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You're hired!
The Apprentice star
Karren Brady’s top tips for interview success

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What an Impact
How £150 million is changing lives at Nottingham and around the world

How safe are we?
Former MI6 Chief
Sir John Sawers on his extraordinary career

Linking Nottingham alumni around the world
Issue 1 | Autumn 2015
2015 has been a year of transformation. Our GSK Carbon Neutral Laboratory which was destroyed by fire last September is now back on track; work has begun on our new David Ross Sports Village at University Park; and we celebrate 15 wonderful years of The University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus. You may have noticed that we have made some changes to this magazine too in response to your feedback last year.

I am also incredibly proud of the way our Impact Campaign has helped transform lives at home and around the world. Looking back four years, I remember some of our closest friends raising an eyebrow at our goal of raising £150 million to support transformation at our University. Now we are celebrating meeting this milestone a year ahead of schedule.

I have been truly inspired by all those who have ridden their bikes with me on all our Life Cycle challenges, just as I have been inspired by the commitment shown by our donors and the alumni community at large. I want to thank you for your support and urge you to join us, as we try to reach even greater heights by raising a further £50 million and involving 1,000 volunteers in our Impact Campaign. Alumni support has already changed thousands of lives – with your contribution, we can change even more.
WE’re 7Th in the uk for research power

The University of Nottingham is ranked 7th for research impact in the latest Research Excellence Framework (REF), which assesses the quality and volume of research at 14 UK universities. More than 97% of our research is recognised internationally with wide-ranging impacts on society, the economy, health and welfare, culture, public policy and the environment. The amount of Nottingham research regarded as world-leading has almost doubled since the last review in 2008 – increasing from 16% to 31%. Pharmacy had more than 50% of its research classified as world-leading with five other clinical and medical units having more than a third of their research achieve this top categorisation. In 16 subject areas, the University featured in the top ten by research power with education, law, classics, nursing, architecture and the built environment and physics all ranking highly.

A good REF score is important not only in recognising the strength and breadth of our research but also in influencing the allocation of research funding. This strong result confirms Nottingham’s place in the top tier of the UK’s elite higher education institutions influencing the allocation of research funding. This strong result confirms Nottingham’s place in the top tier of the UK’s elite higher education institutions.

Nottingham ranked number two in the international Student Satisfaction Awards 2014 – one of only five UK universities to receive a rating of ‘outstanding’. Sherwood Hall celebrated its 50th anniversary with a gala dinner and special exhibition. Youtube sensation Professor Sir Martyn Polakoff is named as the first person to be knighted for his contributions as a global leader in chemistry.

Four Nottingham sports teams win British Universities and Colleges Championships trophies making it one of our most successful seasons. Nottingham team awarded £2.3 million grant to solve world’s seven most famous maths problems. An ancient leatherbound volume, to see if it really is the ‘bald’s leechbook’, has been found to kill the superbug MRSA. Dr Christina Lee, an Anglo-Saxon expert from the School of English and microbiologist from the Centre for Biomolecular Sciences recreated the 10th-century potion for eye infections from Bald’s Leechbook, an Old English leatherbound volume, to see if it really worked. ‘The results were astounding. The recipe calls for two species of allium (garlic and onion or leek), wine and gall ( bile from a cow’s stomach).’ It describes a very specific method of making the topical solution including straining to purify it and leaving the mixture for nine days before use. The solution has been found to have remarkable effects on MRSA, one of the most antibiotic-resistant bugs. YouTubers sensation Professor Sir Martyn Polakoff is named as the first person to be knighted for his contributions as a global leader in chemistry.

AncientBIOTICS MEDIEVAL MEDICINE TACKLES MODERN-DAY SUPERBUG

A MEDIEVAL REMEDY for eye infections which originates from a manuscript in the British Library has been found to kill the superbug MRSA. Dr Christina Lee, an Anglo-Saxon expert from the School of English and microbiologist from the Centre for Biomolecular Sciences recreated the 10th-century potion for eye infections from Bald’s Leechbook, an Old English leatherbound volume, to see if it really worked. ‘The results were astounding. The recipe calls for two species of allium (garlic and onion or leek), wine and gall ( bile from a cow’s stomach).’ It describes a very specific method of making the topical solution including straining to purify it and leaving the mixture for nine days before use. The solution has been found to have remarkable effects on MRSA, one of the most antibiotic-resistant bugs.

WELCOME VICTORIA – OUR 250,000TH GRADUATE

First class law graduate Victoria Rowley is officially the 250,000th person to join our worldwide alumni community. A JC Smith Scholarship recipient, Victoria studied on three continents during her course including spending time at our campus in Malaysia and taking a study year abroad in America. ‘My scholarship really helped me with the costs of studying,” said Victoria, who has now started a Legal Practice Course. ‘It’s great to be part of this amazing community. I’m so proud to be representing the University that has given me so much and I know it would stand me in good stead for my future career.”

Did you know? Your alumni community includes graduates living in nearly 200 countries. Our oldest alumnus is 96 years old and was born before the invention of household radio. Our youngest is 19 and born after the invention of the DVD.

ANCIENTBIOTICS MEDIEVAL MEDICINE TACKLES MODERN-DAY SUPERBUG

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UNIVERSITY IN THE NEWS

Nottingham team awarded £2.3 million grant to solve world’s seven most famous maths problems

Four Nottingham sports teams win British Universities and Colleges Championships trophies making it one of our most successful seasons.

Sherwood Hall celebrated its 50th anniversary with a gala dinner and special exhibition.

YouTube sensation Professor Sir Martyn Polakoff is named as the first person to be knighted for his contributions as a global leader in chemistry.

Nottingham ranked number two in the international Student Satisfaction Awards 2014 – one of only five UK universities to receive a rating of ‘outstanding’.

Leading recruiters make Nottingham one of the top choices for UK graduate recruitment.

University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus wins the 7th Nottingham Tri Campus Games for the very first time.

Multi-award winning British band London Grammar won an Art Laureate award in recognition of their phenomenal success since graduating.
THE CHOICE OF KINGS

Although many alumni may not have walked through its doors, the beautiful 125-acre University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus (UNMC) in Semenyih is a sight to behold. Opening the first ever British overseas campus in Asia in 2000 was ambitious, yet just 15 years later one look at the bustling lecture halls proves this bold venture was worth it. How did this special bond between Nottingham and Malaysia begin? To know that, we must look back to a post-war Britain when future Malaysian kings, ministers and judges made Nottingham their university. Their legacy continues to flourish, their journeys helped attract the brightest and best Malaysian students, and their passion for Nottingham back with them. Their experiences helped the University take on the emphasis on overseas education that was at its early stages.

Current Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Sri Najib Razak is an industrial economics graduate and HRH Tunku Isman, current President of the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) is another law graduate. Without those early students blazing a trail to Nottingham all those years ago, the campus could have been very different.

Their legacy continues to flourish, their journeys helped attract the brightest and best Malaysian students, and their passion for Nottingham back with them. Their experiences helped the University take on the emphasis on overseas education that was at its early stages.

Be part of the 15 year celebrations. Share your memories of life at UNMC at: Blogs.nottingham.edu.my/campusnews

CONNECT 2015

NITED BY DEMENTIA

I think the University taking on dementia is fantastic. I heard a talk about the research here and knew I wanted to get behind it.

Kathleen Fennemore – who rode ten miles at the Life Cycle 5 community day in honour of her mum who has seven dementia and her dad who has recently been diagnosed with the disease.

There’s so much research that needs to be done. Even though grandma can’t benefit, it will help people in the future.

Lucy Woodhead – who rode ten miles at the Life Cycle 5 community day with her dad in memory of her grandma who died from the disease.

I thought about my mum and that gave me the boost I needed to keep going. Pain from cycling is temporary, dementia is not.

For the last four years our Vice-Chancellor has led a team of intrepid cyclists on challenging rides across the UK, raising more than £1.7 million for the Impact Campaign through Life Cycle. Thousands more have taken to the saddle, joining our annual Life Cycle community day rides. With this year’s Life Cycle 5 raising much-needed funds for dementia research, we asked two riders to tell us why they decided to push their pedals.

Ben’s Way of the Roses Life Cycle 5 ride was tough but his mum was never far from his thoughts. “When my legs were burning and my head was down, I thought about my mum and that gave me the boost I needed to keep going. Pain from cycling is temporary, dementia is not.”

“I believe the University has the capability to make a breakthrough using world-leading MRI technology – it just needs people to support the programme. We don’t know exactly what will be discovered but with a Nobel-prize winning team at the helm, I can’t think of anywhere else better placed to try.”

To everyone who has helped us raise over £200,000 towards our £350,000 target. This research needs more support. Read more on page 21 and please give a gift.

www.nottingham.ac.uk/lifecycle

CONNECT 2015
HOW SAFE ARE WE?

I turned 60 this year and have been reflecting on the world into which I was born,” says former MI6 Chief and alumnum Sir John Sawers. “It’s a rather safer place than it was. There are fewer conflicts and far greater security in places like Africa, Asia and Latin America. GDP per capita has increased tenfold and life expectancy by 20 years – these are extraordinary developmental leaps that the world has taken.

“Of course we face big threats, not so much state-to-state threats (although President Putin has reminded us he does have a nuclear arsenal that he’s prepared to brandish if we don’t respond to his concerns), but the bigger and more immediate threats come from terrorism and cyber security issues. So I think the world is a better place and will carry on being so but there are challenges and threats we have to manage, contain and deal with.”

Sir John is tall, slim and softly spoken but with a steely gaze – every inch the diplomat and former head of the Secret Intelligence Service (SIS). Back at University Park Campus to receive an Alumni Laureate Award following a long and distinguished career in public service, one journalist even made favourable comparisons between him and James Bond actor Pierce Brosnan.

After finishing a year as secretary to the Students’ Union and completing his civil service exams, Sir John (Physics and Philosophy, 1976) was all set for a career in the Foreign Office when one day he received a tap on the shoulder.

“Someone asked me if I would like to do something ‘a little more interesting’, I realised I was being steered towards the Secret Intelligence Service (SIS) and if you’re 21 and offered the chance to work for MI6, you don’t turn it down.”

So began a 36-year career in foreign affairs, diplomatic relations and national security, ending with a five year stint as the Chief of MI6, the role commonly known simply as ‘C’.

“This last job was my most challenging during a period where the country faced, as it still faces, a very serious terrorist threat and where there are challenges from different countries and organisations that are hostile to our way of life.”

So how did he cope with the inevitable stresses?

“When you’re under pressure, with difficult decisions and fine judgements to be made, you need to identify the values which are most important to you. It’s easy to adhere to your values when life is easy but when you’re facing life and death, that’s when there’s a temptation to cut corners, to do something you hope someone won’t notice or do someone down for what you think is a wider good. That’s when you need to hang on to your values most.”

Public interest in the world of SIS never wanes but does the fiction come anywhere near the reality?

“Of course Bond is entirely fictional and a lot of fun, although I did find elements that were quite real in the movie Skyfall – like threats coming at you in your home territory, terrorists coming to London and the fact Dame Judi Dench (she played the MI6 Chief) had to work under the constraints of a Parliamentary committee. Plus the gadgetry, Q does exist in real life and is in charge of all the operational technology that we use inside MI6.

“The biggest difference is that Bond is a loner operating on his own while in reality, the modern intelligence officer is part of a team. You need to be far more through teamwork than any individual could possibly do. At university your achievements tend to be your own but once you get into work, your performance is about working with others.”

In his early days, after a few years with MI6, Sir John realised he was more interested in ideas, policy and politics so he switched to the Foreign Office embarking on a career as Foreign Affairs Adviser to Tony Blair, Ambassador to Cairo, Political Director and Permanent Representative to the United Nations. He has been closely involved in all the UK’s major foreign policy issues for the last 20 years, including policy on Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, the Balkans, the Kosovo conflict and the Northern Ireland peace process.

His philosophy studies at Nottingham triggered his interests in ideas and argument while his physics degree came in remarkably handy when negotiating with the Iranians over their nuclear programme.

“Most issues are susceptible to diplomacy and negotiation. There’s no point bringing yourself together with organisations like Islamic State – they have to be contained and the threat from them progressively diminished – but I think issues, especially between states, are soluble by negotiation.

“Part of the role of diplomacy is to build personal connections and enable different sides to understand one another. It’s about creating a group of people with different skills, backgrounds and ways of thinking to work together – whether that’s bringing an end to apartheid in South Africa or reaching an agreement with Iran after 12 years. That is the essence of how MI6 works.

“I’ve made mistakes in my career but you recover from them when you recognise them. No career is smooth or gilded; you have to work hard for it. If you hang on to a sense of ambition, a commitment to team work and clarity of purpose, I think you’ll be successful in life.”

A career in public service is enormously rewarding. I can’t think of a career where you add greater value, whether it’s working for an agency or maybe an NGO engaging with these issues outside government, you can make a difference. I think most 23-year-olds are surprised at the fact that they can actually make a contribution to those global and national challenges that we’re facing.

“But it’s also important for young people to do what they believe in. If you’ve got a passion then follow it. An officer is part of a team, you do things that interest you, that inspire you. You don’t just do things because your parents did them or for a decent salary or job security. Those aren’t unimportant – but you’ll get them if you do things which really give you a reward in life, which motivate you and where you’re giving your best.”

Hear more from Sir John Sawers by registering for our guest lecture in London on 25 November – part of our exclusive Chancellor’s Lecture series.

www.nottingham.ac.uk/alumninevents
Professor John Beckett takes a moment to think. "It's always been good here," he says thoughtfully, "every era has its highlights but University life has changed dramatically over the decades. A student in the 1950s would struggle to recognise the experience of those following just ten years later, let alone that of someone studying here today."

We're sitting in historic Lenton Grove, surrounded by grainy photographs, old copies of The Gongster and papers. A member of staff for more than 30 years and professor of English Regional History, when it comes to the University's past, John Beckett is the man to ask. He's just finished writing a fascinating new book about the social history of the institution, packed full of alumni memories, rarely-seen photographs and testimony. Its pages explore the impact of political and cultural shifts on generations of Nottingham students.

"Looking back, in the post-war years people thought a university education was a privilege" said John. "Arriving here in the 1940s and 50s was, for many, an astonishing revelation – perhaps the first time they'd had a room of their own or experienced central heating. But it was a 9 to 5 University with no entertainment after lectures, unless you had a transistor radio, and hall doors were unlocked so the wardens could come round to inspect the rooms."

"But a few years later, attitudes were changing as students began to express themselves. Hair length increased, shirt collars and trousers got wider and skirts got shorter. Arriving at university was a liberating experience and people took the opportunity to be whoever they wanted to be. More women were also coming, altering the make-up of the student population." Gender equality wasn't the only driving change. The reduction in the age of majority in 1970 from 21 to 18 also had a significant effect. People started to branch out from living in halls, seeking more freedom in areas like Lenton or Dunkirk.

"At that time, students still received government grants and in the 1980s, there was a move away from shared accommodation," explained John. 20 years earlier universities were also the places to see live music but students started gravitating more to the pubs and clubs in the city. Places like The Black Orchid, Rock City or Ocean will be familiar to many alumni.

But with grants coming to an end in the 1990s, the introduction of tuition fees and growth of new universities, student life was evolving again.

"Students were becoming customers with high expectations. Alumni visiting any of our campuses will spot the ongoing investment in our facilities – the much-talked of University Park cowsheds are no more! But technological change has transformed how we teach and study the most. Students used to write copious lecture notes with pen and paper – now they press record on a tablet or mobile. There's an ocean of information on all subjects at our fingertips. It's easier to research but harder to be unique," said John.

"An alumnus told me that his 1950s generation absorbed a lot of information but he wasn't convinced how much they actually learned because the teaching was unimaginative. Now we work hard to help students think for themselves, giving them the skills needed for success in the future."

John Beckett's new book Nottingham: A history of Britain's global university will be available to buy in 2016. Did Your Era Have It Best?

As he gets ready to launch his new book on the history of the University, we asked Professor Beckett to settle an old debate by telling us when the best time was to be a Nottingham student.
We asked Ben to tell us how he did it.

Hat chain is now firmly on the menu. Turning over £4.1 million, his Benito’s years later, employing over 120 staff and opened an authentic business. Yet in 2008, with the country Restaurants are notoriously tricky. It hasn’t been easy. You need to...
LIFE AFTER NOTTINGHAM

BRITISH RECORD-BREAKING polar explorer and adventurer, business coach and MBA alumnus Adrian Hayes is not the average man. He has achieved more personal goals in the last decade than most of us will manage in a lifetime, mastering Everest, K2, the North Pole, South Pole, the length of Greenland by kite-ski, the Arabian Desert by camel, two Guinness world records, two documentaries and one book. With such an adrenalin-packed life story, we asked Adrian to share what these thrilling experiences have taught him about how to conquer goals and banish fears.

Visit our online magazine to watch a short interview, hear his advice and get tips on how we could all be a little more adventurous.

www.nottingham.ac.uk/connectonline
It’s no surprise that Professor Sir David Greenaway feels this way. In 2011, he launched our biggest ever fundraising campaign to help students reach their full potential and deliver world-leading research here at The University of Nottingham. Just four years later and thanks to our supporters, we are delighted to announce that Impact: The Nottingham Campaign has met its £150 million target a year ahead of schedule!

As we celebrate this milestone, it is clear to see that charitable support for life-changing research and student support is still needed. Bright students from disadvantaged backgrounds continue to face barriers in accessing higher education and diseases like cancer and dementia are major global health issues. It is why we are challenging ourselves again, increasing our fundraising target to £200 million and creating exciting new ways to involve 1,000 volunteers.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the Impact Campaign so far. You have proved that alumni are passionate about giving current students the same opportunities to excel as generations before, and that you believe in our innovative research as much as we do.

“Universities are places of transformation. Our ambition for Impact was for it to be transformative but I did not anticipate that so much could be delivered so quickly. That it has is a tribute to the loyalty, commitment and generosity of so many alumni and friends.”

Countries with Cascade projects:
UK, Malaysia, China, Malawi, South Africa, Ghana, India, Tanzania, Kenya, Sri Lanka

£1,948,357 raised to fund student-led projects through Cascade
Five new professorships created
Reduction in the average time taken to diagnose brain tumours in children through Head Smart
3,145 students have taken their place at the University thanks to a scholarship

WHAT AN IMPACT

£1,948,357 raised to fund student-led projects through Cascade
30,000 cups of tea consumed by our student call team over five years
14.6 million Life Cycle pedal rotations raising over £1.7 million for Impact

raised in charitable donations to transform lives locally, nationally and internationally

Five gold, silver and bronze Olympic medals won by alumni and students at London 2012
95% of the genes known to cause dementia were discovered by our researchers
180 local schools have taken part in our Nottingham Potential programme

Without the work at the Children’s Brain Tumour Research Centre, we wouldn’t be here today with our daughter Rebecca.

David Clark, father to Rebecca who was diagnosed with a brain tumour when she was four years old

£11,414.07 raised by University staff by donating the small change from their pay packets

“Universities are places of transformation. Our ambition for Impact was for it to be transformative but I did not anticipate that so much could be delivered so quickly. That it has is a tribute to the loyalty, commitment and generosity of so many alumni and friends.”

David Clark, father to Rebecca who was diagnosed with a brain tumour when she was four years old

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David Clark, father to Rebecca who was diagnosed with a brain tumour when she was four years old
Changing lives around the world

What have we done with this mind-boggling sum of money? The answer lies in the lives of all those at the University, in the UK and around the world who are benefiting. Just this summer, over 1,000 alumni kindly donated over £100,000 to Nottingham Potential Scholarships, giving 100 talented young people from disadvantaged backgrounds the chance to take their seat in our lecture theatres and experience life as an undergraduate. By supporting Nottingham Potential summer schools and our community education centres, the generosity of alumni is ensuring that talent and a desire to learn are what define a Nottingham student – now and always.

Bright students and leading researchers need outstanding facilities that are fit for the future. Our new GSK Carbon Neutral Laboratory at Jubilee Campus is back on track after it was closed last September, while on University Park Campus work is underway to create the Philip Morris Science Centre – transforming science teaching. The David Ross Sports Village, our new cutting-edge sports centre generously supported by Campaign Co-Chair and alumnus, David Ross. By sponsoring seats, alumni also enabled the redevelopment of our Nottingham New Theatre – the only student-run theatre in England – into a high-quality space fit for launching the careers of the next generation of theatrical alumni, following in the footsteps of Golden Globe winning actress Ruth Wilson and film star Theo James.

Inspirational spaces fuel inspirational ideas. Thanks to donations to Cascade, over the past five years more than 200 student-led volunteer projects have been set up to help local and international communities. From tea and therapy for homeless people in the East Midlands to transforming the lives of fishing communities in Malawi – our students have proved that with support, there are no issues too big for them to tackle. The ripple effect of the Impact Campaign is being felt far beyond our students and campuses. Thanks to the groundbreaking work at our Children’s Brain Tumour Research Centre (CBTRC), hundreds of families can celebrate their special milestones with children who are surviving brain cancer. Donations from alumni and friends haven’t just changed lives – they have helped save them.

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It’s not time to hit the brakes
Alumni support has already made a real impact but with your help, we want to continue changing lives and tackling global issues. It’s why we are becoming bold again - aspiring to recruit 1,000 volunteers and setting our sights on a new total of £200 million by the end of 2017.

The need is real. In the UK, one in three of us is likely to have a loved one affected by dementia. Worldwide, there are over 12 million new cases of cancer diagnosed each year, a figure predicted to rise to 26 million per year by 2030. Employers are expecting more from graduates than ever before while people from wealthier backgrounds are twice more likely to pursue a university education than those from lower income families.

Together we can make a bigger impact
We have a range of transformational projects within Impact that need your help. Scholarships will give future students who work hard the chance to pursue their education and enjoy university life like generations before. Cascade, our student projects fund, is becoming increasingly popular as more students develop ideas to help communities. Right now, we have more requests for support than we can fund.

Now is also the time for us to develop the Portland Building at University Park into a thriving hub. It was built in the 1950s and deserves a new lease of life as a 21st-century Student Union building - a home to the exceptionally wide range of student societies for which the University is renowned, while retaining the charm it has always held for students from every decade.

We also want to keep pushing the boundaries of medical research and early diagnosis. Our dedicated researchers are working to develop the world’s first blood tests to detect breast and bowel cancers. As the only UK university using the latest MRI scanning technology to study dementia, we also have the unique opportunity to use our expertise to better understand how the disease affects the brain.

Universities remain places with the independence of thought to drive inventive and critical advances yet funding for the initial stages of research can be hard to access. This is where alumni support makes a vital difference. By giving to the University, you can be confident that 100% of your donation goes directly towards our work.

Please join us
We have proved that great things can be achieved when alumni, friends and the University come together. Alumni support empowers the University to reach beyond its grasp and change lives for the better. Please join us as we go up a gear into the next phase of Impact: The Nottingham Campaign.

Support our work
Visit Impact online to make a donation and find out how you can get involved.

Watch our new video and see how we are changing lives
www.nottingham.ac.uk/impactcampaign

CANCER - CATCHING THE DISEASE AT THE EARLIEST, MORE CURABLE STAGE
Professor John Robertson, Director of the Centre of Excellence in Autoimmunity in Cancer (CEAC)

“The moment I realised we had made a breakthrough was intense. After years of research, we had discovered a way to spot early-stage lung cancer through a blood test, with the potential to save lives by detecting the cancer early and treating it before it can spread.

How our test works is by detecting the microscopic anti-bodies our bodies naturally produce when cells start to mutate and become a cancer. It is already making a big difference in the USA and a large scale clinical trial is underway in the NHS in Scotland.

I am very proud of what we have achieved but lung cancer – the world’s most common cancer – is one of many. Now, with the help of Impact, we want to develop tests for breast and bowel cancer, the second and third most common types. Currently, the majority of individuals diagnosed with those cancers rely on detecting symptoms or signs such as a lump in the breast or blood in the stool; the cancers are often at a later stage and have already spread.

When screening techniques such as mammograms or stool analysis are used they reduce deaths but only by about one fifth. Our new tests will detect these cancers even earlier, meaning doctors can give swift and effective treatments that help patients survive.”

We need £350,000 to fund two new research posts
“I am requesting your help to bring a new clinical research fellow and PhD student into our team to drive this research forward. We are only university using DNP for dementia – you can help us get this innovative research off the ground.”

By using DNP, we gain a ten-thousand fold improvement, giving us a unique opportunity to analyse how dementia affects the brain. I believe this will be a game-changer for dementia research.

RESEARCH WITH REAL-WORLD IMPACT

DEVELOPING TESTS FOR BREAST AND BOWEL CANCER WILL COST £2 MILLION
“I am asking for your support to help us access cutting-edge diagnostic equipment and to recruit a senior research fellow, lab technician and data analyst. With the right people and equipment in place, we can make detecting cancer at an early stage a reality, which will allow a cure for millions.”

TEN THOUSAND TIMES MORE POWERFUL – A NEW VIEW ON DEMENTIA
Professor Peter Morris, Director of the Sir Peter Mansfield Imaging Centre at University Park

“I had the pleasure of being part of the team alongside Professor Peter Mansfield when the first MRI scanner was developed here at Nottingham in 1976. Since those early days, we have continued to lead the world in developing MRI technology as a diagnostic medical tool. As arguably the major health and social issue of our era, I can’t think of a more pressing or worthy research topic than dementia.

Dementia turns independent, healthy people into individuals who struggle with basic tasks and are reliant on others. Globally, over 40 million people are already living with the disease, by 2050, this figure is predicted to rise to 135 million.

Thank you for your support to grant from the UK government, we are installing a dynamic nuclear polarization (DNP) system at the University. This technology is thousands of times more sensitive than conventional scanning, meaning we can study tiny changes in the brain. Previously, we couldn’t detect dementia until damage to the brain had occurred but DNP offers new information. We will be able to detect the minute chemical changes that take place before structural damage begins. I believe this will pave the way towards earlier diagnosis for dementia and move us one step closer towards developing treatments that can be tailored to the needs of individual patients.”

We need £635,000 to fund two new research posts
“I am requesting your help to bring a new clinical research fellow and PhD student into our team to drive this research forward. We are only university using DNP for dementia – you can help us get this innovative research off the ground.”

We have a range of transformational projects within Impact that need your help. Scholarships will give future students who work hard the chance to pursue their education and enjoy university life like generations before. Cascade, our student projects fund, is becoming increasingly popular as more students develop ideas to help communities. Right now, we have more requests for support than we can fund.

Alumni support empowers the University to reach beyond its grasp and change lives for the better. Please join us as we go up a gear into the next phase of Impact: The Nottingham Campaign.
The expert advice from mentors has been invaluable in launching my new nutrition company. I now have the knowledge and confidence to pursue my passion.

Terei Holloway, student entrepreneur

Our Nottingham alumni community is full of talented, knowledgeable and inspirational people from a variety of sectors and professions. Students tell us that advice and guidance from successful alumni makes a real difference to their University experience, yet harnessing all this potential has not been easy – until now.

In our recent alumni survey, many of you expressed an interest in giving your time so we have created a range of volunteering roles to suit your interests, location and availability. You can give as much or as little time as you want - from home, at work, in the UK and across the globe. In doing so, you will be having a real impact on our staff, students and research.

Giving time is all part of the Nottingham DNA. In Karnival and the Students’ Union Volunteering Centre, we have one of Europe’s most successful fundraising and volunteering student bodies but we have lacked ways for alumni to continue their involvement. With our new Head of Volunteering, Rachael Green, now firmly in place, we are creating exciting opportunities for alumni and friends to keep sharing their skills and expertise to help others long after graduation.

How to get involved

Browse our volunteering opportunities by visiting www.nottingham.ac.uk/giveyourtime

If you are already volunteering for the University and not in touch with our alumni team, please do contact us to let us know.

Give volunteering a go. You’ve definitely got something to contribute. You can do an hour or two a month and you will be appreciated for giving your time.

Francine Pickering, mentor

MEET SOME OF OUR VOLUNTEERS

MALCOLM JONES

(BA RUSSIAN, 1962, PhD SLAVONIC STUDIES, 1966, EMERITUS PROFESSOR)

Emeritus Professor Malcolm has been volunteering in our Manuscripts and Special Collections Department for many years, using his specialist skills in Russian and Slavonic studies.

“Volunteering has enabled me to continue helping the University in retirement. This has included cataloguing collections, translating documents from foreign languages and giving advice on collections within my area of professional expertise or personal knowledge. It has resulted in several publications and the occasional public talk.”

FRANCINE PICKERING

Francine is a local marketing consultant in Nottingham who mentors entrepreneurship students through our Business School.

“I enjoy seeing how students develop from the first stages of an idea through to a presentation where they are all suited and booted, making a really credible case for their business idea. When you’ve helped students through the creative problem solving process and suddenly see the light bulbs come on, it’s a brilliant experience. It’s a great way to spend the day.”

We need your help

AN HOUR TO SPARE?
• Fill in an alumni profile form – showcasing your career path can inspire our current students.

AN AFTERNOON OR DAY TO GIVE?
• Spend a couple of hours speed networking with students.
• Speak at one of our ‘Spotlight’ events for specialist careers inspiration.
• Mentor our students through our entrepreneurship programme.

WANT SOMETHING MORE REGULAR?
• Coach or referee a student sport or club team.

LIVE OUTSIDE THE UK?
• Share your passion for the University by advising international students thinking of coming to Nottingham.

Find out more at www.nottingham.ac.uk/giveyourtime

50

Be part of the 50th anniversary celebrations.

The Students’ Union Volunteering Centre (SUVC) is marking its 50th anniversary in 2016. If you’d like to be part of the celebrations, please get in touch with your alumni relations team.

alumni-enquiries@nottingham.ac.uk
ALUMNI MATTERS

MALVIKA JOHAL

Our new Head of Alumni Relations

“What is it you do again… ‘alumni relations’? Um… what exactly is that?”

It’s a familiar question and a topic I love to talk about. The answer is simple - my team and I are here to help you make the most of being part of our alumni community, no matter how far you’ve travelled or where your life has taken you since graduating.

As the new Head of Alumni Relations, I had the pleasure of welcoming Victoria Rowley as our 250,000th Nottingham graduate at the end of last year. Rowley joined the N3 in CONN3CT to meet knowledgeable people in a new country or sector, get back in touch with old friends and classmates - your alumni relations team can help.

Thanks to everyone who took part in last year’s alumni survey, we learnt that we needed to better showcase how we can help you.

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Thanks to everyone who took part in last year’s alumni survey, we learnt that we needed to better showcase how we can help you.

It’s why we have given a fresh new look to this magazine, our website and enewsletters to offer more careers advice, alumni stories and networking opportunities. I do hope you like what we’ve done. The N3 in CONN3CT celebrates the unique connection between the UK, China and Malaysia, alongside our influential alumni network around the world.

The first step to benefitting from being part of this well-connected community is to keep in touch with us. If you don’t receive our event invitations or monthly enewsletter, please visit our website and update your details. We have some fantastic events coming up including a Chancellor’s Lecture from alumnus Sir John Sawers this November (read more about the House of Lords at our February reception).

Sawers this November (read more about the House of Lords at our February reception).

The awkward or downright terrifying new experiences lead to confidence. I spent years believing the exact opposite – that confidence was a pre-requisite to voluntarily entering new experiences. I had no idea that confidence was like physical fitness. There would be little point in sitting around waiting to be fit before you took big exercise. I know I missed some opportunities because I was waiting for confidence to arrive before I went outside my comfort zone.

This is fundamental. Remember it when you feel too scared to sign up for clubs and activities. Remember it when you feel too frightened of the unknown to meet new people, to sign up for clubs and activities. Remember it when you feel too scared of the unknown to meet new people, to sign up for clubs and activities.

Put simply, we don’t want very much. It’s not wrong to want to offer more careers advice, alumni stories and networking opportunities. I do hope you like what we’ve done. The N3 in CONN3CT celebrates the unique connection between the UK, China and Malaysia, alongside our influential alumni network around the world.

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JOAN’S LEGACY LIVES ON

She was very children oriented and she would be delighted to be playing a significant part in helping students at the Medical School.

THE GIFT OF EDUCATION

When alumna Janet Comers (Education, 1981) received a call from our student team she responded generously with a gift of £45 to the Cascade fund. As a teacher, Janet was particularly interested in hearing more about a project which our Cascade fund supports. Project Limpopo was a second-year run project where architecture students successfully designed and built a nursery in the South African rural region of children in a rural part of the country for the last few years.

Following Janet’s death this year, the University learned that her passion for the project was greater than we could ever have imagined. Janet left £50,000 in her Will to the Department of Architecture and Built Environment, to be used, in her words, “to fund student-led design and build projects in Africa benefiting the education of the local population.”

SIR JOHN MASON (1923-2015)

Distinguished scientist and expert in the physics of clouds, Sir John Mason, has died aged 91.

As Director-General of the Meteorological Office from 1965-1983 Sir John helped transform and modernise UK weather forecasting and pioneered large scale modelling of climate change. He graduated with a first-class degree in physics from University College Nottingham in 1947 and was made an Honorary Doctor of Science (DSc) at the University in 1966. His work includes the equation relating to the growth or evaporation of water droplets, known as the Mason Equation and his book The Physics of Clouds is a classic study of the science.

LEAVE YOUR MARK

For many Nottingham alumni, a gift in a Will is a way of leaving your own special mark on the future, one that will make an impact for generations to come.

Your gift, no matter how large or small, can make a real difference to an area of special significance to you. Your legacy could be a gift of education, ensuring the brightest and best students can make an impact for generations to come.

A gift in your Will could fund a Cascade fund student-led design and build projects in Africa benefiting the education of the local population.

Alongside developing my skills, dad has helped me enormously with the mental side of the game.

Robert (Economics, 1984) is a former Olympian, part of the team who took the gold medal at the 1988 Seoul Olympics in glorious style. Ali, a current student of history, plays in the University’s Men’s Hockey Team who beat arch-rivals Loughborough this March, raising the BUCS National Championship trophy after a 40-year hiatus.

When your dad is a hockey star, what’s it like following in his footsteps? “I started playing hockey because I wanted to. I was never pressured to play,” said Ali. “Alongside developing my skills, dad has helped me enormously with the mental side of the game.”

What of hockey itself? How much has changed over the past 30 years? “Ali’s University team is much better than mine was,” said Robert. “The game’s moved on – it’s much more athletic, physically demanding and skilful. Watching Ali play in such a high calibre match was incredible. I couldn’t have been more proud, especially as we never managed to get the better of Loughborough.”

While Ali and teammates enjoy their success, we say thank you to all alumni donors who support our coaching programmes, especially Mr John Bell (Pharmacy, 1956) whose generosity helped bring top-class hockey coaches Matt Taylor and David Ames into the team. Now our name is back on the trophy.

Finally, what of University life? “When I came to view The University of Nottingham, it just felt right,” said Ali. “In my second year I lived on Johnson Road, not realising I was just two doors down from dad’s old house. This University is in the family.”

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WE’VE GONE DIGITAL

Find even more content including video interviews, photo galleries and extended articles in our brand new online edition www.nottingham.ac.uk/connectonline