

# FROM **Salford**

ALUMNI MAGAZINE 2021

## HOW OUR ALUMNI ROSE TO THE CHALLENGE OF COVID-19

BREAKING GROUND ON THE  
FUTURE OF OUR CAMPUS

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MEET THE STUDENT NURSES  
ON THE FRONTLINE

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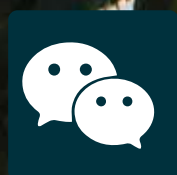
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JOURNALS FOR  
GRADUATES



**ALUMNI**

YOUR UNIVERSITY  
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# STAY CONNECTED

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**w: [salford.ac.uk/alumni](http://salford.ac.uk/alumni)**

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Editing & Copywriting by Paul Butlin, Alumni Communications Officer. Produced by Marketing, Recruitment & External Relations

Cover image courtesy of United Nations COVID-19 Response. Many thanks to our contributing staff, students, and our global alumni community.

# YOUR VICE-CHANCELLOR



I have always believed that challenging circumstances bring out the best in us. The Covid-19 pandemic has presented many trials in all our lives and forced us to respond in ways we never thought possible.

During the pandemic I have been deeply moved and inspired by the actions of our University community, as I have witnessed countless displays of unity, solidarity and community spirit.

Our staff at the University responded with true professionalism, taking the necessary steps to move teaching online and working meticulously to plan for the safe reopening of our campus in time for the start of term. We also rallied to support our NHS by donating much needed PPE and testing equipment from our laboratories.

Our students took to the 'new normal' with admirable resolve, demonstrating that meaningful interactions and the sharing of knowledge can be just as powerful in a virtual

environment, as well as face to face. Many of our Health & Society students were deployed to the front lines, working with the NHS to provide medical care for those affected by the virus.

I have heard many stories of heroism from our alumni community. You have been supporting your communities and those in need, at a time when you face your own life challenges, such as additional care-giving and financial uncertainty. When I hear stories such as this, I feel immense pride in our alumni community as you continue to fly the flag for Salford in everything you do.

We know the impact of Covid-19 is far from over and we will feel its effects for some time to come. However, I take great comfort in the way in which our community rose to this unique challenge and I am filled with confidence that we can continue to take on anything that comes our way.

**Best wishes,**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H Marshall', written in a cursive style.

**Professor Helen Marshall, Vice-Chancellor**

# FROM YOUR ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT MANAGER



As we all face the ongoing challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, your alumni engagement team continues to offer the best service we can to our graduates whilst working from our homes.

Throughout lockdown our aim has been to share useful information and positive news about the contribution of the entire University community towards combatting the virus and our thoughts are especially with those of you who have faced particular hardship. You may have seen our recent “Salford Says Thank You” video campaign on social media, which featured well known faces including Mike Leigh, Katie Thistleton and Maxine Peake sharing their own messages of gratitude. And the main feature of this edition of From Salford, is the sharing of just some of the impressive stories of outstanding support

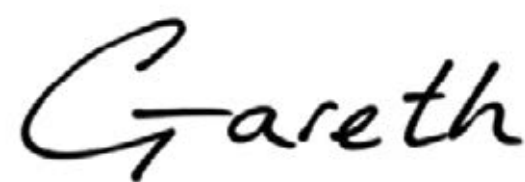


that your fellow alumni have given to their communities at this difficult time.

As ever, I encourage you to stay connected with your University and with each other, as members of our global Salford network. We recently surpassed 3,000 members on our exclusive networking platform at FromSalford.com and I would encourage you all to sign-up for opportunities to connect with one another, be a mentor or find a mentor, access online journals, purchase Salford merchandise, and promote your business or benefit from some discounts from your peers.

Take care and stay safe.

**Best wishes,**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gareth". The script is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'G'.

**Gareth Pettit, Alumni Engagement  
Manager**

# **BUILDING OUR FUTURE**

**THE UNIVERSITY HAS SIGNED A LANDMARK DEAL WITH SALFORD CITY COUNCIL AND THE ENGLISH CITIES FUND TO BRING TO LIFE AN AMBITIOUS MASTERPLAN FOR THE SALFORD CRESCENT AREA.**

The £2.5bn, 240-acre major regeneration programme will be delivered over the next 20 years and see the University campus become the heart of a major new city district, with significant investment taking place both on the campus and in our neighbouring area.

The area, that will be known simply as Crescent, is one of the largest regeneration opportunities in the country and will see the delivery of around 3,000 homes, commercial and innovation space, improved public spaces and transport links, all with history, heritage and sustainability at the core of the development.

The University already has a strong tradition



in working with industry in our research and ensuring the quality of our teaching and the employability of our graduates matches industry needs. These plans work to further solidify that expertise, situating our research and teaching facilities alongside our industry partners in a new innovation campus, that will provide unique opportunities for students, alumni and members of our community.

Vice-Chancellor Helen Marshall said: “Crescent will create a new city district, rooted in heritage, but with an eye on the future. New university facilities will open-up opportunities to work with industry and continue to enable us to fulfil our mission to deliver a pipeline of talented graduates into key sectors. A new innovation campus will tackle head on the issues facing businesses and society, from digitalisation to energy efficiency, placing exciting new





technology and innovation companies alongside our world leading academics.”

Salford City Mayor Paul Dennett said: “This ambitious regeneration programme is being driven by a unique public private partnership and provides Salford with a distinct opportunity to create and connect a modern residential neighbourhood, with a quality mixed-tenure, diverse housing offer and deliver a world-class innovation campus, which is aligned with the university’s research strengths, and the region’s future business growth sectors.

“This 20-year development programme provides a once in a lifetime opportunity to create a new city district, which is fit for purpose for future generations, creating jobs, much-needed homes and investment that local people will benefit from as we work with our partners to create a better and fairer Salford for all.”



# OUR PROGRESS SO FAR

With the partnership firmly in place, work has already begun on a number of University campus developments.

- ✓ The North of England Robotics Innovation Centre will build upon the outstanding reputation for robotics that already exists at Salford, including our role as the home of the National Advanced Robotics Research Centre and a founding member of the National Robotics Network (NRN).

Part funded by the European Regional Development Fund, the £13million Robotics Innovation Centre will provide an unrivalled environment to work alongside industry to develop the technologies of the future.

The centre will be the gateway building to the new Innovation District and provides the University with a significant new presence facing onto Frederick Road. Morgan Sindall Construction will commence building the 22,580 square foot centre in early 2021.





- Energy House 2.0 is a University test facility that will offer small and medium size enterprises (SMEs) and industry partners an unrivalled environment where they can develop future energy saving products. Energy House 2.0 allows for the evolution of work currently undertaken at our original Energy House facility, which is renowned for playing a leading role in developing expertise on energy efficiency and smart living. Research at Energy House has enabled key changes to the UK housing market that focus on energy saving initiatives including the roll-out of smart meters. The facility, currently under construction on Frederick Road campus, will include two large chambers that will allow up to 4 houses to be experimented on at any one time. It can achieve temperatures of between  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $40^{\circ}\text{C}$  and can simulate wind, rain, snow, and solar light. Energy House 2.0 will target a global market, with environmental conditions of 95% of the world's population able to be replicated in the facility.



- The new building for the School of Science, Engineering & Environment (SEE) will provide a home for the University's departments of built environment, engineering, computer science, human and natural science and the Morson Maker Space, to carry out world-leading research and teaching to students, as well as providing industry-based opportunities that better prepare students for life after university.

The four-storey, 15,550 square metre building will incorporate high sustainability credentials, a key element of the University's pledge to reduce the environmental impact of the wider masterplan. It will be fully electric powered, supported by 154 roof mounted photovoltaic panels which will provide renewable energy.

Features of the new building will include a wind tunnel, previously located at Salford Innovation Research Centre (SIRC) and high-spec laser laboratories.



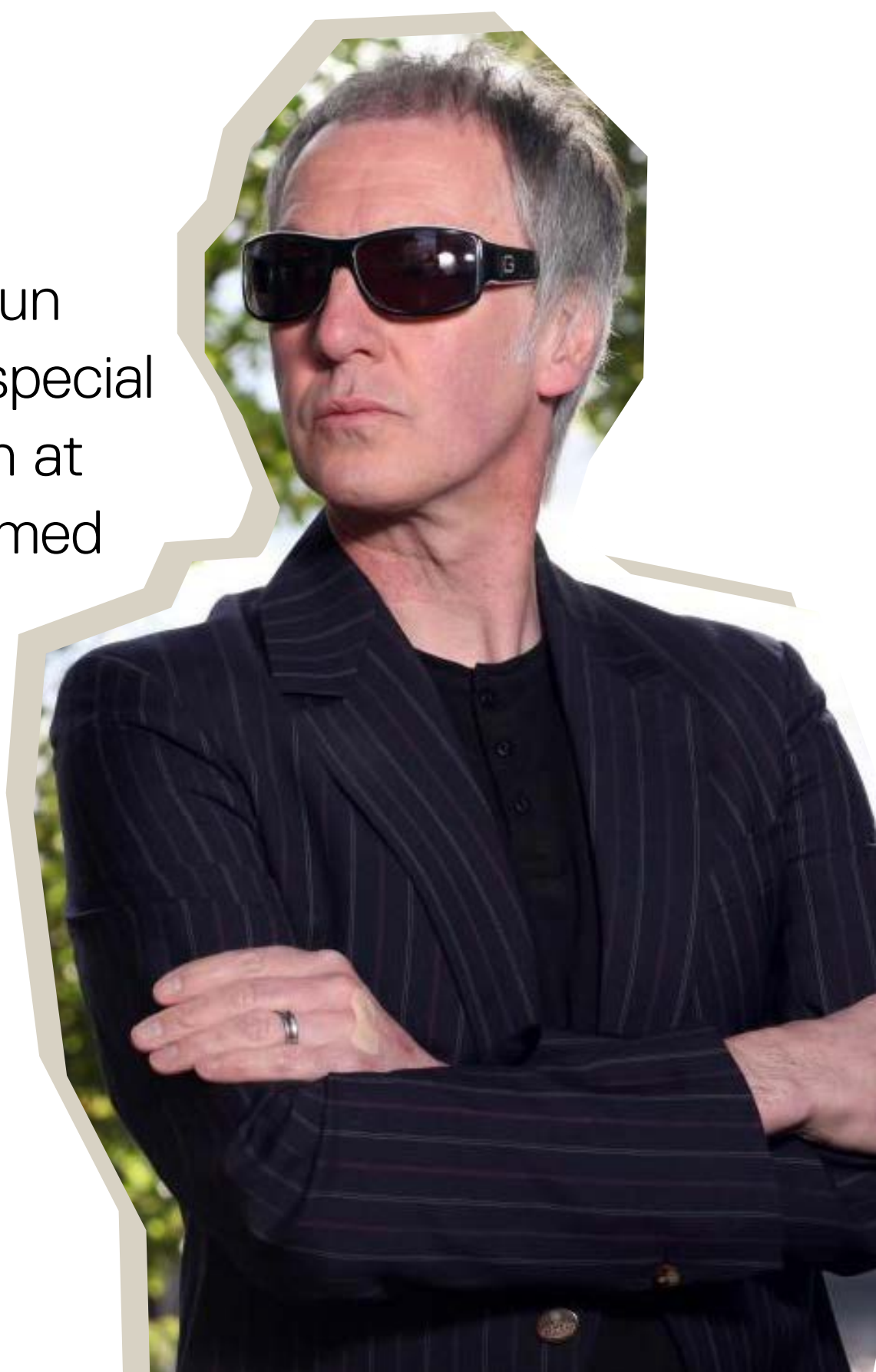
# THE LATEST NEWS FROM YOUR UNIVERSITY

## MANCHESTER MUSIC LEGEND SHARES WISDOM AND ANECDOTES WITH STUDENTS

Musician and DJ, Clint Boon left our students feeling inspired and entertained, when he visited the University in February.

From hiring a young roadie called Noel Gallagher to curing hangovers with Shaun Ryder, Clint gave a special insight into his youth at the centre of the famed Madchester music scene as a member of the Inspiral Carpets.

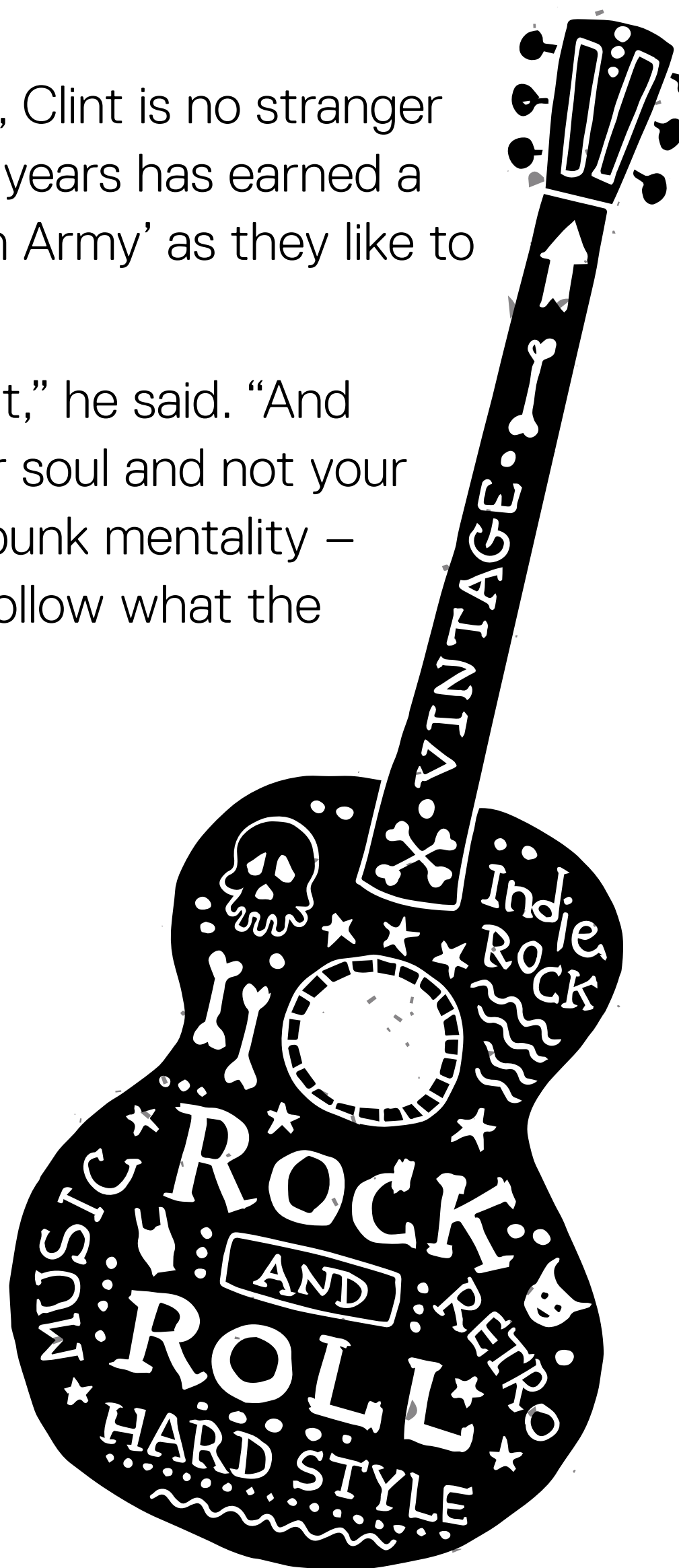
Clint is a key supporter of the redevelopment of



Maxwell Hall, a once infamous music venue in the heart of the University campus, that will be restored to its former glory as part of a multi-million pound investment plan. Clint said: “I want to raise awareness and help raise funds for the redevelopment of the iconic Maxwell Hall. I came to the Hall in 1985 to watch New Order supported by The Happy Mondays.”

Now a successful radio DJ, Clint is no stranger to hard work and over the years has earned a legion of fans, or the ‘Boon Army’ as they like to be called.

“Tenacity is really important,” he said. “And I’ve always said follow your soul and not your wallet. It’s okay to have a punk mentality – you don’t always have to follow what the establishment tells you.”





## NEW TECHNOLOGY COULD HELP HOUSEHOLDERS SAVE ENERGY

Researchers at Salford have discovered a simple device made from recycled plastic can reduce household energy consumption by up to 16% and help to reduce carbon emissions.

The team put Thermocill, a product made from plastic bottle tops and other recycled plastic above a radiator and under a window in Salford's energy testing facility, Energy House.

Through extensive testing the team discovered that the placement of the Thermocill redirected heat into the window recess rather than straight out into the room. By heating the room's 'thermal hole', an area in the room that usually maintains a low temperature such as the window recess, the heat loss through the window significantly reduced, lowering energy consumption by up to 16% and increasing heat-up time by around 23%.

The team at Energy House plan to computer model Thermocill using the data to enhance its design, which will also optimise the product's efficiency. They are also looking for a manufacturing partner or licensee to help take the product to the open market.

# SALFORD AMONG BEST FOR ENTREPRENEURS

A new study has revealed that one in nine graduates from Salford go on to manage or start their own business, as we are named as one of the best universities in the north of England for entrepreneurial students.

The study, commissioned by Hitachi Capital Invoice Finance, involved 9.5 million former students in the UK and has revealed the universities with the highest numbers of students who go on to start their own or run a business, with Salford coming fifth in the north and 30th in the country overall.

Encouraging entrepreneurialism is one of the key missions at the University, with initiatives designed to provide opportunities for students and graduates perusing entrepreneurship. One such initiative is the Launch Business Incubator, which offers bespoke support for those who want to set up their own businesses. So far it has helped to set up over 60 businesses, from vegan food delivery services, to VR tech companies, to art and design studios.



# SALFORD LEADING THE WAY IN DIGITAL SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION

The University's Social Work Practice Learning Team have been recognised for an innovative new digital teaching model that is giving social work students on-the-job experience in a safe teaching environment.

The team has been working with the Social Care Network (SCN) for five years to create The Salford Model. By integrating teaching materials with CHARMS, a digital application used by social care agencies across the UK and Ireland for case management, students can work on a simulated case on the very same technology they will be using once they qualify and enter practice.

Gabi Hesk, Lecturer in Social Work and Practice Learning says: 'Students have the chance to make mistakes here first. They can explore their case recording skills and receive great advice from lecturers and tutors ensuring best practice.'

The Salford Model has gained global attention, with institutions in the US getting in touch to find out how they can replicate the method for their own teaching.



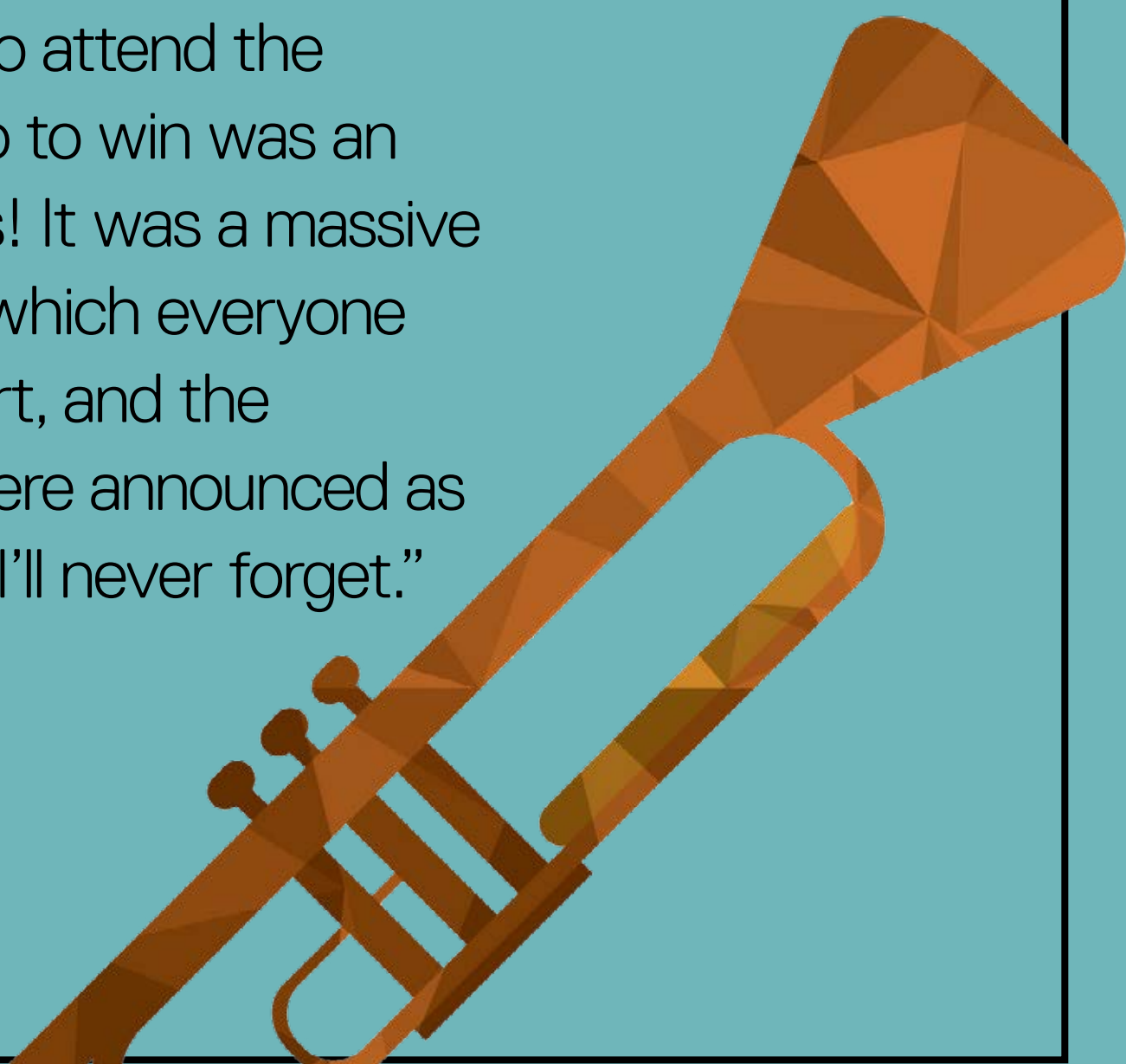


# BLOWING OUR OWN TRUMPET

**Congratulations to the University's brass band, who not only entered the prestigious UniBrass competition for the first time this year, they also won!**

The title of Champion University Brass Band was awarded to the Salford band, which features students and alumni from the University alongside conductor Richard Harvey, Lecturer in Classical Music Performance & Conducting, at the annual competition that sees University brass bands compete against each other for the winning title.

Alumna, Jessica Wilson said: "I was absolutely delighted to be asked to play at the Salford brass band's debut performance at UniBrass. The band were just delighted to attend the competition, so to win was an amazing bonus! It was a massive team effort in which everyone played their part, and the moment we were announced as winners is one I'll never forget."



# SUPPORTING THE FRONTLINE FIGHT AGAINST CORONAVIRUS

**In March, as the world adapted to the many challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, the University leapt into action to help support the fight against the virus.**

Specialists at the University handed over a much-needed testing machine to the government, which helped them to run tens of thousands of tests per day.

The Real-Time Polymerase Chain Reaction equipment, or RT-PCR, can detect as little as one virus particle in swabs taken from inside the mouth or nose. The ABI 7500 machine is normally used by University researchers looking into lung inflammatory and fibrotic diseases.

In addition to this, the University donated significant quantities of personal protective equipment (PPE) to Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust. Biomedical science staff returned to campus following its closure to collect the much-needed equipment and deliver it to the local hospital.

This included around 37,000 pairs of disposable gloves, over 500 lab coats, 100 pairs of safety glasses and 10 full body suits, as well as a supply of hand sanitiser after widespread reports of kit shortages in the NHS.





The University's Maker Space also geared up to support the health service. The Maker Space, a state-of-the-art engineering and digital fabrication facility, developed a prototype using the open-source Prusa design with feedback from Salford Royal Hospital.

The design was sent out to commercial fabricators and university technical departments in the North West to scale production and meet the numbers needed for NHS frontline staff.

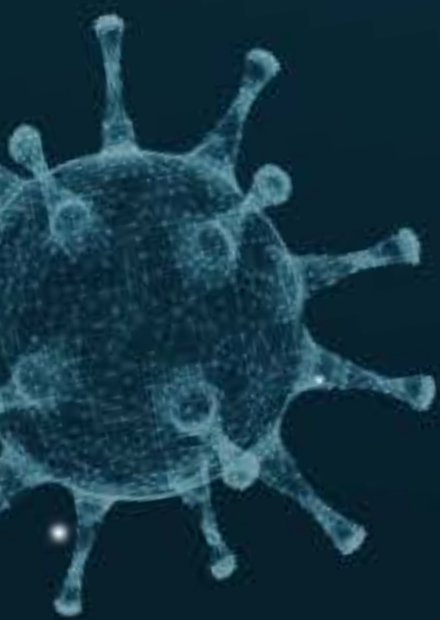
Professor Sheila Pankhurst, Dean of the School of Science, Engineering and Environment at the time, said: "I am so proud of the way in which University staff have stepped up to support our NHS at this vital time."



**“When we put the call out for volunteers, we were inundated with staff wanting to help. We are all so grateful for all the work that the NHS is doing – and that includes many of our current students and alumni who work in these vital services – so this contribution is the least that we could do.”**

As the NHS continued to manage the impact of the coronavirus, Salford students were at the heart of the health care response. Dozens of nursing, midwifery and final year biomedical science students and those on placements worked in hospitals across Salford and Greater Manchester to support the staff on site.

Many of our fantastic alumni have also been engaged in a range of activities in their communities.



# STUDENTS FROM ENGINEERING SCHOLARSHIP GRADUATE

**This July saw the latest cohort of students from the Gerry Mason Engineering Excellence Scholarship complete their studies and graduate.**

The scholarship, funded by the Morson Group, a key partner of the University, provides engineering students the support they need to complete their degree.

The University began the scholarship programme in 2015 and has seen over 35 graduating scholars.

Ged Mason OBE, CEO of the Morson Group, said: “Our long-standing partnership with the University of Salford is delivering significant change as we work collaboratively to attract new talent and develop the next generation of trailblazers.

“The scholarship was founded in my late father’s name, as it was his drive and ambition to engage with local young people and provide highly-skilled career pathways regardless of socio-economic background, gender, race and more – a core value that still rings true within Morson today.

One student who received this scholarship was Mujtaba Ghulam, who studied for a bachelor's degree in Petroleum and Mechanical Engineering.

Mujtaba said: "From the bottom of my heart, I want to express my gratitude and say a massive thank you to the Mason family as well as the Morson group for their continued support over the past three years. They have not only made completing my degree possible, but they have provided many opportunities along the way that have supported my learning and development in the world of engineering."





# BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2020



In October, the University marked Black History Month with a series of events aimed at highlighting issues faced by members of black and minority ethnic groups and celebrated the diverse voices within our community.

Curated by the School of Health & Society, with the theme 'Shining a Light on our Remarkable Black and Asian Staff & Students', the stories of our Black and Asian staff and students were broadcasted across the University to create sustained awareness of their strong, courageous and remarkable contribution to the diversity of our community.

The series of events examined the issues of racism in football, support for refugees and asylum seekers, healthcare for black women and the #BlackLivesMatter movement.

# OUR INSPIRATIONAL ALUMNAE WORKING IN STEM SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES OF WORKING THROUGH A PANDEMIC ON **INTERNATIONAL WOMEN IN ENGINEERING DAY**

In early 2020, as the UK and many other countries were in the midst of a national lockdown, emerging research began to suggest that the need to work from home and the closure of schools forced many women into a position where juggling their professional and family lives meant they faced extraordinary pressure.

According to a study from the Office for National Statistics, women in households with children under the age of 18 carried out an average of more than three hours a day of childcare compared to just two hours for men during the lockdown. Many were forced to work 'in the margins', either starting work incredibly early or finishing late as they care for their families in the daytime.

This was particularly concerning for all sectors, but in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) industries, where

women are already underrepresented and under-promoted, the lockdown had the potential to turn back the clock on hard-won equality gains.

Professor Haifa Takruri-Rizk from the School of Science & Engineering, an advocate for women working in STEM industries, saw an opportunity to address these issues by bringing together a group of inspirational women from across the STEM sector to discuss these issues in an online panel session, coinciding with International Women in Engineering Day on 23 June.

Professor Takruri-Rizk said: "It is important for women to know that there is support out there, they are not alone and that they can survive in a sector that is still associated with being male dominated."

The speakers, most of whom were Salford graduates, included experts from engineering and related disciplines and women working across a wide breadth of sectors from architecture to pharmaceuticals. Our panel was also global, with technology enabling us to connect with speakers all over the world at the click of a button.

Some of our speakers spoke of the opportunity the pandemic gave them to take time out from busy work and travel schedules.





## **KARIMA ES SABAR, CEO AND PARTNER AT QUARK VENTURE IN CANADA:**

“I have always been involved in international business, which is why the Covid pandemic changed my life, because for the last 30 years all I’ve done is get on and off planes. I can’t remember a time where I’ve had three months consecutively without going on a plane. I can say it’s been a wonderful experience to be grounded and to be at home with my family.”

However, working from home has also raised challenges.

**HELEN SHELDON,  
ASSOCIATE AT RBA ACOUSTICS:**

“The prevailing feeling has been guilt. When I’m trying to work, I feel guilty that I’m not doing a good enough job, because I’m being interrupted. But I’m also feeling guilty because I’m not spending time with my children.”

“I’m trying to come to terms with the constant juggle and enjoy the time that I am able to spend with my children. It’s hard but there are definitely positives to be taken from it.”

Panel members spoke of finding new ways of working that work for you.

**DR SHAFaq KHAN, ASSISTANT  
PROFESSOR  
IN COMPUTER SCIENCE AT ZAYED  
UNIVERSITY IN THE UAE:**

“I realised for this to work there had to be rules. There had to be discipline in my life. I had to sleep no matter what, at least seven hours, and I had to get up early in the morning.”

## **DR DIANA KENNEDY, HONORARY DOCTORATE AND VICE PRESIDENT OF STRATEGY, ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING AT BP:**

“The real blurring of home and work has actually been a real challenge, the intensity of calls and the relentlessness of them, due to the lack of those casual encounters that we would previously have had around the water cooler or the coffee machine.”

“The natural tendency of us, women particularly, to work harder and longer, means the days are very long and intense. I think I, on a personal level, have learned a lot about myself and how I work, and from my colleagues too and sharing experiences.”

Home working has been a great equaliser, with many panellists commenting on how relationships with colleagues have improved and some even finding the confidence to seek new opportunities.

## **DR SARA BISCAYA , LECTURER IN ARCHITECTURE AT UNIVERSITY OF SALFORD:**

“I’ve gained the confidence with people that I wouldn’t normally have the courage to contact in



regards to my research. Now that I'm online and, that we're all under this strange situation, it gave me that leap of faith. So, I went for it and the results have been quite nice to see.”

Our experts spoke of knowing their value and making sure they are not taken advantage of professionally.

## **DR MELISSA STERRY, DESIGN SCIENTIST, SYSTEMS THEORIST AND FUTURIST:**

“What I've noticed in industry is that pressure on women to work at lower rates and give more of themselves for free. If you are a specialist in any of the areas that are particular to this crisis, your value is higher. That is something all of us in our own individual capacity have some agency to address.”

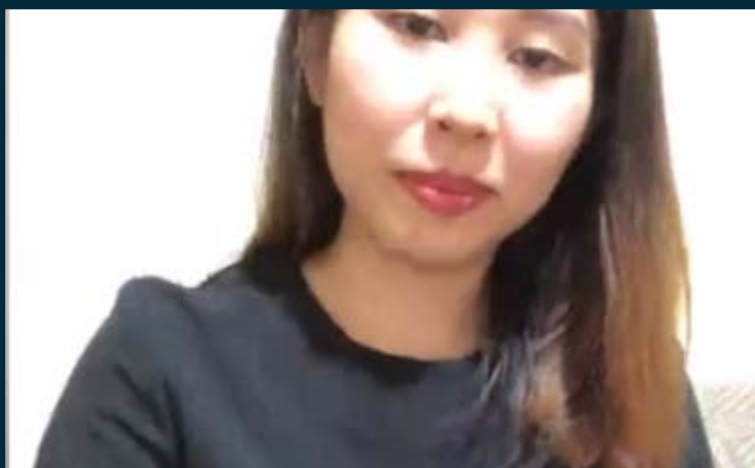
With the impact of the pandemic far from over, our experts look to the future and what comes next.



**KARIMA ES SABAR:**

“We all need to think beyond Covid-19, because we’ve all been having other crises that we’ve been ignoring. The mental health crisis, the chronic disease crisis, the climate crisis - all of these things are now becoming accentuated and reversely they accentuate the Covid-19 pandemic. I’m busier than I’ve ever been.”

Thank you to those alumni who joined our panel and all who logged in to participate in the event.



# OUR PHILANTHROPIC IMPACT

## SALFORD ALUMNI HELP TO FUND HIT THEATRE PROJECT



Commissioned and part-funded by the HOME Response Fund in collaboration with New Adelphi Theatre, the University's on-campus theatre, *Let's Spend the Night Together* was a truly homegrown production.

The live-streamed 10-hour performance was streamed as part of the Homemakers series, a new series of commissions inviting artists to create new works at home, for an audience who are also at home. The production was not only created by Salford alumnus James Monaghan as well as featuring Salford students in the cast and crew, it was also part-funded by donations to the University's Campus Initiatives fund.

Our Campus Initiatives fund is entirely funded by alumni, donors and friends of the University, and seeks to provide grants of up to £5,000 to student-centric projects that not only benefit the student experience, but also provide the participants with graduate skills that will enrich



their CV and career prospects after graduation.

The show provided valuable experience for Salford students, many of whom performed in the show or worked behind the scenes.

From Saturday night through to Sunday morning, audience members were taken into the homes of a number of students and young people, who confessed their hopes and dreams through the screen in a fusion of improvised and rehearsed pieces. At a time when all attention and energy was focused on the crisis, the performers imagined their futures – from personal ambitions to what the climate and society of tomorrow might look like.

Creator James Monaghan spoke about his inspiration for the show: “I think many of us were so occupied with how to deal with the present moment, as everything was uncertain. At the time I received an email from a student saying they wanted advice about entering the industry. Given the current situation, I had no clue what to say. A week later the concept of students imagining the rest of their lives in this period of uncertainty excited me.”

James worked alongside the New Adelphi Theatre to offer the opportunity to students to perform in the production. He provided the

performers with performative tools and rules to explore in online workshops leading up to the live stream.

On the night they used what they had learned in the workshops to respond impulsively during the piece. The collaborative ensemble sections of the piece were rehearsed beforehand.

James said: “To direct a show with a cast of twenty during lockdown and for all rehearsals to be done via zoom was an exciting challenge. The fact that the performers were able to convey such an intimate feeling and a real sense of liveness on that format was a huge high.”

Jamie Irwin, a graduating student in Theatre & Performance Practice, who performed in the show, said: “At first, I thought the idea of allowing audience members to spend the night with us was a little daunting, but the rehearsal process completely changed my views on this. There is something very intimate and personal that I enjoyed about having people virtually in my home but more importantly in my past, present and future.”

The unusual nature of the production caught the attention and imagination of audiences and national press alike, with the Homemakers series receiving a glowing 4-star review in The Guardian.

As a Salford graduate himself, James could not be more proud of the success of the show, saying: “I laughed and cried at what they did on the night. Although some of that might be sleep deprivation.”

If you would like to support the Campus Initiatives fund, or any of our other causes at Salford, you can find out more about them at [salford.ac.uk/giving](https://salford.ac.uk/giving).





## **SANTANDER SUPPORTS STUDENT ENTREPRENEURS**

University partner Santander recently awarded the University a one off £25,000 fund to support students impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic:

The Santander Covid-19 Emergency Fund aims to support student entrepreneurs and those seeking vital work experience in industry. Grants were awarded to 20 entrepreneurs whose businesses were in a period of growth before the pandemic, via the University's Launch programme. Six students, who would have lost out on the opportunity to undertake work experience due to the pandemic, were awarded funded internships giving them valued on-the-job experience.

The University is in its second year of a three-year partnership with Santander and will be awarded £184,500 across the partnership period (£61,500 per annum). This figure does not include the Covid-19 Emergency Fund. The partnership has three core areas; Education, Entrepreneurship and Employability. Santander have also introduced a supplementary stream as part of this Agreement that supports student mental health and wellbeing, which will be delivered by the Students' Union.

We are delighted that Santander were able to support our students during challenging times and we hope our partnership will lead to many more stories of student success in the future.

# WHAT WE CAN DO FOR YOU

We are committed to providing our graduates with a range of invaluable benefits and services, that can provide a helping hand whatever your stage of life and career. We have recently relaunched our alumni website at: **[salford.ac.uk/alumni](https://salford.ac.uk/alumni)** Check out the Benefits and Services pages to find out about all that we can do for you as a member of the Salford alumni community, with everything from discounts on further study, lifelong access to the careers service, use of our campus facilities, support for reunions and reconnecting with your friends and much more.

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BENEFITS  
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At [fromsalford.com](https://fromsalford.com) you can:

- / Network exclusively with fellow Salford graduates
- / Find a mentor or become a mentor yourself
- / Continue learning through access to online journals and e-books
- / Find your next job opportunity and post jobs
- / Promote your business to the Salford alumni community
- / Join a group of like-minded alumni in your area or start your own group
- / Share news of an event or register to join us at one
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institution 'From Salford'  
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# READ ALL ABOUT IT

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We know many of our graduates choose to continue their studies, either here at Salford or other institutions. We can now offer you free access to millions of online journals and e-books via our online alumni portal, [fromsalford.com](http://fromsalford.com).

E-books and e-journals aren't just useful for those continuing academic life, they can provide useful references for anyone who is keen to take on new knowledge or explore areas of interest.

Here is a guide to what online resources are available to you:

## **JSTOR**

The JSTOR Essentials collection holds a wide range of content for anyone interested in humanities and social sciences. It features nearly 700 core titles across 45 disciplines including history, education, language, literature, business and politics.

Also available on JSTOR is JSTOR Daily, a news source that digs deeper than your average publication and asks questions to satisfy the most inquisitive of minds. Featuring articles such as: How Safe Is BPA-Free Plastic? What comes after oil culture? How did Doris Day change us forever? You never know what you might find.

## **EMERALD INSIGHTS**

Emerald offers a vast portfolio of over 300 journals, more than 2,500 e-books and over 1,500 teaching cases. For those interested in business, health and society, or those looking to broaden their employability skills, Emerald can provide you the information you need.



## **HS TALKS BUSINESS & MANAGEMENT COLLECTION**

Inspiring lectures and case studies from leading experts in commerce, industry and academia can be found on HS Talks. You can browse through over 1,000 lectures on subjects as broad as 'An Introduction to Economics' to 'Gene Transfer and Gene Therapy'. Whatever your discipline or level of understanding, you can find content that aids your research or interests.

## **SAGE**

SAGE publishes over 1,000 journals a year in business, humanities, social sciences, science, technology and medicine. You can also submit your own journals for publication and add your work to the ever-growing library of knowledge.

## **ROCK'S BACKPAGES**

A must for music fans, Rock's Backpages features over 40,000 classic articles on popular artists spanning numerous genres and generations like Elvis, Hendrix, Bowie, Joy Division, Oasis, The Chemical Brothers, Take That, Beyoncé and so much more.

## **BLOOMSBURY DRAMA ONLINE**

A particularly useful resource for creatives, Bloomsbury Drama Online is an award-winning digital library of over 2,500 play texts, 400 audio plays, 300 hours of video and 370 books of criticism and performance practice from leading theatre publishers and companies. A real treat for theatre enthusiasts and researchers alike.

## **BLOOMSBURY FASHION PHOTOGRAPHY ARCHIVE**

You can have exclusive access to a vast and expanding library of rare and fascinating images. Taken in the era between the late 1970s and 2000, over 90% of the images are available online for the first time, and all are copyright-cleared for educational use.

**We hope you enjoy continuing your learning journey through From Salford at [fromsalford.com](http://fromsalford.com), with our compliments.**



# OUR ALUMNI HEROES

Earlier this year, as the world began to respond to the immediate challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, we found ourselves uplifted by the stories of our alumni who rallied to support their communities and make positive contributions at a time of great need and uncertainty.

## AMEERA FLETCHER (CLASS OF 2017)

Ameera is the Director of Cre8 Macclesfield, a youth and community programme based in the Moss Estate in Macclesfield. During the pandemic, Cre8 ran a mobile grocery delivery service for people in the area who were shielding or self-isolating.

In the first few weeks of the pandemic, the demand for the service grew significantly, increasing from a two-day a week service to feeding approximately 500 people over a five-day week. The team collected up to 1.5 tonnes of food twice a week from FareShare and other suppliers and distributed it to those who needed it most within the community.

Ameera said: “Being able to feed people and connect through food is fantastic – seeing people smile when we turn up is heart-warming during these testing times.”





## CLIFFORD ITESHI (CLASS OF 2014)

Throughout the pandemic, Clifford volunteered his time to ensure NHS workers were able to travel to work safely at Salford Royal Hospital by driving them in his own car.

Clifford said: “Many of the people I have driven to work are nervous about using public transport during lockdown. I am happy to provide free transport so they can get to work and home again.”







## JEREMY DAVIES

(CLASS OF 2019)

Jeremy is an Alcohol Detox Nurse at Greater Manchester Mental Health Trust, working with Trafford Achieve to support people affected by alcohol use.

During the lockdown, Jeremy supported the clinical team by conducting welfare checks for service users to ensure they continued with treatment, as well as ensuring patients were able to collect medication and self-isolate effectively if necessary.

With a sharp surge in demand for mental health support, safeguarding against domestic violence and an increase in alcohol abuse, Jeremy offered support and advice to those who needed it.

He said: “I have enjoyed supporting this group of patients during this difficult time and I hope that this work provides a valuable contribution to maintaining service users’ health and wellbeing during the COVID-19 pandemic.”

## JANE GERRARD (CLASS OF 2016)

As an experienced Occupational Health Counsellor within the NHS, Jane devoted her attention to supporting the mental wellbeing of NHS professionals on the frontline of the fight against the virus.



Jane offered telephone counselling to colleagues dealing with a range of increased challenges due to the pandemic. In particular, providing support to those staying in hotel accommodation between shifts and subsequently separated from their families and valuable support networks.

Jane said: “The things that can sometimes be taken for granted, such as wellness, relationships with family and friends, job security and hopes for the future, these are the valuable aspects of life that have suddenly become under threat.”

However, despite the challenges Jane witnessed an emergence of optimism. “I am privileged to be able to experience the hope, appreciation and insight from those that have risked their own wellbeing to help others in their fight for wellness.”



## ISAAC OFORI (CLASS OF 2019)

Isaac works with the UN mission in South Sudan. He and a group of former military service personnel from Ghana collectively donated \$20,000 to fund the purchase of PPE supplies for hospital staff at 37 military hospitals in Ghana.





## 24 ALUMNI FROM CHINA (CLASS BETWEEN 2004-2015)

24 alumni from China donated 2,000 medical grade face masks to a residential care home in Bolton. The alumni, who all graduated from Salford Business School between 2004 and 2015, decided to donate the masks due to their fond memories of studying at Salford and their continued loyalty to the University.

The School of Health & Society facilitated the donation and put the alumni in touch with The Old Vicarage Residential Care Home in Bolton, a partner of the University. The face masks were gratefully received by residents and staff who expressed their sincere gratitude to our alumni in China for their generous donation.



## ERIKA CLARK

(CLASS OF 2004)

Music graduate and music teacher, Erika, wrote and recorded a new song, Rainbow of Hope, featuring the vocals of 40 local school children to raise money for NHS Charities Together. She achieved her target of £1,000 and the funds are still rolling in.

She was joined by Robin Dewhurst, Reader in Music at the University, who played the piano on the track.



## JASON MANFORD (CLASS OF 2004)

Jason Manford volunteered with Rainbow Haven, a place of welcome, support and opportunity for refugees, asylum seekers and vulnerable migrants in Manchester and Salford. He also got involved with the Stockport Volunteer Car Scheme, providing car journeys for people needed to attend medical appointments and shop for essential supplies.

The comic and West End star also helped to raise spirits in lockdown with performances helping those struggling with loneliness, attending a street party and even singing at a 100th birthday celebration while observing social distancing.

Jason has been recognised for outstanding activity and contributing to the community amid the coronavirus pandemic. Receiving the The High Sheriff of Greater Manchester Special Recognition Award, Jason said it was a privilege to 'do his bit' in such testing times.

# YEAR OF THE NURSE AND THE MIDWIFE

The World Health Assembly designated 2020 the International Year of the Nurse and the Midwife in honour of the 200th anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth. At the time, no one could have predicted that in the same year they were being honoured, nurses and midwives would face one of the most challenging years in the history of healthcare.



Dame Donna Kinnair DBE

Nurses and midwives make up the largest numbers of the NHS workforce. We have been training nurses and midwives at Salford since 1995 and we are proud to have produced a great number of healthcare professionals over the years, who selflessly provide care and comfort to those who need it most all over the world.

To mark this important date, the School of Health & Society invited Chief Executive and General Secretary of the Royal College of Nursing, Professor Dame Donna Kinnair DBE, to deliver a special online lecture about how nurses and midwives have made a difference this year, as well as insights into her incredible career.

Donna told the audience: “I could never imagine that I was going to be as proud of nursing as I am today. I used to be asked, what does a nurse do. Well, people certainly know now.”



“The Year of the Nurse and the Midwife provides a great opportunity to reflect upon the vital contribution of our fantastic colleagues and their impact over many decades, not least during the current global health crisis. The profession continues to evolve and we must remain focussed on the future in order to recruit, train and retain the increasing numbers of staff that we desperately need, ensuring that nursing and midwifery are seen as the accessible and positive career options that they are.”



**Hilary Garratt CBE, BSc, MSc, RGN, SCPHN (RHV), PGCE - Director of Nursing in NHS England and Deputy Chief Nursing Officer for England and Honorary Graduate**

"It is especially important to celebrate the Year of the Nurse and the Midwife 2020, as this year more than ever, nurses and midwives have impacted on the lives of so many people. I am proud of the skills, the commitment and expertise demonstrated by our nursing profession. As a nurse myself, I have always considered it a privilege to be able to support people at what are some of the most critical moments of their lives, no matter what the challenge is that they face."



**Roger Spencer MBA, Salford Alumnus  
and Chief Executive, The Christie NHS  
Foundation Trust**



At Salford, we are one of the one of the largest providers of nursing, midwifery and allied health professional education programmes in the UK, known for our track record of collaborating with a wide range of industry partners across health and social care to produce highly skilled graduates with real work experience.



In recognition of the hard work and outstanding impact of our graduates, staff and students, we have commissioned a special commemorative badge in honour of International Year of the Nurse and the Midwife.

This badge is available to all of our nursing and midwifery graduates.

To request yours, please email **alumni@salford.ac.uk**



# STUDENT NURSES TELL OF THEIR EXPERIENCES ON THE FRONTLINE

**As the NHS continues to manage the impact of the coronavirus, our nursing students worked at the heart of the health care response.**

Kerry Cain is a second-year student nurse and mother to four children – three of whom still live at home. Alongside charity work, and setting up her own sewing business, Kerry also worked 40+ hours in A&E to support the NHS during the pandemic.

“I wouldn’t have it any other way. I thrive off being busy and get great satisfaction helping patients on placement and at work. I think keeping busy is my coping mechanism.”

When the pandemic started, Kerry spent a shift holding a patient’s hand as he passed away.

“I am proud to be the one that has comforted and soothed someone in their final hours and minutes and I know I do it well and with



respect , the way I would want someone to do it for me or my loved ones. This pandemic hasn't changed any of that for me."

Nathan Harrison, a second-year student nurse, worked across A&E departments in Greater Manchester. He was responsible for screening suspected COVID-19 patients and ensuring they have access to relevant care when needed.

Nathan also wanted to make sure his fellow student nurses were well supported. The University of Salford's nursing society, which Nathan helps to run, created a central online site for all students to access information and guidance to support their practice and to ensure that they kept safe, as well as sharing best practice and motivational stories.

Nathan said, "It feels amazing to be a part of the COVID-19 response as a student nurse and to make a real contribution to overcoming the pandemic."

Aisha Hussein is currently in the third year of her children's nursing degree and was recently shortlisted in the category of



‘Student Nurse of the Year: Children’ at the prestigious Student Nursing Times Awards. Aisha worked as a Health Support Worker in her local A&E department, dealing with potential and confirmed cases of coronavirus. She told us she had experienced swabbing patients and NHS staff to test for the virus, as well as assisting nurses and other healthcare professionals in caring for patients with the condition.

Aisha said: “At times it has been a heart-breaking and terrifying experience; some days I go home and cry myself to sleep. I have had to care for patients that are fighting for their lives and are not able to see their relatives. But I know I have tried my utmost in caring for these patients during this time, making them feel comfortable, and updating their relatives when appropriate.

“I am so grateful that I am qualifying as a nurse during a time like this and that I have had the opportunity to help during this crisis.”

# PERSPECTIVES

PERSPECTIVES BRINGS YOU STORIES OF ACADEMIC DISCOVERY AND RESEARCH SUCCESSES THAT HELP US TO BETTER UNDERSTAND AND IMPROVE THE WORLD WE LIVE IN.

## RESEARCH SHOWS CORONAVIRUS BENEFIT CLAIMANTS ARE MORE LIKELY TO BE YOUNGER, MIDDLE CLASS, OR MORE LIKELY TO BE FROM ETHNIC MINORITY BACKGROUNDS

The September benefit claimant report showed the significant increase in benefit claimants since March 2020.

A major research project into the benefits system during the Covid-19 pandemic has found that the socio-demographic profile of new claimants differs considerably from those who were claiming benefits before the outbreak.

The latest findings from our research show that people who have started benefit claims since the pandemic are more likely to be:

- ✓ **Younger:** almost half (46%) of new benefit claimants are aged between 18-39 years old, compared to 37% of existing claimants.



- ✓ **BAME:** 8% of new claimants are from ethnic minority backgrounds compared to 6% of existing claimants.
- ✓ **Men:** 49% of new benefit claimants are male compared to 43% of existing benefit claimants.
- ✓ **Not experiencing a disability:** only 38% of new benefit claimants have a health condition or disability, compared to 67% of existing claimants.
- ✓ **From a higher 'social grade':** 'social grade' is a classification system commonly used in market research, which looks at employment status and the sort of jobs people do. More than a quarter (26%) of new claimants are from social grade AB (managerial, administrative and professional occupations) compared to 15% of existing claimants.
- ✓ **University graduates:** almost a third (32%) of new claimants had a university diploma or above, compared to 26% of existing claimants.
- ✓ **Homeowners:** 29% of new benefit claimants were owner occupiers compared to 25% of existing claimants. In addition, only 13% of new claimants were social renters compared to 33% of existing claimants.

The report comes from the Welfare at a (Social) Distance project; a major national research project investigating the benefits system during Covid-19 and its aftermath. The project is led by the Sustainable Housing & Urban Studies Unit (SHUSU) at the University of Salford, working in collaboration with the University of Kent, the University of Leeds, the LSE and Deakin University, Australia.

This study draws on survey data collected online from 7,601 new and existing claimants by YouGov between 21st May and 15th June 2020. Professor Lisa Scullion, who leads the project, said: "We're delighted that this project is already meeting our aim of providing rapid large-scale evidence for policy makers on the challenges facing our welfare benefits system. It is vital that we understand how people are managing to navigate the benefits system, and what support they may need in order to do so.



"Understanding who is claiming benefits is key to this. We do not know whether the current cohort of benefit claimants will be the same as forthcoming waves of claimants as the full effects of COVID-19 are felt: the reasons motivating new claims will be subject to the distinctive phases of economic crisis surrounding the pandemic. However, these phases can and should be anticipated to ensure support services are in place for the increased and changed demand on the benefits system that is likely on the horizon."

The Welfare at a (Social) Distance project is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council as part of UK Research and Innovation's rapid response to Covid-19. Over the course of the project, researchers will be publishing regular reports, blogs, and briefings about different aspects of the benefits system.

For more information on the project, to sign up for updates, or to share your ideas or personal experiences please visit

**[hub.salford.ac.uk/welfare-at-a-social-distance](https://hub.salford.ac.uk/welfare-at-a-social-distance)**

# SCIENTISTS DISCOVER NEW MARSUPIAL RELATED TO THE GIANT WOMBAT IN AUSTRALIA



Fossil remains of a 25-million-year-old giant wombat relative from central Australia have been identified as an entirely new family of marsupials by scientists in a new paper published in *Scientific Reports*.

A research team from the University of Salford, Griffith University, The Natural History Museum in London, the University of New South Wales, and the American Museum of Natural History have named the animal *Mukupirna*, meaning ‘big bones’ in Dieri and Malyangapa, which are



the Aboriginal languages spoken in the region of South Australia where the fossil was found.

The fossil was collected in the 1970s from a 25-million-year-old site at Lake Pinpa in north eastern South Australia by an expedition led by the late Dr Richard Tedford from the American Museum of Natural History.

Mukupirna is known from a partial skull and most of the skeleton, which show that it weighed about 150 kg (330 lb), similar in size to a black bear, and that it was probably a strong digger. An analysis of evolutionary relationships shows that Mukupirna is most closely related to wombats, but it has several unique features that show that it is the only known member of a new family of marsupials that was previously unknown to science.

Dr Robin Beck, Lecturer in Biology at The University of Salford, who led the study, said: “Mukupirna is one of the best-preserved marsupials we know of this age from Australia. It tells us a lot about the evolution of wombats, koalas and their relatives. It is remarkable for its large size – this was clearly an impressive, powerful beast, about five times larger than modern wombats. Koalas and wombats are amazing animals. But animals like Mukupirna

show that their fossil relatives were even more extraordinary, and many of them were giants!”.

The scientists looked at how body size has evolved in vombatiforms, which is the group that includes Mukupirna, wombats, koalas and their fossil relatives, and showed that body weights of 100 kg or more evolved at least six times over the last 25 million years.

The largest known vombatiform was Diprotodon, which weighed over 2 tonnes and survived until approximately fifty thousand years ago.



# ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

We are delighted to announce this year's recipients of our annual Alumni Achievement Awards. As our alumni continue to fly the flag for Salford in your lives and careers, we are proud to take the opportunity to recognise the extraordinary achievements of this selection of graduates. These awards are particularly special as our winners were nominated by staff, students and fellow alumni.

**BERNARD WAI-KHAY CHAN**

**BSC (HONS)**

**BIOLOGICAL SCIENCE**  
**CLASS OF 2002**

Bernard is an Investment Advisory Director at iFAST Financial Pte Ltd in his home country of Singapore. He is spearheading a revolutionary and socially conscious approach to financial investments, which puts the customer and their unique needs first. It aims to move investors away from sales based and high commission products, to authentic and low-cost advisory instruments that can be leveraged for public good. The trend is already supported by financial experts in the UK and Australia but has been largely overlooked in Singapore until this point.





**ELAINE BILLINGTON MBE**

# **BSC HUMAN RELATIONS CLASS OF 1991**

Elaine is a passionate advocate for improving opportunities for young people. She was awarded an MBE for services to apprenticeships and young people in the north west, in the 2020 New Year's Honours List.

Elaine has worked in Human Resources for more than 25 years. She recently started a new role as HR Director at Highways England.

For eight years Elaine held the voluntary role of Chair of the North West AAN (Apprentice Ambassador Network), a group whose aim is to encourage employers to engage in apprenticeships, which involved her leading the network as well as spending time in schools, colleges and with local employers explaining the value of apprenticeships. As chairman of the North West Apprenticeship Ambassadors Network she developed the network into one of the largest and most proactive in the country.



**NADIA ZAFAR**

# **BSC (HONS) BIOLOGICAL SCIENCE, CLASS OF 2002**

Nadia has over nine years' experience working in the humanitarian aid and development sector across Pakistan. With a passion to fight for the rights of individuals who would otherwise not have a voice, Nadia's advocacy work has brought her to many organisations during her career. Currently she is Advocacy and Communications Officer at HelpAge International, working on campaigns designed to draw policy makers to the issues facing older people. As a result of her advocacy efforts, the views of over 20,000 older people have been heard in government. Through the Direct Aid Program Nadia has facilitated youth work with refugees to increase their knowledge of essential skills. The sessions focus on human rights, education and promoting advance health education and have benefited more than 1,000 young people.





**DAREN WHITAKER**

# **BSC (HONS) QUANTITY SURVEYING, BUILDING, CLASS OF 1995**

Daren is one of the most influential people in the North West construction and development industry.

His construction business, Renaker Build Limited, is helping change the face of both Salford and Manchester through the projects they are involved in. Under Daren's leadership, recent projects have included the construction of the tallest buildings in both Salford and central Manchester.

Renaker, together with The Foyle Foundation, made a generous investment for new seating in Z-arts theatre space in Hulme, Manchester.

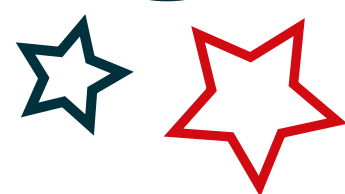
The new seating, will increase the theatre capacity and be more accessible for all visitors.





# RISING STARS

WE HONOUR THE RECENT GRADUATES  
WHO ARE ALREADY ON THEIR WAY TO  
GREATNESS



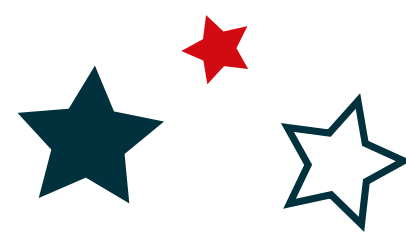
## **SADE DOBBS** **BA (HONS) VISUAL ARTS** **CLASS OF 2018**

Using the Salford graduate scholarship and mentoring programme as a springboard, Sade has developed a multimedia art practice exploring a contemporary and autobiographical understanding of gender and identity.

In 2018 Sade was commissioned by the Tate Collective to produce a piece of work. The film 'Posturin' was then promoted on their social media for Black History Month. This was followed by Sade's inclusion in the BBZBLKBK alternative graduate show at the Copeland Gallery in London the same year.

Since then Sade has spoken publicly about their practice and also had their first solo show, 'NOW WHAT' at DKUK, London. They have also been reported in several publications including, Dazeddigital.com, i-d.vice.com and as part of the Class of 2018 feature in the Double Negative.

Sade currently has a solo exhibition at the Outpost Gallery in Norwich and is being mentored by Turner prize winning artist Lubaina Himid.



**EMILIE LAHOUEL****BA (HONS) DANCE, CLASS OF 2013**

Upon graduating in 2013, Emmy founded Meraki Dance Theatre where she is Artistic Director. The company was created to promote cross artform collaboration through intriguing, meaningful and socially engaged performances, workshops and conversations.

Much of Emmy's commissioned work has attracted support from Arts Council England and in 2019 she was awarded the female bursary at Physical Fest for 'Kill a Witch or Die Trying'. In 2016 she was selected to take part in the PROJECT X residency at HOMEmcr and she is a co-founder of DRIFT – a collaborative project supported by The Lowry, formed to create a network showcasing artists who create work that combines art with music, technology and performance. ★

Emmy is a keen supporter of the University, visiting often to mentor current students and host workshops, as well as offering paid internships to students and recent graduates. ★ ★



## **MARIA EFTIMOVA**

### **BENG (HONS) CIVIL ENGINEERING**

### **CLASS OF 2018**



In the short time since her graduation, Maria has gone on to achieve great success in her field of civil engineering. In addition to her role as Civil Structural Engineer at Costain, Maria has received many accolades for her work in the sector.

In May 2019, Maria was selected to present her paper on 'Soil Arching Theory and its Applications' at the finals of ICE's (Institution of Civil Engineers) Annual Emerging Engineers North West competition. She won the North West round of Emerging Engineers Awards and her paper went forward to the international judging panel to be considered to compete for the prestigious Institution Medal.

In February 2020, Maria participated in the ICE competition Pitch 200 for the North West, winning to become the ICE North West Regional Ambassador.

Maria is also a STEM ambassador, volunteering her time to encourage and inspire young people to consider science, technology, engineering and mathematics subjects through a range of activities, including presentations, mentoring and careers talks.





**DR MINGXU SUN****MSC MANUFACTURING SYSTEMS & PHD  
MANAGEMENT/COMPUTER SCIENCES****CLASS OF 2010 & 2014**

Dr Mingxu Sun completed his postdoctoral studies at Salford before founding a new company, Bei-Ming, based in Jinan. He is focussed on developing functioning electrical stimulation (FES) systems, helping patients to regain movement following a stroke.

Mingxu is also making a positive impact on the care and treatment of people who have lost limbs or have major injuries. In particular, he has established a new unit for gait analysis in a major hospital in Jinan. His work helps people to overcome their injuries and increases their quality of life, as well as allowing them to return to work and provide for their families.

Mingxu is a true advocate of the School of Health & Society and the University. He has worked hard in developing relationships with many in the education and health fields in Jinan and has opened doors for us in the local area in support of student recruitment and partnership opportunities.



# IN MEMORIAM

## CP LEE

We are sad to announce the death of Dr CP Lee, aged 70, a Manchester music legend and academic who will have touched the lives of many of our alumni and will be missed greatly. Frances Piper, Academic Director (Media City Directorate), said: “CP was a much loved and respected colleague, and one who always brought the sun into the room with him. I first worked with him nearly 30 years ago, and he was one of the cleverest and kindest people I've ever had the fortune to know - a big pair of shoulders as well as a great lecturer, academic and cultural mover and shaker. He will be very much missed by many, many friends and colleagues at the University.”





## SIR HAROLD EVANS

Former Sunday Times editor, and son of Salford, Sir Harold Evans has died at the age of 92.

A dedicated newspaper editor with a reputation for tackling social issues and injustices through his journalism, Sir Harold gave a voice and platform to those who needed it most. His many crusades resulted in a national screening programme for cervical cancer; a posthumous pardon for Timothy Evans, who was wrongly hanged for murder in 1950; and achieving greater compensation for those affected by Thalidomide.

His 70-year career also saw him work as a magazine founder, book publisher, author and - at the time of his death - Reuters' editor-at-large.

The son of a Salford train driver, Sir Harold visited the University in 2011 and proudly accepted an honorary doctorate.





## LORD JONATHAN SACKS

We are saddened to hear of the loss of former chief rabbi Lord Sacks.

Lord Sacks served as the chief rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth – the figurehead of British Jews – for 22 years, stepping down in September 2013.

Lord Sacks was awarded an honorary Doctor of Letters from the University in 2013.



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