



**University of
Nottingham**

UK | CHINA | MALAYSIA

p16

In the fast lane

Technology innovations
driving the future
at McLaren

p20

Six ways we're

changing the world

Nottingham research
solving global challenges

CONNECT

**Linking Nottingham alumni
around the world**

Issue 3 | Autumn 2017

A Class Act
Hollywood star
Ruth Wilson
on a life less
ordinary



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“

Follow your passion and go where your heart lies – to thine own self be true.

”



WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO READ?

Welcome to your latest edition of *Connect*. Your feedback – positive and negative – is really important to us. If there's a topic you would like us to feature next year, or if you would like to write for *Connect*, please do get in touch. We'd love to hear from you – just email, tweet or write to us.

Victoria Hodson Editor – *CONNECT*

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Remembering popcorn, sweetheart seats and the cheapest tickets in town



VICE-CHANCELLOR'S WELCOME

I am delighted to introduce myself as the seventh President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Nottingham. It is a great honour for me to succeed Professor Sir David Greenaway, and this issue of *Connect* pays tribute to his many achievements during his nine years in post, including the outstandingly successful Impact Campaign. I look forward to building on his legacy in the coming years.

Nottingham is a world-leading university known for its international vision and creative approach to education. I am committed to take forward our outstanding global reputation for the quality of our educational offering, the employability of our students, and the significant contributions our research makes to society throughout the world. I firmly believe in the power of higher education to improve opportunity, to foster potential and to change lives. My own background is a testament to this.

I grew up in a small town in southwest Virginia, where my father was a supervisor in a local factory and my mother was a high school teacher. I was the first in my family to attend university. Today, as an art historian who specialises in eighteenth-century British and Italian art, I am a strong advocate for the UK's outstanding cultural offering. I spend what leisure time I have attending concerts, theatre and opera, visiting museums and galleries, and avidly reading contemporary literature.

As the incoming Vice-Chancellor of this great University, I can affirm that we value our alumni for their many engagements with us as lifelong friends, mentors to our current students, generous donors, and for the advice and opportunities they provide to our staff and students.

In my previous leadership roles at Oxford and Sheffield Universities, I found engagements with alumni from all walks of life one of my favourite activities. This promises to be another exciting year, and I look forward to meeting as many of you as I can.

Professor Shearer West

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University of Nottingham Alumni

NEWS

WE ARE GOLD!



WE PROVIDE OUR STUDENTS WITH TEACHING OF THE VERY HIGHEST QUALITY, according to the results of the inaugural Teaching Excellence Framework. The University's gold rating – the highest quality in the UK – underlines our status as an outstanding teaching and research-intensive institution. The award is just one of a number of honours bestowed on Nottingham this year as 37 of our subjects were recognised as among the best in the world in the *QS World University Rankings by Subject* league table and we were named University of the Year for Graduate Employment in the 2017 *The Times* and *The Sunday Times Good University Guide*. And our ambitions don't end there – we're investing an unprecedented £200m to deliver groundbreaking research that will transform our world. Turn to page 20 to discover more.



I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU HUSBAND AND WIFE... AND HUSBAND AND WIFE...

EVERY BRIDE-TO-BE DREAMS OF AN UNFORGETTABLE WEDDING DAY

– for 10 alumni couples, their special day became a date for the history books as they took part in a mass wedding ceremony at our University of Nottingham Ningbo China campus this April. While mass weddings aren't uncommon in China, this unique event was the first of its kind to be held at our Ningbo site. The couples, who all met and fell in love while studying at the University, returned to campus for the special ceremony as part of Alumni Homecoming Day, celebrating 10 years of Ningbo's alumni association.

KILLING THE WORLD'S DEADLIEST DISEASE

A TEAM OF RESEARCHERS AT THE UNIVERSITY, led by leading biologist Professor Rita Tewari, have made a major breakthrough in the fight against malaria. Identifying the proteins – called Kinases – that control the three stages of the malaria parasite's lifecycle, the team's discovery has led to a new understanding about how the growth of the parasite is controlled. This development will help scientists to find ways to trick the parasite into slowing its replication – making it easier to control and kill.



UNIVERSITY IN THE NEWS

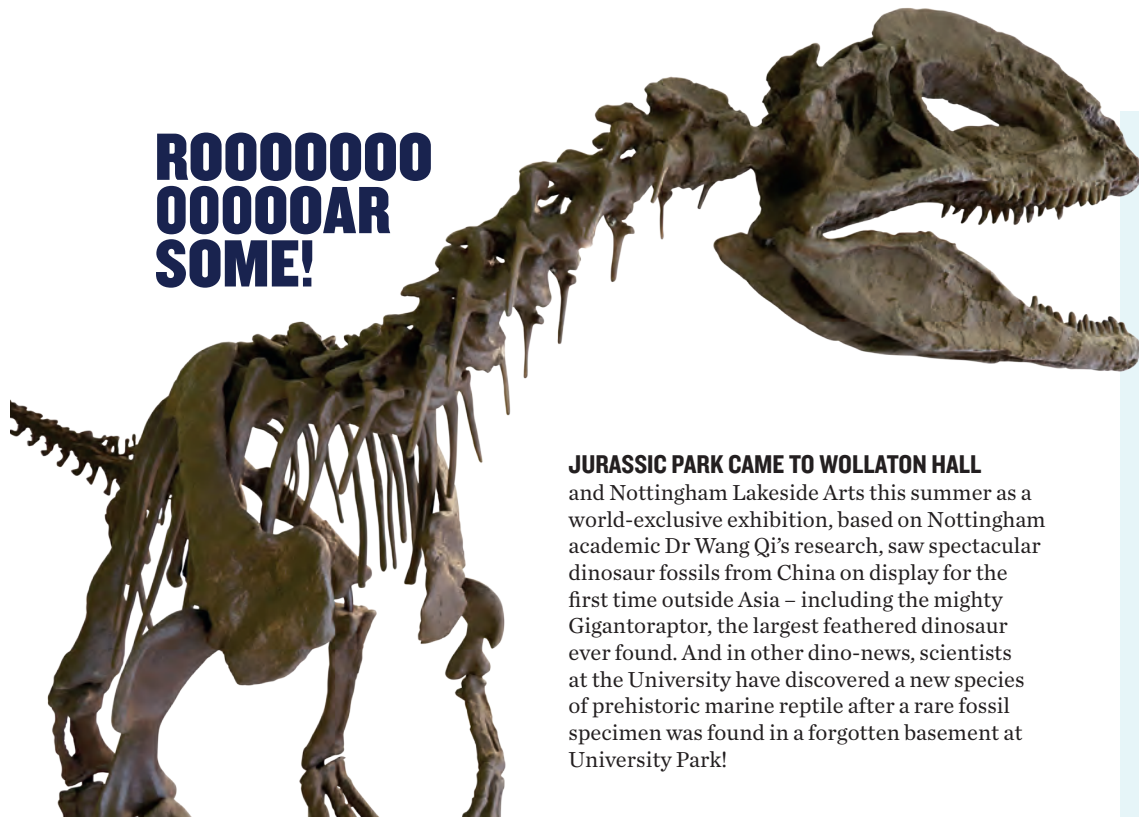
Sutton Bonington's North Laboratory has been refurbished into a state-of-the-art facility for bioscience and veterinary medicine students. The new laboratory has been named in honour of leading Nottingham academic, the late Professor Peter Buttery.

Shona Powell, Director of Nottingham Lakeside Arts, received an OBE in the Queen's New Year Honours in recognition of her work in the arts. Professor Kevin Bales was appointed CMG for his services to the global anti-slavery movement.

Olympic greats Dr Deng Yaping (*Contemporary Chinese Studies*, 2002) and Dr Tim Brabants MBE (*Medicine*, 2002) are the first alumni inducted into the University's new sporting Hall of Fame.



**ROOOOOOOO
OOOOOAR
SOME!**



JURASSIC PARK CAME TO WOLLATON HALL

and Nottingham Lakeside Arts this summer as a world-exclusive exhibition, based on Nottingham academic Dr Wang Qi's research, saw spectacular dinosaur fossils from China on display for the first time outside Asia – including the mighty Gigantoraptor, the largest feathered dinosaur ever found. And in other dino-news, scientists at the University have discovered a new species of prehistoric marine reptile after a rare fossil specimen was found in a forgotten basement at University Park!

THE SLITHER OF TINY FEET

IT'S A TALE AS OLD AS TIME – with a tragic twist. Scientists at Nottingham turned matchmaker as they sought a mate for lonely snail Jeremy, whose left-coiling shell is a one-in-a-million find but prevents mating with common counterparts. With public help two 'lefty' mates were discovered for our unique mollusc – with experts hoping to unlock insights into body asymmetry by breeding Jeremy with another genetically-rare snail. But poor Jeremy has been left shell-shocked after his suitors – Lefty and Tomeu – instead mated with each other, producing their first offspring. And in this case it appears two lefts make a right, with each baby snail developing right-coiling shells. With research into these rare creatures continuing, there may yet be hope for our unlucky-in-love 'lefty'.



HRH Tuanku Zara Salim visited the Malaysia Campus to open The Tuanku Zara Teaching Centre, which will provide technology-enabled learning facilities and flexible social spaces for students.

Biochemists gathered at the University to celebrate 70 years since the discovery of hydrogen bonds in DNA. The discovery, by Nottingham PhD student J. Michael Creeth, paved the way for the double helix model by Watson and Crick.

Nottingham took over Parliament for a day in November with 45 events showcasing our strengths and establishing our reputation as a civic leader.



5

minutes with... our Students' Union Activity Officers

We chatted to **MARTIN NGUYEN** (University of Nottingham), **SARAH SOE** (University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus) and **RUIYU XU** (University of Nottingham Ningbo China) about society life.

SARAH

Joining a society is one of the first things students do when they arrive on campus. It's easy to make friends when those around you share the same interests.

MARTIN

Our societies are highly rated, winning awards across the sector. Our SCRUBS Surgical Society was named Best Society at the National Society Awards last year, and there are lots of great developments ahead for our clubs.

RUIYU

Many of our societies are reflective of those in traditional Chinese universities. But Nottingham's global education has brought an international perspective and a fresh approach to our activities. UNNC Diversity, for example, is one of the first societies in China to explore gender relations and equality.

SARAH

Our clubs reflect a unique range of interests. A new initiative that's making waves at UNMC is Notts Makers, which supports students to turn their creative visions into reality through new technologies such as 3D printing and drone development. It's an exciting time to be a student at Nottingham.



From booking rock star royalty to Quidditch championships, the role of SU Activity Officer has always moved with the times. We asked former officer Richard Buckman-Drage (*Physics and Psychology, 1967*) about student life in the swinging sixties.
nott.ac.uk/SUactivities

FAREWELL SIR DAVID

He is the boy from the tenements of Shettleston in the east end of Glasgow. His parents had both left school aged 14, and young David Greenaway had no ambitions to go to university.

Yet his interest was piqued by a school teacher and when his father took the bold move to decamp the family south to Nottingham, David's first glimpse of the Trent Building came from a rowing boat on Highfields Lake.

Fast forward half a century and we are saying thank you, and a fond farewell, to Professor Sir David Greenaway, who has retired having served the University for 30 years, 20 of those as a member of its Executive Board and nine years as its Vice-Chancellor.

He is a renowned economist and researcher, and a celebrated teacher and academic leader – not forgetting nifty Friday afternoon football player. He has acted as a consultant to the World Bank, the European Commission and the United Nations, and a Member of the Government's Asia Task Force and its Higher Education Task Force. He was the founding Director of the Leverhulme Centre for Research on Globalisation and Economic Policy in the School of Economics. As Pro-Vice-Chancellor for both Research and Infrastructure, he chaired the project group that delivered the Jubilee Campus from a blank sheet of paper to thriving community. In 2014 he received a knighthood for services to Higher Education.

Across the University, Sir David is held in great esteem and affection as a man whose warmth, compassion and incredible intelligence has touched many. A charismatic stalwart of our alumni and supporter events, nowhere is his inspirational style of leadership more evident than in his great personal commitment to raising funds for our research and student support programmes – literally leading from the front and giving up holiday to cycle



over 7,000 miles as part of Nottingham Life Cycle. Other universities may look on in envy at a Vice-Chancellor willing to give so much of themselves to help inspire and support people in need.

“I will always remember David's passion and commitment for economics, rooted in a genuine desire to help make the world a better place.”

GUY EDGAR
(*International Economics*, 2008)

To all alumni, Sir David's message is clear and consistent. “Be bold and ambitious. Be resilient and take risks. Sometimes you will fail and failure is not a comfortable thing to deal with but there are times when you can't make progress without it. Be determined and apply yourself relentlessly but be prepared to listen. Always set out to give more than you take.”

Words that perfectly sum up the man we now celebrate and honour, as we welcome our new Vice-Chancellor, Professor Shearer West. Thank you Sir David for your years of service – you will be missed.



View more tributes online and help celebrate Sir David's extraordinary contribution by supporting student appeals close to his heart.
nott.ac.uk/farewellsirdavid



THIS IS YOUR CAPTAIN SPEAKING...

When was the last flight you heard a female pilot's voice over the tannoy? It's been almost five decades since the first female airline pilot qualified – yet today, just 3% of pilots are women. Virgin Atlantic Captain Lucy Tardrew (*Psychology, 1988*) explains what it takes to fly high.

"I've always loved flying," recalls Lucy. "As a child, I would head to the flight deck to get my Junior Jet Club log book signed. But I didn't think flying was a career for me because there were so few female pilots at that time."

Today, Lucy is the embodiment of the inspirational role model she craved as a girl. Stepping into the cockpit for the first time when she joined the University Air Squadron, she gained her wings – and the respect of her peers – at a little airfield outside the city. "I was the first girl to join the Air Squadron – and proved that women could fly."

After taking a gruelling first job flying post around the world to earn her flight miles, Lucy's career took off when she joined Virgin over 20 years ago. Now she flies the skies in the iconic 747 airliner.

"Attitudes in aviation are changing. I've just completed a flight with two female First Officers and a female engineer. We all progress on merit – the most important thing is to be competent, capable and confident in the job."

"Our training is second to none. We're rigorously tested in a simulator every six months, yet people skills are also essential. I manage a team of up to 18, who then manage up to 500 passengers. Knowing how to deal with situations unrelated to aviation – like a medical emergency – is often what makes the difference."

"Flying a 747 is an incredible way to see the world. I had the pleasure of flying Virgin's inaugural flight to Delhi with Sir Richard Branson. Our welcome party placed a garland and bindi on the aircraft when we arrived, before fireworks and dancing into the night!"

"There's no such thing as a normal week. It can be a juggling act to maintain a family life, but we get a lot of time off in between trips, so I've been able to make the important events in my children's lives."

Now at the pinnacle of her career, Lucy is focusing on inspiring the next generation of pilots.

"Last year, I presented an award at *We Day*, an incredible movement that empowers young people to change the world. As soon as I said I was Captain of a 747, the arena erupted in spontaneous applause. To show 12,000 kids, especially the girls, that an airline pilot is something they can aspire to was just amazing. Not enough women go into training and it's a real loss to the industry."

"When you safely land a flight there's a real sense of accomplishment – I wouldn't change my job for the world."



Hear more from Lucy, and Cathay Dragon pilot-in-training Collette Siu, on life in the skies.
nott.ac.uk/flyinghigh

THANKS TO YOU!

CELEBRATING SIX YEARS OF IMPACT

We are honoured to report the official closing of **Impact: The Nottingham Campaign**. A huge thank you to all our 18,500 donors who have helped raise a phenomenal £242m, and to our 1,678 volunteers who have so generously shared their time, skills and expertise with our University community.

Together, we have smashed our targets and enabled life-changing research for children with brain tumours, discovered new insights into dementia and breast cancer, and helped thousands of bright students from all backgrounds to achieve more than they ever thought possible.

Gifts large and small – from the priceless hours given by our volunteers, community fundraisers and Nottingham Life Cycle participants, to donations to our student calling programme, fundraising appeals and through Wills and legacies – have all fuelled our ability to positively change the lives of people in Nottingham and around the world. We thank our College of Benefactors – 52 individuals and organisations who have given truly transformational gifts – and celebrate all the amazing contributions from alumni who have shared our vision over the past six years.

While our Impact Campaign is coming to an end, our work is not done. Talent needs a catalyst. We will build on these strong foundations, ensuring that our University always remains a place where merit – not background – defines who becomes a Nottingham student, and where world-class research continues to tackle the global challenges faced by generations today and in the future.

Visit our website to discover more about the people and extraordinary projects that alumni have supported, and learn more about the exciting areas where you can help make a difference.



Shape the world you want to live in
nott.ac.uk/supportus

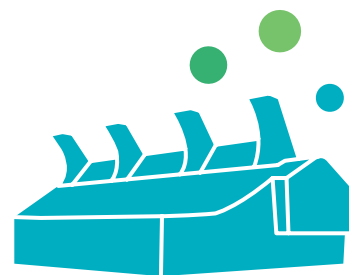
YOU MAKE THE EXTRAORDINARY POSSIBLE

3,337

students said **YES** to their University place thanks to a scholarship

“
**Pilot results for
our blood test to
detect breast
cancer are looking
very positive.**
”

DR JOHN ROBERTSON



Six innovative
new buildings

13,290

students take part in Cascade projects
in the UK and around the world



Over 50 new
Research Fellows and
PhD Studentships

**Alumni
volunteers
helped over
1,000 students
to kick-start
their careers
last year**

Embarrassing family holidays, hanging out with friends, that first taste of work – when you're 17, the summer break is a heady mix of freedom and boredom, a chance to step off the academic treadmill before the critical A-Level year that determines your future.

But what if a Russell Group university was not on your horizon? If your school lacked the expertise to help you write a stand-out UCAS personal statement or understand university life, or if your family couldn't offer any financial support towards your studies?

For over 20 years, thanks to the generosity of alumni donors and partners, our Summer School programme has helped give over 4,500 young people from disadvantaged backgrounds the tools and support they need to make university part of their future. Each year, around a quarter go on to choose Nottingham, with statistics showing these students are more likely to graduate with a First or 2.1 than the average undergraduate.

We asked three alumni to reflect on what their Summer School experience meant to them.

THE SUMMER THAT CHANGED MY LIFE



SOPHIE PHILLIPS

(Politics, 2011)

Community Engagement Officer,
Watford Community Housing Trust

"Summer School was a game changer for me. I'd always associated university with success but it felt such an unknown as I was first in my circle to go. Financially my parents couldn't support me and without academic role models, it's very hard to work towards a goal that no-one around you really understands. Summer School joined together positive role models, financial support and the vital message that you are good enough – you can do it. You couldn't possibly overstate the transformative effect of support like that. University isn't easy but it ignited a passion in me for social mobility and equality of opportunity, which have been at the heart of the seven years of community work I've done since graduating. I'll be forever grateful to everyone kind enough to give my 16-year-old self a helping hand in making my dream become a reality."



LOUISE TREHERNE

(Psychology, 2004)

Senior Deputy Head Teacher

"Summer School is more than the decision about whether to come to university or not – it's about opening someone's eyes to the huge opportunities that are there if you choose to strive for them. Summer School is perfectly placed during those important years when you need to discover your potential, connect with others and accept yourself. As an introverted 17-year-old, the experience helped me to get to know myself better. I could

transition to university familiar with the campus and confident that I was going to love every minute of my time at Nottingham, studying the course that was right for me. It's not a short-lived impact – it ignites the motivation, drive and self-belief we all need to succeed. As a teacher, I feel I've come full circle – our school mission is to 'Develop Confidence, Provide Opportunity, Realise Potential' and this sums up what I believe the Summer School experience delivers."



TOM WOOD

(Biochemistry, 2008)

Senior Vice-President, Citigroup

"I came to Summer School in 2004 with a lot of questions and doubts about university life. Was I academic enough? Would I fit in? I didn't really know anyone who had been, which was daunting in itself. But in that week, I made friends for life. I met people who were academic but not the 'university crowd' I had expected, and could see how university brings people together from all backgrounds. It boosted my confidence and self-belief, and set me on a path which has led to a successful career in the City. I was proud to be a student ambassador during my studies and help with the Summer School programme. It was important for me to complete the cycle and share my experience with other young people. As an alumnus, I'm still proud to do this and have featured as a case study for the Sutton Trust, helping raise aspirations about a career in the financial industry for young people from all backgrounds."

**Thank you
for helping
thousands of
young people
find their path
to university.**

BON APPÉTIT

On the menu today, we're serving a treat for your tastebuds as we take a look at the mouth-watering highs – and shudder-inducing lows – of your favourite memories of student food. Beans on toast, anyone?

HALL LIVING

The campus culinary experience has undoubtedly improved over the years, with more food outlets and healthy eating options than ever before. But many recall some of the – ahem, interesting – concoctions that have been served up across the eras.

"I remember the 'Rutland Burger'," recalls Margaret Neill (*Law, 1979*). "It was a running joke because it always looked the same but you were never sure what was in it." Rosemary Hay (*Law, 1979*) adds, "I remember someone actually broke a plate by hitting it with a slice of pizza!"

"I distinctly remember the banana curry served up in Willoughby Hall," said Victoria Hodson (*American Studies and English, 2005*). "It was yellowy-brown and mushy, with some surprising crunchy lumps."

The experience of hall catering was enough to inspire leading South-East Asian chef Willin Low (*Law, 1996*) to start cooking. "Coming from Singapore, where we have such a wide array of cuisines, I was in shock. We had rice cooked in so much water that you had to fish it out of the 'soup'. I started cooking chicken congee, a dish my mum made. My corridor mates loved my food so I started cooking more."

But look past the unusual cuisine and there is a highlight from decades of hall living which conjures up magical memories for many – the formal dinner. "We had formal dinners once a week," reminisces Samuel Asante (*LLB, 1956*). "We'd wear our gowns and host a distinguished personality on the High Table. I was elected to the Hall Committee in my second year and enjoyed the privilege of sitting on the High Table."

"Formal dinners felt like what a university should be about," said James Key (*Mechanical Engineering, 1996*). "It's the film version of university life but it made you feel really special."

STUDENT STAPLES AND DARING DISHES

For generations, baked beans and pasta bake have been fuelling Nottingham students through the ups and downs of university life. Ask any graduate what their go-to recipe was and the familiar suspects are at the top of every list.

"It would be pasta Monday to Friday," recalls Bridget Wallace (*Medicinal and Biological Chemistry, 2014*). "I'd be coming home late or going out again, so pasta with sauce was perfect. At the start of each term my mum made sure we re-stocked the cupboard – she didn't want me complaining that I had nothing to eat."

"I used to cook a panful of chips, pour over a large tin of Heinz beans and sausages and then melt cheese over the top," said Mike Walsh (*Law, 1974*). "My flat mates used to take the mickey, but it was cheap and tasty."

The core ingredient of many student meals that's hard to get wrong is the humble piece of toast. But it can be hazardous, as those who remember the frequent hall fire alarms will recall. "I was notorious for setting the fire alarm off when cooking toast," laughs Mollie Stone (*Creative and Professional Writing, 2017*). "I set a piece of toast on fire and had to throw it out the window!"

Although most of us stuck to tried-and-tested classics, some brave students got a little more inventive. "My housemate would make sprout curry regularly for dinner and share it with whoever was willing," said Paul Geddes (*History, 2002*). "He'd reheat it for breakfast, sprinkle it liberally with dried Parmesan cheese and settle down to watch Neighbours. I can still taste it years later."

"I used to buy pigs' trotters from the butchers in Beeston to cook a very Chinese meal," said Adam Sheng (*International Criminal Justice and Armed Conflict, 2001*). "They made a tasty dish, which attracted my flat mates over to share. A young lady from Taiwan made friends with me just because of this dish!"



FRIENDSHIPS THROUGH FOOD

The bonds we forge over shared meals can foster friendships for life. Many of our most enduring student memories are not special because of what we ate – but who we ate with.

"My favourite Nottingham memories are of sharing cultures through meals with my friends," remembers Kuemju Byeon (*Work and Organisational Psychology, 2014*). "I wanted them to experience South Korean culture so I cooked typical food such as kimbap, pancakes and spicy chicken dishes. We took it in turns to cook our country's traditional food – I tried ugali and chapati from Kenya, mushroom soup from Poland and curry from Oman."

"We had family dinners on a Sunday," said Bridget. "We all studied different subjects so didn't get to spend much time together during the week. So we decided to start a tradition where we'd all sit down for a proper roast dinner and just enjoy each other's company – those memories are so special."



Behind every meal is a story to be told. Transport yourself back to your student days by trying one of the dishes in our online alumni recipe book. nott.ac.uk/studentfood





“
My
favourite
Nottingham
memories are of
sharing cultures
through meals
with my friends.

”

KUEMJU BYEON
(*Work and Organisational
Psychology, 2014*)

A CLASS ACT

Gazing at poster-adorned walls, jumbled props and backlit dressing tables, Ruth Wilson (*History, 2003*) is transported back to a seminal moment in time. "It's exactly the same – it hasn't changed," she muses as she tours the backstage quarters of the Nottingham New Theatre, the only student-run theatre in England. Commanding the stage and screen in critically-acclaimed performances – including her Golden Globe-winning role in *The Affair* – Ruth is one of Britain's most exciting young actors, thrilling audiences with her bold portrayals of complex characters. But it was here on University Park Campus that this star first shone.



“I always had an inkling that I wanted to act, but I never admitted it,” recalls Ruth. “I hadn’t found a community of people that shared my passion, but it was ignited and nurtured when I discovered the New Theatre.”

“To have three years to explore acting in a place where there was real creative freedom, with no performance pressure or professional critique, was invaluable. It was at the end of my time at Nottingham that I said to Mum and Dad, ‘I want to give acting a go’.”

Returning to campus to receive an honorary degree, Ruth is joined by her parents, Mary and Nigel.

“When I first told my parents that after three years of university, I wanted to go to drama school, I think they despaired,” laughs Ruth. “Not only was it more money but it was more drama! But they never shared any doubts with me. Their belief in me has enabled me to do what I love and to achieve what I have so far.”

“Ruth was never a stage-struck little girl, but she listened to that desire inside,” said Mary. “She explored and discovered a world that was completely new to us. We couldn’t help her navigate her way, but we could support and encourage her to follow her passion.”

“We saw the great talent she has on stage,” adds Nigel. “She’s very watchable and holds people’s attention.”

Graduating from the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art in 2005, Ruth came to public attention just a year later when she dazzled audiences and critics alike in the title role of BBC mini-series *Jane Eyre*. With an auspicious start, Ruth has gone on to develop an impressive and prestigious body of work. With Best Supporting Actress and Best Actress Olivier Awards for her performances in *A Streetcar Named Desire* and *Anna Christie*, a Tony Award nomination for her Broadway debut in *Constellations* and an Olivier Award nomination for her recent appearance in *Hedda Gabler*, Ruth’s ability to interpret complex characters has earned her the respect of the industry. On screen, she’s showcased her acting prowess in a diverse range of roles in productions including *Saving Mr Banks*, *Anna Karenina*, *Luther* and of course, her award-winning turn in *The Affair*.

“Character is key when I’m considering projects because you’ve got to play the part,” explains Ruth. “It’s often things that are different from what I’ve done before, and pose a new challenge, that I’ll grab at.”

“I love both film and theatre but they require different skills – one is more physical and vocal and the other is much more thought-based and internalised. Working on film is fun but the sets can be intense. You often focus on one scene for an entire day, which can feel quite pressured and claustrophobic with a camera in your face. Every couple of years, I feel I need to go back to theatre. In theatre, you and every other

actor on that stage are responsible for telling the story each night. If you make a mistake, you just do something else tomorrow. You find something new each day and slowly build the character as you’re performing it.

“
In my honorary degree speech, I shared the advice that I tell myself every day: follow your passion and go where your heart lies – you never know where it may lead.
”

“On *Hedda* we had a moment – which I’d never encountered before – of something happening in the audience that stopped the show. Right at the most pivotal point – when I’m covered in fake blood and on all fours after being thrown to the ground – I heard a man scream: “Is there a doctor in the house?” A woman had fainted, so we had to leave the stage and come back on to start the moment again. It was an incredible experience as it made me realise the importance of the communion between audience and actors. It dropped completely but the support when we came back on was amazing. That’s what’s so special about theatre – it’s happening now, in the moment.”

Praised for her commitment to understanding the challenging and intriguing characters she inhabits by co-stars including Jake Gyllenhaal and Dominic West, Ruth’s meticulous approach to research is a skill she honed through her history degree. “My favourite part of doing a role is researching the context, time and places where the characters exist. When I did *Streetcar* and *Anna Christie*, both plays set in specific moments in American history, I went out to those locations and spoke to local academics to source nuggets of inspiration. In New Orleans, I went to the areas where Stanley and Stella might have lived, and in Minnesota, I found an amazing pamphlet in a library about prostitutes in 1910 in Saint Paul, which *Anna Christie* was. My history research skills have been invaluable.”

Her next project is one in which her usual background research is not required. Ruth will star as her own grandmother, Alison, in an upcoming BBC project which

explores the fascinating true story of Alison’s discovery that her husband Alec was a spy, living a double life that had far-reaching effects.

“I haven’t really thought much about performing as her yet because we’re just getting to a place where it’s ready to start production. I did question whether I should play her because it’s so close – but I also think it’s the only way to protect her. I feel like I know how to show her in all her complexity.”

Confident and warm, yet self-effacing and private, the dichotomy between life in the spotlight and an inherent shyness is the key to Ruth’s dynamism as a performer.

“Fear gets me up in the morning. I love my job but it scares me. I don’t really like all the attention being on me, which is odd considering my career choice! At University I would blush in seminars, not confident in my own voice, so I chose to get rid of my blushes on stage. I still do that now. There’s a mask element to it, choosing how much to reveal or conceal. Sometimes I feel very exposed or self-conscious – but I thrive on challenge and new experiences.”

Eschewing the fame and celebrity that so often accompanies an acting career, Ruth’s approach to her profession, carefully selecting roles which develop and hone her craft, shows her determination to shape her life and career to her own rhythm.

“I’m inspired by strong artistic women who are unconventional, like Georgia O’Keefe or Doris Lessing, women who found their own path and were uncompromising in their desire to follow what was important to them.

“I could never have imagined where I am today when I left Nottingham. But I had a dream. In my honorary degree speech, I shared the advice that I tell myself every day: follow your passion and go where your heart lies – you never know where it may lead. To thine own self be true.”

HOW TO LEAD A LIFE LESS ORDINARY

01.
Work hard and embrace opportunities
02.
Remain curious and keep learning
03.
Break the rules and take risks
04.
Learn to trust your instincts
05.
Don’t compare yourself to others.
Everyone has their own path to follow



Discover more at
nott.ac.uk/ruthwilson

Until 1976 women were not allowed to step on the outfield at Lord's, never mind play cricket on it or commentate from it. Fast forward more than 40 years to see England's women victoriously raising the Cricket World Cup, with Britain's first female cricket commentator, Alison Mitchell (*Geography*, 2001) relaying the news to millions around the world.

But this joyous moment was set against a nationwide debate over the gender pay gap, with clear reminders that sports broadcasting has a glass ceiling yet to be broken.

"I never wanted to stand out as a woman. It was quite a few years before I wore a skirt or dress to work because I didn't want to draw attention to the fact that I was different," said Alison. "Instead I let my journalism and commentating speak for itself, and proved myself by what I said and wrote."

“
**I'm confident
and comfortable
now to be me.**
”

"I've always been passionate about cricket. I watched my first match – Northamptonshire v Somerset – when I was six years old. I worked at Trent Bridge and wrote my dissertation on the relationship between cricket and the media. Yet even when I joined the Test Match Special team, I would still meet puzzled people eager to ask, "but do you really like cricket"?"

"London 2012 was a breakthrough moment. We saw strong, confident sportswomen not afraid to give their opinion. And while there are still many barriers to be broken, it's important to celebrate the baby steps we have taken towards equality, than bemoan the distance we still have to travel. I'm confident and comfortable now to be me – a tall and proud woman in the commentary box – and that's exactly where I belong."

Generous with her expertise, Alison was back at University Park to offer career advice to students as part of our Leadership in Sport event, and to help advise on our Strategic Vision for Sport and associated £3m fundraising campaign as a volunteer on our Sports Board.

Read our full interview with her online, including what it's like to work with Geoffrey Boycott and leaving Jonathan Agnew in the lurch while locked in the loos in Chennai!

nott.ac.uk/alisonmitchell

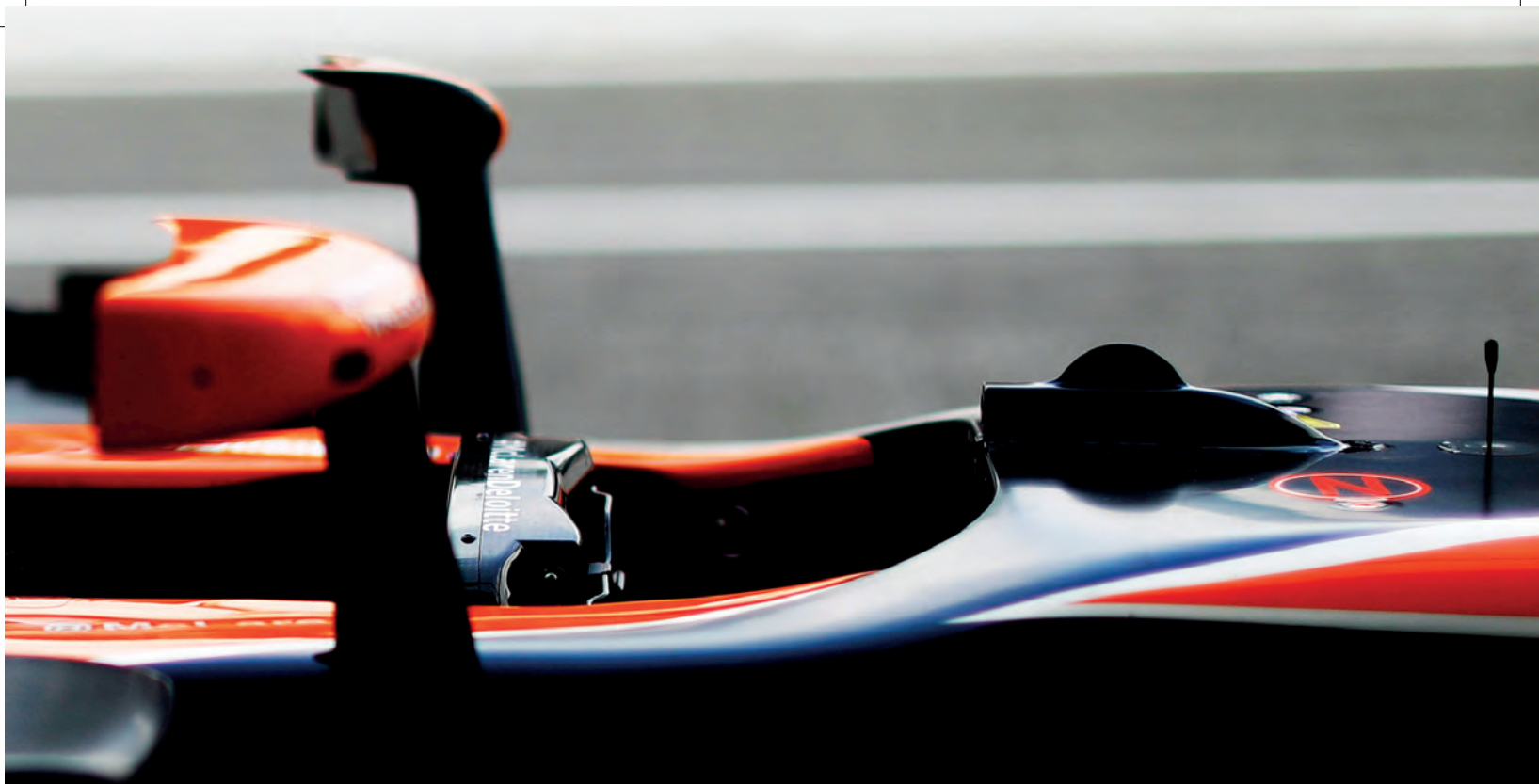






IN THE FAST LANE LIFE AT MCLAREN

It's a modern-day chariot race – a heart-pumping, high-octane show with thrills and spills, heroes and villains. Today, the impact of Formula 1 extends far beyond the race track, driving innovations and technological solutions to help tackle issues which touch all our lives. We meet an inspirational group of five alumni who know exactly how a winning mentality and unique ability to unlock the secrets of small data can bring the biggest wins – on and off the track.



We've been going into technological war every two weeks on the track for 10 months of the year since we were founded in 1963," says Andy Myers (*Production Engineering*, 1986), Chief Financial Officer at McLaren Technology Group. "We design, develop, build and test a new component on the car every 15 minutes, 24 hours a day. That culture is what gives us our perpetual motion and our appetite to improve."

Sitting inside the McLaren Group's pristine Technology Centre in Surrey, it's impossible not to feel the intellectual effort and energy required to pull off a feat like this. It's electrifying – beyond the imposing glass boulevard, with its rows of iconic cars that comprise McLaren's winning pedigree, are banks of sophisticated computers, engineering bays, laboratories, and simulators – rigorously running mind-boggling volumes of data and calculations to test every race day permutation and variable, and model every scenario.

It's an impressive track record – the team is one of the most successful in Formula 1 history, having won 182 races, 12 drivers' championships and eight constructors' championships.

"Formula 1 is not a participation thing – it's about winning," explains Jonathan Neale (*Physics*, 1984), Chief Operating Officer at McLaren Technology Group, which includes responsibility for the race team. "We visualise and analyse all the elements and processes – human, mechanical and technological. To put a Formula 1 car together and make it competitive needs everything – and everyone involved at every stage – to be

exactly on point. You have to work extremely hard just to compete."

Winning is everything. On race days, everyone at McLaren Racing comes to work in the team kit. Thanks to advanced high availability systems, the team at Mission Control in Woking are just as much part of the action as their colleagues at the track.

“
We design, develop,
build and test a new
component on the car
every 15 minutes,
24 hours a day.
”

"Real time decisions, when to pit, which parts to leave on the car – it's a constant collaboration between us and the track, wherever in the world we're racing. The rapid advancement in digital technologies, telemetry and computing power has fuelled a phenomenal rate of development. Years ago, there was a time when 80% of the developments we took to the car didn't work because the simulation tools and sensors weren't advanced enough. Now, over 90% of everything we take to the car

works and we have a strategy for every eventuality. Every second of a race, we are constantly updating our models with real-time data coming in from the car."

How a Formula 1 approach is driving life-changing innovations

The unique blend of a hunger to win, an uncompromising mind-set and extraordinary technological ability, has led the McLaren Group into exciting new territory with the creation of McLaren Applied Technologies, which takes the amazing technology born on the track and develops it to help improve people's lives in surprising new ways. Now the fastest growing and most profitable part of the business, with a £60m turnover and a talented team of over 500 staff, this ambitious technology group has gigantic markets including health, public transport and automotive along with motorsport, firmly in its sights.

"Decades of competition in the world's most technologically advanced sport has given us the ability to see and maximise the potential of an increasingly connected world," explains Ian Rhodes (*Mechanical Engineering*, 1987), Chief Executive Officer at McLaren Applied Technologies.

"We know how to deliver high-performance design and handle small data. We ruthlessly filter data from the point of collection and use it to help people make better decisions, faster, by presenting the right information at the right time. We go beyond the limits of what was considered possible and turn ideas into reality by developing intelligent products and processes."

“
**Nothing is
 too difficult
 or impossible.
 In fact, if it’s
 difficult, it’ll
 attract us more.**
 ”

This innovative approach is highly desirable, with McLaren Applied Technologies attracting the attentions of global companies from finance to pharmaceuticals and healthcare to high performance sports products. From developing the revolutionary Venge bike for world-class sprinter Mark Cavendish to helping pharmaceutical companies deliver enhanced, data rich clinical trials, no problem is too big.

“Nothing is too difficult or impossible. In fact, if it’s difficult, it’ll attract us more,” adds Karl Surmacz (*Mathematical Physics, 2004*), Principal Data Scientist at McLaren Applied Technologies. “We’re engineers at heart – whatever the problem or issue, understanding the fundamentals of how things work and why they behave as they do appeals to the physicist within me. To have the chance to use our skills, expertise and technical capacity to make a difference to others is a pleasure.”

“We can solve a wide range of challenges

through the interplay between high-performance engineering and advanced electronic technology,” continues Ian. “Consider healthcare – we need to find new ways to make sure that only the right people go to hospital at the right time. At the minute, medical teams are rushing round trying to respond to all the alarms going off from patients’ different diagnostic devices. We can help make the system more sophisticated, for both patients and clinicians, improving everyday lives.

“We’ve worked closely on a number of projects with the NHS to develop more intelligent systems to continuously collect data from patients, such as heart rate, breathing rate and oxygen levels, revolutionising how they are monitored and providing vital early warning signs of deterioration that can be swiftly acted upon. Now a modified engine control unit with specialised software is alerting staff when there are anomalies in the right data signals, at exactly the right time. Technology born in racing is helping save people’s lives.”

By collaborating across healthcare partners, McLaren Applied Technologies’ innovations in medical technologies are helping to revolutionise clinical trials, inform strategic clinical interventions and aid patient recovery, in chronic illnesses.

“Most wearables lack contextual data,” explains Ian. “We developed a discreet patch that stroke patients can wear on their neck rather than wrist, as the upper body is a far more useful data source. By accurately recording a patients’ movements outside the hospital, we can help doctors to develop personalised plans which give people the best chance to recover.”

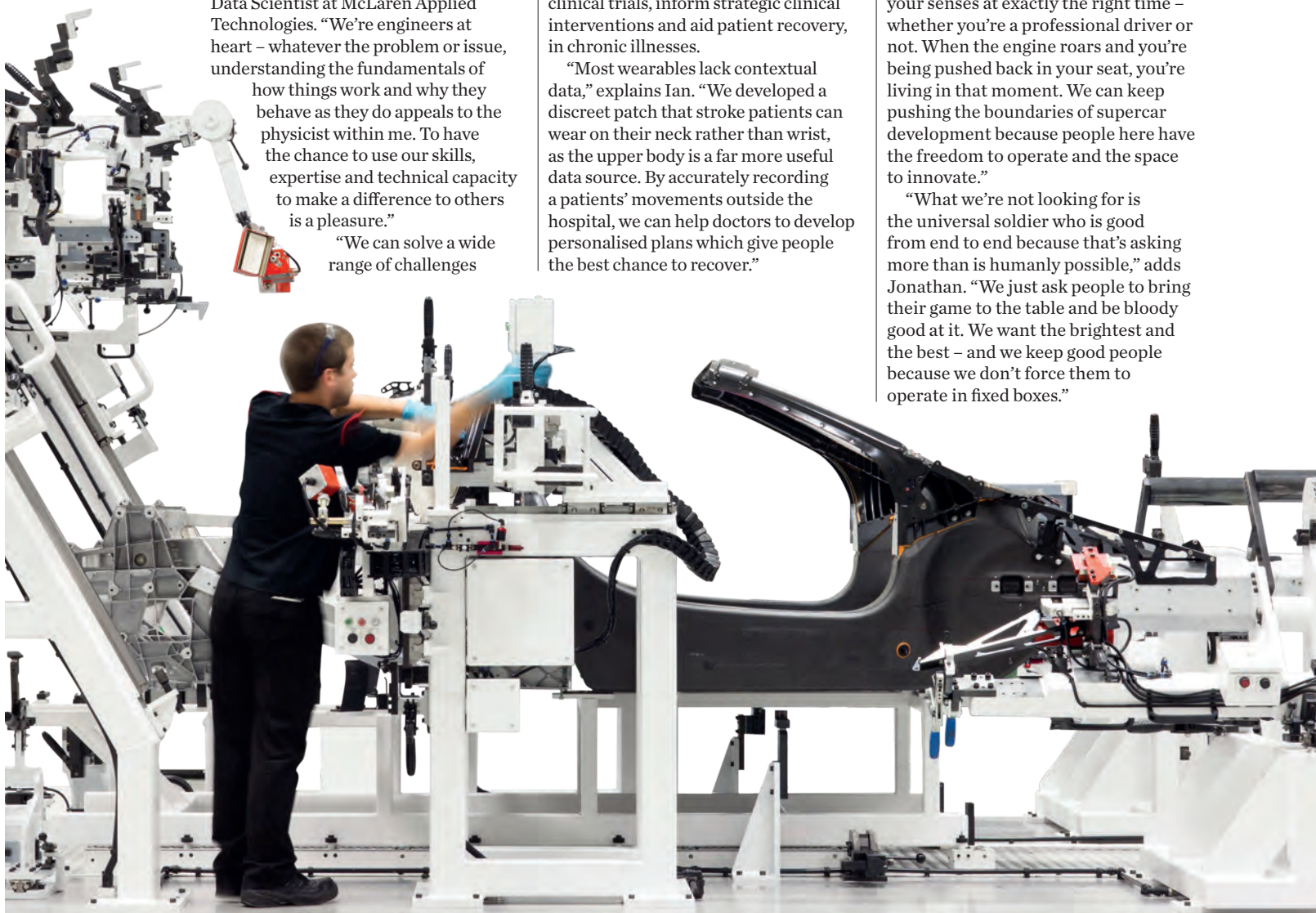
Have you got what it takes to live life in the fast lane?

To see the fearless nature of innovation at McLaren Group in action, you only need to look to their supercar production. Outside, hidden by high walls, lies an extraordinary car park containing a jaw-dropping array of McLaren Automotive’s exhilarating luxury cars. Some covered with geometric camouflage paint, others in McLaren’s iconic orange, all capable of going from 0 to 100 mph in under six seconds.

“What other company would have invented a completely new car?” asks Marcus Waite (*Mechanical Engineering, 1996*), Chief Engineer at McLaren Automotive. “We invested £600m up front to go head to head with Ferrari in a market where we were completely new. It was a crazy thing to do but it was born out of the confidence in our people and technology.

“We knew our engineers were capable of producing a car that is the best in the world,” continues Marcus. “It’s about teamwork. Everyone brings their own strengths but we focus on a shared goal – to create an outstanding high performance car that fires all your senses at exactly the right time – whether you’re a professional driver or not. When the engine roars and you’re being pushed back in your seat, you’re living in that moment. We can keep pushing the boundaries of supercar development because people here have the freedom to operate and the space to innovate.”

“What we’re not looking for is the universal soldier who is good from end to end because that’s asking more than is humanly possible,” adds Jonathan. “We just ask people to bring their game to the table and be bloody good at it. We want the brightest and the best – and we keep good people because we don’t force them to operate in fixed boxes.”



“
It’s really important that society
doesn’t split into those who do
technology and those who don’t.
Technology needs to evolve in
an integrated way, as science
was conceived originally.
”

“We need our potential leaders for the future,” adds Ian. “Fundamentally, graduates need to have a knowledge and love of engineering and the physical sciences. At McLaren Applied Technologies, we want people that are digitally enabled, creative and innovative, bold and ambitious. We look for people who will constantly challenge us – and we’re recruiting right now.”

As we end our visit walking past McLaren’s trophy cabinet that stretches as far as the eye can see, it’s impossible not to feel a sense of pride and awe at how this talented team of Nottingham graduates are shaping the future in racing and beyond – and the exciting opportunities open for ambitious students and researchers to grasp. We give the final word to Jonathan:

“I’m excited by the rate and pace of technology development. Artificial intelligence, greater digitisation and connectivity, all offer opportunities to help solve some of the world’s greatest problems. But it’s really important that society doesn’t split into those who do technology and those who don’t. We certainly need to be alert and wary to the dangers but technology needs to evolve in an integrated way, as science was conceived originally, as the natural philosophy. Technology needs bright and capable people, those able to think flexibly in every situation. Every engineer in the pit will tell you that inside the front of their notebook is page one of what to do if we have a blackout. If you want to win, be bold, embrace developments but take nothing for granted.”



Alumni gifts help Nottingham students race ahead

Thanks to donations to Cascade – our fund which supports students to run their own projects – a group of engineering students also entered Formula Student for the first time this year. Inspired by the phenomenal success of our Electric Superbike project, (which achieved another podium finish at the Isle of Man TT race this year), the Formula Student team competed against students from around the world to design, build, test and race an electric single-seat racing car. Sadly, technical difficulties meant this ambitious new car didn’t get out on the grid as intended, but with useful lessons learnt, the future is looking very bright for Formula Student 2018.



JAMES WELCOMES STUDENTS TO TORO ROSSO



There’s much more online
Discover top careers advice, tips to help you create
a winning culture plus more industry insights.
nott.ac.uk/beyondthetrack

This May, a lucky group of engineering and business students had the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to go behind the scenes at Scuderia Toro Rosso’s headquarters in Italy, thanks to the generosity of accomplished Technical Director James Key (*Mechanical Engineering, 1996*). An unmissable opportunity for students to learn from the best, James was recently described by Toro Rosso Team Principal Franz Tost as having the “qualities to become one of the most celebrated designers in motorsport,” with “the management skills necessary to get the most out of all the various departments that work together in Italy and the UK.”

Business student James Finney said of the trip: “Getting to see the inner workings of a Formula 1 team was such an enormous privilege! Seeing first-hand how a company at the

forefront of innovation operates has left me feeling profoundly inspired.”

James Key added: “We had a very interesting day. Discussions on both the business side of the sport and aspects of its technology were enjoyed by all, and even though just a few hours were spent on the details, some different perspectives of how Formula 1 goes about its business emerged. As someone who has been imbedded in the sport for a number of years, this was extremely enlightening. The factory tour gave the group the inside track on how a Formula 1 team operates, with good insights into what it takes and how our processes work. There was also a good discussion on how to work across two countries with different languages and cultures, with suggestions and thoughts on how to overcome these challenges.”

SIX WAYS WE'RE CHANGING THE WORLD

We live in rapidly changing times. There are pressing issues facing our societies and the world around us that cannot be ignored. At Nottingham, discovery is in our DNA – it's in the fabric of who we are. It's why we are making an unprecedented £200m investment across our Research Vision to bring together the people, resources and facilities that can make exceptional things happen.

Our six Beacons of Excellence sit at the core of our vision – to deliver solutions for the global challenges of today and to make the ground-breaking discoveries that will shape the world of tomorrow.



An exciting future awaits – discover
how you can be part of our vision.
nottingham.ac.uk/world

ENDING WORLD HUNGER

Beacon Director: *Professor David Salt*

How do we feed a growing population in a changing world? By 2050 there will be two billion extra people on the planet – we need smart solutions today to secure the future of food. In the face of climate change, we must develop new resilient crops and increase yields. Against a growing prevalence of pollutants and over-processed food, we must create healthier, safer and more nutritious foods for all countries. World-class science drives our approach to this challenge. We have unrivalled expertise across the food chain – from soil to molecule to meal – placing us in an invaluable position to develop solutions to feed the world.



DEVELOPING TOMORROW'S TRANSPORT SYSTEMS

Beacon Director: *Professor David Grant*

Transport is on the cusp of a revolution. Against mounting economic and environmental pressures, we need to identify new ways of moving people and goods to end our dependency on conventional fuel systems. It's about making transport green – and electrified propulsion is the game changer for a new era for transport. We're already global specialists in sustainable materials, electrification and transport technologies, placing us at the forefront of the drive to develop the materials, components and technologies for the vehicles of tomorrow. Our discoveries will make possible the greatest transformation of transport in the modern age.



CREATING A SLAVERY-FREE WORLD

Beacon Director: *Professor Zoe Trodd*

It's easy to think slavery has been consigned to the pages of history. Yet there are 46 million people enslaved around the world today. A world without slavery is within reach, with a global political commitment to end slavery by 2030. We're at the forefront of this fight, home to the world's leading experts on contemporary slavery. Our approach fuses cutting-edge research with real world applications, using multidisciplinary methods and techniques to design innovative new solutions, from mapping slavery from space to achieving the world's first slavery-free city. Our work with governments and NGOs will ensure we can achieve the Freedom Dividend – a safer, greener, more prosperous and equal world when slavery is brought to an end.



SECURING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Beacon Director: *Professor Alex Conradie*

Green chemistry and the global economy may seem like unlikely bedfellows. But we believe the next global industrial revolution will be driven by a step-change in how we make the materials and goods that drive the modern economy. It's about seeing the bigger picture – smarter and more sustainable at each step of the process from atom to product. Harnessing the power of the genome is key, reprogramming microorganisms to generate materials at a cellular level. Utilising our world-leading expertise in metabolic engineering and sustainable chemistry, our cutting-edge biotechnology platform will support governments and industries across the world to transform energy-intensive fossil-fuel reliant economies into the low-carbon societies of the future.



TRANSFORMING HEALTHCARE

Beacon Director: *Professor Dorothee Auer*

Over 40 years ago, an idea that originated in a physics lab on University Park, changed the medical world beyond recognition. As the home of MRI, our internationally-leading reputation in biomedical imaging places us in a unique position to develop the imaging tools of tomorrow. Unprecedented insights provided by our precision imaging will enable a revolution in personalised healthcare, where diagnosis and treatment is tailored to the needs of the individual. By focusing on the healthcare challenges with the biggest impacts on our societies, we'll transform diagnosis and outcomes for patients across the world, leading to the development of personalised therapies across a range of diseases and mental health issues.



DRIVING THE NEXT DIGITAL REVOLUTION

Beacon Director: *Professor Steve Benford*

We're in the midst of a digital revolution, with technologies enhancing the way we live, work, play and travel. The unprecedented pace of change in our digital world demands a profoundly new approach to how we create, manufacture and use products. Bringing together our experts in informatics, creative design and industrial technologies, our scope is far-reaching – from designing smart products to answering ethical questions surrounding interactivity and use of data. Our programme of powerful discovery will redefine our relationship with technologies and build better-connected societies, responding to our digital world with the speed and agility we need.



OUR WINNER IS...



Many congratulations to Debby Lush (*Animal Physiology*, 1982), who is the winner of our alumni creative writing competition.

Debby fought off tough competition from 52 other entries to take the prize with her short story, *The Librarian*. Plus congratulations to Samuel Woodford (*Architecture and Environmental Design*, 2011), whose story *Supervision* was Highly Commended by our judges.



OUR TOP SIX STORIES ARE:

The Librarian

Debby Lush
(*Animal Physiology*, 1982)

Supervision

Samuel Woodford (*Architecture and Environmental Design*, 2011)

Spring Buds, Autumn Leaves

Pauline Charalambous
(*Advanced Nursing*, 2015)

Gaslight

Tom Willis (*American and Canadian Studies*, 2016)

Bus Journey to Paradise

Steve Hill (*Psychology*, 1978)

The Conversation

Kenny Udogu (*Architecture*, 2003)



You can read all the top 20 entries online in our digital magazine.
nott.ac.uk/alumnishortstories

HOW WERE THE STORIES JUDGED?

All entries were carefully read by a shortlisting panel of eight creative writing and English students and graduates, who assigned scores for: creativity and premise, characterisation and dialogue, plot and structure, presentation and grammar, style and tone. All stories were anonymised before the judging began. A shortlist of six stories were then presented to the final judging panel:

Jon McGregor

Our creative Writer-in-Residence, whose latest novel *Reservoir 13* is currently on the longlist for the acclaimed Man Booker Prize 2017.

John Miller (*Politics*, 1962)

Celebrated BBC television and radio producer, who has published books on many famous actors including Dame Judi Dench, Sir John Gielgud and Sir John Mills.

Lauren James (*Natural Sciences*, 2014)

British Young Adult author of *The Loneliest Girl in the Universe* and popular *The Next Together* series.

Thank you to everyone who took the time and effort to enter and to all our judges. It was a joy to read so many wonderful stories and celebrate our talented and creative alumni community.

THE LIBRARIAN

by Debby Lush

Closing 2pm today.

Mary Hope eyed the sign with mild annoyance. In all her years as chief librarian at Sutton Bonington campus, the library had never shut early. She huffed silently and turned her attention to the neatly ordered card index laid out on the main desk. Two books due for return that day were still outstanding. She glanced at the clock above the door and nodded to herself. There was still time.

The intrusive sound of smothered chatter caught her attention and her head snapped around. Students! What did they not understand about the meaning of the word 'silence'? She drifted towards the culprits where they huddled over a textbook. Their words were unclear, but their body language strongly suggested they were not discussing the finer points of the anatomy of the stomach, despite the pages open before them.

The boy's foppish long hair swung back and forth in time with his laughter, while his female companion nudged him with her shoulder, the wide wings of her collar tickling his cheek to cause more amusement. Mary pursed her lips. She found the current fashions ridiculous – surely no one could find platform shoes comfortable? And as for flared trousers, well! She was quite certain that had she been forced to wear such ridiculous apparel she'd have tripped herself up within the first few steps.

"Tsk, tsk," she hissed, close behind them. They both jumped, and huddled closer together.

"Perhaps we should get out of here. Come on, Ron; it's nearly closing time anyway."



Mouth clamped shut, Ron nodded. He returned the book to its rightful position on the shelves and the couple scurried away. Mary nodded to herself; they'd be back when they were ready to study, but clearly they had other things on their minds right now.

Moving further into the library, Mary came across one of her most regular visitors: Professor Jones, an environmental scientist. While unfailingly polite, Mary had the distinct impression he was always slightly looking down his nose at the library staff. They weren't academics, after all.

Professor Jones had been scouring the archives for a very particular reference every day for weeks now. If only he'd ask, Mary knew precisely where to find it. But the professor had his pride, and it showed now in his stiff back as he stood scowling at the shelves, his magenta floral shirt setting off the tendency of his cheeks to turn a fetching puce colour as his frustration grew. In fact, today, his face almost matched the deeper red colour of his corduroy slacks. Mary was concerned he might be heading for a heart attack.

Engrossed in scanning the titles on the shelves with his back turned towards Mary, she slipped closer and opened one of the tomes he'd already stacked on the table. Leafing through the volume, she found the passage he sought and left the pages open with a bookmark underlining the spot. She smiled to herself as she slipped away, heart warming with satisfaction that it was she, not the mighty professor, who knew where to find the critical information.

"Eureka!"

"Shhh!" came the predictable responses from other patrons to Professor Jones's outburst, but for once Mary refrained from joining in. She'd done her job even when he hadn't requested her help, and proved once again that the librarian knew best.

Gliding on silent feet past occupied tables, Mary recognised two figures browsing the shelves while carefully ignoring each other. She sighed. These two had been dancing around each other for weeks. They were obviously attracted to each other, yet neither was willing to make the first move.

Perhaps such shyness came with age. Mary had never felt that pull for another human being – she was too wedded to her precious books – but the library was a marvellous place to study humanity, and while the young, brash and eager

students fell in and out of each other's arms with dizzying rapidity, older people were more cautious. Doctor Stevens from agronomy and microbiologist Doctor Ehlers were not old as such, but they were definitely beyond the 'anything goes' student phase.

Mary squared her shoulders. She could bear witnessing the hesitant mating ritual no longer. Sneaking behind the shelf Doctor Ehlers was browsing, Mary tiptoed up the ladder to the top shelf, spread her hands out, and pushed.

Half a dozen solid volumes teetered then fell, narrowly missing Doctor Ehlers' head.

"Oh!" she gave a little shriek.

Doctor Stevens was by her side in an instant. "Are you hurt? Did any of them hit you?"

Content that her little nudge had broken the ice between the pair, Mary moved on, coming at last to the library's rearmost alcove, where the periodicals were stored. She swept up copies of *New Scientist*, *Nature*, and *Scientific American*, and restored them to their rightful slots on the racks.

Turning back to the reading table, she reached for the final magazine, but stopped, her hand hovering above the copy of the *Sutton Bonington Parish Lines*, open at the page displaying local news and notifications of services. Today's date, 10th June 1974, caught her eye.

Flustered, she left the offending paper on the table, an untidiness she would never, under normal circumstances, countenance. She hurried through the now deserted aisles between the bookshelves, gaze lifted to the clock above the door.

'2.04' it read, and Mary halted, staring at the locked door. The library was shut, and she no longer had a key.

Mary Hope straightened her back, smoothed her grey hair over her skull and clasped her fingers around her neat bun, checking for stray hairs. The final moments of opening hours had passed her by, and sadness welled up inside, but she firmed her jaw and gave herself a small shake.

No matter, she'd finished all her tasks and contentment filled her.

Floating forward, she passed through the solid wood door and headed towards the village church.

It really wouldn't do to be late for her own funeral.



WE ALSO CELEBRATE OUR ALUMNI COMMUNITY THROUGH OUR ANNUAL ALUMNI LAUREATE AWARDS. CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR 2017 RECIPIENTS – AMONG OUR WINNERS ARE:

RECENT GRADUATE AWARD

Dr Janey Lowes (*Veterinary Medicine and Science, 2012*)
Veterinary Surgeon and CEO
of WECare Worldwide

Theodore Taptiklis (known as Theo James) (*Philosophy, 2007*)
Actor, Producer and Musician

SPECIAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

Dave Hancock (*Sports Medicine, 1999*) Founder, Atherapy and Performance Consultant for Washington Nationals

Alison Mitchell (*Geography, 2001*)
Sports Broadcaster and Journalist

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Sir Nigel Sherlock KCVO OBE
(*Law, 1961*) Honorary Patron of the Community Foundation Tyne & Wear

Baroness Margaret Wheeler MBE
(*Politics, 1971*) Senior Opposition Whip, House of Lords

UNMC ALUMNI OF THE YEAR

Siti Maslinda Sheikh Othman
(*Business Administration, 2003*)
Government Relations Strategist

UNNC ALUMNI OF THE YEAR

Zeng Xiao (*Finance, Accounting and Management, 2016*) Corporate Social Responsibility Entrepreneur

Sun Yuzhou (*International Studies with French, 2013*) Leading Researcher in cultural exchange between China and Africa

AND OUR NEWEST HONORARY GRADUATES OF THE UNIVERSITY

Ruth Wilson (*History, 2003*)
Multi-award-winning actor

Daniel Hallgarten (*Chemistry, 1983*)
Partner, HGT Management

Cynthia Barlow OBE (*Social Administration, 1965*) Founder and Chair of road safety charity, RoadPeace

Andy Halford (*Industrial Economics, 1980*) Group Chief Financial Officer and Group Executive Director, Standard Chartered



For the full list of our 2017 recipients, visit nott.ac.uk/alumni/laureate

THE ENDLESS PURSUIT OF KNOWLEDGE



MALVIKA JOHAL
Head of Alumni Relations

“Change is nothing new and each cohort of alumni has to learn to adapt to a shifting jobs market”

Chatting with our latest graduates on the proudest day of their lives, scrolls in hand and their futures in front of them, I shared their excitement. But I also sensed a trepidation about what lay ahead. Change is nothing new and each cohort of alumni has to learn to stand out in an evolving jobs market, with demands for different skills in a world of rapid technological advancement – as described by our alumni leading the field at McLaren (page 16).

As the pace of change accelerates so does our need to adapt – we all need to be lifelong learners. Our free online initiatives are here to help you hone your skills, progress your career and pursue your passion.

Alumni-to-alumni mentoring

I am delighted to say that some of our newest graduates, our Class of 2017, are now being mentored by experienced members of our worldwide alumni community. I offer my personal thanks to all those who so generously share their skills and expertise with young alumni and current students through our alumni-to-alumni mentoring and eMentoring programmes. Alumni volunteers are already making a huge difference – people like

Vanessa and Jenny, who are making valuable new connections while helping to inspire our students.

Connect with fellow alumni

You can search, find and connect with over 130,000 alumni on LinkedIn – or join our alumni LinkedIn group to share ideas. Search LinkedIn to find our University page and make sure you have the University of Nottingham listed in your education history.

Online learning

I also offer my thanks to our first webinar speaker, leading architectural expert Antony Wood (*Architecture, 1991*). If you missed it live, you can view his fascinating talk on the future of tall buildings and their impact on society on our alumni website – plus the dates of upcoming courses.

Join us on Facebook

We post our upcoming events and opportunities on our Facebook page. Follow us to make sure you don't miss out  University of Nottingham Alumni. For all our latest news and information, visit nottingham.ac.uk/alumni

ALUMNI CONNECTIONS

When Jenny Brown and Vanessa McPhee (*both Mathematics, 1997*), stood before a room of eager young students last March, they were about to discover that they had more in common than they realised!

They had each volunteered to speak at our Celebrating Maths event, organised as part of International Women's Day 2017. This event gave current maths students the opportunity to speak to alumni about the different ways they have used their degrees, and spend time with strong female role models.

“We talked beforehand but didn't realise until we were introducing ourselves to the students that we were in the same year,” said Vanessa. “We've both changed surnames and obviously we don't look the same but it was great to discover that we share some of the same friends.”

Not only had they both studied maths in the same year, met their future partners at Nottingham, and stayed on to live in the city, these two women had gone on to forge successful careers using their Nottingham degrees.

“It was fascinating meeting up with a contemporary who did the same course,” added Jenny. “We realised our transferable skills were exactly the same and yet we've taken them into very different careers.”

20 years after graduating, Jenny, who went on to do a PGCE, is now Head Teacher at Nottingham Free School and Vanessa is Director of Financial Planning and Forecasting at Capital One.

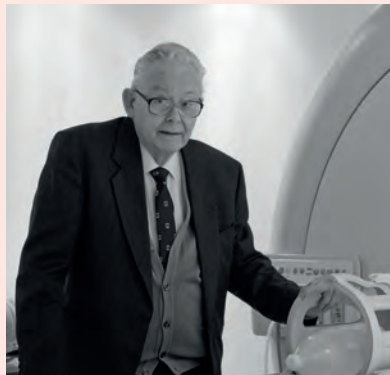
Vanessa added: “As we're both in Nottingham, we're now talking about ways that we can get back in touch and use this new connection in the future to help each other.”

Volunteering is a great way to give back to the University, help inspire current students and fellow alumni, and support Nottingham research. Plus, you never know who you could meet!



Wherever you are in the world, you can connect with great people by volunteering. Explore all our opportunities online. nott.ac.uk/givingtime

OBITUARIES



PROFESSOR SIR PETER MANSFIELD (1933-2017)

Nobel Laureate Professor Sir Peter Mansfield died in February at the age of 83. Sir Peter pioneered the creation of Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), one of the most important and revolutionary breakthroughs in modern medical science.

He was awarded the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine in 2003 for his role in the development of MRI, used today in research, diagnosis and the treatment of millions of patients around the world.

Sir Peter joined the University as a physics lecturer in 1964 and stayed for his entire career. Together with the late Paul Lauterbur, he harnessed nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) to visualise the internal structure of complex objects. In 1976, they produced the first human NMR image, a finger complete with bone, bone-marrow, nerves and arteries. Two years later, Sir Peter became the first person to step inside the very first whole-body scanner – despite warnings that it could be potentially dangerous. His long career also included many other distinguished awards including a knighthood, an MRC Millennium Medal and Fellowship of the Royal Society.



Sir Peter's legacy continues – find out more about how our world-leading MRI research will transform healthcare on page 20.

DR SANDRA BROWN (1944-2017) **Chief Scientist with Winrock's Ecosystem Services Unit in the United States, Dr Sandra Brown (Chemistry, 1966) has died, aged 72.**

She was a specialist in the role of land use and land cover change in the global carbon cycle and climate change, the impacts of climate change on terrestrial ecosystems, and the present and potential future role of terrestrial ecosystems for mitigation of climate change. She provided leadership and expertise to many national and international organizations in the field of land use/land cover change and its relation to climate change and mitigation.

DR ALLAN MILLS (1933-2017) **Dr Allan Mills (Chemistry, 1955), Senior Lecturer in Planetary Science at the University of Leicester and leading figure in the study of planetary science, has died aged 83.**

He was first appointed to the university in 1968 as a NERC researcher and two years later took up an established post in planetary science. During the rest of his career he lectured, undertook field courses, and supervised projects in the Departments of Astronomy, Geology, and Physics.

PROFESSOR CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON (1958-2017)

Professor Chris Johnson has died suddenly at the age of 58.

Described by colleagues as a brilliant thinker, writer and researcher across the disciplines of French, philosophy and anthropology, he became Professor of French at the University of Nottingham in 1999. His third book, *Claude Lévi-Strauss: The Formative Years* (2003), made a major contribution in the field of anthropology and at the time of his death Chris had been working on a book about the prehistorian André Leroi-Gourhan.

PROFESSOR HENRY POWER (1950-2017) **Described as a giant in his field by friends and colleagues, Professor Henry Power, Chair in Computational Fluid Dynamics, has died suddenly at the age of 66.**

He joined the University in 2000, establishing a long and distinguished career spanning 17 years. An outstanding researcher, his mathematical ability was matched by his phenomenal work rate having authored 300 academic papers. He has been posthumously awarded the George Green Medal in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the field of boundary element methods.

DR KENNETH LAWSON (1928-2017) **The former warden of the Nottingham Adult Education Centre, Dr Kenneth Lawson (Philosophy PhD, 1977), has died.**

Having left school at 14 to become an apprentice aircraft rigger he went on to St John's College in Oxford and spent the bulk of his working life as a passionate supporter and political activist in adult education. As warden he taught economics to miners on day release courses, giving them an appreciation of national and global topics and gained international recognition through his widely respected literature on the philosophy of adult education.

DAVID ROBINSON OBE (1927-2017) **The President of Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust David Robinson (Geography, 1952) has died, aged 89.** A graduate and former tutor at Nottingham, David went on to teach and edit *Lincolnshire Life* magazine. But it was to nature conservation that he devoted his life. He was instrumental in the early years of the Trust and was widely regarded to be one of the county's greatest experts on natural history.

We extend our condolences to the family and friends of those members of our University community who have died. We record the passing of alumni and staff on our website – if you wish to inform us of a death or submit an obituary, please email alumni-enquiries@nottingham.ac.uk

THANK YOU FOR THE MEMORIES



There were more than 60 years between them but when third year English student Jack Taylor called Colin Killick (*Chemistry, 1957*) as part of our annual student telethon, a new bond was formed.

After chatting for over 90 minutes, Colin kindly offered a host of material from his time at University including yearbooks, copies of the *Gongster* student newspaper, meticulously recorded Methodist Society outings and three rare cans of cine film showing the infamous lake battle and MethSoc trips between 1954-57. Sadly, just weeks afterwards Colin succumbed to the cancer he had been fighting for a number of years.

"I was very sad to hear that Colin had passed away," said Jack. "He was very knowledgeable. I learnt about student life in the 1950s and the annual student battle on the lake, when pharmacists and engineers pitted their skills on home-built rafts."

Colin's widow Rita (*Social Administration, 1957*), was keen to honour her late husband's memory and recently met with Jack to hand over their joint legacy to the University.

"It's what Colin would have wanted," said Rita. "He was a very active man but his illness meant he could do little later in life. He loved talking and thoroughly enjoyed sharing University memories with Jack. I hope our artefacts will help preserve a time at University now long gone."

Jack called Colin as part of our annual student telethon, where students talk to alumni about their experiences at Nottingham and invite people to support student projects and University research happening today. If you get a call please do spare 10 minutes to talk if you can – you never know what treasures a conversation can bring.

MEDICS IN THE MAKING

Thanks to gifts left in Wills, six brilliant researchers like Sara Clarke are pursuing their dreams in the School of Medicine.

Sara is investigating emotional support interventions for Multiple Sclerosis patients, while her scholarship peers are looking at subjects as diverse as leukemic stem cells, the efficacy of online support groups and stem cell research.

"This scholarship means I can move forward from research assistant and really challenge myself," said Sara. "After hearing distressing real-life stories of MS patients, I'm passionate about research into the development of psychosocial support for people at the time of their diagnosis."

"I have personal experience of supporting people through difficult situations, caring for my grandad who has complex needs following a stroke and Alzheimer's disease. This scholarship will help me enormously and I'm truly grateful to all those who choose to give

students and researchers like me, an exciting future through a gift in a Will. Thank you."

Joan Browne was well known by generations of Lincolnshire pupils after spending her lifetime working in education. Her legacy established the Joan Browne Scholarships to support high calibre PhD medical students, with additional assistance for specialist equipment and travel.

The John Mortimer Shipstone Ratcliffe Scholarships have been established following a generous legacy from Mrs Elizabeth Ratcliff in memory of her late husband John. John was the great-grandson of James Shipstone, founder of Nottingham's famous Shipstone Brewery. He was keen to continue the proud Shipstone family tradition of supporting the University and medicine in particular. These scholarships will help students to excel and keep Nottingham at the forefront of medical research.



DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN REMEMBER THE UNIVERSITY IN YOUR WILL?

Gifts left in Wills have raised more than £10m in the last five years. Over 3,000 of you are already considering supporting us in this way – helping give generations of talented students the chance to follow in your footsteps.

By remembering us in your Will, you can help ensure that Nottingham remains a place where students from all backgrounds can

fulfil their potential and where life-changing research focuses on tackling important challenges.

Making or changing your Will is quick and easy to do – for more information on including the University in yours please contact Sarah Keep on +44 (0)115 74 84978 or email sarah.keep@nottingham.ac.uk

Thank you for your support

THEN & NOW SWEET SAVOY

The smell of popcorn, the sweetheart seats and the cheapest tickets in town – Nottingham's Savoy cinema in Lenton has been a regular stomping ground for generations of students at work and play.

Best friends Tilly Stone, a third year sociology student, and Martha Baker (*Biology, 2017*), first visited the Savoy Cinema together when they were six years old.

In the intervening 20 years, this quirky 1930s cinema has remained in their lives, providing both entertainment and income through part-time jobs, in a tale familiar to many alumni.

"I worked there for six years and it felt like a University family," said Tilly. "All our flat mates worked there too so our house was like a Savoy shrine with empty popcorn bags, an old popcorn warmer and a cardboard cut-out of the American actor, The Rock."

"Students and families are the mainstay of our audience," explains Paul Scotton, Savoy General Manager. "It's lovely when former Nottingham students come back and pop in to look around – I think they're surprised we're still going!"

The only surviving pre-war cinema in the city, it remains dear to many. It was a cheap night out – still only £4.75 for students – and the famous sweetheart seats were the perfect setting for a family pack of M&Ms and a Saturday night smooch. Although the art deco exterior remains the same, there are now three refurbished screens and numbers are annually on the up.

"My claim to fame is that I know how to set up a film and show it," said Tilly. "I'd get a hard drive in the post and realise that I was holding the latest release before anyone else locally had seen it."

While usherettes have long been absent from the big cinema chains, for some alumni, the midriff tray packed with ice creams and choc ices was a reality.

"Selling the ice cream during the interval was my favourite part of the job – it really felt like we were in an old cinema in the 1940s," said Rachel Doran (*Classical Civilisation and English, 2003*). "Theme nights were the best, when the bar would be full of students in tuxedos watching James Bond, or a group dressed in fishnets and wigs for *Rocky Horror Show*. On quiet afternoons the bar was a great place to revise."

"But it wasn't just a job. The Savoy was the place where I met my husband – we now have two children – so it will always be special to me."



WHAT'S YOUR SAVOY STORY?

Tell us on Facebook – [f University of Nottingham Alumni](#)



THE YEAR AHEAD



Don't miss out. Keep an eye on our website
for upcoming events and activities
nott.ac.uk/alumnievents



16 NOVEMBER

Join us in New York
and hear about
our Rights Lab



11-15 DECEMBER

Our prestigious
Alumni Laureate Awards
celebrate success



JANUARY

Discover how to turn your
passion into a career – watch
an alumni webinar



FEBRUARY

Support fellow alumni –
join our alumni-to-alumni
mentoring scheme



MARCH

Financial professionals –
network at our Nottingham
in the City event



APRIL

Help a student onto the
career ladder by organising
a work placement



MAY

Enjoy our popular
House of Lords
alumni reception



16 JUNE

Game on! Play current
students in our Alumni
Sports Challenge



7 JULY

Class of 1993 – come back
to campus for our Silver
Reunion celebration



JULY

Inspire students of the
future by taking part in our
summer school lunches



13 OCTOBER

Celebrate 50 years
since graduation at our
1968 Golden Reunion



OCTOBER

Help guide a prospective
student – join our 'Ask
a Graduate' scheme