





The following materials have been printed on carbon balanced paper. Through the World Land Trust we have balanced the equivalent of over 8,723kg of carbon dioxide. This will enable the World Land Trust to protect over 6,106m<sup>2</sup> of critically threatened tropical forest.

We have ensured that production of this publication has followed environmentally conscious processes. Production has involved the use of vegetable inks, FSC sourced paper, recycled materials, and all elements are fully recyclable.



## Contents

Messsages of thanks from the Vice-Chancellor	4	How you have helped to make positive change in the world	25
How, together, we made the Exceptional Happen	5	How you have helped support our alumni community	36
How you have helped provide opportunities for students	7	How you have helped support the University grow and develop	41

# Thank you

for your support @





Professor Lisa Roberts,  
Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive.

## Messages of thanks

It is now almost a year since I joined the University as Vice-Chancellor, and what a year it has been. From the day I arrived at Exeter, I have been impressed by the dedication of our alumni and supporters, and the response that we have received from you to the Campaign has been nothing short of inspirational.

Thanks to your support, more than £71,300,000 has been given to support teaching and research, and our alumni community has donated more than 103,000 volunteer hours to the Campaign since it began in 2012. Your support is vital for Exeter's ongoing success, and we are incredibly grateful for all that you have done, and continue to do, to help us be one of the very best universities in the world.

The legacy I have been left by Sir Steve Smith is a great one, and I know that philanthropy towards Exeter grew exponentially under his leadership. Thank you for the part you played in this; I hope this is a tradition that will continue as we look to build on these successes and turn our attention to the future. We are in the middle of the development of our new 10 year strategy and my vision and ambition for the University is strong. I do hope that you

will help me realise these ambitions and help me take the University on the next stage of its incredible journey.

This report details just a few examples of the difference you have made. All gifts of time and money, both large and small, have an impact. Thank you again on behalf of the whole University for these wonderful acts of generosity, and I really look forward to meeting you to thank you in person as soon as we are able to do so.

**“When we set the goal of raising £60 million by the end of 2020 it was the most ambitious fundraising campaign Exeter ever embarked on, with a target almost three times the amount raised previously.**

**“Despite this we actually hit the target 12 months ahead of schedule and the volunteering goal two years in advance. This is thanks to the generosity of Exeter’s community of alumni and friends and we are incredibly grateful to every single person who has supported us.”**



Gerry Brown,  
alumnus and Chair of  
the Campaign Board.



Dr Shaun Curtis,  
Director, Global Advancement.

## How, together, we made the Exceptional Happen

The end of December 2020 marked the completion of the University of Exeter’s ‘Making the Exceptional Happen’ campaign. We were able to close our campaign having far exceeded all our targets, raising more than £71.3 million and in excess of 103,768 volunteering hours since 2012 – making this the largest campaign in the University’s history. This is a remarkable achievement which owes its success to your tremendous generosity and enthusiasm.

As this report demonstrates, the remarkable impact of the campaign’s achievements can be felt across the University and beyond, donations have funded vital research into diseases such as dementia, diabetes and cancer; into environmental problems like climate change, plastic pollution and food security; and into understanding important economic, social and political dynamics across the world.

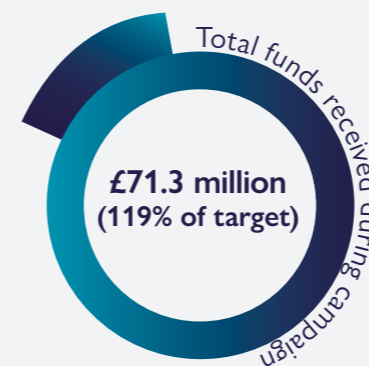
This generosity also includes gifts of time, and volunteers have helped to enhance the student experience and improve career prospects, bring their industry expertise and insights to the curriculum, support the alumni community, and provide valuable strategic advice and guidance to University staff.

We have received donations from supporters in 95 countries around the world, demonstrating the reach of the work we do, and showcasing what a global community we have at Exeter. We are incredibly grateful to each and every supporter. It’s been a truly transformative fundraising campaign for Exeter and we look forward to celebrating with our friends and supporters as soon as we are able to do so.

Thank you!

  
**5,008**  
VOLUNTEERS

  
**11,715**  
DONORS





How you have  
helped...

provide opportunities for students

### Scholarships

At the University of Exeter, we believe that everyone with the potential to benefit from higher education should have equal opportunity to do so. Our goals for your university are to widen participation in higher education, to raise pupil attainment, and to offer our students a level playing field so that they can enjoy the best possible outcomes both during their time at Exeter and as graduates.

Your support has helped us to ensure more talented students can achieve their potential, no matter their background.

Merlin Davies-Abraham now works as a medical researcher as part of a team at Exeter improving Covid-19 testing. He graduated in Medical Sciences in 2020 and managed to secure the opportunity to complete his PhD during his final exams.

During his undergraduate degree Merlin was supported by a Tony Allen Scholarship. As well as offering him financial stability this helped Merlin take advantage of opportunities to specialise in molecular genetics. Thanks to this specialisation, Merlin was able to beat off fierce competition for his research position as a medical researcher. His PhD research is also supported by an alumni donation.

He says: "For me, this PhD has given me the opportunity to do my dream job. I am doing new and exciting medical research, which is exactly where I wanted to be after my undergraduate degree and in my future career. Not only has the University of Exeter provided me with numerous opportunities to reach this stage, but through both undergraduate scholarship support and now postgraduate, it is clear that the impact of this can lead to exciting

things. The financial aspect can often be just one factor among many. The community of support helps create a network which is both productive and in itself motivational. Through this PhD my development as a young career researcher can continue and hopefully create a very impactful and rewarding portfolio of research that aims to benefit not only human physiology, but also the very lives that we live and our relationship with nature."

The 'Tony Allen Scholarship Programme' created in 2010 through Tony's generosity supports undergraduate students from Devon to study at Exeter no matter their personal circumstances or background. 25 students from Devon have so far received support to study at the University, and thanks to Tony's pledge to provide ongoing support for the programme in his will, this number is set to rise.

“...this PhD has given me the opportunity to do my dream job.”

The Camborne School of Mines Trust has donated more than £3.5 million to the University of Exeter since 1993, in the form of grants for the Schools undergraduate and postgraduate students, staff and student association.

More than £1 million was donated to the Camborne School of Mines (CSM) in 2018 alone. This milestone has been reached thanks to donations from alumni and supporters all over the world. The total includes a 20-year **scholarship programme** established in memory of alumnus Richard Osman (MSc Mining Geology, 1999) and a **series of scholarships** supported by the CSM Trust.

The latest donation from the CSM Trust is supporting a ground-breaking Women in Mining scholarship, the first of its kind in the UK, as well as widening participation schemes at both undergraduate and postgraduate level. Funding has also helped with placements and support for the Mining Games.

Dr Tony Batchelor, Chair of the CSM Trust said: **“We are excited about supporting the future personnel needs of the natural resources industries and encouraging more young people into mining and minerals engineering. We want to ensure that the best students have the opportunity to realise their full potential regardless of their background and these scholarships are helping to achieve that goal.”**

The Camborne School of Mines Trust was welcomed into the University of Exeter’s College of Benefactors at a 2015 graduation ceremony, held at Truro Cathedral.



Professor Sir Steve Smith,  
Vice-Chancellor 2002-2020.

Thanks to alumni donations, a new scholarship scheme set-up in honour of former Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir Steve Smith targeting applicants from disadvantaged backgrounds, will support six students to attend the University of Exeter each year.

The Sir Steve Smith Scholarships have been funded by many University of Exeter alumni and friends. More than £1 million has been raised which will support one scholar in each of the University’s six Colleges at any one time, each receiving an award of £6,000 per year for the duration of their studies. The donations have funded a permanent endowment, which means the scholarships will be available in perpetuity for maximum impact.

**“Obtaining the Richard Osman Memorial Scholarship is a great honour and one that I am incredibly thankful for. The funding has allowed me to further advance my knowledge in a subject I am deeply passionate about, without the added stress of financing this endeavour.”**



Kiara Brooks,  
Richard Osman Scholar 2019-2020.

The late Richard Osman (MSc Mining Geology, 1999), a graduate of the Camborne School of Mines (CSM), was honoured by friends and former colleagues who set up a scholarship in his name.

£700,000 was raised from individual and corporate donors including Centamin PLC, Capital Drilling, Altus Strategies, and Ariana Resources. Their generosity will support generations of distinguished Richard Osman Scholars.

Richard’s employer, Centamin PLC, was the founding donor to the scholarship, which will support 40 scholars over the next 20 years. Each year, two talented CSM students studying MSc Mining and Geology will receive a bursary covering their tuition fees in full as well as a significant contribution to living costs.

Richard grew up in Wales before coming to Cornwall to complete his Masters and then working in the mining industry in Australia, Africa and the Middle East. Whilst working with Centamin PLC in Egypt, Richard was one of the main driving forces behind the Geology and Mining department that took the Sukari gold mine into the top 20 gold mines in the world. In May 2016, Richard lost his life in a plane crash at just 40 years of age. He is survived by his wife and two daughters.

The University of Exeter is also honouring Richard’s memory with the establishment of the Richard Osman Teaching Room on its Penryn Campus.

**“Overall, this year has been fabulous and quite simply would not have been possible, nor as rewarding, if it wasn’t for the kind generosity of all the donors who honoured Richard’s memory. I am incredibly grateful.”**  
Scott Campbell,  
Richard Osman Scholar 2018-19.

**“The Richard Osman Scholarship is one of the biggest achievements in my life so far, being able to uphold the memory of Richard Osman only adds to the honour! The funding and networking provided through the Richard Osman Scholarships has meant I can afford study, whilst also driving to be the successful geologist I aspire to be”.**  
Matthew Burford,  
Richard Osman Scholar, 2020-2021.



Zain Ahmed (BMBS Medicine),  
The Ben and Sheena Parker Scholar.

In 2019 and 2020 alumni founded six new scholarships which are awarded to Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) students attending the University of Exeter.

Each scholarship supports a high achieving student who has completed the Exeter Scholars Programme – a free programme giving young people the opportunity to find out more about university, develop a passion for a chosen subject, and gain first-hand experience of student life at the University of Exeter.

Many of the young people that come through Exeter's outreach programmes face considerable barriers to progressing into higher education, often complex, and often linked to the ability to fund their studies. Scholarships not only allow

them to attend university, but to buy materials they need to study, or to take up work experience and study abroad opportunities.

Zain Ahmad, who was awarded the Ben and Sheena Parker Scholarship, is the first member of his family to go to university. His scholarship is helping him take his first steps towards achieving his ambition of becoming a doctor. From funding travel to hospital placements to enabling him to enjoy medical society events, Zain's scholarship has been a great help.

He says: **"I am grateful for this donation, as it has motivated me to continue working hard and aim high in my degree and my future career. I would like to thank the Exeter Scholars team and the donors for their generosity and for providing me with this opportunity."**

**allowed me to have a roof over my head in a warm room I can call my own for the first time in this continent. It also paved the way for me to focus on the things that matter the most and on a personal level, such as social integration and building a network. The scholarship allowed me to move on after the atrocities I have faced in my home country and abroad since 2011."**

Anonymous scholarship recipient.



Enoch Mobisa (first right) interviewing a pastoralist in Kenya.

Thanks to the Ivan Bond Scholarship, Enoch Mobisa Ontiri has been able to fulfil a long time personal ambition to study internationally and undertake a PhD with a focus on conservation in Africa.

The scholarship, funded by alumnus Neil Harvey (Accountancy Studies 1985), has not only provided Enoch with a life changing opportunity but also supported a project of enormous benefit to society. *'Wildlife Wars in the Age of the Smartphone'* looks at research on the intensity of the conflict between pastoralists and lions from 200 community engagement events throughout Kenya's Rift Valley. The project aims to understand the links between economic development,

climate and conflict, and will introduce an innovative smartphone app that will help map the risk of human wildlife conflict using citizen science.

Enoch says: **"I have always dreamed of undertaking a PhD so that I could develop in-depth research, which would hopefully enable a better understanding of the ways to tackle the conservation challenges facing Africa. The Ivan Bond Scholarship is a fantastic and unique opportunity for me to do this, and to take my career to the next level. I am truly grateful and excited to be the recipient of the Ivan Bond Scholarship and to pursue my passion and interest in biodiversity conservation. Without Neil's generous support I would not be able to do this – I can't thank him enough."**

More talented students from underrepresented groups are able to benefit from an Exeter education thanks to a generous legacy from alumna Verena Hoffman, née Fairs (German and Russian, 1967).

Verena passed away in April 2018 at the age of 71. In her Will she left legacies to both her school and university to provide bursaries for students facing financial hardship. At Exeter this will ensure more young people can fulfil their potential and look forward to a brighter future.

Verena was born on 18 October 1946, and won a scholarship to study at Sherborne School for Girls before coming to Exeter in 1964. In her third year of study she met Tom Hoffman who was studying Law and they were married in 1971. After graduating from Exeter in 1967 Verena joined Ginn & Co, a London educational publishing house and by her late twenties she was appointed Editor of the *International Who's Who*. Verena gave up full time employment following the birth of her and Tom's son Alexander in 1975, and worked part time assisting H.V.Hodson (formerly Editor of the Sunday Times and Fellow of All Souls) in editing *The Annual Register* – a contemporary record of world events whose first editor was Edmund Burke. She remained as Assistant Editor for almost 30 years.

Exeter is a global institution with students from over 140 countries across the world and alumni in 183. We offer a truly international student experience as well as a safe learning environment in one of the most beautiful parts of the UK. This is an experience we wish to be open to all.

The Sanctuary Scholarships scheme is available for people who are seeking asylum, have limited leave to remain, 'humanitarian protection' or refugee status and International Care Leavers. As their status means these students are unable to access student finance, scholarships provide a means of furthering their education and supporting their future.

**"Sanctuary Scholarships removed the obstacle of accessing education as a refugee, but in the process this**

## Sport and societies

Extra-curricular activities are part of what makes Exeter such a fantastic place to study. Memories are made, not just in classrooms, but on sports field and stages, in choirs and debating teams, and at social events and charity fundraisers.

Exeter is also consistently one of the top UK universities for Sport. During the lifetime of the campaign we have been the top sporting institution in the South of England and Wales. We were number one for rugby, number one for sailing and number one for men's hockey.

Our Alumni Annual Fund supports these extra-curricular activities. Funded by thousands of alumni and supporters of the University, donations are used to enhance the student experience. Grants are given to sports clubs, societies, music groups, theatre productions, student conferences and community outreach projects, to name just a few.



In 2017 the Alumni Annual Fund supported a student led project committed to reducing single-use plastic cup waste on our Exeter campuses.

The funds received were used to purchase 1,000 KeepCups, which students from the Give Up Your Paper Cup group designed. The group's commitment to the project also inspired the University of Exeter to buy a further 1,000 cups.

As a result of the Give Up Your Paper Cup campaign, hot drink prices within University operated cafes and shops were reduced by 25p with a disposable cup charge of 25p added to anyone requiring a disposable cup, with the

Students' Guild implementing a similar scheme. KeepCups were also sold as cost price within University cafes and shops with the first hot drink free in a bid to encourage people to give up their paper cups.

This Alumni Annual Fund supported project has had a tangible impact on the fight against plastic waste. Prior to it being rolled out the percentage of hot drinks served in disposable cups was 97%, over the first term alone this was reduced to 70%.

A group of University of Exeter Medical School students worked alongside FORCE, a cancer charity based in the South West, to promote open conversations about cancer. Their project was supported by the Alumni Fund and they launched a book – *Talk Cancer* – in May 2019.

The book is written by local cancer patients with stories, poems and illustrations highlighting their individual journeys. Now graduated, students Bogdan Chiva Giurca and Navin Mukundu,

were recently also awarded the Furness Prize for Science Communication by the Royal College of Pathologists for their book on the experiences of cancer.

One patient participant, who wishes to remain anonymous, says: **“Spending time with the young medical students who lovingly gave their time and attention was actually a very therapeutic experience for me. They were sensitive, respectful and asked me the right questions to allow my voice and story to be heard in the best light. I felt a sense of happiness knowing that the future generation of doctors will be kind and considerate.”**

The WildDocSoc, based at the Penryn Campus, provides an opportunity for students to interact with experts in the wildlife filmmaking industry, from producers and presenters at the BBC Natural History Unit to independent filmmakers.

Thanks to the Alumni Annual Fund, WildDocSoc have been able to secure speakers including renowned television presenter Miranda Krestovnikhoff to meet students. Her, and other guest

speakers have given talks to the students about their experiences travelling around the world to capture some of nature's most unique and special moments, while also providing workshops and small group discussion sessions. Having this exposure to successful individuals in the industry is invaluable for students from a range of courses, from bioscience and geography to filmmaking and photography as it gives them an insight into the various routes to get involved in wildlife filmmaking, and provides important networking opportunities.



FXU Sailing Club.

Donations to the Alumni Annual Fund meant the FXU Sailing Club were able to buy a new Rib which acts as their safety boat, enabling the Club to get up and running.

Without this, the club was unable to go out on the water but since its purchase students have been able to run sailing sessions for both new and existing members. It has also helped with accessing the J24 yacht, stored on the water in Falmouth Harbour, to complete some maintenance work ahead of the racing season. Now that members have been able to relaunch the Sailing Club, they have great plans for the future including competing in sail racing around the country and also potentially participating in the biggest European Student Sport Championship in France, the EDHEC Sailing Cup.

Ella Griffiths, 3rd year English student expressed her thanks to donors for their support: **“I'm so glad we can go sailing again. I learned to sail here in my first year and am so glad that the club that I love and have had so much fun with is back in action.”**





### Sport

Sport plays a massive part in the lives of many Exeter students and we are dedicated to providing an excellent sporting experience to all players, at all levels, of all ages and across all our sports.

Exeter is home to some of the best sports facilities in UK universities and consistently finishes in the top 10 of the British Universities and Colleges Sports (BUCS) league. The University supports 50 different sports clubs, around 450 athletes on the Performance Programme, and more than 5,000 students to engage in intramural sport.

The Russell Seal Sports Centre, Streatham Campus.



The Vic Ambler University of Exeter Golf Centre on the Streatham Campus.

“We simply couldn’t run the UK’s number one university golf programme without the ongoing support of alumni and we are extremely thankful to John Gilbert and Rod Alexander for all they have done for sport at the University.”

Alison Davidson,  
Director of Sport at Exeter

Launched in 2005, the ‘Exeter University Alumni Golf Society’ (EUAGS) has been instrumental in the success of Golf at Exeter, organising golfing events and fundraising activity and becoming key volunteers and supporters of the University.

Combined with support from the Royal & Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews more than £230,000 has been raised to fund competition costs, strength and conditioning training, coaching and physiotherapy for our students. Thanks to support, more than 20 students have received Sports Scholarships, helping to attract the very best student golfers to Exeter. Many graduating scholars have competed on the global stage.

Gifts have also supported the creation of the Vic Ambler University of Exeter Golf Centre which opened in 2014 and offers golfers from across the region the latest in golf green technology and an exceptional all-weather practice facility. Vic is a former

Exeter Golf Squad Manager and his generosity was central to the development of the Centre. More recently support will be used to create a new golf performance studio on the Streatham Sports Park.

Exeter has climbed the BUCS rankings table for golf and in 2019 the 1st team golfers were named Premier South champions for the third year in a row. This rise owes much to the development of the alumni golf programme.

The Society organise three annual events: the ‘Northcote Trophy’ a student vs alumni challenge; the ‘Invitational’ where alumni have the chance to bring along friends and colleagues; and the ‘Alumni Golf Day’, the headline event in the alumni golf calendar. Thanks to alumni volunteers like Rod Alexander (History, 1971) and John Gilbert (Economics, 1972), these events have become well established and are enjoyed by many alumni annually, as well as bringing significant benefits to current and future Exeter students.



Flying high-Former Cricket Sports Scholar Freya Davies.

In 2019 University of Exeter alumna Freya Davies (LLB Law, 2017) gained her first full contract with England Cricket and made her senior debut against Sri Lanka in the first T20I.

She was then in action again with England as she joined the England tour in New Zealand.

Freya says: “My dad and older brother played cricket so I started joining in and my passion for the sport developed from there.

“The scholarship made a huge difference to me. There’s no way I could’ve balanced my law degree, cricket and a job. It was pretty tough combining studying and training. In my first and second year, I spent almost

every other weekend in Loughborough so in my third year I actually took a break from England training to complete my law degree. It was a bit of a risk, no one had done it before, but in the long run it didn’t hurt and I was able to complete my degree and still get back with the team. I wanted to come to Exeter because it was a great course, I liked the city and felt like I fitted in on campus straight away. Also the cricket programme was one of the best around and I had a really great time there.”

“I am very grateful for the opportunities the scholarship has afforded me, and I am very proud to be a Harrow Cricket Scholar.”



Sir Christopher Ondaatje (centre, back) and students in the Sir Christopher Ondaatje Cricket Centre.

Much of the University’s cricket activity is delivered at The Sir Christopher Ondaatje Devon Cricket Centre, a specialist four-lane indoor facility on the University’s Streatham Campus, opened in 2009 thanks to the generosity of Sir Christopher Ondaatje CBE (Hon DLitt, 2003), the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) and the Lord’s Taverners.

As well as providing an excellent environment for elite-level training, the Centre is used by thousands of children from across the South West each year for beginners’ lessons and school holiday courses. The Centre also hosts a variety of disability sport activity, including the finals of the South West Table Cricket Championships earlier this year.

Cricket is one of nine focus sports at the University and there is a proud tradition of supporting the development of talented cricketers. The University of Exeter has developed an especially strong relationship with Somerset County Cricket Club in recent years, a club also supported by Sir Christopher. Somerset compete in the top tier of English cricket competition, captained by Exeter alumnus Tom Abell (Flexible Combined Honours, 2015).

In 2017 Sir Christopher made a further £100,000 donation to support the development of talented male and female cricketers, increase participation from children and adults in the local community through schools and cricket clubs, and encourage regular physical activity in demographics with traditionally lower participation rates.

The St Luke’s Sport Centre was able to install a new speed track thanks to a £3,000 grant from the Alumni Annual Fund.

The portable speed track, which is a good way of creating lateral resistance training and can be used for training strength, speed, endurance or agility, benefits several sport societies including the Boxing Club (100+ students), Rowing Club (50+ students), Swimming Club (50+ students) and the Triathlon Club (50+ students). As well as benefiting several sports clubs who run circuit training at St Luke’s, the St Luke’s Sport Centre also holds a circuits class that all students can sign up to and use the track.

Christopher Keirle, Duty Manager and St Luke’s Sports Centre, said: “The St Luke’s Sport Centre and Fitness Suite now offer exercise in its most intense form, with their new speed track and sleds all courtesy of the Alumni Annual Fund!

“This equipment is available for students to private hire as individuals or in small groups, which is not only good for power and fitness but great fun as well. All Athletic Union Sports clubs are welcome to use the speed track as part of the training to help improve explosive performance and fitness. The speed track also features weekly in the Wednesday evening circuits for any student who would like to use it in a controlled environment.”



Alumnus and Mentor, Andrew Brittain (Managerial Statistics, 1993).

## CAREER ZONE

### Career Mentor Scheme

#### Careers support

The Career Mentor Scheme has now been running for more than ten years. It provides a unique opportunity for students to be matched with an experienced professional to gain one-to-one careers advice, support and guidance into their profession and sector for up to six-months.

Since launch, more than 3,241 students have been through the scheme and nearly 2,593 alumni have given their time to become a mentor. The scheme has been so successful that in 2018 it was opened up to new graduates for the first time, extending the amount of support available to those entering work.

The scheme is win-win, with 94% of mentors who provided feedback on their experiences saying they would recommend the experience to a friend.

Graham Hill (Economic and Political Development, 1992) has mentored students for the past eight years from his home in the US. He says: “I had never been a mentor before but after I was asked to take part the first time, I was really keen to continue. I really enjoyed the experience. I wanted to help other people as much as I could, I wanted to get better at being a mentor and (most of all) I enjoyed having the contact with a current student. It gave me some great perspectives not just on Exeter but on what the world looks like for today’s graduates.

“The scheme provides plenty of materials and gives you the confidence to do things however you and your mentee see fit. I have been very lucky I think in that all my mentees have been quite impressive individuals who

have been easy to guide. If nothing else I hope to have given them confidence in the plans they already had in mind and giving them some insights into their options.”

Virginia Stuart-Taylor (Modern Languages, 2012) was mentored during the second year of her degree. She says: “I found mentoring to be a more honest and realistic introduction to the world of work than some of the shiny career presentations I’d attended, and my mentor Francesca really focused on what steps I was taking to prepare myself and my CV for life post-graduation. That individual attention really motivated me to look above and beyond my studies to really stand out, and she had some brilliant suggestions for gaining relevant experience and finding internships.”

“It gave me some great perspectives not just on Exeter but on what the world looks like for today’s graduates.”



Alumnus Mark Donald (Law 1996).

Each year hundreds of alumni give up their time to speak at careers events. They share stories from their own career journeys, insights from the industries in which they work and tips for starting out post-graduation.

These events help students to make better decisions about their futures, and to be successful in their chosen paths.

Beth Wright (English Literature, 2014) recently spoke at an online panel event for students – Careers in Writing and Publishing. She says: **“Alumni volunteering with Exeter has been so rewarding, even more so during a really uncertain time for students. Being able to offer advice and reassurance for students as they look to start their careers feels like a really easy and obvious way to give back to Exeter, and I have loved being a part of it.”**

Our law alumni have always been important to aspiring law students at Exeter. Alumnus Mark Donald (Law 1996) first came to campus in last year to host a day of mock interviews. When lockdown struck Mark offered to help again, giving his time to aspiring law students at Exeter. The interviews were carried out online, with each student also receiving feedback on their performance. Students found the experience extremely helpful:

**“Useful to be put on the spot and develop rapport with a person within the profession. Mark created a really calm and positive atmosphere.”**

**‘Very valuable feedback which will go a long way.’**

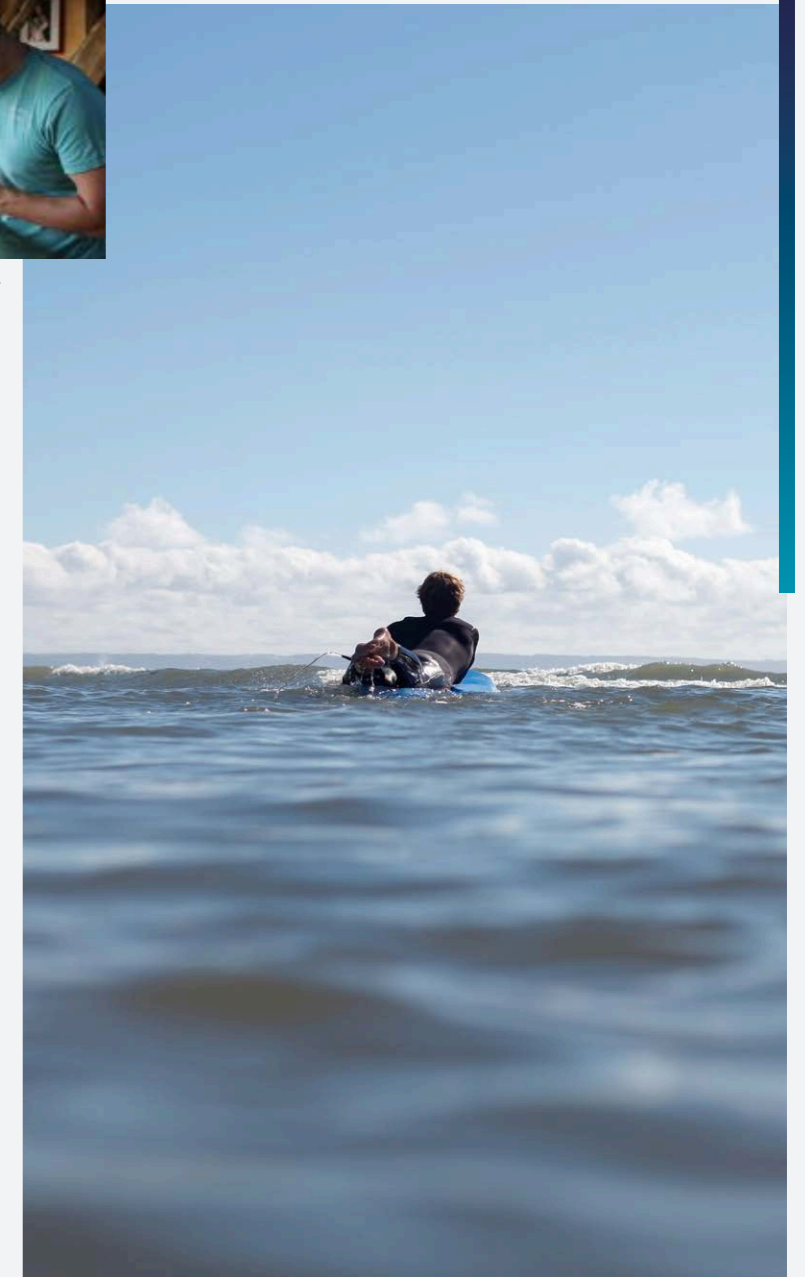


Duncan Lyster (MPhys, 2018).

The Student Startup team focus on identifying and fostering the startup ambitions of University of Exeter students across all campuses, colleges and disciplines. The programme helps students to develop a more entrepreneurial mindset and equips them with the practical toolkit necessary to inspire innovative ideas and create entrepreneurial solutions.

Thanks to support from Santander Universities UK, the team have been able to help many student entrepreneurs over the years. Including former recipient of a Santander Entrepreneurship grant, Duncan Lyster (MPhys, 2018).

Duncan says the support led to him successfully setting up his own hand-crafted wooden surfboard company: **“The drive that I had by talking to the Student Startup Team and getting involved in the programme thanks to support from Santander has been phenomenal and without them I don’t think I would have made nearly as much progress. The connections and business insights helped me to utilise my own skills to make Lyster Surfcraft what I wanted it to be”.** Duncan now has a workshop in Exeter from which he runs his business, Lyster Surfcraft.





Penryn Campus, Cornwall.

## Student hardship

The University of Exeter has distributed £1 million in hardship and emergency funding to students most significantly affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. Much of the funding has been available thanks to alumni and long-term supporter, Santander Universities UK.

The financial support, which has been available since the first lockdown in spring 2020, has been helping those most in need to continue studying in these difficult times. Funding is fast-tracked for those on the lowest household incomes, and includes emergency funding, ongoing support for students facing continued hardship and IT bursaries to buy computer equipment for students facing digital poverty. The money has been used to pay for accommodation, bills and groceries.

Students have faced hardship because of loss of employment and the end of financial support from parents and carers, as well as additional costs in relation to Covid-19, and more than 1,000 payments have been made from the scheme.

In a survey of recipients after the first lockdown, 82 per cent said the help was very important in helping them to continue their studies and 46 per cent believed receiving financial help had prevented them from becoming homeless.

One student said: “I am so thankful to the University, they saved me. They saved me from being homeless and starving. The generosity of those involved in getting the fund was amazing. I am so proud to be a part of this university who really came together to help students like myself.”

Another said: “It really was a life saver for me. I was really worried about how I was going to manage after losing my jobs. This funding allowed me to be able to not worry so much as things got sorted during a very unsure and scary time.”

“Santander UK is very proud of what is being achieved at Exeter thanks to our partnership, and we look forward to working together for the benefit of Exeter students for years to come.”

Matt Hutnell, Director of Santander UK.



The Mireille Gillings Neuroimaging Centre.

How you have  
helped...

to make positive  
change in the world

### Fighting disease

From locally to globally, the University of Exeter Medical School makes a difference to the lives and health of millions of people. With particular expertise in areas such as neonatal diabetes, dementia care and prevention, cancer diagnosis, neuroscience and mental health, our research is characterised by 'embedded care'.

This means that instead of the traditional model of pure scientific research; at Exeter research is initiated by a clinical question, takes place in a clinical setting and is measured by its clinical outcome. This means that research can be quickly adopted into practice. With the increasing pressures on the NHS and healthcare provision worldwide, our approach has the potential to revolutionise patient care.

Thanks to a donation from the Dennis and Mireille Gillings Foundation, construction of the new Mireille Gillings Neuroimaging Centre in the grounds of the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital was completed at the end of January 2020.

The new Centre will play a pivotal role in the molecular understanding, diagnosis, and treatment of Dementia and other neurological disease. The aim is to transform neurological research and diagnosis, benefiting patients not just in the South West but all around the globe. The Centre includes an MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) scanner and a PET-CT (Positron Emission Tomography-Computed Tomography) scanner, one of very few such scanners in the UK wholly devoted to research.

The £10 million gift is also being used to help improve cancer diagnosis by GPs and to support the next generation of outstanding medical leaders.

Three Mireille Gillings Professorial Fellows in Health Innovation were appointed in 2019. They are all outstanding academics who will help develop the next generation of female leaders that excel in medicine, science, leadership and business.

Sallie Lamb, Mireille Gillings Professor of Health Innovation, is a physiotherapist and clinical trials expert. She has developed interventions including a widely-adopted movement programme for the common and often debilitating symptom of lower back pain.

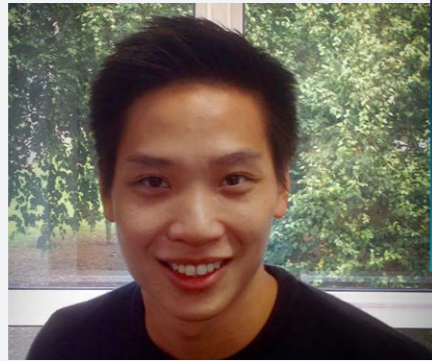
Soojin Ryu, Mireille Gillings Professor of Neurobiology, is a globally-renowned expert on stress. She has made major advances in the field by developing the zebrafish model in which stress hormones can be manipulated.

Medical oncologist and cancer expert Chrissie Thirlwell, Mireille Gillings Professor of Cancer Genomics, is a world leader on neuroendocrine tumours, who has built up impactful international networks. At Exeter, she will study why people with type 2 diabetes are at an increased risk of cancer.

Thanks to funding from the Halpin Trust, Professor Andrew Crosby and Dr Emma Baple, international experts in the genetics of Motor Neurone Disease (MND), have developed a revolutionary blood test for the disease.

The researchers have identified a total of 15 distinct previously unknown genetic causes of MND. Each genetic discovery is vitally important as it provides new scientific insight, into the root cause of MNDs. By piecing together the molecular clues provided by this and other genetic discoveries, they have been able to develop a new hypothesis which they believe explains the basis of MND, linking together the many genetic causes of the condition.

The information provided by the test has the potential to provide crucial prognostic information regarding likely age of disease onset, progression and severity, and also assess the effectiveness of potential new treatments. In the longer term identifying the 'molecular signature' specific to each genetic form of MND will help to identify potential parts of the biochemical pathway that might be amenable to treatment with a particular medication to help alleviate symptoms or prevent progression of the disease.



Aaron Choi, The Bateman Family Trust PhD Scholar in Medicine.

The Bateman Family Charitable Trust has fully funded the studies of two PhD students, including Aaron Choi, The Bateman Family Trust PhD Scholar in Medicine.

His PhD is based on researching psychological therapies on symptoms of psychosis with Dementia. Aaron is currently in the midst of writing the second paper for the PhD in which his study examines how psychotic symptoms affects the quality of life of people with dementia living in nursing homes. He was able to transition the data and software needed in order to conduct the necessary analyses whilst working from home. In his next study he will gather opinions from a group of experts to decide which therapy for psychotic symptoms would be best adapted for people with dementia. Fortunately, the process of gathering opinions will preliminarily be conducted online, so

that will be able to proceed as planned. Aaron is incredibly grateful to be able to receive this studentship and says that "this Project would not be possible" without the Bateman's support.

The Trust has also recently supported further dementia research within the Medical School. £150,000 has been given to the WHELD (Improving Wellbeing and Health for People with Dementia) programme, one of the very few staff training programmes that is proven to improve lives for people with dementia in care homes. It will help transform wellbeing in care homes during the Covid-19 pandemic and play a fundamental role in improving dementia care in the UK longer term.

## Protecting the environment



Exeter research identifying potential climate 'tipping points' – such as dieback of the Amazon rainforest and decline of Arctic sea-ice – has influenced policy and business on a global scale.

Climate change and sustainability are likely to be the most significant environmental challenges of the 21st century and, working closely with the Met Office, Exeter is positioned at the forefront of climate change research.

More than 250 researchers are working across disciplines – and across the University's Exeter and Cornwall campuses – to influence international policy, shape global debate and develop positive responses to climate change and its associated challenges.



Dominic Scriven, Executive Chairman and Co-Founder of Dragon Capital.

A £1.6 million partnership between the University of Exeter and Dragon Capital, an asset manager which aims to help increase the consideration of biodiversity in investments in financial markets and government policy making, has created a new role of 'Dragon Capital Chair in Biodiversity Economics'.

Professor Ben Groom has been appointed to the position, which sits within the Land, Environment, Economics and Policy Institute (LEEP) at the University of Exeter Business School. With biodiversity loss stemming in major part from regional and global commodity trading, conflicts between economic growth and environmental objectives are a common occurrence. The initiative will take a global perspective to look at these trade-offs and provide advice to both business and government internationally.

Professor Groom, who joined Exeter from the London School of Economics and Political Science, says: "Maintaining biodiversity is fundamental to the health and prosperity of every human, so it needs to be a key factor in policy making and financial decisions in the same way that climate change is becoming. The objective is to provide evidence based guidance to help identify strategies which are positive for biodiversity and provide incentives for action by business and individuals."

A consortium of Exeter alumni joined the WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature) and the University of Exeter, to set-up a new PhD project to protect the Cerrado ecosystem in Brazil.



The Cerrado Biome, Brazil.

The Cerrado is a vast tropical ecosystem in Brazil 1.3 million square miles in size, equivalent to the size of England, France, Germany, Italy and Spain combined. It is one of the most biodiverse ecosystems in the world, with more than 10,000 plant species of which 30% grow nowhere else. The area supplies up to 43% of Brazil's surface water and some of South America's most important rivers – the Amazon, Paraná-Paraguai and São Francisco – begin here.

However, although the Cerrado biome covers more than 20% of Brazil, is not nearly as recognised as the Amazon. Widespread deforestation and conversion of natural habitat to create cattle pasture and soy fields has destroyed more than half of the Cerrado's native vegetation in recent decades.

This new PhD research, part of the Global Systems Institute, will develop a new generation of tools to facilitate large-scale restoration of the Cerrado biome, including techniques to predict the optimal vegetation needed to restore key areas. This new information will contribute to the creation of an application to help land-owners identify the most optimal species to plant in order to promote long-term climate-smart restoration.

Part of the work will also involve training local communities in order to give them the skills to collect, store and sell seeds that are most viable for long-term restoration in the context of climate change, providing a sustainable source of income.

Mateus Silva is the PhD researcher who is supported by the funding. He says: **“It is such a great honour to be selected for this role. I am so thrilled to be able to work with such experienced and knowledgeable academics at the cutting edge of research. I am the first in my family to go to university so to be able to achieve my goal of completing a PhD is just amazing.**

**“I grew up surrounded by Brazilian rainforest but as soon as I experienced the savannahs during my undergraduate degree I fell in love with the environment! I have been studying the Cerrado for the past few years and the threats are so concerning, it is very important that we protect this environment and I am delighted to be able to play a part in its conservation and restoration.”**



**More than £20,000 was raised via crowdfunding to support turtle conservation in northern Cyprus.**

Since 1992, this project has been a flagship for both conservation and research, and has resulted in the protection of nesting beaches, identification of important foraging areas, a greater understanding of the biology of turtles and most importantly seeing a rise in the number of turtles nesting in recent years.

However when the pandemic prevented volunteers from travelling to the site, and cut off the funding stream from volunteer and tourist donations, the team needed to find another way to monitor the nesting sites. Thanks to the crowdfunding, the team were able to ensure the turtle nests were located and protected for another year.



## Supporting society

Understanding and enriching society and culture through the arts and social sciences is central to tackling some of the greatest challenges of our times. In an age of globalisation, there has never been a greater need to understand and engage effectively with different cultures.

Research excellence in these areas informs key issues like human rights, politics, social justice and wellbeing. Through the study of modern and ancient history, art, literature and language, we increase our understanding of humanity and develop new ideas to push the frontiers of knowledge, vital to the evolution of society.



The Shackleton Project Research Team.

Thanks to a donation from alumna and honorary graduate Baroness Shackleton of Belgravia LVO, research showing the key features of healthy relationships will be used in schools around the country to help teenagers learn how to build healthy relationships of their own.

New lesson plans will help support teachers to bust common myths about the 'perfect relationship' to manage young people's expectations. They use a gym theme to show that, like getting fit, relationships are fun but require work.

From September 2020, relationship education (rather than just sex education) became compulsory in all UK schools. Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) Education classes will be updated to ensure that young people learn both how to build and maintain healthy relationships and how relationships can affect physical and mental health and wellbeing.

The new teaching resources, developed by the University of Exeter, were shared with the 20,000 Key Stage 4 teaching staff and professionals on the mailing list

of the PSHE Association. The materials, which are freely available to schools, have recently been awarded the prestigious PSHE Association's quality mark, only given to selected resources which are at the leading edge of effective teaching practice in PSHE education.

The lesson plans, aimed at Key Stage 4 pupils, were devised by Prof. Anne Barlow and Dr Jan Ewing at the University of Exeter Law School and have also been tested out in local schools. They draw on the findings of an innovative 10-year research project on what helps long term relationships to thrive, supported by prominent divorce lawyer Baroness Shackleton of Belgravia LVO. Their format and key messages were designed in conjunction with groups of school students in the South West.



The 'Exeter Intergenerational Project' was supported by a gift from the UPP Foundation. The project is enabling two students to spend between 10 and 12 hours per week with residents living in a local care home.

Both the students and residents are already showing signs that they are reaping the benefits common in intergenerational relationships. Similar projects have resulted in reduced social isolation and loneliness, improvements in health and wellbeing, as well as providing participants meaningful social interactions and the opportunity to learn new skills and learn more about each other's generation.

As well as spending time talking to the residents the students have been joining in a number of activities such as poetry reading, classical music appreciation, quilt

making and musical quizzes. The project's support officer, Abigail Coxon, says "It has been very interesting to observe that during a number of activities the teams that perform the best are the intergenerational teams. This highlights the importance of intergenerational relationships for social capital within the wider community."

They are planning to implement more activities before the end of the project including exercises and musical sing-a-longs.

“This highlights the importance of intergenerational relationships for social capital within the wider community.”

“This scholarship is a unique opportunity that opened the door to a brighter future for me. It will allow me to do my graduate studies in an excellent institution, researching a topic that fulfills me and that will get me closer to my career goals”.



Eliana Molina Ramirez, 2020-21 Ayudar Scholar.

Since 2011, the Ayudar Foundation, founded by Exeter alumnus Gerry Brown (Economics & Economic History, 1966), and his wife Clemencia Posada-Brown, has donated more than £630,000 to the University of Exeter to establish the Ayudar Fund.

The Ayudar Scholarship is intended to support the development of Colombian students who will use the expertise gained from completion of a University of Exeter Masters degree to make a positive social, culture, business and or environmental impact in Colombia. It also provides opportunities for Exeter academics to travel to Colombia to study and forge long-term partnerships.

Clemencia was born and brought up in Colombia and wants to help her country and its people by educating those who can make a difference. The students supported by the Foundation can take ideas and good practice back to their country to help to improve the life of ordinary Colombians.

So far 13 students have been awarded an Ayudar Scholarship. The 2020/21 academic year was the first time three awards were made in one year, and the

first time an award has been made to a Humanities programme. The latest awards range across three of our Colleges and two of our campuses.

“The support I’ve had as an Ayudar scholar hasn’t just helped me – there’s a ripple effect, which means I’ve been able to help other people too. I grew up in Cesar, one of the poorest parts of Colombia and Gerry and Clemencia Brown decided to invest in me through their Ayudar Scholarship. The MBA has changed my life – opening my mind and opening new doors – doors I never expected. Before the MBA, I focused on making a difference in the town where I was born. Now I focus on what I can do for my country, for South and Central America, for the world.”

Ernesto Altahona, Ayudar Scholar 2015.



La Candelaria, Bogotá, Colombia.

## Learning from history

Thanks to exceptionally high-quality research and teaching, Exeter has been able to retain a broad range of Humanities departments, against a background of closures at other universities.

In the latest QS World University Rankings by subject, History and English are in the global top 50 and Archaeology is in the top 100.

Over 20 Humanities research centres cover a wide range of eras and topics relevant to society and culture from the impact of war and civil conflict to migrations and exile.



Thanks to donations to the Alumni Annual Fund, the University of Exeter's Holocaust Memorial Conference 2019 was able to bring together 200 students from schools and sixth forms from across the South West alongside over 100 University students and alumni to learn about the Holocaust, its surrounding issues and contemporary relevance.

At the Conference, students heard from Mala Tribich MBE, a survivor of the Holocaust with a deeply moving and powerful testimony. After listening to her testimony they took part in seminar discussions led by academics from the University and external expert guest speakers from across the country. At the end, many wrote pledges of how they would share what they learned with others and work in their communities to mark Holocaust Memorial Day and challenge antisemitism and hatred in the world today. Together with Mala's testimony, the conference gave students a deeper and more personal understanding of the Holocaust.

As one attendee wrote in their reflections: **"I found the experience so powerful and moving: there is only so much at school in class you can learn and begin to understand, but hearing even part of Mala's story showed the harsh reality of the Holocaust and how it affected so many people."**

The conference could not have gone ahead without support from the Alumni Annual Fund. Donations were used to produce conference materials, including a banner and programmes for each student and to fund travel and accommodation for conference speakers.

“I found the experience so powerful and moving.”



Members of the A.G. Leventis Foundation Board with Scholars and staff from the University of Exeter.

The A.G. Leventis Foundation's relationship with the University of Exeter first began in 1997 following the Foundation's gift to support the first postgraduate studentship within the Department of Classics and Ancient History; the A.G. Leventis Studentship.

Since then the University of Exeter has received generous support in excess of £1 million via the Leventis Initiative and Leventis Studentship programme in Classics, and additional funding to support a postdoctoral research in the Department of Earth Sciences.

The on-going support of the Foundation has provided vital opportunities for young researchers to gain academic experience and to establish themselves within their field. Leventis-supported scholars have been keenly involved in bringing their ideas and discoveries to a wider audience. Taking their research beyond the academic environment of the

seminar room and the lecture theatre, and engaging with the public. The Foundation's long-standing support has played a significant part in Classics and Ancient History at Exeter becoming one of the largest and most successful departments in the UK.

In 2021 the Foundation established the 'A. G. Leventis Chair in Ancient Scientific and Technological Thought' with a gift of a further £1.2 million. The Chair will be unique within the UK and will play an extremely significant role in promoting research, teaching and wider public engagement in this increasingly important field.

## How you have helped... support our alumni community

### Career development

Alumni groups around the world regularly host professional networking and careers events to support fellow alumni in their career journey.

Chris Tang (Law, 1996), Chair of the Exeter Hong Kong Alumni Group (EHKAG) group has organised many events for alumni in recent years and when the Covid pandemic hit, started to organise online support instead. He has hosted events focused on job hunting, building a LinkedIn brand and enhancing employability skills.

Chris says: “When I moved to Hong Kong in 2010 to set up my own business, I was really impressed with the quality of events in Hong Kong organised by the alumni. In each year that I’ve lived in the city, the alumni community has grown from strength to strength. Simply, we have an outstanding group of talented alumni living and working in Hong Kong. Many of the more senior professionals are at the top of their game as partners in major international law and accounting firms, senior executives in multi-national companies and financial institutions, as well as start-up



entrepreneurs and successful business owners in their own right. Recent Exeter graduates-turned-young-professionals consistently show an insatiable hunger to learn more and to network with one another, and the more experienced alumni gladly give up their time to pass on their experiences and provide great careers advice to junior alumni members.

“We could not hold the events that we run without the incredible support of the international alumni office. They have been our rock as well as the engine to all our initiatives. The ‘icing on the cake’ is having our senior staff from the University visit us from time-to-time to provide updates about the University and how Exeter continues to break records. All these factors combine to provide a highly engaged and engaging alumni which is proud to be a part of the University of Exeter legacy.”

Sanjana Chopra, (Marketing and Management, 2014), is a committee member with the Indian Exeter Alumni Association. She has volunteered to support prospective students as well as organising alumni events. She says: “The global alumni community is a valuable network of individuals organising events in India and worldwide too, with the aim of connecting us and helping us discuss the hurdles we may be facing during the lockdown and how we are coping with it.

“The Indian Exeter Alumni Association has taken initiatives of organising virtual talks and events that have helped us all during the pandemic. Not only are we interacting with alumni based all over the country at once for the first time, but also learning about what each one is doing during the pandemic from an employability point of view. This experience has been unique to say the least.”

Founded by a group of Exeter alumnae in London, Exe-X: the Alumnae Group was created to engage, inspire, and support female graduates. Since its launch with the ever first Women & Leadership Reception, the group has run regular networking and education events.

The core goals of the Alumnae Group are to:

- Engage, inspire, and support female graduates
- Help alumnae tackle the specific challenges facing women in their careers

- Encourage a lifelong relationship between alumnae and the University
- Support alumnae in professional development and networking
- Create opportunities for increasing alumnae involvement with the University.

Events are one of the key ways to engage with the network and throughout the Campaign their annual reception at the University Women’s Club in London would take place in March/April every year. Unsurprisingly, the Alumnae Group’s plans changed for 2020 and in collaboration with the University’s Alumni office they ran a series of popular virtual events around key topics to support the alumnae community.



Our greatest benefactor His Highness Dr Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammed Al-Qasimi at the 2020 Gulf Alumni Dinner.

The Exeter China Alumni Association (ECAA) was founded by volunteers in 2012 and has since grown into Exeter’s largest international network supporting alumni across China with chapters in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Shenzhen and Chengdu.

The ECAA volunteer committee give their time and expertise to support alumni throughout their whole Exeter journey – from prospective students through to welcoming all alumni in China to get involved in events to support their university. The ECAA organise annual employability activities, professional networking events and social gatherings and also support alumni entrepreneurship and investment in China and UK.



### Social connections

Social events organised by Country Contacts all over the world help to keep alumni connected with one another as well as with Exeter. Ordinarily these events take place in person, but many groups have also hosted online reunions during the pandemic.

Henley Royal Regatta reception, 2019.

The friendships made through involvement in sport at Exeter last well beyond graduation, and a flourishing community of alumni regularly meet up at a variety of events and carry out significant fundraising activity. Events include an annual Alumni Golf Day, a reception at Henley Royal Regatta and many alumni vs current student fixtures.

In early 2020 the new Football Alumni Network, founded by alumnus John Palmer (Education, 1983) arranged its first reunion. A large group of former players enjoyed a tour of St Luke's and Topsham Ground before catching up with the current team members to share stories over a meal. Since then new friendships have been formed and the alumni community has come together in the support of football at Exeter.



Barbara Schudel-Simpson (French and German, 1968).

Barbara Schudel-Simpson (French and German, 1968) has been an alumni volunteer since 2013, when she became a Country Contact for Exeter alumni in France. She has organised numerous reunions and events in the Country and in 2020 won the Nicholas Bull Award for the Exceptional Support of the Alumni Community, at the Exeter Alumni Volunteer of the Year Awards.

Alumni nominating her highlighted Barbara's passion, enthusiasm and commitment to Exeter's flourishing alumni community in France, Germany and the UK, tirelessly organising events and mentoring as well as developing the online alumni network.

Barbara says: "I have lived abroad for most of my life, which made my four years as a University of Exeter Student all the more important. On retirement I renewed contact with the University and, in 2013, I became a Country Contact for Exeter University Alumni in France. With the University's support, events have been organized in France, Germany and the UK and there I have met up with old friends and made new ones. A little work for a lot of pleasure, always worthwhile.

"I am a firm believer that you get as much, if not more, out of any 'investment', as you put in and as far as Alumni 'work' goes, this is very true, as far as I am concerned! Over the years, Alumni events have been highlights in my life, not only because I met old friends, from my time, but because I also made new ones – our University was the binding factor. On each occasion, I was made to feel that I was 'family' and this is reward enough. This is what motivates me – and this is how I hope others will feel, too. The Nicholas Bull Volunteer Award 2020 came as a surprise, in the midst of the present pandemic and I'm absolutely delighted. It is an encouraging acknowledgment. My thanks to all."



### Supporting the University

Many alumni and supporters have given their time and money in support of the development of the University of Exeter. This has been in the form of funds for capital projects, legacies to be added to the institution's endowment, and strategic advice to help Exeter continue to grow and be successful.

The Living Systems Institute, Streeham Campus.

How you have helped...

# support the University grow and develop



The Wolfson Laboratories, the Living Systems Institute, Streeham Campus.

The University of Exeter received a £2 million gift from the Wolfson Foundation to support the establishment of the Living Systems Institute, a facility which pioneers new approaches to treating the world's most serious diseases.

The Living Systems Institute brought together 200 cell and molecular biologists, mathematicians, physicists, biomedical scientists and engineers to investigate the fundamental cellular processes underlying human and plant disease. With its state-of-the-art building, the £52.5 million project is the largest single investment in science in the history of the University.

The University of Exeter deeply values its relationship with the Wolfson Foundation, which has been a key philanthropic partner in the development of science at Exeter. The Foundation's support has played a vital role in building scientific excellence at the University and, to date, the University has benefitted from £6.4 million (including this recent gift) investment since 1966 in both capital infrastructure and academic staff.



The Stella Turk Building, Penryn Campus.

“This space allows us to build on our research strengths and further expand our capabilities in sustainability.”

A dedicated research space within the Stella Turk Building on the University of Exeter’s Penryn Campus, was named in recognition of the exceptional generosity of the Garfield Weston Foundation.

Over the past decade the Foundation has supported several important capital projects including the development of the Living Systems Institute and campus regeneration programmes. This particular grant of £250,000 supports pioneering research taking place in Cornwall.

The Garfield Weston Collaboratory provides a home for researchers, scientists, staff and students to come together and work on pioneering approaches to combat global environmental threats and offer sustainable solutions. Opening the

new space, Professor David Hosken, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Cornwall, said: **“We are incredibly grateful to the Garfield Weston Foundation for their support and for helping us realise our ambitious research plans.**

**“Expertise here at Penryn covers renewable energy, conservation and economics, healthcare, and culture and government, all under an overarching theme of sustainable futures. This space allows us to build on our research strengths and further expand our capabilities in sustainability.”**



Steve Edge and his daughters, Charlotte (left) and Katherine (right).

In recognition of his commitment and generosity to Exeter over many years, a seminar room was named after alumnus Steve Edge (Law, 1972) in 2018.

Steve has volunteered his time, and provided financial support, to the Department of Law, the Business School and the Medical School. A member of the Alumni Network Group (ANG) since its inception, he became Chair in 2013. He has also held positions on the Making the Exceptional Happen Campaign Board, the Law Advisory Board, and advised the Business School’s Tax Administration Research Centre. Steve was awarded an

Honorary Degree in 2012 in recognition of his extraordinary generosity in supporting the Law School by leading on their alumni relations activity.

The main purpose of the ANG is to advise and take a lead role in helping the University build lifelong relationships with alumni, to promote alumni engagement with the University and fellow alumni, and to give alumni the opportunity to share their views with the University. The Alumni Network Group Committee provides an informal ‘sounding board’ for the Vice-Chancellor and senior management and is consulted on strategic issues on an ad-hoc basis as individual members or as a collective Group.



The Bill Douglas Cinema Museum.

The Bill Douglas Cinema Museum, the UK’s foremost museum of moving image history, benefited from a further donation of £180,000 from one of its founders.

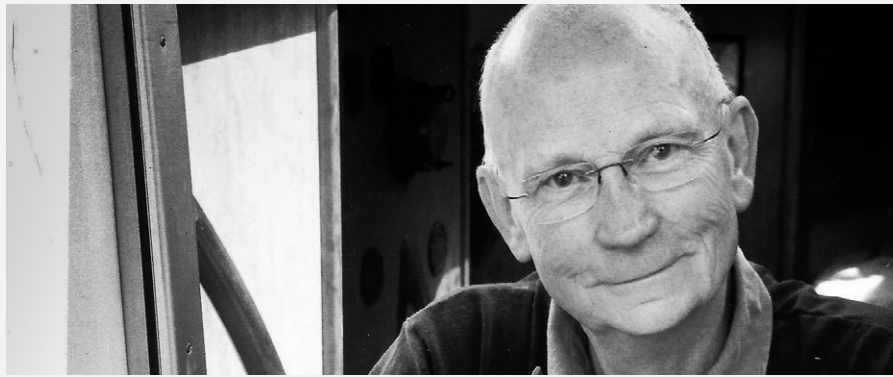
The collection was gifted to the University of Exeter more than 20 years ago, and this further donation helps to support the Museum’s long term development.

The donation established an endowment fund to support the museum across a range of curation and research activities.

These include PhD studentships, acquisitions, exhibitions, conservation and filmmaking.

The fund also helped to enhance the strengths of the founding collection and to promote and improve the Bill Douglas Cinema Museum as a visitor attraction and develop its national and international status.

The Bill Douglas Cinema Museum possesses 80,000 artefacts and attracts visitors from the local, national and international community. Around 2,000 Exeter students use the collection in their studies each year.



Stuart Handley (Physics, 1967, 1971).

When he passed away in 2016, alumnus Stuart Handley left a legacy of £1.3 million to support the Exeter Forever Fund, an endowment which will provide unrestricted funding to support Exeter in perpetuity.

Stuart's generosity, along with other donors who have supported the Fund, means that Exeter will be able to support vital projects, in areas such as dementia, diabetes and marine plastics both now and in the future. It will also ensure talented students have the opportunity to come to Exeter and realise their full potential, irrespective of their financial background.

Stuart was a Physics student at Exeter in the late 1960s, completing his undergraduate degree in 1967 and then returning for his PhD in 1971. He was a committed and loyal supporter of the

University, volunteering his time as a member of the Alumni Annual Fund Disbursement Panel, and making regular gifts to support student societies as well as sporting projects.

In recognition of Stuart's legacy and long-term support, a teaching space in the Physics building was named in his honour at a special event. The Stuart Handley Teaching Laboratory is designed as a space for faculty and students to be inspired by learning. A group of Stuart's friends, including alumni who graduated alongside Stuart, joined staff from the Physics department at the opening.

“The Stuart Handley Teaching Laboratory is a key space in the Physics building, designed to support both students and academics. Students and researchers at all levels will be able to use this space for study and we hope they will take inspiration from the man it is named after. It gave me great pleasure to unveil the commemorative plaque.”

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education) Professor Tim Quine.

The University of Exeter US Foundation was founded in 2014 by University alumni based in America, enabling US residents, companies and charities to support Exeter's research and teaching, and to facilitate fundraising and grant-making activities for the University.

The Foundation is run by a Board comprised of volunteers, who contribute their time and resources to enhance public awareness of the University's research excellence and nurture relationships within a network of more than 1,700 Exeter alumni who live and work in America.

Over a third of income generated for the Campaign came from the US and has been used to support scholarships, research and student activities.

“The Foundation was established to help US-based alumni and current students to connect with each other and their university and to help the University build its reach and reputation throughout the US.”

Graham Hill (Economics and Political Development, 1992) President of the Board of the Foundation.



Birks Grange Arboretum.

Anne Van Geyzel was a local Exeter resident and former Secretary to Vice-Chancellors Sir David Harrison and Sir Geoffrey Holland until her retirement.

When she passed away in February 2017, she left a gift of £1,000 to support the maintenance of the University grounds. Thanks to this legacy, 25 new trees were planted at Birks Grange. These trees contribute to biodiversity and allow University buildings to sit in, rather than dominate, the landscape.







## How you can show your support

If you would like to make a gift to support the University of Exeter please visit: [exeter.ac.uk/donate](https://exeter.ac.uk/donate)

To learn more on how you can leave a gift to Exeter in your Will please visit: [exeter.ac.uk/legacy](https://exeter.ac.uk/legacy)

To volunteer your time and expertise please visit: [exeter.ac.uk/volunteer](https://exeter.ac.uk/volunteer)

## Contact us:

@ [alumni@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@exeter.ac.uk)

+44 (0)1392 723141

[www.exeter.ac.uk/alumni](https://www.exeter.ac.uk/alumni)

@exalumni

/exeteralumni

exeter\_alumni

/company/university-of-exeter-alumni

Global Advancement, University of Exeter,  
Northcote House, The Queen's Drive, Exeter,  
Devon EX4 4QJ, United Kingdom.

UNIVERSITY OF  
**EXETER**

