Dear friends,

As I write, we have launched our 50th anniversary year, and the celebrations are well underway. We have much to celebrate, and our success is due – in no small part – to the continued support of our worldwide alumni community.

Our 50th anniversary offers the entire Kent community; staff, students, alumni and friends of the University, an opportunity to come together and celebrate everything that we have achieved over the past 50 years. As an institution, we have achieved much of which we can be proud, including a league table rise to become a top 20 UK university again this year, the development of new courses and of course, our expansion to our Medway campus and our four European postgraduate centres. However, much remains that you will remember from your time at Kent, from the original colleges and Beverly Farmhouse, to that extraordinary view of the City on the Canterbury campus.

Buildings such as the Gulbenkian, one of our first campus buildings, the new Colyer-Fergusson Music Building and Bridge Wardens’ College demonstrate the impact that the support of alumni and friends has had on our campuses and on our students. You have all played your part in advancing the University and life at Kent would be very different without this vital support.

From scholarships and prizes which reward the hard work and achievements of our students, to work placements and professional mentors to enhance their graduate prospects; the 50th anniversary should also be our chance to say thank you – to all of you – for helping Kent to excel.

Our University is evolving, and the next 50 years will, we hope, be even more exciting than the last. In addition to being an opportunity for celebration, this year is also your chance to have your say on the future of the University and for us all to reflect on what Kent might look like in 50 years’ time. It is a challenge to all of us to create a lasting legacy that will shape the University for the next 50 years: This is your chance to shape our future.

I hope to have the opportunity to see many of you at the celebrations this year; find out more about our plans at www.kent.ac.uk/50.

Professor Dame Julia M Goodfellow, DBE, CBE
Vice-Chancellor
The arrival of the new academic year has brought with it Kent’s 50th anniversary, and celebrations to commemorate this important milestone were launched at opening ceremonies at the Canterbury and Medway campuses on 1 and 2 October 2014.

Hundreds of staff and students, both past and present, as well as friends of Kent and members of the wider community, attended the opening ceremonies to welcome in the official start of our year-long celebrations. The evenings’ entertainment included live bands playing music from the last five decades, covering songs by famous bands who once performed at Kent, including U2 and Led Zeppelin, as well as salsa dancing and stand-up comedy. A selection of food outlets ensured that all tastes were catered for, and guests were also able to sample our delicious ‘Templeman Ale’, a specially commissioned Kent 50th anniversary Shepherd Neame brew.

Guests at the Canterbury opening ceremony had the chance to ride the Kent Wheel, our biggest 50th anniversary attraction, and enjoyed stunning panoramic views of the University and the surrounding City of Canterbury as the sun set on the celebrations. Both ceremonies closed with a spectacular fireworks display, which lit up the sky above both campuses and could be seen for miles around. A film of the opening ceremonies is available at www.kent.ac.uk/50/celebrate

The Kent Wheel will return to the Canterbury campus from 1 July to 15 October 2015. Find out more on pages 12 and 13 about the exciting events that are planned over the next year.
Since the University’s foundation 50 years ago, research has played a significant role, with our researchers making a huge difference not only to Kent, but also the wider world. Here, we explore some of the fascinating ways in which the work of researchers today is making an impact across a wide range of subjects – with effects that will continue to be felt for the next 50 years.

**Imagining Autism**

Research at Kent is helping children with autism to communicate more effectively. Working with children aged 7 to 12, the study aimed to encourage language development, empathy and imagination. It did so by exposing the children to a series of imaginary environments and providing drama and play-based activities (puppetry, physical performance techniques and responsive digital technologies).

During the Imagining Autism project the parents offered many compelling testimonies: “He has gained in his imagination; he is talking more, commenting on everything.” “He is identifying emotions, and naming them.” “He gave me a kiss and a cuddle, which is rare.” “He is reasoning things out – we had a conversation for 15 minutes for the first time.”

Many professionals were also surprised by the project’s results. Education and health settings often focus their efforts on providing children with specific skills such as counting or dressing. In contrast, the project environments were highly sensory and child-centred, giving the children creative autonomy as ‘co-producers’ in the activities. And, as a result, the children displayed significant changes in behaviour.

The National Autistic Society is now training staff in the Imagining Autism approach and the work is being tested in health settings including diagnostic services within the National Health Service.
The use of pharmaceutical drugs produced in living cells has been steadily rising, with many of the most common biopharmaceuticals being proteins. Research to improve the production and secretion of these protein drugs by cells has become a crucial part of drug development.

The patented technology co-developed by Kent researchers can produce increases in the levels and authenticity of a range of high-value, secretory proteins. Several major pharmaceutical companies including Novozymes and Pfizer are using the technology to help produce drugs for treating a wide range of human diseases, such as type 2 diabetes.

Timber ships that have been raised from the seabed are prone to erosion when they come into contact with the air. However, when the Mary Rose was raised from the seabed after half a millennium, she was protected by pioneering techniques developed at Kent. The research involved the discovery of a compound to treat the ship’s wood and to prevent the deposits of sulphur salts on its surface.

As a warship, the Mary Rose served in Henry VIII’s navy for 34 years and sank while engaging the French navy in 1545.
Top 20 Guardian position for Kent

Kent has been ranked in the top 20 in The Guardian university league table for the second year running.

Two thirds of the subjects offered by Kent are also ranked in the top 20 by The Guardian. These include national top 10 subjects: Journalism (1st); Film Production & Photography (2nd); American Studies (4th); Anthropology (6th); Social Policy & Admin (7th); Classics (8th); History of Art (8th); Social Work (8th); Art (10th); and Drama & Dance (10th). Medway School of Pharmacy, a collaboration between the universities of Kent and Greenwich, was ranked 9th in its subject area.

The 2015 Guardian table (published in June 2014) is based on criteria that include teaching quality, student course satisfaction, staff-student ratio and the percentage of graduates who find graduate-level jobs, or are studying further, within six months of graduation.

Recently, Kent was placed joint third for overall satisfaction in the National Student Survey alongside universities such as Cambridge, Durham and Oxford, and was ranked 22nd in the Complete University Guide 2015.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Dame Julia Goodfellow said: “This is an excellent result for Kent. It is also further recognition for all our staff as they continue to provide our students with one of the best academic experiences in the UK. Our league table position remains a reflection of our ability to attract high-calibre students and to provide them with the appropriate skills for their future careers.”

Athena SWAN Bronze award

The University has received the Athena SWAN Charter Bronze award for its work in supporting the career progression of women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths and Medicine) areas.

The Bronze award recognises that Kent has established a solid institutional foundation through the development of policies, practices and systems to advance gender equality and to embed an inclusive culture that values all staff.

Beliefs underpinning the Athena SWAN Charter are that: advancement of STEM is fundamental to quality of life across the globe; it is vitally important that women are adequately represented in what has traditionally been, and still is, a male dominated area; and that science cannot reach its full potential unless it can benefit from the talents of the whole population.

Gulbenkian awarded national status

Gulbenkian has been accepted onto Arts Council England’s national portfolio programme. Arts Council England announced its three-year funding strategy on 1 July, unveiling Gulbenkian as one of only 30 new National Portfolio Organisations outside London.

Gulbenkian’s status as a National Portfolio Organisation means that, in addition to the current support from the University, Gulbenkian will receive an Arts Council England grant of £220,000 for each of the next three financial years (starting April 2015).

Kent Student Awards

Exceptional students from the University who have made an outstanding contribution to university life and an impact on the wider community were recognised at the Kent Student Awards on 31 May.

A joint initiative between the University and Kent Union, the Kent Student Awards were launched this year to celebrate and give students official recognition for their achievements. Students were nominated in nine categories with the entire shortlist being congratulated for going above and beyond in a number of activities and initiatives that benefit others.
In its report, the Arts Council highlighted how Gulbenkian’s vision reflects its own priorities, specifically working with and for children and young people: ‘The organisation under the current Director has become one of the leading deliverers of arts experiences for and by children and young people in Kent. They continue to run the pilot for ART31, a project which empowers young people, they connect nationally and internationally to children’s theatre and festival programming and are proposing their own children’s theatre festival with strong management involvement by young people.’

**Kent icon award for Orlando Bloom**

Orlando Bloom has been named Kent’s Cultural Icon by overwhelming public vote in the Canterbury Cultural awards 2014, sponsored by the University.

**Law Clinic triumphs**

Kent Law Clinic, the University’s pro-bono legal service, has won the Ethical Initiative of the Year award at the Lawyer Awards 2014.

The Clinic secured first place in a category featuring a host of well-known international law firms.

Announced at the 20th anniversary edition of the Lawyer Awards on 25 June, the award recognises the work carried out by the Clinic’s staff and students in its immigrations and asylum team. This included supporting individuals with asylum claims, working with refugee support groups such as Kent Refugee Help and Kent Refugee Action Network, and conducting research into the treatment of unaccompanied minors who apply for asylum.

**Books**

*Memory of Water*, Emmi Itaranta

Alumna Emma Itaranta, who was awarded an MA in Creative Writing from the School of English in 2009, presented her debut novel at the University of Kent’s Canterbury campus in June for its UK launch.

Set in a future world, the book is described as a coming-of-age tale which sees the main character given responsibility for guarding one of the last known freshwater springs. The science fiction novel, which Emmi began writing as part of her course at Kent, received critical acclaim when it was published in her native Finland in 2012 under the title *Teemestarin Kirja*, and is now set to be translated into 14 languages.

Emmi, who secured a two-book deal with HarperCollins Publishers, said: ‘I wrote the first chapter as a short story as part of my dissertation during my studies at Kent and one of my tutors encouraged me to continue writing it as she thought it had the potential as a novel. I never expected I would get my first novel published, so am absolutely delighted. It will be exciting to see how the book is received.’

*The Road Headed West*, Leon McCarron

Many of us dream of escaping life behind a desk, and setting out into the unknown. Adventurer and expedition cameraman Leon McCarron is one of the few people who turned this dream into reality. Over the past four years, Leon, who graduated from Kent in 2008 with a BA (Hons) in Film, has trekked across deserts, walked the length of China and cycled 14,000 miles from New York to Hong Kong. He has now written a book from the journals he kept during his 6,000 mile bicycle trek across North America in 2010. Released in July, *The Road Headed West* was inspired by the journals he kept during his epic adventure, from the perils of the journey to the kindness of strangers he met along the way, and offers a first-hand account of what it feels like to take a chance in life and not settle for the ordinary.
Since launching in 2012, the Kent Opportunity Fund has provided students with many chances to develop their skills, confidence and career prospects. In January 2014, grants of almost £40,000 were made to 13 projects taking place around the University designed to benefit students and enhance their experience whilst studying at the University.

Kent Experiences of Work bursary scheme: £5,000

Work experience is now often seen as essential in securing that all important first job, but many students struggle to support themselves whilst undertaking it. Working hours may be incompatible with part-time jobs designed to fit around their studies, or the costs of transport or accommodation may be more than they can afford.

In 2013, the Careers and Employability Service launched the ‘Kent Experiences of Work’ scheme to help students obtain work experience whilst studying at the University. This included a bursary scheme set up to support students undertaking otherwise unpaid work experience.

The scheme covers out-of-pocket expenses incurred when undertaking work experience – not only covering direct expenses like travel costs, but extending other expenses, like childcare or the purchase of appropriate work clothing where necessary. During the 2013/14 academic year, 55 students benefited from bursaries supported by this project.

European Summer School scholarships – Brussels and Paris: £10,000

European Summer Schools took place at our Paris and Brussels centres in the summer of 2014. The project was highly successful, with over 500 applications made for the 40 places available. These scholarships were awarded to second and final year undergraduate students of the University, based on their academic performance, and covered tuition, travel and accommodation expenses.

Summer School students were able to develop their knowledge on the functioning of the European Union or study the Revolutionary Influences of French history and culture. Over a two week period, students debated with academics and interacted with real life practitioners and thinkers on a range of themes and issues.

Each programme comprised academic and cultural sessions that took place in and around Brussels or Paris, and provided students with a range of transferable skills that will be attractive to future employers.

Healthcare work experience projects: £4,000

Working with KentHealth, this project provided bursaries to allow eight students to each complete an eight week work placement during the summer vacation. In partnership with healthcare providers (such as NHS trusts) our students gained valuable experience by being exposed to the realities of the healthcare profession and undertaking research within a professional environment.

This work benefits both the partner organisation, by providing a capable student, keen to learn and develop, and builds relationships between the University and local healthcare organisations, potentially benefiting both through future collaborations.
This project is jointly funded by KentHealth, the Kent Opportunity Fund and East Kent Hospitals University Foundation Trust.

Campus2Campus run: £1,000

Organised by the Athletics and Cross Country Society, this project saw 14 students run 200 miles from the University’s Canterbury campus to the Paris campus, raising over £6,000 for local Charity Pilgrims Hospice. The runners set off on 13 June 2014 and ran over 26 miles a day for eight consecutive days – the equivalent of over eight marathons!

The event was planned to highlight the international nature of the University as we enter our 50th year, develop skills in the team taking part, and contribute to the local community by raising vital funds for Pilgrims Hospice.

Autism and employability: £2,440

The Autism and Employability Project began in January 2013 aiming to enhance the student experience for a group of students who requested additional assistance, and develop an alumni network to offer mutual support and peer mentoring in the area of employability. Given the success of the first year, funding was granted again in 2014, to allow the work to continue.

The project was designed to support students and alumni with autism (including Asperger’s Syndrome) and improve the confidence and employability skills of this group. Students with autistic spectrum conditions have traditionally fared badly in the employment market hence the need for additional support and guidance in this area.

Student projects funded 2013/14

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
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<tr>
<td>Campus2Campus Run</td>
<td>£1,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>European Summer School Brussels</td>
<td>£5,000</td>
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<td>European Summer School Paris</td>
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<td>Kent Experiences of Work bursary scheme</td>
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<td>International Mediation competition</td>
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<td>Healthcare Work Experience Projects</td>
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<td>Keynestock 2014</td>
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<td>Community Give – Netball in Primary Schools</td>
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<td>Space Society telescope project</td>
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<td>Autism and Employability Project</td>
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<tr>
<td>The community garden</td>
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THANK YOU!

A big thank you to everyone who has supported the Kent Opportunity Fund, which supports students at Kent through scholarships, student projects and hardship bursaries. For more information, visit

www.kent.ac.uk/giving
Award-winning journalist, broadcaster and author Dr Gavin Esler (Rutherford 1971) was installed as Chancellor of the University of Kent at Rochester Cathedral on 8 July.

The installation took place during one of four University congregation ceremonies held at the Cathedral. As Chancellor, Gavin’s duties will include conferring degrees, chairing the University’s Court and representing the University on special occasions.

Born in Glasgow and brought up in Edinburgh, Gavin graduated from Kent with a BA in English and American Literature in 1974, and was also awarded an MA and an honorary Doctor of Civil Law in 1995 and 2005 respectively. He has worked for the BBC since 1977 and was White House-based Chief North American correspondent from 1989 to 1998. More recently, he has been one of three main presenters on BBC2’s Newsnight, as well as main presenter on Dateline London (BBC World and BBC News Channel).

‘I’m extremely proud to be here as the new Chancellor of the University of Kent’ said Gavin, during his installation speech. ‘My predecessors in this position are Princess Marina, Duchess of Kent, Lord Grimond, and Professor Sir Robert Worcester. I’m humbled to be in such company.

I’m proud, because I’m the first member of my family to go to university. I’m also proud and humbled, because I am the first alumnus of the University of Kent to be honoured with the position of Chancellor. But I will not be the last. In our 50th anniversary year, choosing an alumnus as Chancellor is, in its own way, a coming of age moment for the University.’

During his speech, the Chancellor spoke of his reasons for pursuing studies at University, and Kent’s role in shaping his career:

‘My time at Kent was the step which changed my life. It led to a career in which I’ve been lucky enough to meet Presidents and Prime Ministers, Kings and Queens, the occasional terrorist, a few bank robbers, and some honest politicians. What led me to Kent as an 18 year old was curiosity. What led me to become a writer, and a journalist, was (and is) curiosity. I have always felt that you never know if something is worth looking into until you begin to look into it. And that is part of the purpose of our universities, and why Kent excels – to allow freedom of thought, of research, of ideas, to allow curiosity to thrive, without trying to calculate what it might be worth in cash terms, because you simply do not know.’

The Chancellor spoke about the vital role which universities play in scientific advances and the impact these have on society. He also rejected unhelpful comparisons of universities to ‘ivory towers’ that are not part of the real world. ‘The discovery of the Higgs boson at a university; not real? The discovery of DNA; not real? The creation of new business ideas, and young entrepreneurs up and down this island through the work of universities; not real? Universities are a bridge between what businesses need and what society needs, but they’re also a space to think, to create, to review, to consider, without trying to calculate their value in monetary terms. To those of you who teach and research at the University, thank you for encouraging those from families who might not have had all the material opportunities to understand that a university is not for other people. It’s for us. Actually, it is us.’

The Chancellor ended his speech by congratulating the new graduates on their achievements, and urged them to encourage others to perceive a university education as an invaluable learning tool, accessible to all: ‘Those of you here today are the best advertisement for a university that I can think of. As you leave to pursue success in whatever field of human endeavour you choose, I hope that you will always remain part of the University community, and an advocate for the University as a place where thinking is allowed, and that you will argue that going to university is a great investment, with an incalculable profit for all of us, even if we cannot see that profit immediately.’

Chancellors at the University of Kent:
1963-1968 HRH Princess Marina  
1970-1990 Lord Grimond of Firth  
1990-1995 Dr Robert Horton  
1996-2006 Sir Crispin Tickell  
2006-2013 Sir Robert Worcester  
2014-present Dr Gavin Esler
Over 6,000 students graduated at the Rochester and Canterbury Cathedrals in July 2014, taking our alumni community up to 142,000 members!

The July graduation ceremonies may be over, but their memory lives on. Many of our new graduates took some time out of their big day to put chalk to blackboard and told us what Kent meant to them!

For more pictures, please visit our Flickr gallery at www.flickr.com/photos/universityofkentalumni/sets

Honorary degrees – and an unforgettable selfie

Thirteen honorary degrees were awarded at Rochester & Canterbury over the course of our graduation ceremonies. The UK’s Deputy Permanent Representative to the EU Shan Morgan (Darwin 1973), disability rights campaigner Liz Sayce (Darwin 1973) and penal reform campaigner Baroness Stern were amongst those to receive one. Comedian Harry Hill, who was awarded a Doctor of Arts at the Canterbury Cathedral, recalled how he studied for a medical degree at university, and urged the new graduates to stay open minded about their career paths: ‘When I left medicine, loads of people told me that I’d never earn a living as a comedian. What I’m saying to you is that when you do start work, it may not be the job you want, or may not even lead to the job you want, but you can change. It’s never too late. I am living proof of that. So follow your heart.’

Memory Board competition

A special Memory Board was setup during our congregations ceremonies and our new graduates were all keen to take a walk down memory lane with us! All cards submitted on our Memory Board over the course of graduation week were entered into a prize draw, and the competition winner was Aldana Fernandez Martinez (Woolf 2012), whose memory card read:

My year at Kent was amazing, the people I met became my family. Classes and seminars were great! It was the best year of my life and I will never forget it.

Aldana received a Kent graduation goodie bag for her entry, which included a special card signed by the Alumni Relations team. ‘I almost cried when I saw the letter’ said Aldana, who sent us a picture of her goodie bag as soon as she received it. Thank you for this special gift!’
Celebrating our 50th year

Following our opening ceremonies in Canterbury and Medway on 1 and 2 October, Kent staff jetted off to Belgium and the USA to launch the international celebrations.

As part of the celebrations, we have already visited Brussels, Boston, Chicago, Indianapolis, Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco and Washington DC. Over the next year, Kent will be holding alumni events in a host of cities around the world, and you are all invited! For the full calendar of events, please visit www.kent.ac.uk/50/celebrate/events.
The Kent Wheel

We brought a giant ferris wheel to our Canterbury campus for the opening ceremony and thousands of people have gone for a spin for stunning views of Canterbury, our campus and the surrounding areas – many going twice to see the sights again after sunset! If you couldn’t make it this year, don’t worry, it’s coming back next summer, from 1 July 2015 to 15 October 2015.

Kent QI

Comedy and academia will collide in February 2015 when Kent hosts a special one off 50th anniversary version of the famous quiz. John Lloyd CBE, QI creator and Kent Honorary Graduate, will take charge of a panel including some of our famous friends, alumni and honorary graduates who are regulars on the BBC show. It’s not to be missed!

2015 Paris to Canterbury Campus Cycle Ride

Alumni can join the team taking on the challenge of riding 230 miles from Paris to Canterbury. It will take place over four days and coincide with our alumni reunion weekend on the Canterbury campus from 4-6 September 2015.

Alumni Reunion Weekend

Over 1,000 alumni have already registered their interest in the reunion weekend, which is taking place from 4-6 September 2015. The event will offer you the chance to return to the Canterbury campus and re-live your student days. From barbecues and music concerts to open lectures and campus tours – there’ll be something for everyone. You also have the opportunity of staying overnight in the college you belonged to, making the years since you graduated seem like only yesterday.

Vice-Chancellor’s 50th anniversary lectures

A series of inspiring lectures by University staff will be held throughout the year. Hear Dr Ruth Blakeley talk about rendition and secret detention in the ‘War on Terror’ or Professor Martin Warren on the subject of medical mysteries in the royal families of Europe. They are open to all and free to attend.

Kent Rocks!

Some of biggest bands in the world have rocked the University. The Who, Led Zeppelin, Soft Machine, Genesis, U2, The Smiths and Radiohead all played here – did you see them live? We would love to hear your story! Please contact 50years@kent.ac.uk

Anniversary souvenirs

If you are as excited as us about the 50th anniversary, you’ll be delighted to know that you can get your hands on 50th anniversary souvenirs! Fancy a game of Kent monopoly, your own Kent bunny or keeping warm this winter in a 50th onesie?

Student Media at Kent

An interactive wall, based at the new Student Media Centre, will portray 50 years of student media at Kent. Were you there when Kent’s first newspaper and radio station were launched? You can contribute to the design of the wall, helping make the journey from 1965 to today.

Here are some of the exciting events which we will be hosting in our anniversary year to celebrate our achievements over the past 50 years! For more, visit www.kent.ac.uk/50
Professor John Strange

Founding member of staff, School of Physical Sciences
Emeritus Professor of Experimental Physics

What was your earliest ambition?

My earliest ambition was to teach – and this has always stayed with me. My interest in physics only dominated at sixth form level and this lead me to read for a physics degree at London University (Queen Mary College) which I achieved in 1960. I was offered the chance to continue at QMC with supervisor Dr J.G.Powles, then Reader in Physics, to do research into Nuclear Magnetic Resonance. This led to a PhD in 1963 followed by a post as Research Associate at Cornell University in the United States.

I much enjoyed research in physics but still wanted to teach so that combining both interests in an academic career looked very attractive.

What led you to work at Kent?

In mid-1964 my ex-supervisor Jack Powles visited us at Cornell and told us of his appointment to the founding Chair of Physics at Kent. He suggested I should apply, which I did successfully, and arrived to take up a lectureship in November 1964. I was the only lecturer at this point – each initial subject area (about ten) had its Professor but the sciences (only Chemistry and Physics as yet) needed a lecturer to help start set up the laboratories ahead of undergraduate arrivals. There was also the task of recruiting the first students! This was a very exciting time. The ethos of the University of Kent was very strong on interdisciplinary studies for both undergraduate and research activities and this greatly attracted me. In addition to stimulating academic activity it encouraged a good social mixing among the staff and we all knew each other well.

What did the University look like when you began working here?

There was a rather barren campus, there were no undergraduates, a few research students and a large building site which was to be Eliot College and the Physical Sciences Laboratory (now Marlowe). The Registry was in the city at Westgate House. Academic staff had offices in Beverley Farm plus temporary huts at the rear. These huts also housed the library and research labs. The greatest changes I have seen on campus are the enormous increase in size and the demise of the college organisation which, it seems to me, have combined to make the University a much more impersonal place.

What is your fondest memory of Kent?

The first 500 undergraduates appeared in October and I was responsible for delivering a substantial module on electricity and electronics – a course that was common to all physical scientists then. Those early years are certainly among my fondest memories of Kent and I much enjoyed the tutor-student relationships of that time. As a tutor I had a group of about 20 students that were in my care throughout their undergraduate time and tutors were available for both academic and personal advice. I am still in contact with some of those early students. My wife Annette and I also had the very first Kent baby, our daughter Alison, who was born in January 1965.

What do you enjoy most about your continuing involvement with Kent?

I am very grateful to still have contact with the physical sciences and undergraduate teaching. I also have had a long association with music on campus and this continues with my membership of the University chorus which I greatly enjoy.

What would you say is your greatest achievement?

I suppose I consider having taught physics students at Kent for 50 years as one of my greatest achievements, including supervising some 30 PhD research students. Another was to lead Physics as Laboratory Director (head of department) from 1982 to 1997 through a period when many other universities were closing physics courses and departments. We emerged from this difficult time stronger, larger and more successful and it is very gratifying to see the very strong position of the subject that now exists at Kent. I have personally also enjoyed a research career in Nuclear Magnetic Resonance, a subject now best known through its association with Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) in medicine to whose early development I was able to contribute.
Members of Kent’s diverse and extensive community of supporters, alumni, current and former staff, students and local residents have been making their mark on the Canterbury campus by getting involved in the Footsteps Project.

The Project, which opened in June 2014, allows participants to engrave a message or a memory on a special commemorative brick in the new Crab & Winkle Path next to the Templeman Library, which recognises the route underground of the famous Canterbury and Whitstable Railway.

Part of the University’s 50th anniversary celebrations, Footsteps allows Kent’s community to celebrate its shared history and build a legacy for future students, staff and visitors. The Project has already seen 170 bricks ordered for the new path, amounting to over £10,000 for the Kent Opportunity Fund, which offers support to Kent students through scholarships, hardship bursaries and project funding.

The Crab & Winkle Path
The path on which the bricks are being laid has been shaped as a railway line to commemorate the Canterbury and Whitstable Railway route (known locally as the Crab & Winkle Line), which ran under the University grounds below the path.

The Line opened in 1830, and was the first in the world to take regular passengers and issue season tickets.

It closed in the 1950s, with the University building on the grounds above the railway’s tunnel. In 1974, a section of the tunnel collapsed, causing damage to the Cornwallis building, part of which was subsequently rebuilt.

We were delighted to see contributions from our First 500, the original students who started at Kent in its inaugural year in 1965, in the first batch of bricks, which was laid in August. Now it’s your turn! Donations made before 15 December will be laid in January 2015, and start from just £50 for a two line brick and £90 for a four line brick.

For more information on the Footsteps Project, please visit www.kent.ac.uk/footsteps
A true Kent wedding

Laura Machin (Darwin 2000) and Richard Williams (Rutherford 2000) were married in Lancaster in August 2014. The pair met at the University of Kent’s Rowing Club’s Novice Regatta in November 2000. Richard, a Master’s student, had rowed for his College at Cambridge, but Laura was new to the sport and terrified of water. Her attempts to turn her boat round at Pluck’s Gutter – and the language which accompanied the manoeuvre – attracted quite a lot of attention, including Richard’s!

Graduation in Canterbury Cathedral was, of course, an experience that none of our other graduation ceremonies have topped.’ They hope to gather their group of Kent alumni friends from the wedding at the Alumni Reunion Weekend in September 2015, as they all have such a great time together. We wish them both all the happiness in the world!

Laura and Richard still make the journey back to Canterbury when they can: ‘We still come down regularly and stay in Rutherford College. We go to Origins, and our favourite spot is outside the Library, looking across to the Cathedral.

I am Kent

“I was there at the start and made lasting friendships as well as being profoundly influenced by the teaching and ethos of the University.”
Claire Buckley (née Allen)  
Rutherford 1965

“I am Kent because of the doors it has opened for me! I’m achieving more than I ever thought I would, and I’ll never forget living in such an inspiring location as Medway.”
Jack McDonnell  
Medway 2010

“Over thirty years after I left Kent I still meet up regularly with friends from that time. We have such a wealth of stories about our time here and many happy memories.”
Clare Mangan  
Rutherford 1979

“It’s where I made the best friends of my life, met my husband and had my first baby (during the week of my finals – he was two months early). I gained my degree but more importantly it shaped the rest of my life. Even though I wasn’t from the area and no longer live in Kent, it will always have a special place in my heart.”
Jessica Peach  
Darwin 2002

“I am Kent because of the friends that I met here and the feeling of belonging to something good, which started on the day of my interview here for an undergraduate place in 1988.”
Jo Pearsall  
Eliot 1989

“Kent made me who I am. It opened up doors that I never dreamed of opening. It allows me to be who I am today...today I am Kent!”
Isabella Aurino  
Darwin 2005
Community

A Kent family through and through!

Fiona Macpherson (Keynes 1979) and her husband Bill Bruty (Keynes 1979) met on the second day of term in October 1979, in front of the Keynes noticeboard. ‘Fiona and I met in a state of mild confusion, trying to figure out the timetables draped on the wall in Keynes college’ says Bill. ‘I had a blocked nose and a Vicks Sinex stuffed in the top pocket of my dungarees, and she had the most beautiful smile.’ Six months later, in 1980, they decided to share a house in Herne Bay, along with four other students, and became a couple.

Thirty five years on, Fiona and Bill are still happily married, and their strong links to the University have continued through their family. Their daughter Florence graduated from Kent three years ago and, alongside her course, her choice of University was influenced by her parents’ experience. ‘My course was the primary reason for going to Kent, but the fact that my parents met there and had so many good things to say about the University certainly influenced my decision to choose it. I’m so glad I did.’ Fiona and Bill’s third daughter, Matilda, has now followed in her older sister’s footsteps, having registered at the University this September. ‘I decided to go to Kent because the course was perfect, the campus and its bunnies were beautiful, and I know how much my family members all loved it here!’

But the Kent connection has not only remained amongst their children. In July 2014, Fiona’s sister married one of the housemates, Philip Hall, who lived with her and Bill in Herne Bay during their studies. ‘My sister used to visit me at Kent when we had our student parties, and so she met Phil at one such event in the 1980s. They lost touch and then met up again at a small Kent reunion we had in 2007. Philip’s daughter also studies at Kent.’

Bill and Fiona fondly remember their time at the University. Fiona’s favourite memories are the parties they held in Herne Bay:

“We had cocktail parties to rival Gatsby! The men wore dinner jackets and the women were dressed to the nines in evening gowns; all purchased from charity shops. If you can have fun in Herne Bay in 1979, you can have fun anywhere!”

Aside from the great bands, parties and lectures, one of Bill’s favourite memories is the moment it dawned on the Herne Bay student household that they should really begin revising for their finals: ‘We all crammed into our friend’s appalling red Ford Escort estate and headed silently towards the library – caged animals. It was a beautiful spring day. We didn’t get beyond Herne Village before we turned back, grabbed our swimming costumes and changed course for Margate. Our first day of serious revision converted into beach football, arcade games and fish & chips. None of us got a first – but we’ve all thrived since.’

With such strong ties with the University, it is fair to say that Fiona and Bill’s lives would’ve been very different had they not come to Kent. ‘If we hadn’t attended Kent, we wouldn’t be married with four wonderful daughters, and my sister would not be as happy as she is now!’ says Fiona.

Bill adds ‘If I hadn’t been to Kent, three passions in my life would never have ignited. That meeting along the Keynes corridor in 1979 bonded Fiona and I together. Also, the study of ‘African Liberation’, which I pursued in my first year, started my fascination for that continent which is now a big part of my life, especially for work. My third passion – Portsmouth Football Club – pre-dates the dawn of time.’

If you would like to share your Kent stories with us, we would love to hear from you! Please email them to alumni@kent.ac.uk.
Rutherford

The next generation of students receive a warm welcome after completing passport to learning.

On 22 October 2014, Rutherford hosted the first event of its kind at the University – a graduation ceremony for children. The children all aged between 7 and 14 years had been studying diligently over the past year, collecting stamps in their passports as they complete each of five modules. Children’s University is a national organisation which promotes learning in an exciting and dynamic way. Kent Children’s University is part of Kent County Council’s School Improvement scheme and has several learning destinations.

The children were presented with their awards by the Master of the College, Dr Peter Klappa, Reader in Biochemistry and also a National Teaching Fellow.

www.childrensuniversity.co.uk/cukent/home/about-us/

Lord Boateng talk in March 2015

Rutherford’s link with the English Speaking Union will continue with talk by prominent speaker Lord Paul Boateng on Wednesday 25 March 2015 at 6pm in Rutherford Lecture Theatre One.

The talk, entitled ‘Unlocking potential, the role of higher education in addressing the global challenges of growth, inequality and environmental sustainability’, will be run in conjunction with the English Speaking Union, and promises to be a key event in the Rutherford calendar.

Before joining the House of Lords in 2010, Lord Boateng held a range of UK Parliamentary posts as a labour party member and MP. He is a barrister and legal consultant and is also Deputy Chairman and a governor of the English Speaking Union.

The talk, free and open to all (booking not required), will be followed by a dinner which alumni are most welcome to book in for. For further details and to book a dinner place, please contact the Master’s Assistant, Rutherford College, University of Kent, Canterbury. CT2 7NX Email: S.M.Casement@kent.ac.uk Tel: 01227 823175.

Eliot

Eliot Cloister Garden 50th Anniversary Project

Eliot has received 50th anniversary funding to refurbish the Cloister Court Garden at the heart of the College. The Garden was the scene of the famous photograph, taken in 1965, of students from the first intake posing amongst the arches. The Master’s office, in liaison with the School of Architecture, is running a design competition open to all students, inviting them to re-design the space. The aim is for the refurbishment to be completed by summer 2015, and there will be an official opening during the Alumni Reunion Weekend being held 4-6 September 2015. We are looking forward to seeing the results!

Eliot Chapel Refurbishment Project

Eliot Chapel is also undergoing a major refurbishment, in collaboration with the Chaplaincy, Housekeeping, Estates and the Eliot Master’s office. The Chapel, which looks on to the Cloister Court Garden, is regularly used by students, staff and visitors to the University. The brick floor has been restored and partly carpeted, the walls have been painted, new blinds fitted, and smart new chairs purchased. The final part of the project has begun, and carpenters are currently constructing an altar and lectern using light American Oak. The refurbished Chapel will be a bright, welcoming, calm space, and together with the 50th anniversary project to refurbish the Cloister Garden, a significant part of the College will have been improved for our students, visitors and staff.

TS Eliot Memorial Lecture 2014

On Tuesday 14 October Professor Mark Ford delivered a lively, erudite and stimulating lecture titled ‘O City, city’, TS Eliot and the Metropolitan. An audience of students, staff, visitors, and honorary members enjoyed Professor Ford’s interpretation of Eliot’s important poem The Waste Land, and its sources and meaning. Professor Ford spoke of the time Eliot spent in Margate, and the impact it had on the writing of the poem. The Memorial Lecture series began in 1967 when WH Auden delivered the first one in Eliot College. The series was supported by Eliot’s widow Valerie Eliot until her death in 2012.
Building first class facilities

In a difficult economic climate, Kent continuously strives to improve the employability prospects of its students by giving them the opportunity to develop their skills within a first class learning environment. Kent Union’s Jobshop, which offers job opportunities and vital careers advice to Kent students, has recently moved to new premises and work on the Wigoder Law Building and Kennedy Wong Mooting Chamber will soon become reality, thanks to the Kent Law Campaign. Both of these ventures have been, and continue to be, supported by our alumni.

A new home for Jobshop

The Jobshop team have recently moved from the Mandela Building to new premises next to Essentials, the main Kent Union shop on the Canterbury campus, in the space previously known as Unique. The location boasts a higher footfall, and the job opportunities are more visible to students who can browse the vacancies in the windows, as well as online. Most importantly, Jobshop is now more accessible for those seeking job related advice and help with taking their first steps into their future career.

In 2013/2014, Jobshop provided 4,108 employment opportunities for students, with student temps working a total of 18,016 hours and earning £111,000. Jobshop are aiming to gain more opportunities in the coming year, having had a great start to the term, and hope to improve these figures thanks to their new location.

Large numbers of students have already dropped into Jobshop during the first term of this new academic year, and feedback from students has been positive; many expressed their gratitude for the service, which would not have been possible without the original funding from our generous alumni.

Walk for Justice!

The Kent Law Campaign is an exciting £5 million project to build a new home for the Kent Law Clinic, which provides free legal advice and representation to members of the local community who need but cannot afford access to legal services, and the University of Kent’s Mooting Programme. Law students will have the opportunity to practice their skills within a professional environment, whilst also assisting members of the local community.

The Campaign will be taking part in the Canterbury Legal Walk on Saturday 13 June 2015 and hope to raise £25,000 for the new Kent Law Clinic. The Walk will build on the successful and well-established annual London Legal Walk, which has raised significant funds for access to justice and has been enjoyed by thousands of participants including The Lord Chief Justice and senior members of the judiciary.

These walks are unique events, bringing together the entire legal profession and members of the local community who wish to get involved in supporting access to justice for those most in need. The University would like to thank The London Legal Support Trust, The Law Society and The Access to Justice Foundation for helping us make this event possible.

To find out more about this event, to register to take part or to offer your support as a marshal or by sponsoring various items for the event please visit www.kent.ac.uk/lawcampaign or contact Anna Pollard, Campaigns Manager on 01227 824670 or at A.J.Pollard@kent.ac.uk

1 Jobshop’s new premises
2 Jobshop provides career opportunities and advice to Kent students
3 Legal Walk in aid of the Kent Law Campaign
Community

News from Kent Union

Kent Union

Our new officers are geared up for their first term in post. The 2014-15 elected officers are:
• Union President – Tammy Naidoo
• Vice-President (Welfare) – Megan Wells
• Vice-President (Education) – Jack Lay
• Vice-President (Activities) – Tom Currie
• Vice-President (Sports) – Nina Mehmi

Despite having only worked within the Union for a matter of months, they already have a number of significant wins under their belts.

This includes a 24 hour bus service after years of lobbying. The new service will run until 05.00, and will take a unique night route that covers St Stephen's Hill, Forty Acres Road and St Dunstan's areas. The Templeman Library will now open 24 hours from 24 November throughout term-time. The stripes scheme has been implemented – Sports and Society Stripes are a reward and recognition scheme. Student groups now have the opportunity to earn the Base Stripe, Inclusion Stripe, Development Stripe, Management Stripe and Community Stripe. Additional stage, meeting and practical space has also been secured for student groups.

We are enjoying celebrating the University’s 50th anniversary, and we have a number of events planned as part of the celebrations, one of which we hope will go down in history! Stay tuned to find out which world record we will be attempting to break.

Kent Sport

The Ultimate Karate Fighters Boot Camp

This summer has seen the inaugural Ultimate Karate Fighters Boot Camp hosted by Kent Sport and Wayne Otto, OBE. Wayne Otto is a Kent alumnus and Britain’s most successful karate athlete. The Boot Camp was a great success, with over 100 participants coming from across the world to train and is now an annual event.

www.kent.ac.uk/sports/karatecamp

Kent’s Sporting Legends

On Friday 5 December 2014, Kent Sport, along with Kent County Council, will host a very special evening celebrating Kent’s Sporting Legends. This includes members of the University who have represented England or Team GB, Kent Sport scholarship recipients, many of whom have gone on to gain international honours, and the county’s top sports achievers involved in the Winter Olympics, the Paralympics and the Commonwealth Games.

After a successful event in 2012, we are excited to hold this event again as a part of the 50th anniversary celebrations. We will be transforming the main sports hall into an impressive scene, featuring entertainment and presentations in praise of Kent’s most successful sportspeople.

www.kent.ac.uk/sports/kentsportinglegends

Project 100

The Kent’s Sporting Legends event will see the official launch of a new initiative called Project 100, which is about building on the last 50 years of sport at Kent and looking to support the next 50 by enhancing student experience and developing facilities.

www.kent.ac.uk/sports/p100

We have recently introduced NUS cards for alumni! If you would like to take advantage of the amazing discount card please email kentunion@kent.ac.uk. The card is £12 for one year and boasts over 170 discounts across different stores.
Alumni profile

Tom Currie
Eliot 2011, BA (Hons) History
Kent Union Activities Sabbatical Officer

Why did you decide to study at Kent?
I always wanted to attend a uni in my local area and given Kent was only an hour from my house it made it a strong contender. The fact it was also in the top twenty made it a no brainer!

What was your earliest ambition?
When I was a child I loved Thomas the Tank Engine so naturally I wanted to be a train.

How has your experience at Kent helped you since graduation?
Well I only graduated less than three months ago so it’s hard to say but I feel my time at Kent has dramatically improved my confidence and skill set. It’s also given me a wealth of experience and has definitely given me more than “well I did this thing called a degree” in the job interview.

What’s the best piece of advice you’ve ever been given?
I often use a quote from the film Catch Me If You Can: ‘Two little mice fell in a bucket of cream. The first mouse quickly gave up and drowned. The second mouse, wouldn’t quit. He struggled so hard that eventually he churned that cream into butter and crawled out. Gentlemen, as of this moment, I am that second mouse.’

What advice would you give a new student at Kent?
Get involved in extra-curricular activities. University is a fantastic opportunity; if there’s one regret I always hear from leaving students, it’s that they never got involved and have nothing that makes them stand out in the job interview.

What is your favourite memory of Kent?
Setting up the Charity Item Collection Drive here at Kent was a fantastic experience. I set up donation points for final year students to leave items such as food, clothing and cooking utensils, etc. I then sorted these items and donated them to local charities such as the Canterbury Food Bank, Catching Lives and Kent Dog’s Trust. In addition to helping local charities, the scheme also helped reduced the amount of items that were thrown away by students.

Would you recommend Kent to prospective students? Why?
Yes! What I loved about Kent was that they are always willing to give students a chance; whether that’s funding for a project, support to set up your own student group or just helping you get on the job ladder by giving you a part-time job. One of the most frustrating things about the current job market is that most employers will only give you a job if you have experience but the only way to get experience is to get a job so it’s a refreshing change to come somewhere like Kent and have experience readily available.

Which country would you most like to visit?
I would definitely like to visit Finland when I get the chance, though preferably when it’s warm and not when they have six months of perpetual darkness.

What would be your perfect day?
Probably a Garfield day and have absolutely nothing to do.

What is your greatest achievement?
Winning Kent’s Student of the Year Award, without a doubt one of the best nights of my life.
Join us!

Every day, Kent alumni around the globe are busy making a difference to the Kent community, giving their time, their skills and their enthusiasm to support current students, fellow alumni and staff, and having a fantastic time while they do! Here, we tell you how you too can get involved, make a difference and gain valuable new experiences...

Spread the word
Thanks to an amazing group of alumni ambassadors, who give their time and energy to join us at events all over the world, prospective Kent students have the chance to find out all about the University from someone who has directly experienced life at Kent. Being able to ask questions to someone who has been there and understands the challenges and benefits of studying abroad is absolutely invaluable, and those alumni who lend their support to the University in this way make an enormous difference.

Support career development
The Careers and Employability Service launched the Kent Experiences of Work Network (KEW-NET) in September 2014 to connect alumni from all over the world with students and each other for mentoring and career support. The e-mentoring software is hassle-free and intuitive, creating a safe and user-friendly platform for alumni to engage with each other, students, academics and other industry professionals.

Anyone using the network can be both mentor and mentee, allowing alumni to mentor students whilst being supported themselves by other professionals. As people who have ‘been there’ and ‘done that’, the experience gained from our alumni in the job market is invaluable to those students at the start of their chosen career path.

You can find out more about this service and how to sign up on our website, or contact us on alumni@kent.ac.uk for more details.

Connecting people
With over 142,000 alumni in nearly 185 countries around the world, the Kent community is a truly global one. Thanks to the efforts of our dedicated volunteers, we have established alumni associations in Malaysia, America and Hong Kong and have recently set up Chapters in New York, Boston, Washington DC, and Chicago.

One such volunteer is Jaime Blakesley (Eliot 2000), who is Acting Chair of our Chicago Chapter in the USA. Thanks to the efforts of people like Jaime, Kent alumni have fantastic opportunities to meet other former students in their local area, network with other professionals working within their fields, and share their experiences of University life.

There are also a range of alumni groups catering to different sections of the alumni community, including those with particular interests. We have a very active Former Staff Association and many of the First 500 (the University’s first undergraduates from 1965) remain closely connected with Kent and each other to this day!

If you’d like to get involved in a group near you, or set one up if one has not yet been established in your area, please get in touch!

To find out how you can become involved with any of these exciting initiatives, visit www.kent.ac.uk/alumni/getinvolved or email us at alumni@kent.ac.uk
In memoriam

Since the last issue of KENT went to press, the University has learned of the deaths of the following alumni, honorary graduates and former staff.

If you would like to be put in touch with the families or friends of anyone listed here please let us know – we may be able to help.

Andrew Ansell (Darwin, 1979)
Susan Bannochie (Eliot, 1997)
Frederique Bigou (Eliot, 1992)
Kenneth Perry (Darwin, 1977)
Helen Davis (Former staff)
Rudo Chinyandura (Eliot, 2004)
Virginnia Burfield (Rutherford, 1976)
Andrew Ansell (Darwin, 1979)
Frederique Bigou (Eliot, 1992)

Obituaries

Professor Laurence Goldstein

It is with great sadness that we report that Professor Laurence Goldstein (Philosophy, SECL) passed away peacefully in his sleep on Monday 19 May. He was 67.

Laurence Goldstein was one of the country’s leading philosophers, working mainly in the area of paradoxes, the philosophy of logic and language and the philosophy of Wittgenstein. He also worked with philosophers, linguists and cognitive scientists to try to show that investigating how people achieve brevity in conversation is a fascinating topic and provides a great route to understanding the workings of the brain. Laurence’s many publications on paradox included ‘Fibonacci, Yablo and the Cassationist Approach to Paradox,’ and ‘To Let: Unsuccessful Stipulation, Bad Proof and Paradox.’

His work on Wittgenstein included a book, Clear and Queer Thinking: Wittgenstein’s Development and His Relevance to Modern Thought, and a play (1999) that mischievously re-created Wittgenstein’s PhD viva. He also co-authored a text ‘Logic’ on the philosophy of logic and was advisory editor for the 2005 Monist issue on the ‘Philosophy of Humor’. He designed apparatus for teaching syllogistic to blind students and, using similar principles, wrote a series of texts for teaching English to Chinese children.

Laurence joined the University in 2005, and was promoted to Professor in 2006. He served for six years as Head of SECL, and was also Acting Dean of the Faculty of Humanities for a term. Before coming to Kent, he spent many years at the University of Hong Kong, as well as spending time teaching at the Universities of Auckland, Cape Town, Glasgow, St. Andrews, Swansea, and Washington. Laurence was much admired as Head of SECL, and was a constant source of encouragement to his colleagues. He was also, as many would attest, a ready wit and a lover of jokes.

He will be very sorely missed.

Dr Utrick Henry Burton (Sandy) Alexander 1916-2014

Dr Sandy Alexander, a long-term supporter, governor and friend of the University of Kent, passed away on 11 July 2014. He joined the University Council in 1974 as a lay member and was the University’s Treasurer from 1977 until 1992. He was awarded an honorary Doctor of Civil Law in 1982.

Sandy Alexander trained and qualified as a lawyer in July 1939. Qualification was followed by teaching English to Chinese children.

Dr Alexander was known for his benign, civilised and relaxed ways and it was these qualities together with his practical good sense and understanding of the local community that led to his invitation to join the University Council in 1974. When he was offered the role of Treasurer in 1977 the funding of universities was already subject to pressure unprecedented since World War II. Great challenges were ahead. In 1981 there was an immediate cut of 11% in funding with the prospect of a total cut of 15% over four years. Budgets and staff numbers, including for the first time academic staff, had to be reduced. Serious financial concerns continued throughout the rest of Sandy Alexander’s period of office with pressure on Government funding and inflation. Yet at the end of the period, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Graham Martin, reflected that through careful management the impact had not been as great at Kent as at other places and: ‘painful though the whole process was... we can now claim to be leaner and fitter; and to that extent better able to face the coming years.’

Despite the difficulties, the University made significant progress while Sandy was Treasurer. Significant academic developments included the creation of the Business School followed by approval for a building in 1991. Sandy took a keen interest in the creation of the Durrell Institute for Conservation and Ecology and a substantial endowment for a chair in Biodiversity Management followed.

But while Dr Alexander played a vital role throughout his 15 years as Treasurer, to the principal University officers of that time he was much more. Sandy’s unfailing help and support, both in policy matters and in many day-to-day practical exigencies, were immensely valued by all those with whom he came in contact at the University.

Community