statement. We are at the beginning of the process and it will be fascinating to see what our efforts have achieved for the people of the city 10 years from now.”

**Department of Archaeology**

www.sheffield.ac.uk/archaeology/research/sheffield-castle

**School of Architecture**

www.sheffield.ac.uk/architecture/latest/castlegate-projects-1.759027

www.liveprojects.org/2016/revealing-the-castle

**Friends of Sheffield Castle**

friendsofsheffieldcastle.org.uk

Mary, Queen of Scots

spent 14 years of her captivity based at Sheffield Castle from 1570–84.
The Chancellor of the University, The Most Hon. The Marquess of Crewe, inspecting members of the Officers' Training Corps on 29 June 1918.
A pivotal year

“... for four years, with a depleted staff and a much diminished student body, the University carried on, adding special war duties to its normal academic work... preparing for the day when the war suddenly clanged to a stop and, within a few weeks, the students came thronging back.”

So wrote Arthur Chapman, the author of a history of the University’s first half-century. He joined the staff as a demonstrator in the Department of Chemistry in 1920, and was well-placed to reflect on the aftermath of World War I and its profound effect on the University.

The announcement of the Armistice on 11 November 1918 was greeted by students with a hastily organised dance; members of the University’s Officers’ Training Corps were engaged in putting up fencing round a camp for captured German officers.

An editorial in Floreamus! (the University magazine) of March 1919 enthused: “Men are pouring back into the place full of ideas, ideals and knowledge... In 1914 half our men students had already left us to join the army, and as the weeks passed by the remnant grew gradually less till at last only a handful remained. This term has seen a reverse of the picture. We welcome back, not all, alas, who then left us – too many lie in French earth – but still a noble company of old acquaintances, each with a thrilling tale to tell. And with them we welcome another large body of gallant men who come to us for the first time.”

What a change for the students and staff who had endeavoured to “carry on as efficiently as possible in our own respective spheres, and make the most of a restricted scheme of things”. The war years saw an increase in the number of women studying and lecturing. Floreamus! viewed this change with some disdain: “Many student activities have reluctantly closed down their doors ‘for the duration’ and those which bravely remain open might be better supported. The preponderance of women – with the inevitable rider, a tendency to form cliques – is not good for the social life of the place.” However, by June 1919 this sniping had disappeared: “Without the efforts of the women in these years it would have been doubly difficult to have revived the life and activities of the place in the speedy and gratifying manner which has been so noticeable since the Armistice.”
From its beginnings, the University had actively encouraged the participation of male and female students alike, and was also unusual in its support of female staff. Dr Helen Mathers (BA History and Politics 1974, PhD History 1980), author of the University’s centenary history Steel City Scholars, has researched the status of female staff: “Women in science education in Sheffield go back to the 1880s, and they were taught in mixed classes by men. During the war, they took on a lot of teaching and pastoral care. Life at the University was overcrowded and stressful, and the previous respect for rules and authority was challenged by the returning soldiers. However, it must also have been a maturing experience, to mix with the older students who were so keen to learn and complete their degrees.”

With the departure of many male lecturers to the services, Professor Wynne in Chemistry appointed his top women graduates to teaching posts – Emily Turner and Dorothy Bennett continued as members of staff for several decades. The department’s war-time research on the anaesthetic beta-eucaine was entirely carried out by women. Science graduate Violet Dimbleby became an indispensable member of staff for Professor Turner in the Department of Glass Technology.

Before the end of June 1918 there were nearly 400 full-time students, about twice as many as in the preceding year and more than in 1914. As Chapman noted: “the next few years had an atmosphere all their own… One notable feature was a prolonged epidemic of dancing... unofficial dances were held, indeed broke out, at odd times and places, especially in the lunch hour.”

Following hard on the heels of the Armistice was the first General Election that allowed women (those aged over 30 who met a property qualification) to vote. The 1918 Representation of the People Act also abolished property and other restrictions for men, and extended the vote to all men over the age of 21. Additionally, men in the armed forces could vote from the age of 19. What impact would this have on the University? There must have been discussions and meetings involving students and staff on the theme of women’s suffrage during the preceding decades. It was a highly political time; however, little evidence remains in the University’s archives. Sheffield was the first known place in the country to form a women’s suffrage society run by women for women – the Sheffield Women’s Political Association (launched in 1857). Lettice Fisher, the wife of Vice-Chancellor HAL Fisher, chaired and spoke at meetings of the Women Workers’ Organising and Interests Association and was President of the Sheffield branch of the National Union of Women’s Suffrage Societies and of the local Federation of University Women.

There are only two references to the General Election in Floreamus! One correspondent notes, “Now many will have votes in the coming election, none of the women, but we can’t leave our preparation to the last minute... when every detail of our national life should be reconstructed on a firmer and more lasting basis, should we not evolve some plan of reconstruction of student life and outlook?” A second letter encourages eligible students and graduates to register so they can vote for the new constituency of the Combined English Universities (Durham, Manchester, Liverpool, Leeds, Sheffield, Birmingham and Bristol), another result of the 1918 Act. HAL Fisher was one of the two MPs elected.

Celebrations of the Armistice, and subsequently the signing of the Treaty of Versailles in June 1919, took place across the city – formal thanksgiving services, flags and bunting and parties. A Peace Parade on 19 July 1919 saw many thousands of people flock to the city centre. Dozens of memorials to the dead were set up. The University was no exception. The roll of honour housed in Firth Court in 1926 lists 196 names, a permanent reminder of all those who were lost.

Visit www.sheffieldsoldierww1.co.uk/Memorial to view the roll of honour, listed under ‘Sheffield University’.

1918
Installation of the Marquess of Crewe as the Chancellor of the University.
First women’s hall of residence set up at Oakholme Lodge.
Establishment of PhD degree.
1,332 deaths from influenza in Sheffield (October–November).
240,000 people in Sheffield were eligible to take part in the 1918 General Election (40% were women): only 48% cast a vote (Peter Warr, Sheffield’s Great War and Beyond).
President and Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir Keith Burnett FRS has confirmed his long-stated intention to retire following his 65th birthday and will step down later in the year. We asked him to reflect on his time leading the University of Sheffield.

Just over a decade ago, I became Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sheffield. I applied for the job on the recommendation of another Welsh scientist, Professor Gareth Roberts, who served as Vice-Chancellor from 1991 to 2000, and who had a deep love for the city and University. But my connection to Sheffield was also personal. My daughter was studying architecture, hard at work in the Arts Tower, and it was in Sheffield that she met her husband-to-be, also an architecture student. As a physicist, I already knew some of the important scholarship which was being done in Sheffield. So I agreed to put myself forward.

What I found here was both new and yet familiar. I grew up in the Rhondda Valley in South Wales, a place which had once been home to industries founded on steel and coal. I knew that these communities were full of talented people, but that opportunities had been hard to come by in the difficult decades during which these industries had contracted or, in the case of coal, almost disappeared.

As a scientist who had worked in the US, as well as at Oxford and Imperial, I also knew that knowledge could make a powerful difference in the world. Industries and jobs depended on productivity. Excellent hospitals needed highly trained doctors and research into the diseases which are no respecters of
geography. I knew that a university could change a place, and that the staff and students who came to it from around the world could be part of something that benefited the communities in their adopted city, as well as reaching out to make a difference right across the globe.

Eleven years later, I have seen much to make me deeply proud. I have, of course, also felt frustration and dismay at decisions made nationally and internationally. You cannot be part of a global community like the one at Sheffield without events around the world directly impinging on staff and students. I have been moved by their dedication to scholarship, generosity and sheer determination to use knowledge to do good.

As I prepare to hand over to a new Vice-Chancellor, I wish him or her all the very best in the face of the challenges which lie ahead. It isn't an easy job to lead a university such as ours, but it is a deep privilege to stand for an institution which means so much to so many and which has, for over a century, been a powerful force for good. What follows is a selection of work which makes me proud. In every case, this work also reminds me of the people who do it, and who are the true guardians of the University for the future.

Outstanding scholarship
Sheffield is a top 100 research-intensive university with scholarship at its heart, across every faculty. However, as a physicist I wanted to pick out those closest to my own field. I particularly want to acknowledge the work of Professor Maurice Skolnick who conducts leading-edge research on the physics of semiconductor nanostructures and quantum data. I was also thrilled for my fellow physicist Dr Ed Daw, whose dedicated work over many years helped to open a new window on the universe with the detection of gravitational waves from colliding black holes. For the first time, ripples in the fabric of spacetime were detected, confirming Albert Einstein's 1915 prediction made in the general theory of relativity.

Teachers who inspire
Whenever I speak to alumni around the world, they tell me about the teachers who inspired them. These memories of a person who shaped a career or who lit a flame of curiosity remain vivid for decades. I hear of the rigour and work which stood graduates in good stead in the years which followed. As a teacher, there is no greater accolade than the respect and affection of your students – I have heard this said about teachers here in Sheffield and at our International Faculty in Thessaloniki.

Work with refugees in Jordan
One of the greatest tragedies of our time is the experience of peoples displaced by conflict or natural disaster. Often, we wonder what we can do in the face of such human suffering. I am proud that our University has continued to offer sanctuary to scholars, working with the Institute of International Education and the Council for Assisting Refugee Academics. But we have also gone out to refugees where they are. I burst with pride when I think of the work of Professor Tony Ryan and his colleagues in Jordan, applying new techniques to growing food and developing sustainable technologies to create work within a camp for refugees from the war in Syria.

Professor Tony Ryan gets ready to ride around Zaatari, a refugee camp in Jordan run by the UN Refugee Agency. The trailer on the back of the bike will be used as a school bus: “It was a co-creation with the refugee team we work with at Zaatari, and a welder called Rahim was my principal partner in this project. We were just about to set off without a chaperone (this had been an ambition of mine since my first visit) to film camp life passing by. The guy in the back is a camp journalist called Omar and there is a 360-degree camera above him.”
Alzheimer’s disease is undertaken in Sheffield – work which brings together researchers, hospitals and patients themselves to make a real difference to the lives of people in the greatest need.

**Student Volunteering**

Sheffield Volunteering is a truly remarkable venture, bringing together students with more than 100 local charities, encouraging them to draw on their own skills and talents to develop their own ways of helping. In my time as Vice-Chancellor I have rarely been prouder of students than when I have seen them dedicate their time, not only supporting homeless people through acts of generosity but also, as they identified specific needs, setting up a company which offers employment and the chance through that to move into housing, work and opportunity.

**#WeAreInternational**

Sheffield is a university which is proud of its local roots, and grateful to a city which welcomes international staff and students with open arms. But our identity is global, and I am personally deeply proud to have founded the #WeAreInternational campaign with the President of the Students’ Union, Abdi Suleiman. This commitment to being a place of welcome for scholars and students from around the world has now been adopted by every university in the country, but it began here in Sheffield.

**Industry 4.0 and apprentices**

One of the greatest feelings of pride hits me every time I visit our Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre (AMRC), built on the former Orgreave Colliery site and now an internationally important research campus with over 100 companies. The site includes the world’s first fully reconfigurable factory.

What is most impressive to me is our Training Centre, where over 1,000 apprentices have now been sponsored by industry, with some taking Degree Apprenticeships in Engineering. The AMRC is not only attracting inward investment to this region, but it is increasing productivity at operations in Wales, Scotland, the US, South Korea, Oman and China. In all these places, knowledge is helping companies to become more productive, creating jobs and wealth along the way.

**Pioneering partnerships with China**

Surely one of the most important global developments during my time as Vice-Chancellor has been the growth of China. From a country in which poverty and even hunger were once common, China has become a global superpower – and Chinese students now make up 10 per cent of our student body. We have been determined to build partnerships for the good of both countries. Today, we work with four of China’s top five universities, partnering in everything from work on antimicrobial resistance to green energy, quantum computing and the Chinese space programme.

**The Diamond**

In September 2015 we opened the Diamond building on the site of the old Jessop Hospital. A state-of-the-art home for Engineering and Social Sciences, the Diamond welcomes thousands of students each day and has allowed major growth in the Faculty of Engineering in particular, fulfilling a real need in the UK and around the world for high-quality engineering graduates.

**Developing technicians**

All my working life I have known that science was often dependent on the skills of exceptional technicians. From medical breakthroughs to the Large Hadron Collider, leaps in knowledge need technicians of the highest calibre. For that reason, I was delighted to continue this work in Sheffield where we now host the National Technician Development Centre for Higher Education.
MAIN IMAGE: Jessop West, home to many departments in the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, with the Department of Music’s Jessop Building on the right. In the foreground, traffic is now restricted along Leavygreave Road.

RIGHT, FROM TOP:
The Diamond, opened in 2015, is sited between the Jessop Building and St George’s Church on Portobello.

Students relax and work among the new plantings along Leavygreave Road.

Jessop Hospital, originally opened in 1878, photographed in 1948.
© Sheffield Libraries and Archives
The area around Portobello and Leavygreave Road has been transformed. Stunning public spaces with safe routes for cyclists and pedestrians are now blended with sitting out and open-air working areas – and plenty of new planting and art works. More spacious and safer crossings on Western Bank and Upper Hanover Street make it easier for students, staff and members of the public to move around the campus.

This was a joint project between the University and Sheffield City Council, with a funding contribution of £2.9 million from the Sheffield City Region Investment Fund. The cycle and pedestrian routes are an extension of the council’s ‘gold route’ from the railway station through the city centre and now up to the campus. A cycle hub located close to the Students’ Union provides secure storage and changing facilities for our cycling community.

The Concourse, the key thoroughfare joining the Students’ Union and Firth Court and the Alfred Denny Building, has also been refurbished – with most of the work complete in time to welcome all our visitors for Summer Graduation.

Less obvious to visitors but equally important to our students and staff has been a makeover of the Information Commons. First opened in 2007, recent student feedback has resulted in more study spaces and new furniture.

Current projects include the development of two new artificial pitches at the Norton Sports Centre – one for hockey and one for rugby/football, and the creation of the Engineering Heartspace, with a stunning glass roof over a quadruple height atrium. This major addition to the facilities of the Faculty of Engineering is scheduled for completion in late 2019.

www.sheffield.ac.uk/efm/estatesdevelopment/projects
Agnes Grunwald-Spier is one of the youngest survivors of the Holocaust. Born in Hungary in 1944, today she lives in London and is a passionate campaigner to ensure awareness of the Holocaust and its survivors remains in the public eye. Agnes was awarded an MBE in 2016 for her work as a Holocaust Memorial Day Trust Trustee and for ‘services to Holocaust awareness’. She received an honorary degree from the University of Sheffield in January 2018.

Some time after my birth in Budapest in July 1944, my mother, Leona Grunwald, was ordered to report the next day. She went with me in her arms. By some miracle, the man in charge that day sent the women with children back. I have no means of knowing who that official was and what his motives were for what he did. I cannot know his name or his fate. But his actions helped both of us to survive the Holocaust.

There is nothing like knowing that someone wanted to kill you to make you appreciate the joys of life. But with it comes what is known as ‘survivor’s guilt’. Why me? Why did I survive when so many others didn’t? Was it to do the work I do now, so late in my life? I am very conscious of speaking for the millions of people – including the 1.5 million children – who were murdered by the Nazis simply because they were Jewish. And I was so nearly one of them.

The sombreness of the Holocaust does not mean that I’m just a serious person. I love the theatre and ballet, visiting galleries, museums and interesting buildings. I’m an enthusiastic collector of porcelain and have appeared on two television programmes about antiques. I’m a good cook and love eating with friends and family in good restaurants.

My time at the University had an enormous impact on my life. In my 50s, I realised I needed to know more about the Holocaust, both for me and for my three sons. I felt I ought to be able to talk to them about it, but I didn’t feel equipped to. I wanted them to know who they were and where they came from, and to have pride in their past. When I heard about the MA in Holocaust Studies, I thought ‘That’s it, that’s for me.’ I thoroughly enjoyed it and learnt a great deal.

For my dissertation, I wrote about an American journalist named Varian Fry who rescued Jews in France during the war. That led to me writing my first book, The Other Schindlers, about the many brave people who risked their lives to help those who were being persecuted. I realised that they followed their instinct for what was right – not what the dictators told them. I hope no one will ever again have to experience horrors on the scale of the Holocaust, but if someone makes a racist, anti-Semitic or homophobic comment in your presence, doing nothing is not an option.

As a pensioner I’ve been able to enjoy a whole new career. The Other Schindlers has gone on to sell over 13,000 copies and has led on to me writing two more books. I’ve also given talks internationally, including in Germany, which gives me a great sense of achievement. Many women my age are playing bridge and having their nails done, but I have a much more interesting life. I’ve received an MBE from the Queen and now an honorary doctorate. I’m proud of such public recognition for my work and it shows that people acknowledge the importance of the Holocaust. All of this came about because I did the MA, so I owe an awful lot to the University.

Being published late in life surprises people. They see a dumpy old woman and assume I am retired. When I say I’m a writer, one chap assumed it was cookery books. I said, ’I write about the Holocaust.’ He was silent. I added, ’I was a baby in the Budapest Ghetto.’ That shut him up.
DR LU GANG

MSc(Eng) Data Communication 2002, PhD Computer Science 2008
Founder and CEO of TechNode

The recipient of the British Council’s 2018 Study UK Alumni Awards (Entrepreneurial category) for China and the East Asia/Pacific Region, Dr Lu Gang started TechNode as his personal blog when he was undertaking his PhD. Its popularity led to its launch in China as a bilingual technology news platform in 2012. TechNode reaches millions of readers each month and is leading the drive to connect Chinese and global start-up ecosystems. It employs over 70 staff; international offices are opening in 2018.

I remember I had a farewell dinner with friends the day before I flew back from the UK to China in 2008 and we made a promise that we would all come back to Sheffield in 10 years’ time. I was therefore delighted to visit the University again in 2018 with the British Council in China, having received their Entrepreneurial Alumni Award. This recognition means a lot to TechNode and I felt so honoured. My mission for TechNode is to act as a bridge between China and the global tech ecosystem, covering the latest developments and start-up stories in China, and to build a platform for entrepreneurs. I really didn’t expect this would become my career. I started my blog so I could share my PhD research findings. I was reading the English media covering stories about Chinese technology and I realised that there were two key words that were talked about – censorship and copycats – which are not 100 per cent true. I thought I can probably write something to tell the truth. I learnt from TechCrunch in the US that a tech blog can also be a platform linking everyone in the start-up ecosystem. I decided to take the risk and turn my blog into a media company. There were two reasons why I chose to study at Sheffield. First, I have always loved the UK, the football, the music, the culture. Second, in China it takes three years to finish a masters degree and in the UK it’s one year with great education quality. Thanks to my supervisor and my department, I reached out to a Sheffield-based tech company and they then sponsored my PhD. I was lucky – I didn’t have to worry about money and I had the chance to see technology from both academic and industry angles. I owe everything to my UK experience. I will never forget my graduation – it was really a happy and glorious moment for me. I also had opportunities to visit universities across Europe as my papers were accepted at several conferences. I really enjoyed my weekend time, playing football at Goodwin, hiking in the Peak District – so many great memories of Sheffield.

SAHEELA MOHAMMED

MEng Bioengineering 2017
Engineering Graduate in the Diabetes Care Division of global healthcare company Abbott

Recipient of the Chancellor’s Medal in 2017 for her outstanding contribution to the Faculty of Engineering, the University and the wider community of Sheffield. Saheela Mohammed continues to volunteer with children, promoting education in STEM subjects, alongside her work within healthcare technologies.

Voluntary work is something that was incredibly important to me throughout school, later at the University and now at work. It has always been my chance to give back to the community and support initiatives involving the engagement of children in education. At Sheffield, I volunteered at various events and interactive workshops in local schools.

“Voluntary work is something that was incredibly important to me throughout school, later at the University and now at work. It has always been my chance to give back to the community and support initiatives involving the engagement of children in education. At Sheffield, I volunteered at various events and interactive workshops in local schools.”
and colleges, visiting local attractions with children and their siblings for Saturday Playgroup, and attending a nationwide conference for Engineers Without Borders.

I was also active with the Women in Engineering student society, and was elected as Secretary and later President. We were involved with the national Big Bang event where a large number of organisations showcased the wonders of science, engineering and technology to young children. We also contributed to the Engineering is campaign, which was launched at the Houses of Parliament. This included a children’s book written by student engineers as well as online games, lesson plans for teachers and information on different engineering careers. The engineer and TV presenter Roma Agrawal was a supporter of our work – and Professors Elena Rodriguez-Falcon and Sheila MacNeil at the University were also key players for me personally.

I feel that my volunteering work at the University contributes to my working life very positively. Taking part in the Global Engineering Challenge, as part of my course, taught me about reshaping initial ideas and adapting solutions. I was also selected for the Sheffield Engineering Leadership Academy, which further developed my project management, planning and negotiation skills. My internship and research placements allowed me to get ready for work with a glimpse into working life. I always say yes to every opportunity – any experience, good or bad, develops you as a person.

While I was reading bioengineering, I knew I wanted to advance healthcare technologies so that everyone, everywhere, can benefit. Within the Diabetes Care Division at Abbott, I am working on the manufacturing process of their glucose monitoring system – Freestyle Libre Sensor – and supporting technical investigations. Helping to create systems that support the control and management of diabetes is a step for me in achieving my goal of driving positive changes to advance healthcare technologies. I am looking forward to seeing what future rotations have in store for me.

I have spent many years promoting fairtrade and supporting fairtrade organisations, helping them improve their strategic and marketing skills as well as finding new outlets for their products in Europe and the US. Brand recognition is a challenge in the US – the UK is a fairtrade stronghold – and our main task is to build awareness, and begin to unify the complex and fractured nature of the main fairtrade players in the US. Fairtrade America was launched in 2013 and we also have another independent player, Fair Trade USA, which can be confusing.

I came to the US when I was working for General Electric (GE). I was managing business development across Europe before a move to Rockville, Maryland, running Alternate Channels for GE Information Services. I next spent 20 years in Silicon Valley, consulting for software and web services start-ups. I now live in Orange County, California, with my wife Jan. I was brought up in Liverpool in the UK – and can safely say I didn’t have a career plan when I completed my undergraduate degree at Sheffield. I began as a teacher in London and went into the manufacturing industry after eight years – much better pay! I soon realised I needed an MBA and I graduated from INSEAD, in France, before my move to General Electric.

Sheffield was far enough away from home for my desire to be independent, yet close enough to get back home via Manchester – even by hitchhiking, which was fairly common in the 60s. I really enjoyed my time there. Highlights were being elected to the Student Representative Council as an independent; completing the 46-mile Rag walk in 11 hours; and working on the Music & Ents Committee in the era of the ‘super bands’. And, of course, I enjoyed my economics classes, which went on to define my career later.

My son, Nicholaus, followed in my footsteps to Sheffield and is an information management graduate. Initially he didn’t like the food or weather, but he fell in love and is still there. I believe there are also six alumni among our cousins, and I am researching their stories. I also find time to follow Everton – the original Liverpool football team! – and I plan to work my way around the world on trains.
Honours and Awards

Staff and students from the University continue to be recognised nationally and internationally for their expertise.

**Frank Brown** *(Catering Manager, 1970–83)* received the Légion d’Honneur from the French Government for his outstanding military service on D-Day in June 1944. He served on board torpedo boats in the English Channel and provided essential support to his fellow soldiers.

**Professor Terry Callaghan** *(Animal and Plant Sciences)* has been appointed a Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George for services to advancing knowledge and international collaboration in arctic science.

**The Confucius Institute** received the China Collaboration Prize at the Sheffield City Region Horasis China Business Awards.

**Professor Chris Deery** *(Clinical Dentistry)* has been appointed Chair of the Dental Schools Council.

**Isabel Hyde** *(Biochemistry student)* won the national Future of Science competition organised by RB (Reckitt Benckiser) with her idea of using aromas to compensate for a reduction of sugar and salt in food.

**Professor Gill Valentine** *(Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor)* was named Diversity Champion for the education sector at the Excellence in Diversity Awards 2017.

**Dr Julie Hyde** *(PhD Organometallic Chemistry and Crystallography 1998) (Chemistry)* won an Award for Service from the Royal Society of Chemistry.

**Imam Sheikh Mohammad Ismail** *(MEd Education 1995) (Multifaith Chaplaincy Service)* has been appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of South Yorkshire.

**Dr Matt Johnson** *(PhD Molecular Biology and Biotechnology 2007) (Molecular Biology and Biotechnology)* received the Biochemical Society’s Colworth Medal for his outstanding research in biochemistry.

**Professors Jackie Marsh** *(BA English Literature 1980, MEd Literacy 1998, PhD Education 2003) (Education)* and **Craig Watkins** *(Interim Vice President and Head of the Faculty of Social Sciences)* have been appointed as Fellows of the Academy of Social Sciences.

**Ossila Ltd**, a University spin-out company, received the Institute of Physics Business Innovation Award in recognition of its solar cell prototyping platform.

**Patrick Stowell** *(PhD student) (Particle Physics and Particle Astrophysics Group)* received the John G Rutherglen Memorial Prize 2017 in recognition of his experimental particle physics research.

The efforts of 258 staff ensured that the **University of Sheffield** came first in the national Love to Ride Cycle Challenge; they covered 32,000 miles on their bikes throughout September 2017.

**Professor Philip Warren** *(Animal and Plant Sciences)* received the British Ecological Society’s President’s Medal.

**Dr Elspeth Whitby** *(PG Cert Teaching and Learning for University Lecturers 2003, PhD Medicine 2007) (Oncology and Metabolism)* received the Distinguished Service Medal from the British Institute of Radiology.

The Confucius Institute receive the China Collaboration Prize.
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). The Chair and Deputy Chair of the Alumni Board are also members of the University Council and were both appointed as Pro-Chancellors in 2017.

Over the past year the Alumni Board has met three times, twice in Sheffield and once in London. Among the major agenda items that we have discussed and debated are:

- The biennial Convocation Lecture, delivered by a distinguished alumnus/alumna: Dr Helen Sharman OBE (BSc Chemistry 1984, Hon DSc 2017) was our inaugural lecturer in June 2018
- The Alumni Forum – an opportunity for alumni to raise questions with the Alumni Board and members of DARE – to take place before the Convocation Lecture
- The establishment of an interactive Alumni Portal, to provide targeted information and services and allow alumni to make better use of peer networks worldwide
- Recipients of the Professor Robert Boucher Distinguished Alumni Awards
- A consultation on the recruitment process and appointment of a new President and Vice-Chancellor for the University
- Support for the Sheffield Scanner Appeal, including participation in The Big Walk
- Alumni engagement and support for the Students’ Union
- Support for the #WeAreInternational and International Alumni Memories campaigns, both of which show our long-term commitment as an international university.

A copy of the Alumni Charter and full minutes of our meetings can be found at www.sheffield.ac.uk/alumni/alumniboard. We are 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

2018

Pop Tarts Reunited
Saturday 8 September 2018
On campus
All Sheffield alumni are invited back to the Students’ Union to relive memories from your student days with non-stop retro pop at Pop Tarts Reunited!

Alumni Reception in Dubai
Thursday 13 September 2018
Dubai
Alumni in Dubai are invited to attend a special reception, hosted by Miles Stevenson, Director of Advancement. This event offers the perfect opportunity to reconnect with the University and fellow graduates.

Heritage Circle Lunch
Friday 26 October 2018
Firth Hall
A special lunch for those alumni and friends 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.

2019

Sheffield Alumni Pub Quiz
February 2019
London
The annual pub quiz is back! Who will beat their fellow alumni to take home the trophy? Invitations will be sent by email at the start of the year.

Alumni Sports Day
April 2019
On campus
Meet your friends back in Sheffield for the annual sports day and evening social at the Students’ Union. Email j.blencowe@sheffield.ac.uk or call 0114 222 6978 to get involved.

Annual Alumni Reunion
Saturday 8 September 2018
On campus
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.

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 Lord Jim O’Neill (BA Economics 1978, MA Economics 1980, Hon LittD 2014), hosted by the President and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir Keith Burnett.

Pop Tarts Reunited
April 2019
On campus
Following on from the sports day, celebrate or commiserate with a trip to the Students’ Union for a night of pop pleasure.

House of Lords Alumni Reception
April 2019
London
Join fellow alumni in the impressive surroundings of Westminster for this popular reception hosted by Lord Blunkett. Guests 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.

Anniversary Reunion Luncheon for the classes of 1954 and 1959
Wednesday 1 May 2019
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.

University Quiz Night
Thursday 2 May 2019
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. Email eventsteam@sheffield.ac.uk
**American Alumni Reunion**

**Saturday 4 May 2019**
San Francisco
This flagship event for US alumni will take place in San Francisco. Invitations to the evening reception and dinner will be sent in March. To find out more email usa@sheffield.ac.uk

**Anniversary Reunion Luncheon for the class of 1969**

**Friday 14 June 2019**
On campus
A celebratory luncheon in Firth Hall, to mark the 50th anniversary of alumni graduating from the University. Invitations will be emailed out in the spring to all those from this class year for whom we hold contact details.

**Annual Alumni Reunion**

**Saturday 7 September 2019**
On campus
Open to all alumni, the annual reunion recognises in particular those marking 20, 25, 30 and 40 years since graduating from the University. The classes of 1999, 1994, 1989 and 1979 are the focus for our 2019 celebrations. Invitations will be emailed out in the spring to all those from these class years for whom we hold contact details.

For a list of all our UK and overseas events visit www.sheffield.ac.uk/alumni/events/upcoming

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**Annual Alumni Reunion 2017**

We welcomed over 170 alumni back to campus for our 10th Annual Alumni Reunion. They came from all over the UK and from as far afield as Switzerland, Turkey and Australia. This was a special celebration for alumni who graduated in 1977, 1987, 1992 and 1997.

The day was packed with tours of old and new landmarks and plenty of opportunities to catch up and reminisce. Alumni were transported back to their student days when revisiting Firth Court and the Arts Tower with its famous Paternoster lift. Recent developments such as Jessop West and the Diamond wowed the crowd and illustrated how the campus has expanded over the years.

In the evening, alumni arrived at Firth Court to attend the Annual Alumni Reunion Dinner and Dance, hosted by Professor Gill Valentine, Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor. Guest speaker Dr Andrew Hosty (BSc Materials Science and Engineering 1987, PhD Ceramics 1992), CEO of the Henry Royce Institute, shared his memories of student life at Sheffield, which included the legendary Pyjama Jump and the Limit nightclub.

The live band were excellent and finished their set with an energy-filled rendition of *Johnny B Good*, which got our alumni fired up for more dancing at the Students’ Union – bringing back many a fond memory into the early hours.
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.

1930s

We were sad to learn of the death of Sir Alan Dawtry CBE, TD (LLB Law 1937, Hon LLD 2007) at the age of 102. His distinguished career in local government began at Sheffield City Council. He later served as Chief Executive of Westminster City Council, and played a major part in the creation of the present pattern of 32 London boroughs. He served as an officer in the Royal Artillery during World War II and received the military MBE for his part in planning the Anzio landings. Miles Stevenson, Director of Advancement, said, “Sir Alan was so proud of his University. There were only 10 students in his 1937 graduating class and he watched with pleasure how the University grew in size and reputation over the next 80 years.”

1950s

Sir Peter Middleton (BA Economics 1955, Hon LittD 1984), former Chancellor of the University, received the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Non-Executive Director Awards 2018.

1960s

Sir Bernard Waddingham (BA Economics 1968) has been invested as a Knight of the Pontifical Order of Saint Gregory the Great in recognition of his work in support of the Roman Catholic Church and of the Holy See.

1970s

Dr Ian Logan (MBChB Medicine 1970) received the 2017 Annual Best Paper Award from the journal Zoological Research, a publication produced by the Kunming Institute of Zoology, the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the China Zoological Society, for his paper on the epidemic in South America caused by the Zika virus.

Air Chief Marshal Sir Stuart Peach (BA Geography, Economic and Social History 1977, Hon LittD 2007) was elected Chairman of the NATO Military Committee by the Allied Chiefs of Defence.

Professor Stewart Cole (PhD Microbiology 1979) is the President of the Institut Pasteur, Paris.

1980s

Paul Mason (BA Music and Politics 1981, Hon LittD 2014) received the inaugural Ellen Meiksins Wood Prize from the Broadbent Institute, Canada.
St George's Church was closed as a place of worship in 1978. In 1994 an imaginative conversion created a lecture hall and student accommodation in the north and south aisles.

Susanna Chiu (BA Economics 1982) received the Outstanding Business Woman of the Year Award from the Commercial Daily, Hong Kong.

Steve Oldfield (BA French and Spanish 1985) is the Chief Commercial Officer of the Department of Health and Social Care.

Professor Dr Nizamuddin Ahmed (PhD Architecture 1987) is the Vice-Chancellor of BGMEA University of Fashion and Technology (BUFT) in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

1990s

Professor Colin Bailey (BEng Civil Engineering 1992, PhD Civil Engineering 1995) is the President/Principal of Queen Mary University of London.

Clare Edwards (BMus Music 1995) received the Lady Hilary Grove Prize 2017 for her outstanding contribution to music in the community.

Dr Spiros Kitsinelis (MChem Chemistry 1999, PhD Chemistry 2003) was nominated for the British Council's Study UK Alumni Awards (Social Impact category) for Greece 2017.
Your Notes and News (CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE)

2000s

Katharine Lowrie (née Land) (BA Landscape Design with Planning 2000) has published Running South America with my husband and other animals, the story of the remarkable journey she completed with David Lowrie (BA Business Studies 2000) to raise funds for BirdLife International and Conservacion Patagonica.

Dr Wei Yang (MSc Computer Aided Environmental Design 2001, PhD Architecture 2005), Founding Director of Wei Yang and Partners, London, was made a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences.

Alexandros Charkiolakis (BMus Music 2002, MMus Music 2004) was nominated for the British Council’s Study UK Alumni Awards (Professional Achievement category) for Greece 2017.

Scott Lomax (BA Archaeology and Prehistory 2004) is the City Archaeologist for Nottingham.

Cllr Ben Curran (LLB Law 2006, PG Cert Leadership 2012), Cabinet Member for Planning and Development on Sheffield City Council, is one of the recipients of a Marshall Memorial Fellowship 2017–18, awarded by the German Marshall Fund of the US, which promotes understanding of trans-Atlantic relations.

Dr Nikolaos Dimitriadis (PhD Management 2006) was nominated for the British Council’s Study UK Alumni Awards (Entrepreneurial category) for Greece 2017.

David John Henderson (1985–2016) (BA History 2006, MA Historical Research 2007) was elected posthumously to the category of Honorary Fellow by the Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology where he held the position of Institute Registrar.

Dame Jessica Ennis-Hill CBE (BSc Psychology 2007, Hon LittD 2010) received the Lifetime Achievement Award at the BBC Sports Personality of the Year 2017 ceremony.

Dr Ayesha Saeed Husaini (PhD Education 2009) received the British Council’s Social Impact Alumni Award for the Middle East and North Africa.

2010s

Sophie Trew (BA Journalism 2013), a vlogger and founder of Trew Fields Festival, was named a Remarkable Person at the Spotlight Awards, set up by Live Better With Cancer.

Professor Dame Hilary Chapman CBE (Hon MD 2015) is a Deputy Lieutenant of South Yorkshire.

Dr Helen Mort (PhD English Language and Linguistics 2015) won the Mslexia Women’s Poetry Competition for her poem Vanishing Point.

Theodore Wing (BSc Biomedical Science 2016, MSc Translational Neuroscience 2017) received the inaugural Jody de Vos Annual MND Award for his research into motor neurone disease at the Sheffield Institute for Translational Neuroscience.
Alumni Honours

Birthday Honours 2017, New Year Honours 2018

Dr Jacqueline Bene (MBChB Clinical Medicine 1988) Awarded an OBE for services to healthcare.

Carmen Callil (Hon LittD 1994) Created a Dame for services to literature.

Professor Hilary Chapman CBE (Hon MD 2015) Created a Dame for services to nursing.

Dr Jonathan Clark (MED Inclusive Education 2001, EdD Education 2005) Awarded an OBE for services to disabled children and children with special educational needs (New Year Honours 2017).

Kevin Clifford (MSc Health Economics and Management 1999) Awarded an OBE for services to healthcare.

Karen Danesi (née Gray) (BSc Mathematical Studies 1985) Awarded an OBE for services to British foreign policy.

Dr Shabana Haque (BSc Chemistry 1995, PhD Chemistry 1999) Awarded an OBE for services to civil service science and the engineering profession.

Paul Harper (BA English Literature 1979) Awarded an MBE for services to the Department for Education.

Roderick Heather (BA Economics 1967) Awarded an MBE for services to flood risk management.


James Hurst (BA Geography and Geology 1976) Awarded a BEM for services to voluntary and charitable services in Salford.

Professor Sir Simon Lovestone (BSc Microbiology 1982) Created a Knight Bachelor for services to neuroscience research.

Professor Colin Mellors (BA Modern Politics 1971, MA Modern Politics 1973) Awarded an OBE for services to economic development in Yorkshire.

Professor Sir Michael Rawlins (Hon MD 2012) Created a Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the British Empire for services to the safety of medicines, healthcare and innovation.

Dr Dorothy Rees (PhD Oral Pathology 1999) Awarded an OBE for services to democracy.

Susan Ross (née Earle) (BSc Animal and Plant Biology 1980) Awarded an MBE for voluntary service to UK exports.

Dr Helen Sharman OBE (BSc Chemistry 1984, Hon DSc 2017) Appointed a Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George for services to science and technology and technology educational outreach.

Stephen Speed (BSc Physics 1983) Appointed a Companion of the Order of the Bath for services to the oil and gas industry.

Professor Lord Nicholas Stern of Brentford (Hon LittD 2008) Appointed a Companion of Honour for services to economics, international relations and tackling climate change.

Gerald Tessier (BA Economics and Politics 1978) Awarded an MBE for services to democracy.

Professor Sir David Weatherall (Hon MD 1899) Created a Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the British Empire for services to medicine.

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 2017
Pioneering Alumni Award
For a recent graduate who has demonstrated outstanding commitment and enthusiasm as a volunteer: Michael Conroy (MA Town and Regional Planning 2016)

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: Andrew Williams (BEng Metal Science and Engineering 1989)

Find out more about our alumni winners at www.sheffield.ac.uk/alumni/volunteering/thankyou

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Michael Conroy (top) and Andrew Williams received their awards from Lizzie Ruse, Alumni Volunteering Manager.
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 University’s 12th Vice-Chancellor who set up the Development and Alumni Relations Office in 2002.

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 Rundström, Head of Alumni Relations, The University of Sheffield, Development, Alumni Relations & Events, 40 Victoria Street, Sheffield, S10 2TN, or email 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 2019 is 23 November 2018.

Further details can be found at www.sheffield.ac.uk/alumni/our_alumni/distinguished

Award winner 2017
Sarah Evans (BSc Natural Environmental Science 1985) was honoured for her achievement in reaching the top of two professions – the financial sector and the wine trade. She served as the first female Chairman of the Ipswich Building Society from 2013 until her retirement in 2017; she continues as Chairman of the International Exhibition Co-operative Wine Society (‘The Wine Society’), becoming the first female Chairman of the mutual organisation in 2009. On graduation, Sarah trained as a chartered accountant with Price Waterhouse, and worked at the Serious Fraud Office, specialising in forensic accounting, before serving as a partner at Ernst & Young and then joining the board of the Ipswich Building Society. A keen sportswoman, Sarah played lacrosse for the University and was a founding member of the University Ladies Cricket Team where she regularly opened the bowling.

Sarah Evans receiving her award from Rosemary Boucher.

David Fyfe with the Chancellor, The Rt Hon Lady Justice Rafferty DBE.

Award winner 2017
David Fyfe (BSc Mathematics 1972), who has enjoyed a successful career as a leading financial planner, was honoured in recognition of his dedication to raising vital funds for one of the region’s most well-loved charities, Sheffield Children’s Hospital. Together with friends Nigel and Sandra Worthington and his wife, Jean, he organised a ‘one-off’ ball for the charity in 1990. Today, the now-annual Daffodil Ball is one of the most popular events on the Sheffield social scene and has raised over £1 million to provide specialist medical equipment. Highlights include a portable ultrasound for babies in neonatal care, which allows them to be tested in their own cots, a 3T MRI scanner, as well as a new burns treatment room and outpatient area, which has transformed the experience of burns’ victims at the hospital.

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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:

Malcolm Clements (BEng Civil Engineering 1940)
Senior Lecturer in the Department of Civil and Structural Engineering, and a member of staff from 1957–82.

Professor David Fenton
Professor in the Department of Chemistry, and a member of staff from 1973–2003.

Professor Edward ‘Teddy’ Garden
Head of the Department of Music from 1975–93.

Emeritus Professor Bob Hale
Professor in the Department of Philosophy, and a member of staff from 2006–15.

Dr Sarah Hyde (BA Japanese Studies 1993)
Lecturer in the School of East Asian Studies, and a member of staff from 2002–03.

Professor Roy Jennings
Professor of Medical Microbiology in the Department of Infection, Immunity and Cardiovascular Disease, and a member of staff from 1972–98.

Dr Steve Ludlam (BA Politics, Economics and Social History 1985, PhD Politics 1991) Senior Lecturer in the Department of Politics, and a member of staff from 1993–2016.

Professor Josephine Malby
Professor of Accounting and Financial Management in the Management School, and a member of staff from 1987–2006 and 2014–17.

Dr John Roberts
Senior Research Scientist in the Department of Electronic and Electrical Engineering, and a member of staff from 1980–2009.


Brian Gilvary (BSc Mathematics 1983, Hon DSc 2018): Chief Financial Officer and Director of BP.

Agnes Grunwald-Spier MBE (MA Holocaust Studies 1998, Hon LittD 2018): author and historian committed to raising Holocaust awareness (also see page 32).


Dr Bernard Johnston (BEng Civil and Structural Engineering 1965, PhD Civil and Structural Engineering 1974, Hon DEng 2018): educator and industrial engineer.

Dr Lowell Lewis (MBChB Medicine 1976, Hon MD 2018): Chief Medical Officer of Montserrat.


Ann Sansom (BA English Literature 1994, Hon LittD 2018) and Peter Sansom (Hon LittD 2018): distinguished poets and Directors of The Poetry Business, the Sheffield-based poetry publisher and writer development agency.

Professor Geoffrey Sims OBE, FREng (Hon LLD 1991)
Professor Sims was the University’s 10th Vice-Chancellor, serving from 1974–90. He oversaw a period of great change and left an institution transformed in its physical appearance with a proud reputation for its excellent teaching and research. He took seriously the involvement of the University in the local community, playing an active role as a governor of local schools and as a member of the commercial and cultural bodies of the city. He was also devoted to his work for higher education, active in both the work of the British Council and the Association of Commonwealth Universities. He remained a close friend of the University following his retirement.

Visit www.sheffield.ac.uk/alumni/sims-tribute for a full appreciation.

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 2018:

For further information on how to nominate someone for an honorary degree, please contact Claire Rundström, Head of Alumni Relations, email: c.e.rundstrom@sheffield.ac.uk
John Roach (1920–2015), an eminent and much-loved Professor of Education, left over £750,000 to the University in his Will. His gift will be used to support students through The Roach Scholarships, named in his honour. They are expected to benefit over 200 undergraduate and postgraduate students over the next 20 years.

Professor Roach was himself the recipient of a scholarship to attend university in 1938. His studies were however disrupted by World War II. He spent three years as a prisoner of war on the infamous Burma-Siam death railway. In 1965, after 16 years teaching at Cambridge, he was appointed Director of the Institute of Education and Professor of Education at the University of Sheffield.

In July 2017, in the presence of some of his godchildren, Professor Roach was admitted posthumously to the University’s Roll of Benefactors by the Chancellor, Dame Anne Rafferty.

“My gratitude is immeasurable. As a working-class lad from Lancashire, having the chance to study at an institution such as this is something my parents and grandparents could only have imagined in their wildest dreams.”

Liam Hulmes, recipient of a postgraduate Roach Scholarship.

Create a legacy of your own

To talk through your ideas in confidence or to request a copy of our Legacy brochure, please contact:

David Meadows, Development Officer for Legacies, Development, Alumni Relations & Events, The University of Sheffield, 40 Victoria Street, Sheffield, S10 2TN, Tel: +44 (0)114 222 1073. Email: d.meadows@sheffield.ac.uk, www.sheffield.ac.uk/legacies

The University of Sheffield is an exempt charity X1089
Don’t miss out on the benefits of staying in touch with us.

For some of these benefits you may need to show your Alumni Membership Card. If you haven’t received your card yet or need a replacement, please email alumni@sheffield.ac.uk or call 0114 222 5592.
**Six in a row**
We successfully defeated Sheffield Hallam to win Varsity for the sixth consecutive year.

**Our green campus**
The University and Students’ Union have introduced the UK’s first-ever Campus Cup scheme, aiming to reduce the 600,000 disposable cups thrown away each year.

**Special Olympics hosts**
Our Endcliffe and Ranmoor student residences were turned into the Special Olympic Village for a week last summer when we hosted over 3,000 athletes, their carers, coaches and families who were taking part in the Games.

**Ten years at the top**
Our Students’ Union has been voted top nationally for the tenth consecutive year in the Times Higher Education Student Experience Survey 2018.

**The gift of time**
Over 1,500 former students from 70 countries have given 12,000 hours of their time over the past year to mentor, advise and support current students through our Alumni Volunteering programme.

**Made in Sheffield**
Marking 11 years as Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir Keith Burnett was honoured with the Made in Sheffield Special Recognition Award by the city’s manufacturers and makers.

**Addressing the STEM gender gap**
We welcomed 600 local school girls to campus for our STEM For Girls event to encourage them to pursue science, technology, engineering and maths.

**Grayson Perry Orwell Lecture**
Titled ‘I’ve read all the academic texts on empathy’, renowned artist Grayson Perry delivered the Orwell Lecture in the Octagon Centre, the first time the prestigious event has been held in the North of England for almost 20 years.

**Tackling breast cancer**
A pioneering new therapy discovered by our scientists has received approval to be used to treat breast cancer patients.

**Six in a row**
We successfully defeated Sheffield Hallam to win Varsity for the sixth consecutive year.

**A leading university**
- 13th in the UK and 75th in the world (QS World Rankings 2019).
- 13th in the UK, 104th in the world and 42nd most international university (Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2018).
- 21st in the UK (Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2018).

**Joining the Sheffield Alumni Family**
10,000 students graduated this year, joining the 180,000-strong Sheffield Alumni family.

**Enabling success**
Thanks to generous donations totalling almost £2.25m, 630 undergraduates have received scholarships over the past five years.

**Boeing in Sheffield**
Leading aerospace company Boeing announced that their only production facility in Europe will be opening in Sheffield in late-2018, alongside Factory 2050, part of the University’s Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre.

**The Big Walk 2018**
Over 300 alumni and friends walked a 26.2 mile marathon-distance through the Peak District in support of the Sheffield Scanner campaign.

**REASONS TO BE PROUD**

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**Development, Alumni Relations & Events, The University of Sheffield, 40 Victoria Street, Sheffield, S10 2TN, UK 0114 222 1071**