

GREAT STRIDES

2018/19

The latest stories and next steps from Solent University

A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

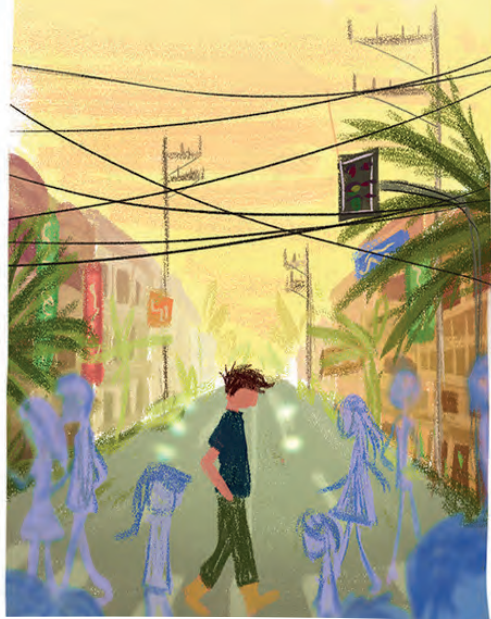
Research and innovation from plastic pollution to fashion and construction.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Celebrating student successes over the past year.

LOOKING FORWARD

Welcoming Dragons' Den star Theo Paphitis to Solent.





CONTENTS

WELCOME From the Vice-Chancellor	1
SOLENT BY NUMBERS Facts and figures from around the University	3
RESEARCH AND INNOVATION A more sustainable future	6
STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT A few highlights	8
INTERNATIONALISATION Global gatherings	12
RECRUITMENT Our student journey	14
LEARNING AND TEACHING Our investment in first-class facilities	16
PEOPLE EXPERIENCE Putting people first	18
LOOKING FORWARD A change of Chancellor, 2020 and beyond	20





FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

Welcome to our 2018 edition of Great Strides, where we take the chance to share just a few of the highlights from the past year.

It has been an exciting and productive time for us as we continue to work to fulfil our mission of providing an excellent university education for learners from all backgrounds, enabling them to become enterprising citizens and responsible leaders, while promoting economic and social prosperity for the communities we serve. We want our graduates to be the passionate, creative professionals of the future, and I am pleased to be able to showcase some of the work we are doing to deliver on that.

We have had many successes this year, from being awarded Silver in the Teaching Excellence and Student Outcomes Framework and climbing in all major league tables to receiving our highest ever student satisfaction rating in the National Student Survey and opening a new home for maritime education and training at our city centre campus.

While there have been far too many achievements, from students, staff and the wider University, to list here, I hope these stories will give you an idea of why we are so proud of what we do, and of everyone who works so hard to make our vision a reality.

I would also encourage you to visit our online edition of Great Strides, where a series of short films will let you see some of the great things that have been happening at Solent for yourself: www.solent.ac.uk/GreatStrides

Professor Graham Baldwin
Vice-Chancellor

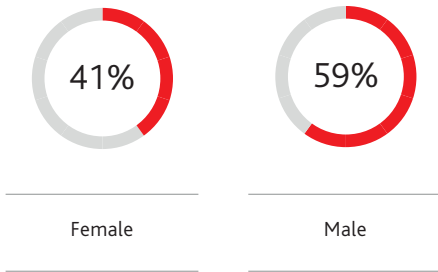


SOLENT BY NUMBERS

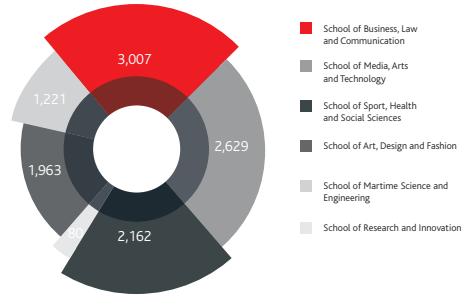
A LONG HISTORY OF EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE



OUR STUDENTS



STUDENT NUMBERS HEADCOUNT 2016/17



OUR STUDENTS COME FROM



Country/Country	Number
UK	9,249
EU	1,209
Non-EU	604

Sources: Complete University Guide 2019, HECBI Survey 2016/17
NSS 2018, DLHE 2018, HESA 2016/17

FACTS AND FIGURES

Sources: Complete University Guide 2019, HECBI Survey 2016/17, NSS 2018, DLHE 2018, HESA 2016/17

NSS 2018

Solent ranked in the top 25 in the country for scores for 'Academic support' and 'Learning opportunities'



Publicity Studies
91%



Music
94%



Law
94%



Electronic and
Electrical Engineering
100%

Solent's highest ever score for student satisfaction at 83%



OUR HIGH
PERFORMANCE ACADEMY
SUPPORTS:

25 national and international
level student athletes

20 junior /senior athletes
across the region



TOP 10

IN THE
SECTOR FOR
Continuing Professional
Development (CPD)/
Continuing Education (CE)

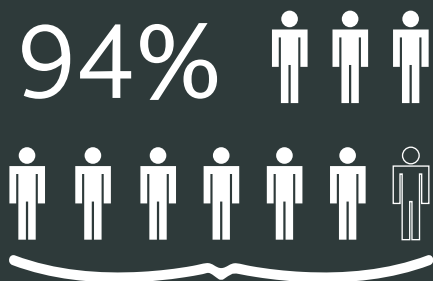


48

SPORTS
TEAMS



94%



have a job or are in further study
six months after finishing university

TOP



OUT OF 163 FOR
GRADUATE START-UPS

SOLENT
GRADUATES
go to work for



OVER 1,200
COMPANIES OR
EMPLOYERS

COMPETING
AT NATIONAL AND
INTERNATIONAL LEVELS
IN



35th OUT OF 126 IN

WHAT UNI STUDENT
CHOICE AWARDS 2018

FOR STUDENT SUPPORT

28TH OUT OF
126 FOR FACILITIES

SAILING SUCCESS



9x

STUDENT
YACHTING
NATIONALS
WINNERS

SOLENT CREATIVES
HAS OFFERED OVER

1,000

NEW PROJECTS TO ALMOST

2,000

STUDENTS IN
THE LAST 3 YEARS





Sarah Radjif, Head of Architecture and Design Practice

A MORE SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Research and innovation is a top strategic priority for Solent and, from plastic pollution to fashion and construction, our academics are driving the latest knowledge and thinking on sustainability.

The plastic pollution crisis, highlighted by increasing media coverage of the damage being caused by the 12.7 million tonnes of plastic ending up in our oceans every year, continues to raise urgent questions on how we produce, use and dispose of materials.

In May 2018, Dr Laurie Wright, Lecturer in Environmental Science, used his public lecture 'Billiards, Bakelite and Bottles' to suggest that part of the problem is the population's

overall attitude. If we are to make major changes around issues such as single-use carrier bags, he argued, we must first alter our throwaway lifestyles and our reliance upon convenience.

This is where his expertise in life cycle assessment, the interface of technology, society and the environment, comes in. Recent research projects include investigations into the environmental impacts of micro-brewing and the life cycle management of coffee, and now he is looking at the decarbonisation of port environments.

"What you notice is that everything, everywhere, is in some way interconnected and

effects everything else, which makes the problems that much more complex," Dr Wright said. "But when you understand the system of something, you can then start to modify the system and modify the effect the system is having. A solution might be to move towards a more circular model of economics, where materials and resources live much longer in our economic cycle."

Elsewhere, a 'Fashion as Community' week at the University explored how fashion can promote sustainability, social good and wellbeing. "Thinking about how fashion can be reused, and thinking about it in the pre-design and after-design stages, they're all connected in



the sense of a supply chain and what ultimately happens to fashion,” said Rachael Taylor, Lecturer in Fashion Design and Communication. “So if the main promotion is to buy more, it’s going to increase landfill and lead to more production. These problems of sustainability can look so big they can almost feel daunting. Yet small habits like buying second hand, not buying where possible and swapping with your friends can make such a difference.”

The development of specialist designers with the vision required to help create a sustainable future for the construction industry is another major area of focus for Solent. “We all have a responsibility to look after the planet and the resources that are available to us because they will run out at some point,” said Sarah Radif, Head of Architecture and Design Practice. “And we have a responsibility to maintain these before handing them over to the next generation.”

However, as Senior Lecturer Dr Monkiz Khasreen explained, consideration must be given to

“...EVERYTHING, EVERYWHERE, IS IN SOME WAY INTERCONNECTED AND EFFECTS EVERYTHING ELSE, WHICH MAKES THE PROBLEMS THAT MUCH MORE COMPLEX.”

DR LAURIE WRIGHT, LECTURER IN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

social, economic and environmental aspects of design to reduce the carbon footprint created by buildings. “A sustainable building which consumes no energy at all, which relies on 100% of renewable energies, is fine,” he said. “But when the inhabitants of the building need to travel daily by car in order to get their shopping, consuming fuel and emitting carbon dioxide, this is not sustainable. Sustainability is a holistic approach.”

Visit [solent.ac.uk/GreatStrides](https://www.solent.ac.uk/GreatStrides) to find out more.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

We're so proud of everything our students have achieved over the last year, both inside and outside the University. Here are a few highlights...

Visit solent.ac.uk/GreatStrides to find out more.



LEFT AND BELOW

*Alexandra Terris, BA (Hons)
Fashion student, had designs
selected for the catwalk at
2018 Graduate Fashion Week.*



TOP RIGHT

Second year BA (Hons) Television and Video Production student **Greg Wycislok** worked in his dream role on 'Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Side'.



RIGHT

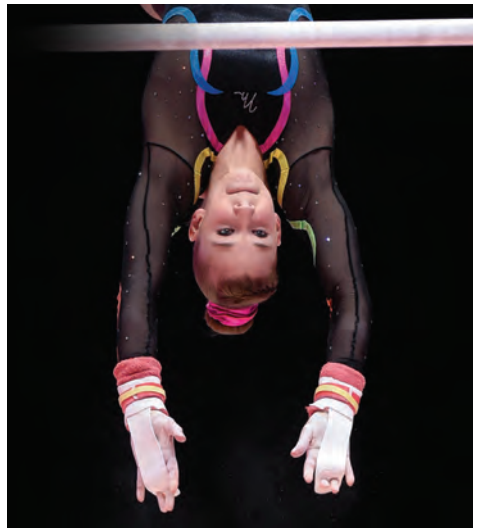
BA (Hons) Computer and Video Games student, **Shannon Symonds**, created an art knight character that won the Grads in Games 'Search for a Star' competition.



BELOW

BA (Hons) Television and Video Production student, **Joshua Masters** wins global travel agency Smaller Earth's 2018 photography contest.





TOP LEFT

Second year BA (Hons) Social Work student **Jo Fox** published her first book, aimed at explaining stillbirth and pregnancy loss to young children.

TOP RIGHT

Solent gymnast **Kelly Sim** represents England at the 2018 Commonwealth Games.

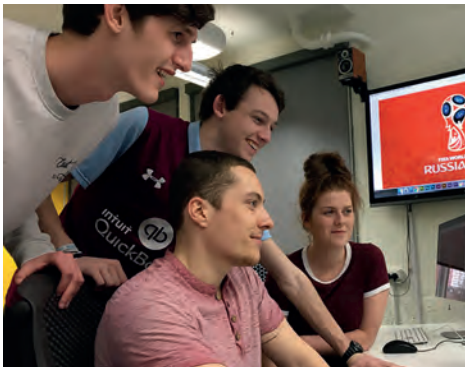
LEFT

BA (Hons) Illustration student **Charlotte Spillane**, named as 'one to watch' by Design Week.



TOP RIGHT

*First-year BEng (Hons) Yacht and Powercraft Design student **Noah McWatters** won the year's model yacht race*



RIGHT

*BA (Hons) Sports Journalism students **Callum Beirne, Ashley Gregory, Amber Hemming** and **Tom Norris** were selected to work for the host broadcaster at the World Cup.*

BELOW

*BA (Hons) Popular Music Production student, **Lauren Bannon**, made the finals of ITV's **The Voice UK**.*





GLOBAL GATHERINGS

In an increasingly globalised world, our focus on the student experience and worldwide partnerships is key to preparing our graduates for an international future.

With partnerships with institutions and organisations all over the world, and as the destination of choice for students from over 100 different countries, Solent is increasingly recognised as a global player in higher education.

Students who come to Solent from both our international and European partners go on to be offered roles in Southampton and the wider region, meaning the vital skills they acquire during their time

at the University are retained within and contribute to our local economy. Many also fulfil key roles on campus, acting as ambassadors to represent Solent at open days, school and college visits, and public events.

"International students definitely add something to the culture here at the University, and are incredibly key to our internationalisation of UK students too because they enrich their learning experience and their learning journey," explained Emma Evans, Strategic Partnerships Manager. "Our students get to find out so much more about different types of people, which is important when they then go out to become global graduates. We have a very

"HUGE EMPLOYABILITY BENEFITS COME FROM DOING EXCHANGES - IT PROVES YOU'RE A MOBILE, FEARLESS, CONFIDENT, OPEN KIND OF PERSON."

PATRICK EGAN, MEDIA CULTURE AND PRODUCTION GRADUATE

rich, diverse range of flexible international opportunities for incoming students, as well as outgoing students that want to get to go out into the world."

Through the Erasmus+ programme, Solent has



partnerships with over 50 institutions worldwide to enable students and staff to experience learning in other parts of Europe, whilst Study Abroad programmes enable students to complete up to one year of their degrees at overseas universities.

Patrick Egan, who graduated from his BA (Hons) Media Culture and Production degree in 2018, took full advantage of these opportunities. "I was fortunate enough to take part in three foreign exchanges: a 10-month Erasmus programme near Barcelona; a week-long programme in Vienna; and a four-week programme in Shanghai," he revealed. "When choosing my degree, I noticed that the curriculum provided the opportunity to study abroad. The chance to merge my two passions together was perfect, as well as the huge employability benefits that come from doing exchanges. It proves you're a mobile, fearless, confident, open kind of person."

Portuguese Carolina De Matos Monteiro, who graduated in 2018 with a BA (Hons) International Tourism Management degree, also completed

a Study Abroad placement for one semester in Salzburg. She said: "I made friends from Mexico, from Vietnam, from China, from all over the place. It definitely helped me in learning about a new culture, which is very important for the tourism industry and my career path."

And, new from September 2018, is a partnership with QA Higher Education to deliver an International Pathway College at the University. This will support 30 students initially who need to develop their English language ability and academic study skills, and offer guaranteed progression routes to Solent's creative, engineering, art, computing and business undergraduate degrees.

As well as supporting the delivery of Solent's wider internationalisation strategy and enhancing the University's presence on the world stage, this exciting move will also work to future-proof the University against the impacts of Brexit and an increasingly challenging wider sector.

[Visit \[solent.ac.uk/GreatStrides\]\(http://www.solent.ac.uk/GreatStrides\) to find out more.](http://www.solent.ac.uk/GreatStrides)



Year 5 pupils from Shirley Junior School visiting Solent University

OUR STUDENT JOURNEY

Becoming a Solent student starts long before degrees begin, and stays with our graduates for life – here's a look at just some of the support we provide.

Solent's mission to be an inclusive university – a catalyst for social justice, social mobility and economic prosperity – is lived and breathed.

This ethos begins by working with local schools to raise aspirations and attainment within under-represented groups. "In primary schools

our University students work with pupils to create their own TV show," said Geeta Uppal, Access and Widening Participation Officer. "In secondary schools, we're focused on intervention at key stages: for Year 9s it's choosing their options; for Year 10s it's why GCSEs matter; and for Year 11s it's supporting them with their English and Maths and raising attainment. It's about getting them to understand that they too can access university."

Once students start life at Solent, a key focus is

ensuring everyone receives the support and guidance they need to make the most of their time at the University. Solent's approach to implementing targeted support for students most at risk of underperforming was shortlisted in the 2018 Guardian University Awards' Retention, Support and Student Outcomes category, and in the Times Higher Education Awards 2018 'Outstanding Support for Students' category. The University has also hosted two national retention conferences, sharing best practice across the sector.



"IT'S REALLY IMPORTANT TO US THAT WHEN STUDENTS GRADUATE AND NEED HELP ... WE'RE THERE TO SUPPORT THEM TO DO THAT."

CAROLINE BARFOOT, HEAD OF EMPLOYABILITY AND STUDENT ENTERPRISE



"All our initiatives are targeted to help students build their confidence, skills and give them a real direction," explained Alexandra Banks, Student Achievement Manager. "Whether it's to help them improve their work a little further, or to give them some advice that they may need to help them progress in their studies, which also means helping high-achieving students, we want to make sure they stay at university and achieve the best they possibly can."

When thinking about life beyond their degree, students have access to the Solent Futures careers advice and employability service, providing support on issues ranging from employability to wellbeing. "When a student comes to university, they need to know about the whole package," said Caroline Barfoot, Head of Employability and Student Enterprise. "Things like student services, student finance and the careers service to help them right from the start when they might need a part-time job, through to work placements and getting their graduate job. It's really important to us that when they graduate and need help with finding the right career we're there to support them to do that."

A 2017 survey by The Economist ranked Solent as the 12th best university in Britain for boosting graduate earnings, and support continues post-study with a comprehensive alumni engagement programme. "When students leave Solent, they stay part of Solent University for life," said Robert Wayman, Alumni and Philanthropy Manager. "They join a worldwide alumni community and can get involved in a whole range of activities, everything from peer mentoring through to meeting current students. It's really important that our alumni stay involved as they are proof we're achieving our mission. They can also continue to learn and develop their skills and knowledge by re-engaging with the University."

Visit [solent.ac.uk/GreatStrides](https://www.solent.ac.uk/GreatStrides) to find out more.



Maritime Simulation Centre opening in 2019

FACILITATING 1ST CLASS TEACHING AND LEARNING

A new £28 million sports complex, one of a series of outstanding specialist facilities being created by the University, is set to open in summer 2019.

Part of an ongoing £100 million estates development plan, the new sports centre will comprise of two sports halls, three fitness studios, a health and wellbeing gym, a strength and conditioning gym and high-quality teaching facilities. The facilities will support excellence in sport, health and fitness related degrees and associated teaching and research.

The building will not only enhance the learning experience for our students and staff, but also deepen the University's connections with the wider local community, and the support

provided to the region's economic growth and development.

Meanwhile, a purpose-built nutrition lab is giving students hands-on experience in a teaching kitchen. It is used primarily by BSc (Hons) Applied Human Nutrition and fitness degree students, but is also utilised for external and internal classes, including those for Freshers on healthy eating on a budget and basic cookery skills.

The 10-station facility, each with access to cookers, sinks, toasters, kettles, food processors, fridges, freezers and dishwashers, has over-desk computer screens to view slides, videos and live cooking demos. Other specialist features include: models of the amount of sugar in foods and drinks; health promotion props such as fat and



muscle models; equipment used to guide portion size, such as food models; and large-scale Eatwell guides for use in nutrition education.

A new home for officer cadet education and training and first certification courses, situated at the University's St Mary's campus, is now open and being put to use by its first full cohort of students. Cadets have access to a wide range of facilities, including brand new engineering workshops, a welding area and electrical and control laboratories. A new Maritime Simulation Centre, the largest in the UK, is also set to arrive in 2019 with six full mission navigational bridges, four multi-purpose decktop simulation classrooms, engine simulator and high voltage training and unrestricted access to Transas' ship models and navigational areas.

"Investing into the refurbishment of the new premises and new facilities forms part of the University's major plans to bring our modernised professional and higher level maritime education programmes from the Warsash campus to the city centre by 2019 – while continuing to build on the heritage and expertise associated with Warsash Maritime Academy," said Syamantak Bhattacharya, Dean of the Warsash School of

"THE BUILDING WILL NOT ONLY ENHANCE THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE FOR OUR STUDENTS AND STAFF, BUT ALSO DEEPEN THE UNIVERSITY'S CONNECTIONS WITH THE WIDER COMMUNITY."

Maritime Science and Engineering.

"The new premises provide officer cadets with a distinct modern teaching environment, exclusively for seafarers studying for their officer of the watch certificate of competency."

Other developments that students are already benefitting from include the award-winning Spark building, which offers five floors of innovative learning spaces and lecture-capture technology putting the focus on learning, not note-taking; cutting-edge hair and make-up studios; and a new nursing and biology facility with simulation nursing ward, supporting the University's innovative apprenticeship offering.

Visit solent.ac.uk/GreatStrides to find out more.



PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST

From students to staff, our people make us who we are – and this year, teams across the University have been working hard to ensure the Solent people experience is a great one.

Providing an excellent people experience and an environment where staff and students live the Solent Values is central to everything we do. This includes a commitment to developing everyone to their full potential, to recognising the value of diversity and equality and to rewarding excellence and ambition.

In June 2018, the third Solent Staff Awards was held to celebrate the success of some inspirational staff members, nominated by their colleagues and chosen by a senior management judging panel from across the institution.

Jo Francis, People and Development Business Partner, scooped the Enhancing the Staff Experience award for her work around change management. “It really reaffirms that you are

doing the right thing, in the right way, and people appreciate that,” she said. “I’ve got a really good team that work with me and have helped me, and made it possible for me to win the award, and that’s what’s really nice, because I love my job and I love working here.”

“IF SOMEBODY GOES THE EXTRA MILE...AND THE UNIVERSITY SAYS ‘YES, THIS PERSON DESERVES TO BE RECOGNISED’, IT’S A SOURCE OF GREAT PRIDE.”

MARK WING, SENIOR LECTURER IN THE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS, LAW AND COMMUNICATIONS

Another winner was Mark Wing, Senior Lecturer in the School of Business, Law and Communications, for Enhancing the Student



Experience. "It means a lot to be recognised for the work I do – it's a great honour," said Mark, who organises a range of activities, trips, careers and networking events for students. "When my name was read out, I was rather embarrassed, but I'll never forget it. If somebody goes the extra mile for colleagues, students or the University, and the University says 'yes, this person deserves to be recognised for it', it's a great motivator and a source of great pride."

Dawn Edwards, Cadet Manager in the Warsash School of Maritime Science and Engineering, who picked up the Excellence in Student Support prize, added: "I was really thrilled to be recognised for the work that I do. I don't see that I do anything special, I just believe I do my job. The staff awards are hugely motivating, but as I've said to many people, this award isn't just about me, it's about the whole team." The hard work going on across the University was reflected in its highest ever student satisfaction score in the 2018 National Student

Survey, with 83% of students satisfied overall with their time at the University, and Solent was also ranked top 25 in the country for academic support and learning opportunities.

Among the Solent Staff Awards judging panel was Lewis Cleminson, Vice-President Education 2017/18 at Solent Students' Union: "This is my first year reviewing the entries and I've absolutely loved it," he revealed. "It's really great that we've been able to get that student voice within the process."

Throughout the rest of the year, a wide range of work takes place to shape Solent's people experience, from staff forum Solent Voice, giving colleagues the opportunity to shape University policy, to the development of a new University-wide Mental Health and Wellbeing strategy, ensuring everyone knows where to turn if they need support.

Visit solent.ac.uk/GreatStrides to find out more.



BUILDING ON A REPUTATION FOR SUCCESS 2020 AND BEYOND...

PROFESSOR GRAHAM BALDWIN, VICE-CHANCELLOR

Solent's reputation for real-world learning and the student experience is central to the University's success.

This commitment to putting students at the heart of what we do means that each year our graduates leave us with confidence, ambition and a desire to make a difference.

They are the leaders and innovators of tomorrow and we know that the skills they develop here equip them for a rapidly changing world. We see our Solent alumni at the top of their industries in countries all around the world and they continue to be an inspiration for our current and future students.

To help them achieve this, we are proud to have a dedicated group of staff who devote their professional life to teaching, learning and development, and to making great things happen. Looking to the future, the world continues to change, especially for those of us in higher education. If we are to continue to deliver our ambitions we must also change, and I am proud that the flexibility and adaptability that define the Solent approach mean we continue to find new and resourceful ways to overcome the challenges we face, and to benefit from the opportunities that lie ahead.

This resilience comes from constant underlying innovation within our communities of staff



New sports complex opening in 2019

and students, and we plan on embracing this strength as we begin work on developing our new strategy for 2020–2025, working with stakeholders across the University, our city and the wider sector.

We want to ensure our academics are given the freedom to experiment with the latest technologies, knowledge and teaching methods to continue to deliver the excellent experience we are known for.

And for our students, we have a new, real-world curriculum framework – an approach based around ‘personal knowing’.

This will challenge everyone who joins us to be critical and creative in applying theory to practice; to ask questions and create new knowledge; to contribute their time and talents to their communities; to develop personally and socially; to develop skills that will ensure success in the workplace; and to inspire a

love of learning that continues beyond university and into the rest of their lives.

Most importantly, we will continue to do everything we can to ensure that Solent thrives, and keeps delivering on its promise to provide an excellent opportunity for all those who can benefit from a university education, no matter their background or their circumstances.

Visit [solent.ac.uk/GreatStrides](https://www.solent.ac.uk/GreatStrides) to find out more.



Theo Paphitis and Lord West

A CHANGE OF CHANCELLOR

As we say goodbye to our Chancellor for the past 12 years, Admiral The Right Honourable Lord West of Spithead, we welcome Dragons' Den star Theo Paphitis as his successor.

"It's amazing to think it's been 12 years because the time has just flown by – it's going to be a sad day when I leave, there's no doubt about it." These were the words of Lord West, Solent's first Chancellor, overseeing his final graduation ceremony, one of 70 he attended since taking up his post in 2006.

"I'm so proud of all of the people who have taught here and all of the youngsters who have come through," he said. "I've made lots and lots of friends here, and the University has grown and blossomed. It's really a remarkable place when you think how it started, and now it's vibrant in every single area. It's fully part of this great city and its fame is spreading – wherever I go around the UK people know about it. They know about it around the world too, particularly the maritime side of things, but when it comes to things like the arts and media it is absolutely wonderful what's been achieved. Now we will have a new



Chancellor and the University is going to go from strength, to strength, to strength.”

Vice-Chancellor Professor Graham Baldwin said it had been a “great privilege” to have Lord West serve as Chancellor: “His excellent leadership qualities, maritime knowledge, university interests and shared vision and values has made him a great ambassador. His continued interest in, involvement with and promotion of the University, has helped raise Solent’s profile in the UK and overseas, and he will be greatly missed.”

Lord West’s successor is Dragons’ Den star and business entrepreneur Theo Paphitis, inaugurated as Chancellor at a ceremony in October 2018. “I was delighted to be asked to be Chancellor of Solent University, as the area is very close to my heart for many reasons,” he explained.

“There has never been a more interesting or challenging time to be part of the university sector and I am relishing the opportunity to help place Solent even more firmly on the map.”

Professor Baldwin added: “I am delighted that Theo Paphitis is joining us as Chancellor. He is a long-time supporter of the University and is highly regarded for his significant achievements in business. Theo will be an inspiration to our students and has expertise and interests that go across all our Schools and curriculum areas. We are one of the top 10 universities for student business start-ups so an enterprising and entrepreneurial figurehead is most appropriate. I am sure we have exciting and productive times ahead.”

“I’M SO PROUD OF ALL OF THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE TAUGHT HERE AND ALL OF THE YOUNGSTERS WHO HAVE COME THROUGH.”

LORD WEST, SOLENT’S FIRST CHANCELLOR

SOLENT

UNIVERSITY

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