

GREAT STRIDES

2016/17 | issue one

The latest stories and next steps from
Southampton Solent University

FANTASTIC PLASTIC

Showcasing sustainable fashion
on the international catwalk

REVAMPING CAMPUS

Our new Spark building and
future plans for East Park Terrace

FOOTBALL ACROSS BORDERS

Dr Joel Rookwood explores
the point where sport and
statehood collide

ROCKING THE BOAT

Maritime researcher
Dr Kate Pike on gender and
cultural issues at sea



C O N T E N T S



WELCOME From the Vice-Chancellor	5
SOLENT BY NUMBERS Facts and figures from around the University	6
ROCKING THE BOAT Dr Kate Pike discusses her recent Gender, Empowerment and Multi-cultural Crew (GEM) maritime research	10
GRASSROOTS HEROES Alumnus George Maguire is creating footballing opportunities for some of the world's poorest children	12
REVAMPING OUR CAMPUS A look at the changing face of Solent's estate	16
<hr/>	
COVER STORY: FANTASTIC PLASTIC Solent students showcase sustainable fashion on the international catwalk in Dusseldorf	20
<hr/>	
THE SUPERYACHT REVOLUTION How Southampton Solent is meeting demand from this high-profile, specialist maritime sector	22
THE COST OF COFFEE Environmental scientist Dr Laurie Wright on coffee and the circular economy	26
CONNECTING THE WORLD'S CREATIVES How Solent's Trans National Creative Exchange (TNCE) is bringing artists together	28
JUST GOOD BUSINESS Exploring innovations in our School of Business, Law and Communications	30
YOUTUBE BEFORE THERE WAS YOUTUBE Tony Steyger's Video Nation Digital Archive project is opening a window into the past	32
FOOTBALL ACROSS BORDERS Dr Joel Rookwood's latest film explores how sport can bind people from all nations together	34
INNOVATIVE ENGLISH In a highly competitive environment, what makes Solent's English programme so popular?	38
THE TWO FACES OF GAMING How computer gaming finds a balance between its artistic and technical sides	40
EDUCATION IN THE AGE OF THE GLOBAL VILLAGE Highlighting some of Solent's international connections	42
UNIVERSITIES' BEST-KEPT SECRET Helping businesses unlock the potential of Knowledge Transfer Partnerships	46
A LIFELONG NETWORK Catch up with some of our exceptional alumni	48



FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR


Welcome to Great Strides, where we take the chance to share a few of the highlights from the past year, along with our ambitious plans for the future of Solent. It has been an exciting and productive year for us, as we 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.

Put simply, we want our graduates to be the passionate, creative professionals of the future, bringing expertise and energy into their communities and workplaces – and I am pleased to be able to showcase some of the work we're doing to deliver on that wish. We have had many successes, from winning the 2015 Times Higher Education Award for the most improved student experience to climbing in all four major league tables in 2016. We have also opened the Spark, our iconic new building, equipped with the latest educational technology and providing a fantastic event space both for us and for the city of Southampton.

We are making great strides in delivering our maritime education and training strategy, in our work as a trailblazer for degree apprenticeships, in progressing research and innovation provision and in developing our international partnerships in China and beyond. Our schools have celebrated successes across the board, with the School of Art, Design and Fashion listed among CEOWORLD Magazine's top 100 fashion schools; the School of Sport, Health and Social Sciences proving its commitment to social justice and the community with a nomination for the UEFA Grassroots Project of the Year; and the School of Media Arts and Technology making us the only university in Europe to benefit from our own 3D cinema with Dolby Atmos surround sound.

These are only a fraction of this year's extensive successes, with too many individual achievements to list here. We are proud to have a dedicated group of staff who devote their professional lives to teaching, learning and development at Solent, and to making great things happen for our students. 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 future, the leaders of tomorrow, and we know that the skills they develop at Solent equip them for a changing world. You can find Solent alumni in the top tiers of their industries, in countries all around the globe.

Looking to the future, the world continues to change, especially for those of us in higher education; and if we are to continue delivering on our ambitions, we must also change. But if the stories within these pages show anything, it's that flexibility and adaptability define the Solent approach, and I am confident that we will continue to find resourceful ways to overcome any challenges, and innovative ways of benefiting from the opportunities that lie ahead.

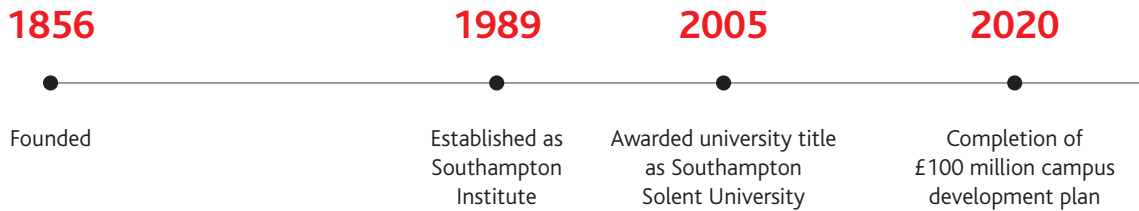


Professor Graham Baldwin
Vice-Chancellor

SOLENT BY NUMBERS

Sources: Complete University Guide 2017, HEBCI Survey, 2014-15, NSS 2016, DLHE 2016

A LONG HISTORY OF EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE



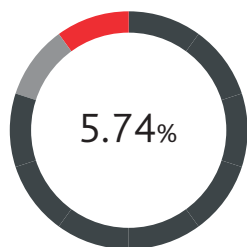
QS rated for excellence

- 5 stars for teaching
- 5 stars for inclusiveness

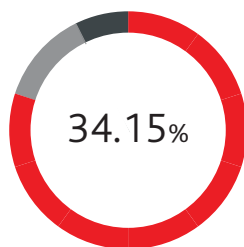


STUDENTS BY AGE/GENDER

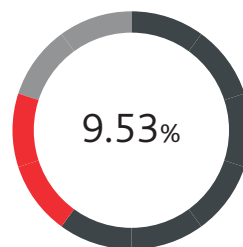
■ Under 21 ■ 21-24 ■ 25 & over



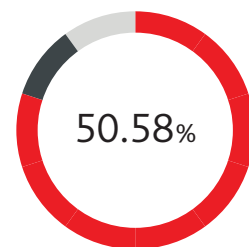
Female part-time



Female full-time

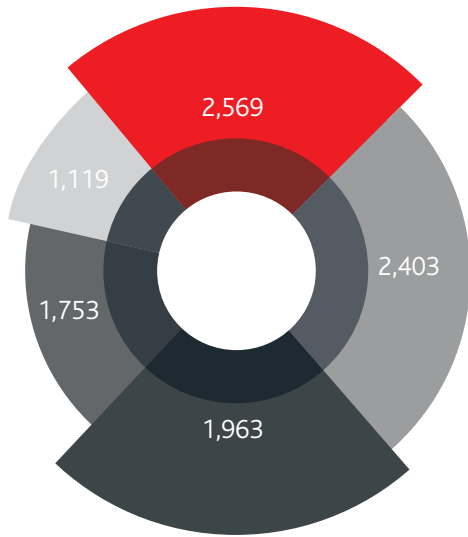


Male part-time



Male full-time

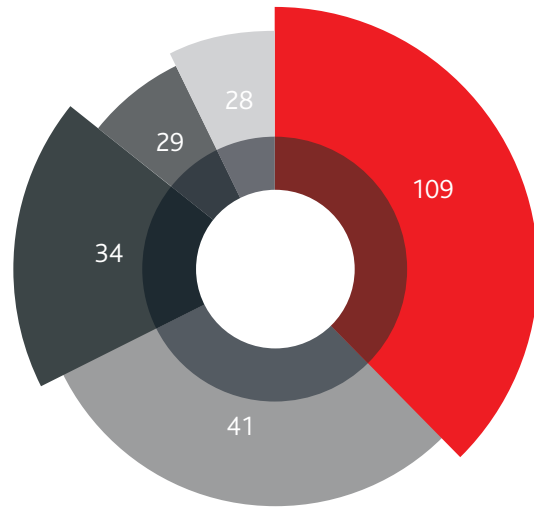
STUDENT NUMBERS (FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT) 2015/16



Undergraduate

- School of Business, Law and Communications
- School of Media Arts and Technology
- School of Sport, Health and Social Sciences
- School of Art, Design and Fashion
- School of Maritime Science and Engineering

Total 9,807



Postgraduate

- School of Business, Law and Communications
- School of Media Arts and Technology
- School of Sport, Health and Social Sciences
- School of Art, Design and Fashion
- School of Maritime Science and Engineering

Total 241

HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENTS COME FROM



County/Country	Percent (%)
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	24
Other UK	61
Other EU	9
Non-EU	6

FACTS AND FIGURES

Sources: Complete University Guide 2017, HEBCI Survey, 2014-15, NSS 2016, DLHE 2016

NSS 2016



PR

1st of 18



English

8th of 104

26th out of 126

universities for learning resources



Architecture

8th of 53



Electronic engineering

8th of 65

31

SPORTS TEAMS



116,482 DAYS OF

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)/
Continuing Education (CE)

4th in the sector
for CPD

37th
out of
127

universities in the
**Complete University
Guide 2017**
for spend per student
on university facilities

SAILING SUCCESS

8 times Student Yachting Nationals winners

Student Yachting **2004**
World Cup
winners **2010**

2013 BUCS Match Racing Champions

NINE OUT OF TEN GRADUATES



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

TOP
25



of 206
UK institutions
for graduate
start-ups

Our High Performance Academy supports:



25
national and international level
student athletes

20
junior/senior athletes across the region

COMPETING

at national levels in



football



wheelchair rugby



basketball



2,000
STUDENTS/ALUMNI

registered to take on freelance work
through our Solent Creatives talent agency



Each year Solent graduates
go on to work for
OVER 1,400
companies or employers



ROCKING THE BOAT

Dr Kate Pike, Senior Research Fellow and Associate Professor, recently led an international team from China, the UK and Nigeria, researching gender imbalance and cultural issues among the world's seafarers.

The merchant maritime industry has always been strongly male dominated, with just 2% of seafarers globally being women. Being in the minority, whether as the only women working on a vessel or as the only one of a particular nationality, can make you potentially vulnerable to harassment, bullying and feelings of isolation. If you are a woman seafarer in the merchant shipping industry, you are likely to be under a constant spotlight. Launched at the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) in September 2015, and sponsored by the ITF Seafarers' Trust, the Gender, Empowerment and Multi-cultural Crew (GEM) project was initiated to examine seafarers' welfare, focusing on gender issues within the multi-cultural crew environment.

PUTTING THE SPOTLIGHT ON WELFARE AT SEA

This ambitious project is the first of its kind, aiming to extend limited knowledge surrounding these areas and to ultimately help create a safer working environment for all seafarers, in particular women and ethnic minorities, by encouraging their participation and retention within the industry.

Unique access to information from Southampton Solent University's Warsash Maritime Academy (WMA), Shanghai Maritime University in China and Nigeria's National Maritime Academy allowed the team to survey cadets before and after their first sea time, gaining insights into their initial perceptions and actual experiences. Interviews with maritime stakeholders including policy makers, shipping companies, recruiters, ship owners and female seafarers (current and former) helped increase the breadth of the research.

GENERATING INTERNATIONAL INTEREST

The GEM research has generated interest from all over the world, demonstrating a keen appetite within the industry for cultural change that can create a safer environment, free from harassment and discrimination.

Some very specific differences were identified between nationalities; differences that primarily originate from cultural and traditional values, economic status and political ideologies. The findings also show that despite increasing awareness of gender issues and some new initiatives to combat them, there is still a long way to go in order to achieve a better gender balance and equality among minorities at sea.

The project's findings question whether the industry is collectively doing enough to make life at sea a safe and non-threatening environment to work in. The challenges of the modern maritime workplace demonstrate the need to re-think training at all levels to help instil an inclusive work environment that does not tolerate any form of abuse.

CREATING A ZERO-TOLERANCE ENVIRONMENT

Ship owners and senior officers, in particular the Captain, have a duty of care to create an inclusive and safe working environment for their crew, especially women and other minority groups.

Education is essential in this; more targeted training for senior officers would help them to deal with potential gender issues on board, while elimination of the 'what happens at sea, stays at sea' culture would encourage more open dialogue among crew members and help eliminate harassment, bullying and abuse. The research recommends mentoring at sea for all cadets and new recruits, to help combat the potential difficulties they may face during their first voyages.

BUILDING AWARENESS AND EXPECTATIONS

Redressing the maritime gender imbalance is going to require a wider change in awareness and understanding of the opportunities for women at sea – particularly among girls, who are often less inclined to select the STEM subjects needed to take up cadetships.

The challenge lies with the industry to co-ordinate efforts and find a balance between adequately preparing women for sea and deterring them with too many 'bad news' stories. Existing human element leadership and management (HELM) courses should be examined to make sure seafarers are adequately prepared for specific gender and cultural diversity issues.

Ensuring that both male and female cadets receive guaranteed sea-time training would be a logical step. This would, however, involve many companies re-thinking their strategy; particularly in China where currently no women are newly recruited on board vessels, and in Nigeria, where sea time is often very difficult for female cadets to obtain.

INSTILLING A MORE ETHICAL APPROACH

Ethical recruitment and investment in employees is essential to enabling the best working environment at sea; the onus is on shipping companies to make sure that appropriate recruitment is taking place, particularly concerning cadet placement and the on-board mix of nationalities.

Part of that investment means supporting groups and networks aimed at women in the maritime industry, noting the value of existing operations such as Women in Shipping and Trade Associations (WISTA) and the IMO's Programme for the Integration of Women in the Maritime Sector.

It's also vital that we open up dialogue between shipping companies in relation to potential gender and multi-cultural issues they are encountering and the measures taken to resolve them to promote a better way of working. The GEM project is a valuable first step, increasing awareness and encouraging the sharing of best practices, but there remains much to be done.

The research team responsible for the GEM project were: Dr Kate Pike and Emma Broadhurst, Professor Minghua Zhao, Dr Pengfei Zhang, Amos Kuje, and Nancy Oluoha

You can read more about the GEM project at www.solent.ac.uk/GEM

A young boy in a yellow and green soccer jersey is looking to the side. In the foreground, a soccer ball is visible, partially obscured by a large green circular graphic. The background shows a grassy field and trees under a blue sky with white clouds. A large white circular graphic is at the top of the page.

GRASSROOTS HEROES

Creating opportunities through football
for some of the world's poorest children

Modern football is a billion-dollar industry, drawing vast swathes of national and international attention. The top tier of footballers are global sensations, earning more in a year than most people will see in a lifetime – they're national icons and role models, something for the young to look up and aspire to.

But not in Malawi, the poorest country in the world. Not yet.

Life for Malawians is tough. 2.8m of the population faced hunger in 2016 following two poor rainy seasons. 10% of the population live with HIV and most live below the poverty line (\$1.25 US per day). Half of children don't grow fully due to lack of nutrients in their diet, and one in five face sexual abuse by the time they reach 18. It's a tough place to grow up, with few opportunities for an individual to develop to their potential. Solent alumnus George Maguire is looking to change that. In 2014 he and fellow Brit Alex Scott started Chigoli Academy – a not-for-profit based in Lilongwe, capital of Malawi, and designed to provide professional football coaching, education and opportunity to talented Malawian youngsters who lack any real chances in life.

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES

After four years in corporate events management, Maguire first came to Malawi in 2008 to manage Malawi's biggest ever school primary sports competition, involving 5,300 schools and 80,000 children. "Some of the players were sensational," Maguire says. "Realising that there was literally no pathway for these players at a youth level in Malawi planted the idea, and that nobody was investing in them provided the opportunity."

Maguire remained based in Malawi for a year or two, and met eventual Chigoli co-founder Alex Scott there, but in 2009 the credit crunch forced him to return to the UK. "I ended up working in a pub in London, wondering how I could ever get the idea going again." After stories of his time in Malawi were greeted with enthusiasm, Maguire picked up on a way to get back out there – launching tour company African Football Tours in June 2011. And after discussing the challenges, he and Alex started planning their squad and talent-identification process in late 2014. "There's a point in all conversations where you reach a point of action."

The key, to Maguire, was to focus on matching ability with opportunities. "Rather than try and help every one of Malawi's eight million under-14s, we invest into the lives of children that we believe have a chance to make something of themselves. In turn we hope to create role models to inspire future generations. Malawi doesn't have a Drogba or Weah to be a role model to their people...yet."

FROM THE GROUND UP

With no formal youth leagues in Malawi, Maguire and his team run around ten community-level tournaments a year in order to identify prospective academy players. Chigoli today has 45 players in the academy, aged between 9 and 14 – but they all play one or two years above themselves, to try to keep games challenging. "We've won every tournament we've ever entered in Malawi," Maguire says, "but there isn't much organised football here. Transport costs make it very difficult for teams to travel to compete. Still, our match record shows that our programme works."

"PEOPLE STOP US IN THE STREET TO SAY HOW AMAZING THE FOOTBALL OUR TEAMS PLAY IS – IT'S VERY DIFFERENT TO THE WAY MOST MALAWIAN TEAMS PLAY."



Solent graduate
Amir Mäneh, coaching at Chigoli



Chigoli co-founder George Maguire
with one of the academy's players



Maguire isn't forgetting the girls of Malawi, either. "We have three female players aged 12 or 13 years. We aim to grow the number of female players, and we're planning to put a women's team into the league structure in Lilongwe in the future."

MORE THAN FOOTBALL – A BETTER START

Private school fees for Chigoli players make up a substantial part of the academy's costs – taking children out of inadequately resourced government schools where the average class size is over 100 students. "Our scholarships hugely increase players' prospects for the future," Maguire says.

Two years in, Chigoli is expanding, and the children know they are onto a good thing. Attendance is strong, and the academy is having positive effects already. "We've had players move from other cities in Malawi to be part of our work, living with family in Lilongwe.

"Even little things can make a difference. Taking the squad to Lake Malawi, 90km away, was huge – 70 per cent of them had never left Lilongwe before we started." It's a promising start, but Maguire is keen to go further – developing an environmentally friendly academy site, complete with school and lodgings, and bringing in enthusiastic talent.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Amir Manneh, originally from Jerusalem, is another former Solent student – graduating from our BA (Hons) Football Studies and Business before taking up an internship at Chigoli. "I've always wanted to help others since I was a kid," Amir says, "and I always wanted to come to Africa and help children with football and education."

Chigoli is giving him that opportunity – and keeping him busy. He helps coach a soccer school, leads Chigoli's under-11s, and is working with head coach Thom MKolongo on creating a girls' football tournament. He's also helping spread the word through social media updates on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. "It's full-on really, but I'm loving it so can't complain!"

As rewarding as the work is, Amir says living in Malawi has really opened his eyes. "Knowing that more than half of the population would go to bed hungry, or not knowing where or when they will eat again, you start questioning... can I make a difference?"

HELPING THE PEOPLE WHO NEED IT MOST

As Chigoli grows, Maguire is looking for more passionate young graduates like Amir, willing to step out of their comfort zone and get some truly unique real-world experience on their CV – whether as a volunteer or an intern.

He's also looking to build relationships with potential business partners and sponsors. "We see Chigoli as a fantastic sponsorship opportunity for businesses or philanthropists, to really make a difference to the people who need it most. If football is your passion and you understand that the world is a deeply unfair place, then get in touch."

If you are interested in finding out more about Chigoli, or how you can get involved, visit www.chigoli.org or email **George Maguire** at george@chigoli.org

REVAMPING OUR CAMPUS

There have been a lot of changes to the University's East Park Terrace and Warsash campuses over the last few years – and plenty more plans in the pipeline. Take a look at the changing face of Solent's estate.





WELCOME TO THE SPARK

Designed by Scott Brownrigg, constructed by Interserve and handed over to the University in time for the start of the 2016/2017 academic year, this stunning five-storey building is already enriching the student experience at Southampton Solent. Named 'the Spark' in celebration of Solent's ten years of university status, the new building is a central, semi-public social learning space, as well as a place where people can meet.

In just a few months, it's played host to our summer degree shows, international events, Christmas celebrations and more... and it's providing students with a dynamic new space in which to study, socialise and share learning experiences.

The building's huge, attention-grabbing central atrium has brought a genuine 'wow' factor to the campus, and will enable us to strengthen our connections to local and regional business and community organisations through exhibitions, conferences, events and social functions.

ENABLING ENGAGED, COLLABORATIVE LEARNING

The Spark's five storeys of new teaching spaces are designed to take advantage of the latest technology and educational theories, as well as reinforcing Solent's commitment to equality and access.

Designed to enable a more informal teaching culture, the Spark's classrooms don't look like classrooms – they break down the teacher-student hierarchy, encouraging learners to dive into the subject and adapt the experience to suit their own approaches and questions.

It's the only teaching building in the sector with such a large proportion of 'agile' furniture, designed to promote creativity, independent thinking and learning in your own way. It breaks learners out of a traditional 'receiver of knowledge' mentality, getting them engaged through active questioning and thinking, and enabling students to concentrate on their learning and enjoy it.

BEAUTIFUL, FLEXIBLE SOCIAL SPACE

That same flexibility extends into the Spark's more public spaces, which are designed to enable both relaxed social interaction and collaborative learning. Throughout and overlooking the main atrium, group and individual spaces allow more relaxed, informal work or socialising, along with power for laptops, tablets and other mobile devices.

Recognition of modern students' needs is also built into every room. Teaching spaces incorporate conveniently placed charging sockets, perfect for powering students' gadgets, and the furniture is modular, light and designed to be moved on a whim. Students can rearrange the space however they like, for whatever purpose, and it'll still look beautiful. It's flexible, social and striking design – a perfect example of the thinking behind the Spark.

A BOLD NEW CONFERENCE SPACE FOR THE CITY OF SOUTHAMPTON

In addition to state-of-the-art teaching facilities, the Spark is also a fantastic new home for Southampton Solent's popular conference centre – offering an exceptional range of city-centre conference and exhibition space for local businesses, community groups and more.

Yet the Spark is only the start. As proud as we've been to see the building take shape, it is just part of a £100 million estate development plan due to be completed by 2020.

A NEW SPORTS BUILDING FOR EAST PARK TERRACE

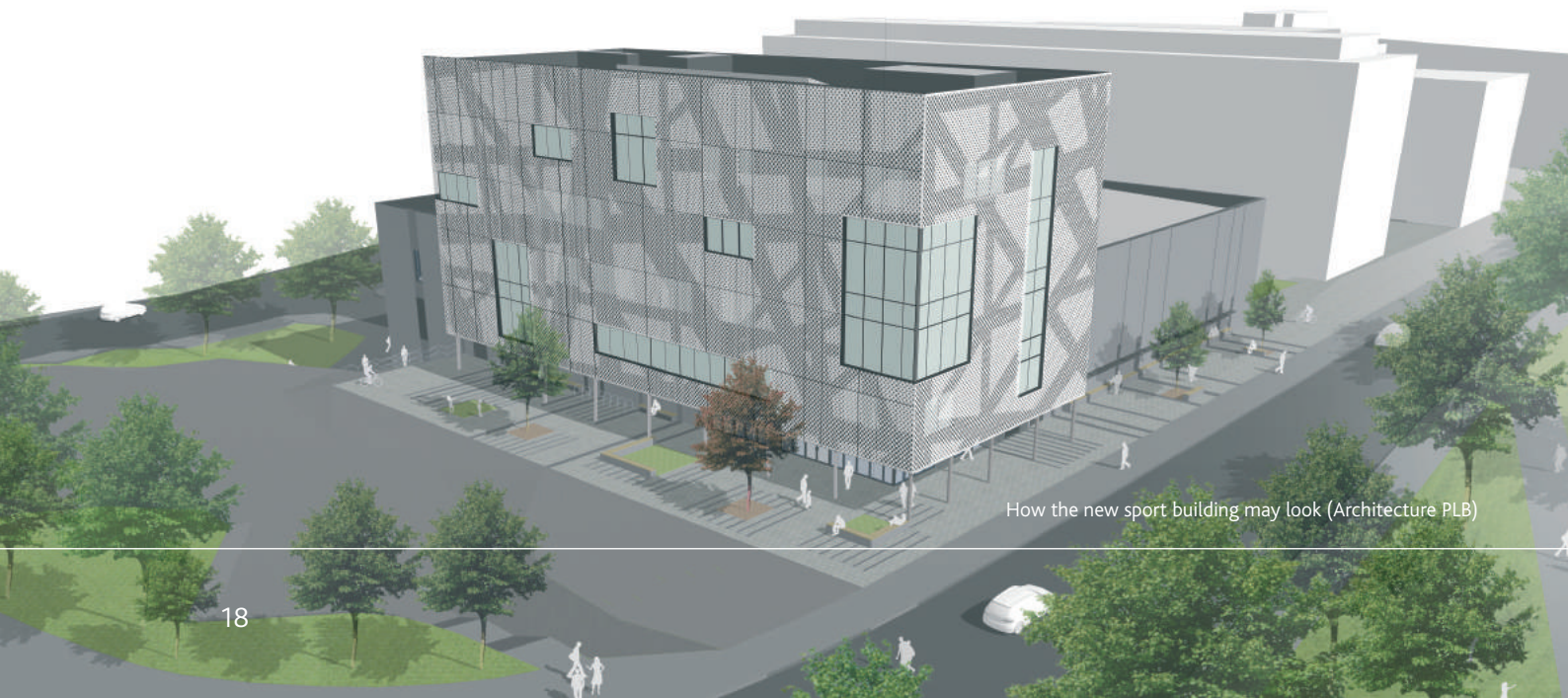
Already at the public consultation stage is the new sports building planned for the north end of East Park Terrace, providing access to improved sport and physical activity facilities for all University students and staff, and high quality spaces for the academic requirements of the School of Sport, Health and Social Sciences.

Solent's sports teams have shown exceptional success in football, wheelchair rugby, sailing, cricket and more, but the University hopes to further raise its standing in the British Universities & Colleges Sport (BUCS) league tables for competitive university sport. The University's current sports facilities are scattered across the city, and the new sports building is designed to bring much of that together on our East Park Terrace campus, enhancing the University's academic and extra-curricular sport activities and improving the student experience.

Expected to provide something in the order of six to seven thousand square metres of floorspace, the building (as currently planned) will include:

- Two multi-purpose sports halls, including performance facilities and viewing galleries
- Two fitness studios
- A health and wellbeing gym
- A dedicated strength and conditioning gym for the elite athletes of Solent's High Performance Academy
- Specialist facilities for teaching and delivery of health services such as body MOTs, personal training and therapy.

Sitting alongside the Spark, this new sports building will continue the dramatic revitalisation of the public-facing frontage along East Park Terrace, continuing the campus' development into a site that students and staff alike are proud to point out to friends, family and visitors.



How the new sport building may look (Architecture PLB)



A NEW HOME FOR WARSASH CADETS

Warsash Maritime Academy's dedicated new city-centre accommodation and teaching facilities will bring a host of new benefits to cadets and trainees.

Southampton Solent University's Warsash Maritime Academy (WMA) is one of the world's top maritime education and training providers, located some six kilometres outside the city at the mouth of Southampton Water.

In recent years, however, numerous space, building, environmental and budget restrictions have made renovating and updating the Warsash site to maintain WMA's trademark excellence an increasingly challenging proposition. Following extensive consultation, Solent will be retaining the waterside facilities at Warsash but moving some classroom-based teaching for maritime students to a dedicated building in the city centre by September 2017.

The new WMA building is located within the St Mary's campus – barely ten minutes' walk from East Park Terrace. This new Solent space will be exclusively for maritime cadets studying for a first certification award, and contains excellent classrooms and workshop facilities. It is also located close to our David Moxon halls of residence, which will also be solely for the cadets and have improved facilities such as single study bedrooms and en-suite facilities. All cadets will have access to full facilities at the College and at the University's city centre campus.

Activities and teaching at the lower, waterside Warsash campus site will continue after the move, and plans are also being made to upgrade the facilities there.

In addition to the new maritime teaching building, Solent is planning a thorough refurbishment programme of the Reginald Mitchell building on East Park Terrace. Intended for completion by 2018, the refurbished building will have a strong maritime focus: bringing classroom labs, workshops and a simulator suite within a short walk of the new academy building.



FANTASTIC PLASTIC

Solent students showcase sustainable fashion
on the international catwalk in Dusseldorf

This summer, nine students from Solent's fashion and arts programmes were tasked with a very unusual brief. Dow Chemical, a leader in the global plastic market, asked Solent's young innovators to design and create wearable garments out of plastic waste.

Designed to change the perception of plastic, the Solent students' creations highlighted the importance of sustainability with the world of fashion. The work subsequently took centre stage at the K 2016 trade event in Dusseldorf, a five-day fair for professionals in the plastics and rubber industry.

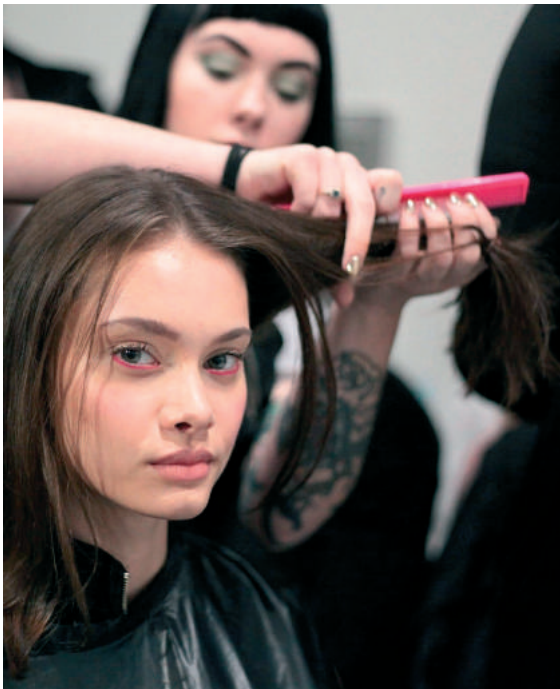
Charlotte, one of the students involved in the project, said: "Seeing everyone's work go out on the runway, after so much hard work had been put into it, was rather emotional – but filled me with so much pride. It was such a rewarding experience, and opened up so many opportunities for us as students."

The garments made for the project received an overwhelming response on the runway, with one creation, a scaled piece of body armour, making the front page of Plastics News magazine.

Lily, another student involved in the project, said: "We have a passion for nature and wanted this to inspire our chosen design. In our first workshop, we started looking at natural forms and animals, playing around and making scales. The initial challenge was working out which plastics would be best suited to our creative design."

Virginie Wengler, Communications Manager at Dow Chemical, said: "The passion and creativity of the Solent team made it real. I was impressed how students embraced Dow's 'Face of Innovation' theme and developed their skills throughout the project.

"The garments were truly inspiring and proof that plastics can be reused even in a high-fashion way. I am thrilled to pursue the collaboration with Solent beyond the K-Show as we need to continue to look at the way we value waste plastics."



THE SUPERYACHT REVOLUTION

How Southampton Solent is meeting demand from this high-profile, specialist maritime sector



40m Alchemy, launched in 1970, is dwarfed by the 133m Serene, launched in 2011

WHEN THE 40M YACHT ALCHEMY WAS LAUNCHED IN 1970, SHE WAS CONSIDERED EXCEPTIONALLY LARGE. IN 2016, ALCHEMY IS BARELY AVERAGE – WITH MORE THAN FIVE THOUSAND SUPERYACHTS CURRENTLY IN SERVICE AND CLOSE TO 500 MORE EXPECTED TO COMPLETE CONSTRUCTION BY 2020, THE SUPERYACHT INDUSTRY IS EXPLODING.



In 2010, in the middle of the credit crunch, the superyacht industry contributed €24bn to the world economy – and since then the fleet has continued to expand.

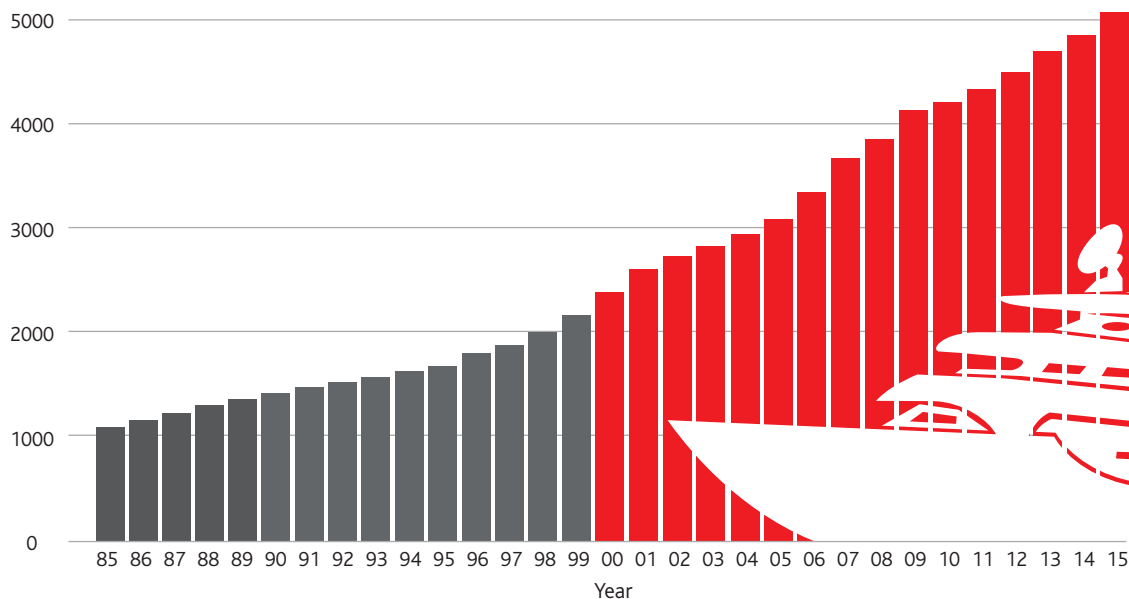
With more and more vessels, and with a steady increase in the size of vessels, comes increased demand for quality yacht crew.

It's estimated that 20,000-30,000 new superyacht crew will be needed in the next five years, adding to c.45,000 crew and c.130,000 personnel in land-based jobs, from construction to specialist business support services.

Through its world-renowned Warsash Maritime Academy, Southampton Solent University has led the way in specialist maritime training for over 70 years. And as the explosion of demand for dedicated superyacht crew led Solent to create Warsash Superyacht Academy in 2012, the ever-increasing size of modern yachts has led to the creation of a new unlimited superyacht cadetship – once again leading the way in meeting the industry's needs.

80% of all yachts currently operate on UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) certification, but that certification is only valid on vessels up to 3,000 gross tonnes. And with more and more superyachts reaching lengths of 85-90m and more, they're starting to require an unrestricted certification.

That's where Warsash Superyacht Academy's unlimited cadetship comes in. Taking the additional challenges and responsibility involved in overseeing such large vessels into consideration, the academy's unlimited superyacht cadetship is designed to train the next generation of superyacht officers in line with the rigorous standards of merchant navy education and training.



SOURCE: Number of superyachts worldwide [viewed 26th October 2015].

Available from: <http://www.superyachtintelligence.com/vessels/>

A 140m superyacht might have 60 crew on board and capacity for up to 36 passengers – making them more like small private ferries than what might traditionally be thought of as a yacht.

60% OF SUPERYACHT CAPTAINS AND 70% OF SUPERYACHT ENGINEERS HAVE TRAINED WITH US AT SOME STAGE DURING THEIR CAREER.

Sponsored by maritime safety and education charity Trinity House, our superyacht cadetship is the first to offer the UK MCA Officer of the Watch (Unlimited) Certificate of Competency, allowing holders to serve as officer of the watch on even the largest superyacht.

Following the rigorous structure of the merchant navy three-year deck officer programme, the cadetship combines academic studies at Warsash, sea-going experience on superyachts, sail training and commercial vessels, blended with an essential range of superyacht-specific tuition.

That speed in recognising the industry's needs, and delivering specialist training to meet those needs, is just one of the reasons Solent University's Warsash Maritime Academy has remained at the forefront of maritime training for so long.



As well as training up more seafarers than with any other institution globally, we work closely with businesses across the superyacht sector to offer a unique and wide-ranging selection of services, from management to construction. And graduates from our globally renowned yacht design courses have produced some of the most distinctive yachts in recent years, from Tony Dixon's 97m MY Vava II to German Frers' 143-foot SY Blue Papillon.



Tony Dixon's MY Vava II

"THE YACHT ENGINEERING COURSES HERE ARE HIGHLY REGARDED WORLDWIDE BECAUSE SOLENT IS GOOD AT PRODUCING ENTHUSIASTIC, KNOWLEDGEABLE AND SKILLED GRADUATES THAT MEET THE NEEDS OF INDUSTRY."

TREVOR BLAKELEY, CEO OF THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF NAVAL ARCHITECTS



German Frers' SY Blue Papillon

From design to deck crew, we deliver graduates who are perfectly equipped to meet the needs of their industry. As global industries like the superyacht sector change, and grow more competitive, it's down to education institutions like Southampton Solent to stay nimble and recognise what employers and industries are looking for – even before they know themselves.

A man with light brown hair and blue eyes, wearing a grey suit jacket, a dark tie, and a checkered shirt, sits in a burlap-textured armchair. He is holding a black coffee cup with the word 'ARTIST' printed on it. The background is a dark wood-paneled wall. A large white circular graphic is in the top left, and a large teal circular graphic is in the bottom right.

THE COST OF COFFEE

Solent environmental scientist Dr Laurie Wright
muses over his morning coffee, and what it
tells us about the circular economy

I'm often guilty of stopping for a take-out coffee on my way to work. It's quick, it's easy, and it makes mornings a little more bearable. The next stop for my convenience: the bin. Yet that's only part of the story; the production of coffee takes a supply chain that stretches around the world.

Coffee is far more than a beverage. The humble brown bean is firmly placed as the world's second largest trading commodity behind crude oil, while modern artisan cafes, the so-called 'third-wave' producers and retailers, have positioned coffee as an artisanal foodstuff, much like wine or cheese, rather than just a commodity.

My cup of single origin Costa Rican, with its hints of plum and bitter dark chocolate, has been on a journey taking it from the fields of South America to my disposable cup. The used cup and the old coffee grinds go on another journey, to be processed and disposed. With technology has come efficiency, bringing economic growth, social prosperity and, above all else, convenience. We extract resources, make goods, and dump them when we're done; take-make-dispose. Our environment has paid the price.

Should I just stop buying take-away coffee, then? If I forgo my morning coffee that means reduced income for the local retailer and the producer. If we all stop, they go out of business, coffee sales fall and the economy shrinks – perhaps not the most desirable outcome. So, what's the solution? That's the kind of question that drives my research. The impact of my coffee habit – or of any product – goes beyond the point of consumption. We need to examine the life cycles of our products, evaluating the environmental, social and economic consequences of extraction, manufacturing, use and disposal.

This is where the concept of a circular economy comes in; an economy where there is no such thing as waste but we still benefit from convenience and productivity. In a circular economy, each time we are finished with a product it becomes the input for another new product. The waste grinds from my coffee can become fuel or compost; the cup could be reprocessed. By understanding life cycles, we can understand how the sustainability of production process and supply chains can be improved.

And if we can achieve this across our economy, we can fundamentally rethink how we view resources – designing strategies to reduce resource use and improve overall sustainability.

One of those strategies may well need to focus on education – of both corporations and customers. After all, a more durable, reusable cup may well be better... but if coffee chains perceive it as an added cost, or it's not convenient to bring it along with me, the cup is just another form of waste.





CONNECTING THE WORLD'S CREATIVES

Trans National Creative Exchange (TNCE) is an international platform supporting the most exciting, emerging creative talent from Europe and China. It's helping both professionals and students develop and work in partnership, blending ideas and cultures in innovative ways.



Work by Áine Kelly from CIT Crawford College of Art and Design, Ireland



Work by Hélène Nivesse from Rencontres Audiovisuelles, France

Launched in 2015 and led by Southampton Solent University, the project is bringing together international partners including our own Solent Showcase Gallery, Cork Institute of Technology, Wandersford Quay Gallery, The Hague University of Applied Sciences, Recontre Audiovisuelles and China Academy of Art/Shanghai Institute of Design. "International projects like this one are essential to the University; they're essential to the student experience," says Peter Lloyd, Director of Solent's School of Art, Design and Fashion. "To work in a bubble is pointless. We need to work nationally, internationally. This is a global business, and the sooner students are exposed to that, the better."

"I'M VERY INTERESTED IN WESTERN CULTURE - THIS IS A GOOD CHANCE FOR ME TO EXPERIENCE IT. THE OTHER ARTISTS, THEY HELP ME OPEN MY EYES, AND OPEN MY MIND."

LIANG CHAOYU, ARTIST

It's a platform with a broad and multi-disciplinary mandate, bringing together creative thinkers with artistic, audio visual, entrepreneurial and technological expertise to create, experiment and collaborate. In summer 2016, software engineering students from The Hague University of Applied Sciences spent a week working with Solent graphic design students to develop a gallery app using the latest near field communication technology (NFC) to bring artist information and other supplementary information to your phone as you explore the gallery.

"THE CUTTING EDGE TECHNOLOGICAL AND CREATIVE EXPERTISE WITHIN THE PARTNERSHIP IS PIVOTAL, DEVELOPING DIGITAL PRODUCTS TO REACH NEW AND WIDER AUDIENCES."

PETER LLOYD, DIRECTOR, SCHOOL OF ART, DESIGN AND FASHION,
SOUTHAMPTON SOLENT UNIVERSITY

By August 2017, TNCE aims to have also organised touring physical and digital exhibitions in five different countries, delivering new work to new audiences and creative conferences. The first of these launched out of the 2016 summer residency, bringing ten creative graduates from China, the Netherlands, France and Ireland to Southampton.

This amazing opportunity gave the lucky creatives space, support and freedom to lead their own research and explore their practice on a collaborative international platform. Starting at Solent's Showcase Gallery, the resulting exhibition has toured to Ireland and the Netherlands, and will be heading to France and China in 2017.

A second residency is also in the works, and in summer 2017 two Solent students will have the fantastic opportunity to join peers from TNCE's other partner institutions in China.

"Projects like this make all of us better practitioners, whether we're staff or students," says Kate Maple, Curator of the University's Solent Showcase Gallery. "The opportunity to connect with different people brings mutual understanding and enrichment, and with that comes mutual respect and value."

To find out more about the Trans National Creative Exchange, visit <http://tnce.eu>

J U S T G O O D B U S I N E S S

Solent's School of Business, Law and Communications is a bridge between the professional world and upcoming talent. Gillian Saieva, Head of Business, Finance and Accountancy, talks about some of the programmes that are helping maximise students' career opportunities and meet sectors' individual needs.

From journalism to accountancy, the school actively manages a network of diverse business partners and connections. Close ties to organisations such as Hampshire Chamber of Commerce, Business South and Local Area Partnerships allows Solent to facilitate professional networking opportunities like our recent third Annual Business Conference, bringing together organisations from the Thames Valley right down to the central South Coast of England.

With a focus on 'UK PLC: Open for Business', the conference explored international trade support and emerging opportunities available to businesses in the wake of the Brexit referendum and brought together keynote speakers from Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS), the Department of International Trade's South East International Trade Team, leading management consultants Lee Hecht Harrison and more.

Our active networking has allowed students to benefit from connections as far afield as Australia and the US. Business management students recently worked with the Bundaberg Brewery in Queensland, Australia, researching how the company's products might fit in the UK market, while a group of Solent criminology students visited Washington in November 2016, hosted by the Department of Homeland Security and hearing from speakers in the US Marshal Service, the Secret Service and the FBI.

In an increasingly globalised world, these international elements to the Solent experience really help our students stand out. Our language department recently hosted visiting lecturers from Ukraine and Russia as part of a knowledge exchange programme; November's university-wide international enrichment week gave the school another opportunity to bring guest speakers from global organisations on-campus to supplement the curriculum.

Guests like Jen Groover, UN delegate and serial entrepreneur, who spoke on emotional intelligence, are shaping Solent's students into savvy, well-rounded and creative leaders of the future. This kind of experience pays off; Solent's PR courses have come top for overall student satisfaction in the National Student Survey for four years running, and other courses also score highly.

It pays off for our students, too. Two students recently excelled at the 2016 Professional Publishers Association (PPA) Magazine Academy Awards, with Iga Shlegal shortlisted for the BBC Worldwide Best New Magazine Brand and Alice Freeman winning the Felix Dennis Memorial Prize for Best New Magazine concept for her final-year project Wunderkammer, exploring the weird world of the macabre.



The school also continues to innovate on the academic side. In line with the government’s apprenticeship agenda, in early 2017 we’re rolling out employer-led chartered management degree apprenticeships with integrated Chartered Management Institute (CMI) recognition, while assessed strategic management simulations with Marwell Zoo (2015) and Paultons Park (2016) have given students valuable experience under real-world pressures. The latest simulation was commended by academic external examiners as “exceptionally well-conceived” and “exemplary practice”.

On the entrepreneurial side, the school has an ongoing collaboration with the Saints Foundation, a charitable organisation within local Premier League team (and Solent partner) Southampton FC. ‘The Pitch’ gives students the opportunity to put their entrepreneurial expertise to the test and raise vital funds for the Saints Foundation – offering teams of students the chance to present their business ideas before a panel of judges, to secure one of ten pots of £1,000 seed funding.

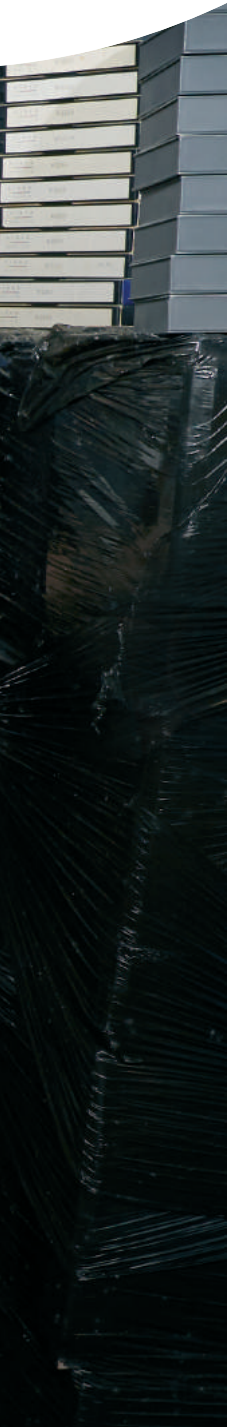
At our first Pitch event, students came forward with a range of business ideas, from drive-in outdoor cinemas to bespoke book-keeping services, and were given three months to turn their ideas into reality and raise vital funds for the Saints Foundation. It’s this kind of creativity and innovation that really sets Solent apart, both for our students and for business at a local and international level. And we’ll continue to adapt, to innovate – ensuring we deliver graduate talent that is precisely suited to the fast-changing needs of business.



A photograph of three people standing in a warehouse or storage room. On the left is a man with a beard and brown hair, wearing a dark blue polo shirt and light-colored trousers, holding several grey archival boxes. In the center is a man with short brown hair, wearing a grey V-neck sweater over a patterned collared shirt and dark trousers, also holding a stack of grey archival boxes. On the right is a woman with blonde hair and glasses, wearing a dark top, a patterned scarf, and dark trousers, holding a stack of grey archival boxes. The background shows stacks of similar boxes and a blue brick wall. A large white circular graphic is in the top right corner, and a large blue circular graphic is in the bottom left corner.

YOUTUBE BEFORE THERE WAS YOUTUBE

Tony Steyger talks about how his Video Nation Digital Archive project is opening a window into the past



In 1994 a new type of television programme was launched on BBC2. Video Nation was shot entirely by members of the public on small camcorders. Only ninety seconds long, these edited shorts captured reflections on ordinary life – everything from cleaning to cooking, dreams to death.

The project represented a kind of anthropology of everyday lives in the UK at the end of the twentieth century, capturing thousands of hours of video over the next decade, from hundreds of contributors. Called “a television gem of immense value”, Video Nation picked up a Race in the Media award and a European Prix Iris before ceasing broadcast in 2011.

My own involvement with Video Nation neatly bookends the project. Studying at the University of Sussex, I was fascinated by their archive of the famous Mass Observation project, collecting the written journals and diaries of members of the public stretching back to the 1930s.

When I joined the BBC’s Community Programme Unit in 1989, we started to experiment with domestic camcorders as part of the ground-breaking Video Diaries. I was naturally reminded of Mass Observation’s army of nationwide correspondents, and conceived the idea to distribute domestic cameras to ordinary people up and down the country to record their lives on video, in their own words. The seed of Video Nation was sown.

Some twenty years later, at Southampton Solent University, I was shocked when word reached me that the videotapes containing all the original material were about to be junked as the BBC cleared out its headquarters at Television Centre. With Solent’s support, I arranged for storage in a Southampton warehouse, rescuing more than 7000 hours of material from the skip and buying time to plan the next step.

BRINGING THE PAST TO NEW LIFE

Bill Thompson, Head of Partnership Development at the BBC, has always considered Video Nation to be a “YouTube before there was YouTube”. For me, it’s tremendously exciting to glimpse and interpret our early video lives, capturing the beginnings of the internet, the rise of the mobile phone and historical moments such as the death of Princess Diana – as well as our more intimate and private preoccupations. Joining Bill on the new project advisory group is Fiona Courage, Curator of Mass Observation. Fiona says: “Access to the collection will allow a valuable insight into the opinions and reactions of ordinary people for that period in time, and as such have strong synergies with the life writing documents of Mass Observation.”

The first phase of the project will be to sample the vast collection, to indicate its potential and to support bids for further funding. My vision is to see the archive digitised and made available to cultural and social historians and academics worldwide – allowing new interpretations of the past using today’s technology. One of the first to dig into the archive will be Dr Alex Reynolds, a post-doctoral researcher at Solent who is interested in tracing the timeline from Mass Observation to the internet. “Digitising the Video Nation collection can help tell the socio-cultural and technological story of interactive media from the 1990s to today.”

Also collaborating on the Video Nation Digital Archive project is my colleague Dr Mike Saker, who specialises in digital cultures and the mediation of everyday life. “This restoration doesn’t simply cast a light on a significant period of social and cultural development,” Mike says; “it introduces the collection to a media ecology where archived footage can be reimagined alongside new and user-generated content – providing a unique, rich and synergic experience for generations to come.”



FOOTBALL ACROSS BORDERS

Dr Joel Rookwood's experiences in academia, coaching, development, journalism and travelling have taken him across the globe, visiting 150 countries spanning six continents since the turn of the century. His latest film explores nationalism and statehood, and how football can bind people together.



On my Twitter profile I claim to be an 'explorer' – not because I discover new lands but because I value meaningful encounters with places new to me. Like most of the students I have taught in three separate universities now, I am both a visual learner and communicator.

It can be difficult to demonstrate the impact and reach of research, yet such criteria have become firmly established in gauging value. Meanwhile, teaching engagements increasingly demand creative approaches to educating students; lighting fires rather than filling pails, to paraphrase Yeats. So I have come to value the power of visual work to represent perspectives and convey meaning – to translate moments to memories.

BRINGING THE WORLD TO THE LECTURE THEATRE

My research and teaching often centre on engagements from across the globe – and save the occasional field trip, it is rarely plausible to take an entire student body to such locations. Film offers an alternative means of exposing students to far-flung locations and their associated issues, essentially serving to bring the world to the lecture theatre.

One of my earliest documentaries centred on football, and an unlikely victory for my home town club: Liverpool's 2005 Champions League victory in Istanbul. Subsequent films included a focus on conflict in Palestine, graffiti in Chile, education in India, development in Malawi and favela life in Brazil.

Such films showcase often fractured or marginalised communities, or 'dangerous' environments – places others often cannot visit and contexts they might not otherwise be able to access or understand.

Documentaries may not be suitable for all scholars and specialisms, but if a researcher's audience is exclusively academic, they are probably doing something wrong. The advance of social media and video sharing websites has provided one gauge of public engagement and impact: my 2014 football hooliganism film *The Animals* has been viewed over 42,000 times.



THE OTHER WORLD CUP

My latest documentary, *The Other World Cup: Football Across Borders*, examines a 2016 football tournament held in Abkhazia, a disputed territory on the Russian border that is considered either independent from or autonomous within Georgia.

This is an incredibly complicated part of the world. Huge ethnic variation, more than forty spoken languages - a tenth-century geographer referred to the Caucasian mountain range as the mountain of tongues. It's long been a place of diversity and division.

For 'nations' that football's governing bodies will not recognise or offer membership to, an alternative body has emerged that organises 'international' football competitions. CONIFA (the Confederation of Independent Football Associations) professes to 'gather' over 166m people from 42 member entities, and organised the inaugural independent World Football Cup in Abkhazia.

However, relatively little is known about this alternative tournament and its participants, and Abkhazia is almost impossible to get to. A BBC film-maker called Simon Reeve, with all his kit and crew, tried to get in for a 2005 series called *Places That Don't Exist*. He had introductions from the UN personnel who governed the no-man's land between the borders at the time, but the Abkhazian border guards just told him to go away.

So if I'd tried to go in with fixers and crew, and all the kit, saying I was a documentary crew – admittedly a crew of one – I wouldn't have got in. As a result the film was made covertly, mostly on my phone, and improvised.

Every interview was arranged on the day. A woman approached me and said in five years here she'd never heard anyone speaking English, and could she take my photo. I suspected she might have been a representative of the KGB, as they still call the intelligence service in Abkhazia, but I played along – I said if she gave me an interview, I'd give her a photo. It turned out in the end she was a journalist, but that's the kind of situation I found myself in.

NATIONS AND NATIONALISM

The film examines connections between football, statehood, identity and conflict, focusing particularly on the Georgian-Abkhazian context – where thousands have been killed in conflict. I was the only outsider who was granted access to both sides of the divide, and interviewed fans, soldiers, journalists and event organisers spanning the political spectrum.

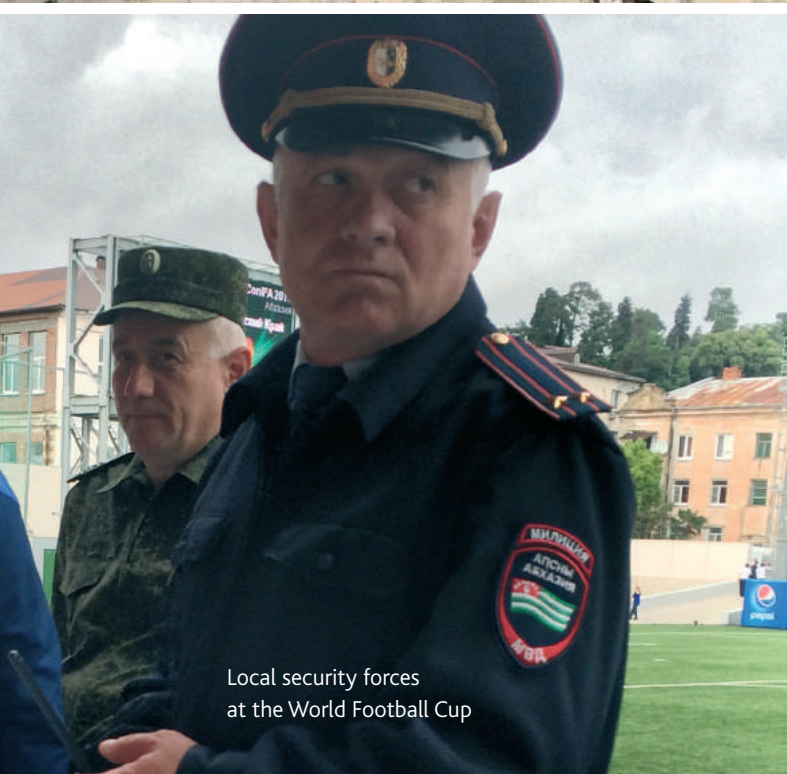
Travelling throughout the world, I've seen the development of, and the normalisation of, nationalist politics. What happened in Brexit isn't an isolated case – look at France, the rise of Trump to the White House, the Netherlands, Austria...

What we tend to do with these people is pretend they don't exist, or belittle them; I don't think either is particularly helpful, and I don't think it's proven successful, and perhaps recent events are testament to that.

So I hope that this film and the related research will offer insight into the nature of nationalist manifestations, and reveal something of the struggle of these de-facto nations, minority peoples and isolated territories – offering unique perspectives on the interests of locals and superpowers alike in these often neglected communities on the fringes of Europe.



Signs of conflict in Abkhazia



Local security forces at the World Football Cup

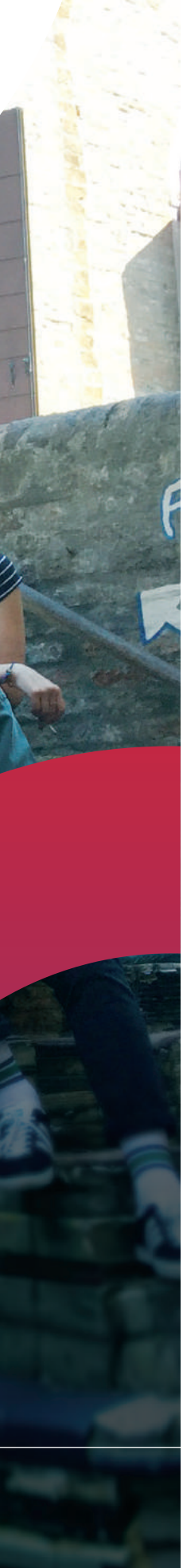


Dr Joel Rookwood – press credentials for the event were almost impossible to get hold of



INNOVATIVE ENGLISH

In the 2016 National Student Survey, Southampton Solent's English degree courses scored 100% for overall student satisfaction – coming eighth out of 104 currently offered in the UK. In this highly competitive environment, what makes Solent's English programme so popular?



"Of course, we have excellent students," says Carolyn Cummings-Osmond, one of Solent's course leaders for English. "But we like to think it's down to several other factors."

One of those factors is compulsory three-week work experience placements, with past Solent English students securing placements at the Wordsworth Trust, Chawton House Library, Oxfam Books and John Blake Publishing, among others.

Solent's English curriculum is also particularly innovative, garnering positive comment from external examiners, interviewers for the PGCE, and soon-to-be students (and their parents) at open days alike.

Students explore literature from Beowulf to the Booker Prize, covering staples in poetry, drama and the novel... but they also venture into associated subjects such as film, advertising and PR, political treatises, illustrated or children's fiction, travel narratives and more. By venturing outside the bounds of a more traditional English course, students can discover how language and literature permeate every aspect of modern life and culture.

Students might debate literature as a tool of transgression, produce content for publication through Solent Press, or explore notions of censorship, sedition, obscenity and blasphemy in units such as Criminal Texts. "It's about more than just meeting the national benchmarks for the subject," Carolyn Cummings-Osmond says. "We know we need to teach in a creative, engaging manner that makes our students want to come to classes."

And with English continuing to serve as a lingua franca in an increasingly globalised workplace, there's a strong international flavour to the courses. Students who want to study abroad or travel to new places are encouraged to apply for a one-year European placement with one of Solent's European partners, or even further afield.

"Alternatively, they can accompany us on our 'alternative literary grand tour'," Cummings-Osmond says. "This year in May, we are heading out to Budapest." And there are plenty of trips closer to home, including visits to the Chawton House Library, the British Library Treasures Collection, and taking in a Shakespeare performance at the Globe Theatre – as groundlings, of course. Getting drenched while watching *The Merchant of Venice* is all part of the experience.

And delivering an exceptional student experience is at the heart of Solent's success in English. Both Cummings-Osmond and her fellow course leader, Devon Campbell-Hall, are Fellows of the Higher Education Academy – but more importantly, they and their team are recognised for their teaching by the people who matter most: the students. "All of the full-time members of the team have been nominated for Solent Students' Union's annual STAR awards," says Cummings-Osmond, "and the comment that appears most often in student feedback is how passionate we are about our subjects."

"The question we always ask applicants is 'Who do you want to be?' We value our students as individuals with exciting stories of their own, and we consider it our privilege to help them determine and navigate towards their future goals."

THE TWO FACES OF GAMING

The games industry is now officially bigger than Hollywood, turning over \$23.5 billion in the US alone in 2015. Arran Langmead, Lecturer on Solent's computer games (art) degree, talks about how the industry's size has made it risk-averse, how gaming finds a balance between its artistic and technical sides, and how the future is virtual.



When publishers reach a certain size, they realise they're responsible for the lives and livelihoods of their people: husbands, wives, kids. You don't take risks with people who need to pay their mortgages. The ethics are sound, but you lose something – the ability to take on those risky, truly innovative jobs.

It becomes safely formulaic at the bigger companies – repeating familiar formats, familiar franchises with a built-in audience. And it works; Rockstar's Grand Theft Auto V generated more than \$800 million worldwide within 24 hours of its release, and broke a billion dollars within three days. For the creators, though, indie is the way to keep pushing games beyond the boundaries, keeping it fresh.

But what even is 'indie'? It's difficult to tell. There are studios with massive budgets, with publishers behind them, who call themselves indie. Yet the clue's in the name – 'independent' – working independently of a publisher.

There's an air of nostalgia about that; of recalling the early days of gaming, where the first few games were made by programmers without an art team. They were doing everything themselves, using simple designs or iconography rather than art. Running on passion, without the support or safety net that a publisher provides.

But you could argue that modern games, at the top of the industry, are too complex for that. People always want to make bigger games. The art pipeline has become progressively more technical, and the demand for the average artist to understand the technology is very high.

There's almost a split going on within the structure of the industry, as to what an artist is. You can have a high-end artist who doesn't understand the tech but is an amazing artist, and there are jobs for those people... but they need a lot of support. Translating art into real-time display is difficult, and smaller studios don't have the resources to support those kinds of avant-garde figures.

The smaller the studio, the more they want you to be able to understand the entire pipeline. It's very difficult for programmers to sacrifice processing power for something which is just pretty on the screen. Artists come in with these huge artistic demands that the hardware simply wasn't capable of. They need someone with a firm understanding of both disciplines – that's where technical artists come in. PBR (physically based rendering), for example, simulates the behaviour of light – that's an awfully complicated thing for an average artist to understand. You're doing a lot of inferences; artists have to paint a texture that tells the programme how reflective the surface is, and that's not an intuitive thing.

So there's real complexity, and the big budget triple-A studios are pushing the boundaries of what can be done. They want technical people who can simulate how cloth reflects light – that kind of work requires someone who understands the technical and the artistic at the same time. Tech artists are definitely in demand, with roles taking months to fill – an eternity in the games industry. So for artists with technical understanding, it's good money and fairly secure employment; but you really have to have a passion for it, and more.

A good artist, to bridge that gap, has to be really inquisitive. They have to want to understand things, to question. So what we do at Solent, on the art side, is go deep. Modelling, computer graphics, PBR, how light works – we go all the way down to the physics. Is light a wave or a particle? We push our artists to develop their understanding of programming and technology, to be able to think about those questions.

Virtual reality systems are likely the next big thing, with broad potential applications beyond gaming – healthcare, engineering and more. But it's still going to need someone to create the art, and make sure it runs smoothly and cleanly on the hardware available. It's the gaming industry that has the skills and experience to find that compromise, to make it work.

And perhaps we're starting to find that same balance, that same spirit of compromise, within the industry. Where indie studios can afford to take the risks, bringing boldness and innovation and fresh ideas. And those ideas filter up into the triple-A market, where they can bring the latest technology and art resources to bear – and really make them shine.

EDUCATION IN THE AGE OF THE GLOBAL VILLAGE

It's easy to talk about the importance of globalisation – making good on that promise is another matter entirely. Led by Deputy Vice-Chancellor (External Engagement) Mike Wilkinson and Director of International Development Jo Nesbitt, Solent is building on a network of international connections and a diverse student community in order to creating a robust environment that encourages exploration, innovation and international engagement.

From how we spend our time to the ways we interact, a complex mesh of interconnectivity has fundamentally altered the societal landscape.

With broad cultural implications, and even broader potential, this increasing connectivity provides avenues for communication between cultures, institutions and peoples previously separated by almost impassable barriers of distance and language.





Solent recognises the importance of giving our students the tools they need to ensure the best possible career outcomes in this globalised world. Knowledge of emerging cultures and markets, a solid grounding in global business practices and the international nature of corporate action, and a mindset that's open to the implications – and opportunities – of our global village.

THINKING GLOBALLY

It's about thinking globally, embracing other cultures, and making both the curriculum and opportunities for students as international as possible – study and work abroad, and also immersion in global ways of doing business.

While Brexit may make things more challenging in Europe, Solent continues to strengthen its connections further overseas, particularly in China and South-East Asia. These are vibrant, entrepreneurial economies, where our students can learn about rapidly developing markets and study the opportunities and challenges of rapid industrialisation.

INTERNATIONAL DIVERSITY ON THE SOLENT CAMPUS

About 15% of Solent students already come from overseas, and we work hard to ensure they get the very best welcome to the UK.

Our Students' Union work with us on integration activities, while our student hub provides exceptional front-line support and international specialists to help with everything from language challenges to homesickness to navigating Home Office red tape.

Increased international collaboration is bringing increased opportunity for Solent students, too, with groups of students visiting institutions as near as the Netherlands and as far-flung as China in 2015/16.

RECENT INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS INCLUDE:



The visiting NAEA delegation meet with Southampton's Mayor

SHARING COLLABORATIVE BEST PRACTICE

Southampton Solent also has plenty to offer its international partners. For the third year in a row, the University welcomed 23 delegates from 21 universities across Central and Western China for a senior leadership training programme under the direction of the Chinese Ministry of Education's National Academy of Education Administration (NAEA). Southampton Solent University was one of four British institutions involved, along with King's College London, Anglia Ruskin University and Imperial College London.

Focusing on cooperation between universities and industry, Solent's leg of the event was an excellent opportunity to highlight its outstanding practice in applied learning and industry partnerships through lectures, workshops and interactive sessions delivered by Solent staff, industry guests and representatives from the Southampton business community. "The programme was really well structured, with good interaction and in-class discussion that combined learning with sharing of good practice," remarked Section Chief Xie Songchen from Southwest University of Political Science and Law. "It left me with a great impression."

Since December 2014, Solent has delivered educational programming to over 70 individuals from 65 different universities and institutions in China through the NAEA.

PARTNERSHIP COURSES IN HONG KONG AND GREECE ROLLED OUT

As well as offering best practice to partners, Southampton Solent has also begun delivering exceptional practical education overseas.

AKMI Metropolitan College (AMC), based in Athens, Greece, have now started delivering Solent's BSc (Hons) Maritime Business at their Piraeus and Maroussi campuses, to around 50 students on their vocational training shipping specialist programme.

And in Hong Kong, partnership with the Vocational Training Council – School for Higher and Professional Education (VTC SHAPE) has created an opportunity for professional seafarers to study a level 6 BSc (Hons) Marine Operations Management top-up. This course is taught by both institutions, with Southampton Solent accrediting the course and our academics flying out to Hong Kong to deliver a third of tuition. A first cohort of 20 students enrolled in late October 2016, with a second cohort of students scheduled for April 2017.



EXCHANGE OPPORTUNITIES WITH UNIVERSITY OF SAN JORGE

Close ties to the University of San Jorge in Zaragoza, Spain, brought journalism and media students to Solent in the summer.

During their stay, the Spanish students explored the UK, worked on a news day, and collaborated with Solent students on a live brief for Zaragoza's premium Ambar Especial beer, and with a London-based agency, Stack, on creative concepts for a Peugeot campaign.

International engagement week, in November, saw a second visit from University of San Jorge students – this time working on a creative brief for a promotional film showing different aspects of living and working in Southampton, for local business organisation Business South.



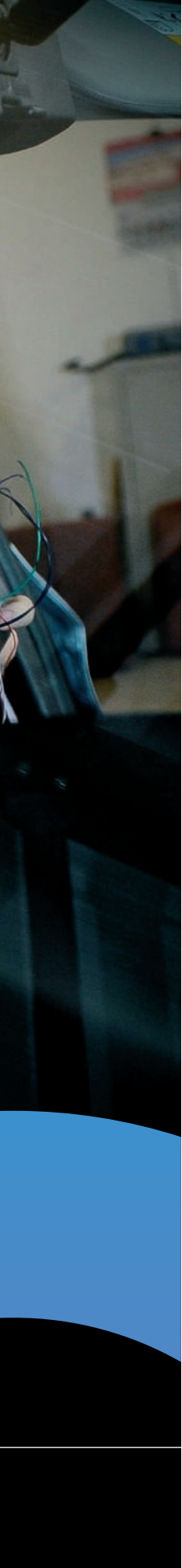
KTP: UNIVERSITIES' BEST-KEPT SECRET

How Solent is helping businesses unlock the potential of Knowledge Transfer Partnerships

For 40 years, the Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTP) scheme has helped businesses all over Europe to improve their competitiveness, productivity and performance by accessing the knowledge and skills locked up inside universities. KTPs are a three-way partnership between the business, the University and a recent graduate who acts as a bridge between the two institutions – channelling university expertise to the point where it can do the most good. The driving criterion for a KTP is a clear strategic need on the part of the business – a significant challenge or potential opportunity they don't currently have the tools to deal with.

Creative collaboration aside, the benefits for the business are substantial – receiving both a highly trained graduate and access to a senior industry expert for a fraction of common consultancy rates. And for small- or medium-sized companies, the incentives are even stronger – SMEs' share of the project funding is just 33 per cent, with the rest of the money coming from Innovate UK, a government body. The University also provides support and specialist academic expertise throughout the course of the partnership – at least half a day per week from a senior academic expert – as well as access to university facilities and technology as the project requires.

Solent alumnus Josh Bowen brought fresh ideas and innovation to his KTP with He-Man Dual Controls



CASE STUDY: TAVCOM TRAINING

ENHANCING E-LEARNING WITH FRESH CREATIVE TALENT

Award-winning security systems training company Tavcom Training, based in Hampshire, is now able to reach new competitive global markets thanks to a Solent KTP – bringing in Pete Taylor, a recent Solent computer games development graduate, to enhance their course offering. Jim Hallett, eLearning Development Manager at Tavcom, explains: "Although our online department had been running for around three years, most of our content was primarily text with a picture and audio track. Pete, along with the KTP, offered us the opportunity to enhance these courses with the missing elements and make them a more viable item to sell."

Pete was able to review Tavcom's e-learning practices and make recommendations on the content and systems already in place. He says: "Tavcom was able to release a completely overhauled course, using the animations and interactions within the course as a unique selling point."

As part of the partnership, Tavcom received further assistance from Solent's in-house creative teams. Jim adds: "Funded by the KTP, we contracted Solent Creatives – who created an animation and helped me produce our online brochure – and Solent Productions, who produced a couple of promotional videos for our website. All were a fantastic help in promoting our online products."

When the partnership finished in May, Pete was offered a permanent role within the company as an eLearning developer. He says: "I would highly recommend KTPs – they're an ideal way to help a business achieve its goals, while being given assistance and advice from academics at the University, and a budget to enable you to purchase any equipment to help you achieve that. Without Solent's help, it may not have happened."

CASE STUDY: HE-MAN DUAL CONTROLS

ELECTRONICS KTP ALLOWS INTERNATIONAL EXPANSION

He-Man Dual Controls is the leading UK dual controls supplier, developing mechanical products for a range of vehicles including driving school cars and cars for track use. The company is branching out with electronic-based products, which are becoming more popular in Europe, and a KTP is helping them do that. Paul Ferris, Managing Director at He-Man, says: "Dual controls replicate the controls on the driver's side. In some countries a visual and audio signal is required by the examiner if a driving instructor touches the pedals during a driving test, but you need an electronic control that does that."

The successful applicant for this ten-month KTP was Josh Bowen – a 2015 graduate from Solent's electronic engineering degree. He says: "So far I've been using my technical skills to project manage the KTP work plan developed by the partnership, which I find extremely motivating."

As part of the KTP, He-Man also has access to the University's extensive engineering facilities, such as 3D printers and testing equipment – as well as the expertise of senior academic Marc Molinari, who was able to draw upon his research within the automotive industry and from his time working in the private sector.

Paul Ferris says: "Products in this market haven't changed for a long time, so we don't want to be the dinosaur that misses the new ideas. The projects we're working on with Josh and Southampton Solent University will mean that we can install products into cars that we previously couldn't."

A LIFELONG NETWORK

In a huge range of industries, Solent alumni are making a difference.
They're part of a network of exceptional people
that stretches around the globe.

They may no longer be students, but the success of our alumni is a badge of honour for Southampton Solent. They show that our approach – blending academic excellence with essential practical knowledge and experience – is working.

STRONGER TOGETHER

Solent sits at the heart of a global network of more than 50,000 graduates, comprised of talented creatives and professionals working across a broad spectrum of industries. Within this diverse community Solent offers a huge range of alumni benefits, including career advice, business support and continued access to library services and leisure facilities – as well as a tuition fee discount of up to 50% on our postgraduate courses.

And by maintaining a strong relationship with the University, graduates have the chance to build creative connections with passionate, highly-skilled individuals from an extraordinarily diverse range of industries: their fellow Solent alums.

Our alumni also have the opportunity to feed back into the next generation of talent; taking part in mentoring schemes, sharing their industry experience, holding guest lectures, and arranging work placements. It's a relationship that benefits everyone.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

The Solent journey doesn't end with graduation. Here's what some of our graduates have been up to since they left us.

ANUSHKA FERNANDO, SENIOR CONTENT EDITOR

Anushka graduated from the University's magazine journalism and creative writing programme in 2012. Landing herself a junior role at digital agency Veneficus, Anushka used the experience and knowledge from her studies to work her way up to the position of Senior Content Editor.

Now managing a small team of fellow writers, Anushka creates digital content for a number of well-known clients, including Capital FM, Foxy Bingo, Visit London and Carmex.

Anushka commented: "I gained valuable work experience during my course and it really helped. I didn't feel 'lost' after the course ended, I felt fully prepared – and it was a quick transition into searching for jobs and starting working life. I still use the knowledge I learnt during my course in my day-to-day job – such as how to write press releases and pitch article ideas!"



BILL DIXON, YACHT DESIGNER

Internationally renowned yacht designer Bill Dixon graduated from Solent (formerly Southampton College of Technology) in 1978, going on to establish Dixon Yacht Design, one of the world's premier yacht design offices.

Today, this award-winning company not only works for some of the world's leading production boat manufacturers, but has also designed custom superyachts for world-renowned shipyards.

In 2010 the Dixon team received seven international industry awards, including a personal accolade for Bill himself as 'Yacht Designer of the Year in Asia'.

Bill, who became a Solent Honorary Doctor of Technology in 2016, says: "My ambition was always to be a yacht designer, and for me the perfect course was the yacht and boat building course at what was then Southampton College of Technology – a course that was, and still is today, offering a unique degree suited to the demands of our industry.

"The list of alumni produced by this course is unrivalled in our industry and long may it continue."



LEWIS ROGERS, ANIMATOR

Just five years after graduating, Lewis Rogers has a successful animation business, LR Animation Studios – and has worked for clients including Biffy Clyro.

"I began my own company pretty much as soon as I left University," says Lewis, "but it wasn't until 2012 that it became a full-time business."

Lewis' initial plan was to try and get as much freelance animation work as he could, building his showreel for potential employers. "I always imagined that I'd pitch this to all the big studios in London, however I began to get so much freelance work that a career carved itself out. By 2012 I was inundated with projects and quit my part-time job to work for my own company."

There have been plenty of exciting projects, but music tour videos are Lewis' career highlights so far. "In 2013 I was commissioned to create giant screen animated content for Biffy Clyro's Opposites world tour, and this led to creating content for acts including The Band Perry (a big country name in Nashville) and David Guetta.

"The excitement and buzz of seeing your work on a huge screen, with thousands of people in the mix of a live environment... there's no competition, for me."



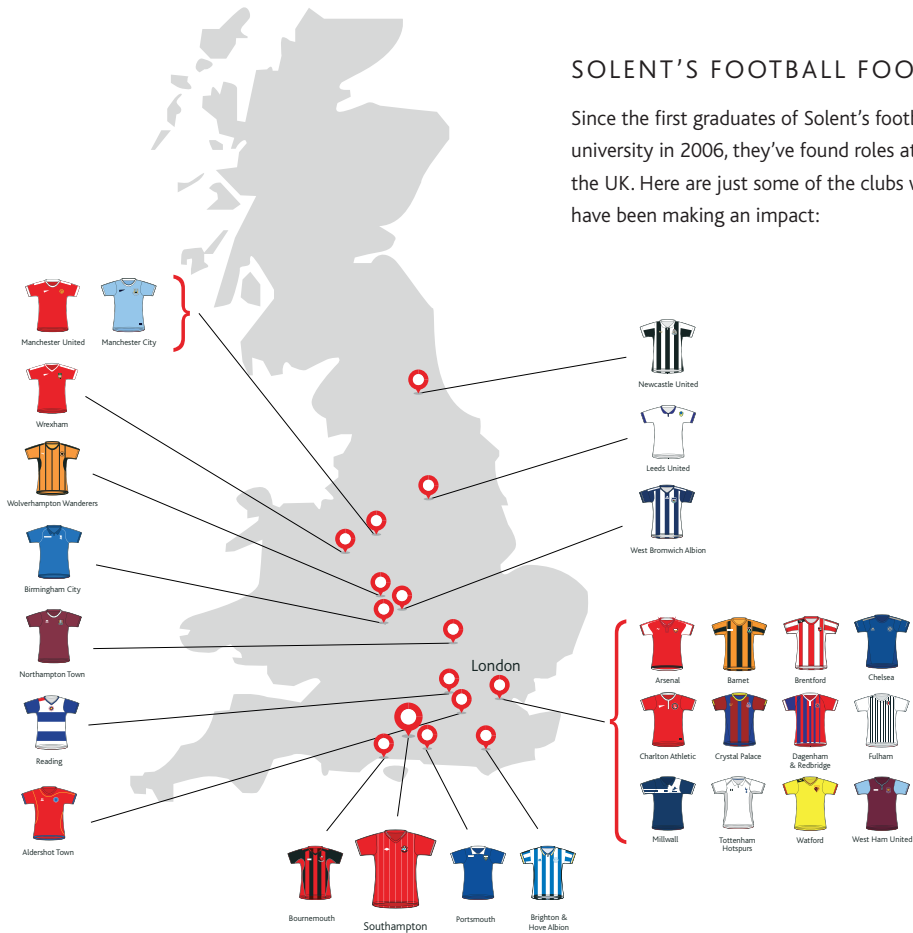
To find out more about Solent alumni, or to get involved, visit www.solent.ac.uk/alumni

ALEX BOULTON, OFFICER OF THE WATCH

Alex, from Shrewsbury, recently gained his officer qualifications from Warsash Maritime Academy, where he received The John William Slater Award for outstanding achievement.

A former superyacht deckhand, Alex qualified in July 2016, after which he took up the position as second officer on board the 107-metre Ulysses.

“This is a great job and my future plans are to work towards my chief mate certificate and then ultimately Master Mariner,” he says.




SOLENT'S FOOTBALL FOOTPRINT

Since the first graduates of Solent's football courses left the university in 2006, they've found roles at top clubs all around the UK. Here are just some of the clubs where Solent alumni have been making an impact:



For upcoming events, the latest news and stories,
or to find out what Southampton Solent University
can offer you, visit www.solent.ac.uk

 solentuniversity

 solentofficial

Tel: +44(0)23 8201 3039
Email: ask@solent.ac.uk

S o u t h a m p t o n
S o l e n t U n i v e r s i t y

East Park Terrace
Southampton
SO14 0YN