Creating strategic partnerships
Catching up with the Knowledge Centre
A look back at the turbulent 70s
Welcome to the 2012 edition of Warwick Connect

I’d like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone who graduated this year to Warwick’s worldwide alumni community and to their first Warwick Connect. Why not take a moment to visit the website at warwick.ac.uk/alumni and check out the professional and international alumni networks open to you. While you’re there you can make sure that we have your current address and email contact details. If we don’t have your email address we won’t be able to keep you up to date with the latest developments at the University.

For alumni who don’t receive e-network (our bimonthly e-newsletter) or follow us on Facebook and Twitter there’s a chance that the last thing you heard from us was the 2011 edition of this magazine. Tens of thousands of your fellow alumni get their Warwick news from us on a regular basis but if you don’t, you’ve missed out on so much! You’ve missed out on news, alumni events and opportunities to network and renew relationships with friends.

There’s so much happening here and the last twelve months have been particularly interesting. There has been success in the rankings, news of developing relationships with universities in the UK and overseas and some fascinating content from the Knowledge Centre. You can catch up with these particular stories in this edition of Warwick Connect but there’s so much more news that we haven’t been able to include.

If you want to stay in touch with the latest developments at Warwick you should subscribe to e-network (warwick.ac.uk/alumni/services) and follow us on Twitter (@warwickalumni) and ‘like’ our Facebook page (facebook.com/warwickalumni).

Kind regards
Claudie Combelas
Head of Alumni Engagement

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This magazine is available online for those who prefer to read a larger font size. Go to warwick.ac.uk/go/warwickconnect for this and extra content.
New York, New York

New York’s mayor Michael R Bloomberg and New York University’s president John Sexton announced in April an historic agreement between New York City, New York’s Metropolitan Transportation Authority and a consortium of world-class academic institutions (including Warwick – the only European university in the agreement) and technology companies which will lead to the creation of a Center for Urban Science and Progress in New York.

The consortium of world-class universities includes: Warwick, Carnegie Mellon University, The City University of New York, The Indian Institute of Technology – Bombay, and The University of Toronto. The industry partners include: IBM, Cisco, Siemens, Con Edison, National Grid, Xerox, Arup, IDEO, and AECOM. Steven E. Koonin, former US Under Secretary of Energy for Science was named director of CUSP in April. This collaboration further enhances Warwick’s position as a globally connected university.

Signs of The Times

The Times Good University Guide for 2013 has ranked Warwick as one of the UK’s top ten Universities, and given no less than 18 of Warwick’s degree programmes a top ten. Warwick is ranked eighth overall in the UK and remains the top ranked university in the Midlands.

Warwick was also in the top ten of the paper’s tables for ‘most targeted by key employers’, ‘number of students from outside the EU’ and ‘applications per place’. The Times described Warwick as: “The most successful of the ‘new’ universities of the 1960s, Warwick has global ambitions. It has set itself the target of establishing itself among the world’s top 50 universities, and has expanded its international activities that include a base in Venice, a programme for gifted teenagers around the world and the recruitment of more than 6,000 overseas students.”

New halls open doors

Lucky students starting Warwick for the autumn 2012 term are among the first to move into our newest Halls of Residence, Bluebell and Sherbourne.

Welcoming its first residents in 2011, Bluebell, situated between Rootes Residences and Tocil Ponds, has 505 student bedrooms, designed to high sustainability standards and incorporating a range of environmental features such as natural ventilation, natural lighting and high levels of insulation.

Construction on Sherbourne, the new halls at Lakeside, began in July 2011. The development comprises six student accommodation blocks, each four storeys in height, containing a total of 527 student bedrooms within cluster flats. The design of the new development is intended to be sensitive to the rural surroundings of Lakeside. The blocks have curved roofs to lower the scale and make the buildings less imposing on the surrounding landscape, and rooms in the roof have panoramic views over the countryside and campus.

New developments in Hong Kong

The University has strong ties with our alumni in Hong Kong and we have been grateful for the support of the Warwick community there, whether that’s through helping new students at orientation, mentoring or funding scholarships through the WGAHK.

The time has come for us to build on this fantastic support. As part of the 50 Forward campaign, we are delighted to announce the creation of the Friends of University of Warwick in Hong Kong Ltd.

One of our campaign goals is to raise HK $1m to fully fund the transport, fees and living costs for a remarkable Hong Kong student to reach their potential at Warwick. With the support of alumni, we can achieve this.

The Friends’ board consists of University staff members and alumni, giving Warwick a charitable presence in Hong Kong and meaning that Hong Kong-based graduates and friends are now able to support the University tax-efficiently.

Please visit warwick.ac.uk/go/givingfromhk to find out more or to make a donation.

Guardian ranks Warwick in UK top 10

The Guardian has ranked Warwick as 5th overall in the UK and once again as top university in the Midlands. It also ranked a number of Warwick departments or degrees in the top five in the UK including: 1st place for American Studies, 3rd for Business and Management, 2nd for Film Studies, 3rd for Mathematics, 3rd for Sociology and 4th for Economics.

Honouring Warwick student

A Warwick postgraduate scholarship set up to honour a Chinese UN peacekeeper killed in the Haiti earthquake has been awarded to a student from Fenghuang County in Hunan province. Li Ting, 23, will come to Warwick to study for a Masters degree in the Department of Economics after being awarded the first Li Xiaoming scholarship.

Europe’s best

Warwick has been named the best young university in Europe and number three in the world in. The University, was featured on the QS Top 50 under 50 rankings of the new generation of elite young global institutions.

Students welcome million pound teaching “Orchard

Students have welcomed a teaching investment worth almost £1 million that has created a unique interactive teaching facility which they have nicknamed “The Orchard” as it is filled with 200 Apple computers (see cover image).

The new ‘Interactive Computation Learning Suite’ (to give it its official name) in the School of Life Sciences was opened by David Evans from The General Charity, Coventry which had funded some earlier work which made this development possible.
Nobel winner unveils campus science research facilities

In April Sir Paul Nurse, President of the Royal Society and Nobel Prize Winner, unveiled the latest addition to science research facilities on campus by officially opening the £6 million Mechanochemical Cell Biology Building at Warwick Medical School.

Funded through the Translational Medicine programme within the Science City Research Alliance, with additional input from the Wolfson Foundation and the University of Warwick, the building provides a customised environment for research into cell biology.

It has been specifically designed and constructed to cater for the specialist environment needed for state-of-the-art microscopes and other equipment required for ground-breaking research. Focusing on the molecular machinery that organises and co-ordinates movements in living cells will lead to a better understanding of fundamental cellular processes that may lead to improved therapies for a range of diseases. Find out more on page 26.  

Banking on scholarship successes

The University has just signed an agreement with Lloyds Banking Group to provide support for 15 home undergraduate students a year from low income backgrounds.

Lloyds will provide 15 scholarships each year, starting from October 2012, for students from low income backgrounds. A scholarship will be worth up to £17,000 during their time at Warwick. The scholarships will consist of an annual cash bursary, additional annual awards based on academic achievement, opportunities for the best performers to receive end of course awards, a guaranteed ten week paid internship, mentoring from Lloyds staff and ongoing local and national cohort activities.

Successful scholars will also be invited to join Lloyds’ graduate leadership programme. In return, the scholars must give 100 hours of their time per year to volunteering in their local community.  

Over the last 12 months Warwick has announced a series of strategic partnerships and collaborations with a number of universities in the UK and overseas. These partnerships will enhance Warwick’s position as a globally connected university and maximise the effectiveness of its teaching and research.

Warwick has formed a partnership with Monash University, one of the leading universities in Australia. This new relationship will enable both universities to make a real impact on global issues and deliver the best research and teaching experience for their staff and students. It will allow both universities to share research resources, enhance the student experience and help serve a much wider community both nationally and internationally.

According to a joint article by Professor Ed Byrne, Vice-Chancellor of Monash University, and Professor Nigel Thrift, Warwick’s Vice-Chancellor:

“Higher Education is in a state of great transition globally. Twenty years from now the definition of a university and the nature of tertiary education will be vastly different from what it is today. We’re moving towards a future where globally networked university ‘systems’ will be needed to meet rapidly increasing demand in research and education. This alliance anticipates this need and delivers both universities an important first-mover advantage.”

Warwick has also announced two collaborations within the UK, with Queen Mary, University of London and the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM). The collaboration with Queen Mary, University of London is future create eight new joint Postdoctoral Research Fellows in four interdisciplinary fields of activity, four of which will be based at Queen Mary, University of London and four at Warwick.

The most recently announced partnership is the £3 million strategic collaborative programme between LSTM and Warwick. This will create a joint team of 12 researchers from a range of disciplines to study the science, policy and economics of applied health research and delivery. Our vision is that this research will translate into cost-effective, affordable and scalable interventions for the world’s poorest populations.  

Further info

More information on the strategic vision behind these new partnerships can be found here: warwick.ac.uk/about/partnerships.

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Warwick’s new strategic partnerships
Upgrading the brain
We are all used to upgrading the technology we use, whether it’s acquiring an internet-connected TV, changing an ordinary mobile for a smart phone, or swapping the traditional map for a satellite navigation system. But what if we could upgrade the most complicated technology known to man – our brains? Professor Kevin Warwick considers the possibilities in his TEDx Warwick 2012 talk.

Forty years of reporting business
From a history degree at Warwick, where he edited the university newspaper, to interviewing controversial figures as the BBC’s media correspondent, Torin Douglas (BA History 1969-72) has had a varied and dynamic career so far. At a recent WBS Working Capital event he explained how his career has followed the ups and downs of the media business and gave his golden rules for business communication.

A novel idea: the Victorian books that TV forgot
This year we have seen the anniversary of Charles Dickens’ birth celebrated with numerous television adaptations of his novels. Yet why do producers stick to tried and tested Victorian books and novelists when making television and film drama adaptations? Is it time for them to break the mould and showcase Britain’s lesser-known literary heritage?

A Venetian Miscellany
A Venetian Miscellany is a collection of essays by Warwick people – academics, administrators, students past and present and distinguished friends, whether as a reflection of their own academic interests, or in the form of personal musings upon the city itself. You can download the ebook version or simply access individual essays on the Knowledge Centre website.

Decoding Bletchley Park
Bletchley Park is the site where British and allied code-breakers decrypted ciphers and codes during World War II, including the famous Enigma code. How was it possible that 10,000 people were able to work in complete secrecy? What was the fabric of such an organisation? Rebecca Mahay spoke to Professor Chris Grey, the author of a new book, Decoding Organization: Bletchley Park, Codebreaking and Organizational Studies.

Alan Turing, polymath
This year marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of Alan Turing. Best known for his contributions to top-secret code-breaking activities at Bletchley Park during World War II, in this Knowledge Centre article Professor Ian Stewart remembers a man who deserved high public recognition, but whose early death robbed the world of a brilliant intellect.

Passing the parcel: who will end up holding Europe’s democratic deficit
With so much change in the eurozone, the Knowledge Centre has published a range of articles drawing on the expertise of our academics in politics, economics and business. In this article, Professor Mark Harrison considers the future of the euro and what that might mean for the democratic deficit that is fuelling the current economic crisis.

The Dictator and dictators
Humour has always been a popular weapon against the might of despotic leaders, a fact exploited by Sacha Baron Cohen in his latest film The Dictator. In this article Professor Stephen Gundle draws on his research into dictators – particularly Benito Mussolini – and applies it to Baron Cohen’s latest creation, anti-hero Admiral General Aladeen, whose egocentricity is challenged by the friendship of an idealistic health-shop owner.

Further info
You can view all these and many other stories by visiting warwick.ac.uk/knowledge/culture/connect12.

To stay in touch with the latest news from the Knowledge Centre, go online at warwick.ac.uk/knowledge to sign up to their mailing list. While you’re there why not follow them on Facebook and Twitter?
Getting into the movie business was never something that Damian wanted to do. At Warwick he took a course on Film Theory as part of his Politics and History degree but that was about it. Many people want to get into the film business, how did Damien do it?

‘After graduation I was clueless about my future. I thought that a second language might be useful so I moved to Paris to learn French.’ Whilst working there as a barman Damien heard about a vacancy for a bi-lingual production assistant on a film being made. Stretching the truth slightly, he soon found himself working with Harrison Ford on the set of Roman Polanski’s 1988 thriller *Frantic*.

With this experience on his CV, Damien was able get his foot in the door at Working Title Films, a British production company, where he worked his way up the ladder from making tea and coffee. On his way up Damien thought about what he wanted to do next. ‘I didn’t want to act or direct which only left producing’. If you visit his Internet Movie Database listing you will see acting credits. He is credited as ‘candelabra holder’ in the 2004 film of the Phantom of the Opera. Unfortunately this was not him but it amuses him so he is happy to leave it there.

Damian’s first producing success was *The Candy Show*, a short film he made with a friend. The film won the 1990 BAFTA Award for Best Short Film and on the strength of this he moved to Hollywood. Over the next few years he produced films ranging from Michael Winterbottom’s *Welcome to Sarajevo* which was nominated for the Golden Palm at Cannes to *Gridlock’d* which starred Tim Roth and Tupac Shakur.

After 10 years in America Damian felt his ‘British DNA’ calling him home. He felt that he related to British films more closely than those made in America. Since returning he has concentrated on making uniquely British films such as *Millions*, *Kidulthood*, *Adulthood*, *Sex & Drugs & Rock & Roll* and *The Iron Lady*.

Several years ago Damien began to wonder why no one had ever made a film about Margaret Thatcher. The idea snowballed and he and his colleagues began to think about who should play her. The only name they considered was Meryl Streep. Damien always knew that the film was going to be divisive in the UK. Margaret Thatcher still provokes strong emotions here and it was difficult for reviewers to come in without pre-conceptions.

The film has provoked a very different response outside the UK where it has been easier to judge it on its own terms. Around the world it has made more money than the 2006 hit *The Queen* and audiences react to the story rather than the person portrayed.

Meryl Streep won the Best Actress Oscar for her performance in the film and for Damian it was particularly satisfying to go to the award ceremony in Hollywood with a legitimate British success.

When you were watching Meryl Streep’s Oscar-winning performance as Margaret Thatcher in *The Iron Lady* you probably didn’t realise that its producer was a Warwick alumnus. Damian Jones (BA Politics and History 1983-86) was kind enough to take some time away from launching his latest film, *Fast Girls*, to talk to Warwick Connect.

“Work hard, show initiative and get a driving licence. If you don’t have a driving licence you aren’t going anywhere!”
Another difference is that students can fail at the end of the year and have to do the year again. This puts extra pressure on students and schools to pass and can lead to teaching to the exam rather than more experiential or child-centred teaching methodologies. This is an area where I feel the volunteers from Warwick have been particularly good as they have managed to model different ways of teaching but still understand the context of how the children are assessed.

What kind of backgrounds do your students come from?
Most of my learners live in the former township of Kayamandi in Stellenbosch. They are mostly isiXhosa speakers (like Mandela) and many of them were brought up in the Eastern Cape or have strong family connections there. There is poverty and the school runs a feeding scheme. Kayamandi has 8,500 houses for 40,000 people and the rest is mainly made up of one room shacks.

Would you recommend that other Warwick alumni follow in your footsteps?
Definitely, I would say that the Warwick in Africa programme would be a good place to dip your toes in before doing something bigger still. Please don’t follow too closely as I’d like to keep my job!

How did you get involved with Warwick in Africa?
It was just chance – they happened to turn up to look at Makupula as a potential school to support. It was the first time in my life I have been described as an alumnus!

How has it made a difference?
In many ways; the learners get more excited by the different approach to lessons and both sets of adults involved learn a lot from each other. I can see the Mathematics and English departments building strong, sustainable programmes of support for learners due to the extra input.

What do you get out of it?
It is very nice to have the input of intelligent and enthusiastic graduates; it challenges me educationally and also not to forget the ideals of my youth. I also enjoy the connection with the UK and Warwick – it brings back nice memories. It is very rewarding to see the positive impact the programme has on our staff and students as well as on the volunteers themselves.

What were your path to Ghana and South Africa?
I originally wanted to do Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) as I was aware of my own ignorance of other cultures and fancied an adventure. Ghana was offered as one of three choices and I chose it as the school was the most remote and I wanted something different. It certainly proved to be that as we had no running water or electricity. I was the only maths teacher at the school and the experience was an intense one that would take a whole book to explain fully. I found the people and experience very fulfilling. I would recommend VSO as an option for anyone leaving university and my wife and I are considering doing it again just before we retire (if they will have us!)

South Africa had a whole different motivation as I had met my wife, Janet, while teaching in London and she is South African. We decided to move there soon after marrying which was a homecoming for her and another adventure for me.

What are the main differences between schools in the UK and South Africa?
It depends where you teach. Some of the schools in Stellenbosch where I live have facilities that would rival some private schools in the UK and they are partly state-funded.

The first difference is that schools charge fees which parents are responsible for paying. This leads to poorer areas having poorer schools and although the state does pay the teachers’ salaries and some other costs the disparity between the richest and the poorest schools is striking.

There are of course success stories from these schools and we hope that Warwick will continue to be involved with one at Makupula Secondary!
The 1970s were a turbulent time for the country and universities were not immune to the changes going on around them. Demonstrations and sit-ins were a relatively common feature of student life for British students of the time. One of the most memorable events of the period for Warwick was the month-long student occupation of Senate House in 1975. Students were occupying the building in protest at rent rises in university accommodation. The occupation continued until police intervened.

Between 1973 and 1976, Jake Bernard (BSc Engineering 1973-76) took nearly 3,000 photographs documenting student life. Naturally demonstrations and the occupation featured heavily. Here his photographs capture the atmosphere of the Senate House occupation.
Anita Panchmatia

In 2010 Anita Panchmatia (née Jobanputra) (BSc Computer Science & Business Studies 2000-03) was chosen by Management Today as one of 35 women under 35 to watch. She started her career on the Equities trading floor at JPMorgan, working with the Program Trading desk. She then worked with the Futures & Options desk designing algorithmic trading applications that she subsequently launched in London and New York.

Anita moved to Goldman Sachs in 2007, and worked in London and Boston, in management and product development roles. Whilst in Boston, Anita also taught Pre-Career Finance at Harvard University. She is now a Vice President at Bank of America Merrill Lynch and manages two businesses: an institutional trading business and a discretionary private banking business. Anita agreed to talk to Warwick Connect about her career so far.

You’ve worked in London, Boston and New York; which city is next on your list?
I’ve loved working in all three cities. I’m grateful for the different experiences that each gave me. I had my first job in London, and I met my husband here, so it holds a special place. In New York, I owned the US delivery of a trading platform which was a huge opportunity, professionally. In Boston, I taught at Harvard University and also studied Journalism there, which was a privilege.

Jim O’Neill’s BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India, China) paper has had huge influence during my career lifetime, and I’ve been lucky to visit Brazil and India recently. It would be incredible to one day work in the financial centres of these countries.

How would you describe your job?
I work with CEOs to drive profit in financial services businesses. That has been the theme in my career, whether I sat on a trading floor or in a private bank. I count myself lucky to say that there is nothing that I don’t enjoy about my role – I still jump out of bed at 6am! The facet that I enjoy most is the variety of the work: on any given day, I will be launching a business in Hong Kong; designing a product that is compliant with Sharia-law; or delivering a global project, managing a team spanning every function from Tax to Technology.

The traditional face of financial services is very masculine, is this changing? Do you have female role models in the sector? Do you feel a responsibility to be a role model for future generations?
The City has had a huge push for diversity in recent years and that is definitely reflected in the make up of businesses now. In fact, the diversity of the environment – across gender, ethnicity and socio-economic groups – is one of the aspects that I enjoy most about work.

To what do you attribute your success?
Firstly, success only follows hard work and I have invested the time and energy in my career. Secondly, my job is very demanding, and maintaining a passion outside of work enables me to balance those demands. I have worked with a homeless charity, Nightwatch, for ten years, and am very proud of that organisation. I am also a business mentor for the Prince’s Trust, working with disadvantaged youths to launch small businesses. Charity work gives me a sense of perspective and is immensely rewarding.

What advice would you give to alumni beginning their careers?
Take a skills-based approach to building your career. It is so easy to follow the money, or follow the crowd. By methodically addressing your skills gaps, through roles that vary in content and geography, you quickly become a competent, well-rounded professional, and one that can perform in any domain. Secondly, strive to be the best. A-levels, degrees – these set clear targets for you to achieve and they provide instant feedback on your performance. Outside of university, there are no benchmarks. Do what you enjoy and do it well.

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1950s

Audrey Balchin (Certificate in Education 1954-56). After graduation, Audrey became a primary school teacher, training teams in most sports, especially badminton. Later she became Lady Captain at Leyland Golf Club and now specialises in painting, bowls and singing in a WI choir.

Elizabeth Cruse (BA History 1972-75). Elizabeth has published a book of poetry: Is this Really Me?. She has had a portfolio career that includes teaching, nursing and health promotion and is currently managing a web-based copywriting agency, writemysite.co.uk.

Philip Jackson (Mathematics [PC] 1975-76). Philip completed a PhD in topology at the University of Sheffield in 1980 and worked as a senior analyst/programmer at the JET Joint Undertaking.

Annamarie Jans (BA English and Italian Literature 1978-81). Annamarie recently returned to the UK after 10 years in Rome. She is now settling back into UK life in Canterbury.

1960s

Gyll Brown (née Currie) (BEd 1966-70 and Dip Ed 1988-90) Gyll has had a career in teaching, the most recent post as Head of RE at Bluecoat School Coventry. She is now retired but still busy, being involved with the local Girl Guide campsite as well as having other interests. She and her husband have two sons and four grandchildren.

Pam Calvert (BA English and European Literature 1972-75) Nearly 25 years ago Pam founded her own reputation in communications consultancy. Her company is the third largest in the UK in terms of public sector business, a top 100 UK agency and a top 50 independent agency outside London.

1970s

Sharon Plant (BA English and American Literature 1973-77). Sharon is a writer on the subjects of art, design, architecture and food. Her most recent novel The Lost Supper describes the fall from grace of the sitter who models as Christ for Leonardo da Vinci.

Gaynor Keeble (BEd (Music & English) 1981-85). Gaynor is enjoying a very busy performing career and combines this with adjudicating at singing festivals all over the country and teaching privately and at Warwick, thus maintaining her links with the University.

Ashok Sharma (now Kaushik) (MSc Information Technology for Manufacture 1987-88). Ashok works in London for a software house specialising in FX and treasury systems. He is married with two children and has stayed in touch with a couple of Warwick friends, looking forward to a reunion at Warwick at some point in the future.

1980s

Colin O’Hare (MMath 1993-97). After graduating Colin became an actuary working in the trustee pensions consulting field. In 2008 he moved into academia and set up the actuarial science and risk management degree at Queens University Belfast.

Laura Quigley (MA Film and TV Studies 1991-2). Laura has just published The Devil Comes to Dartmoor which is based on her award-winning play about illegal detention at Lyford Gaol during the Civil War.

David Layton (MEd Continuing Education 1991-93). After Warwick, David joined a university partnership which enabled students to progress to higher education at Walsall College. He also undertook a HECF-funded secondment, was a curriculum manager and established study programmes with partner institutions in Russia.

Annabella Matute-Castro (LLM Law in Development Studies 1991-94). Annabella set up her own company in Peru in 1994-95). Annabella was a curriculum manager and established study programmes with partner institutions in Russia. She has incorporated a third sector. Back in the UK she has incorporated a partnership which provides the best suited volunteers in the UK and India.

Siân Price (BA History 1994-97). Siân is an award-winning television and radio documentary producer. Her first book, If You’re Reading This: Last Letters from the Front Line, was inspired by her BBC Radio 4 documentary of the same name which won a New York Festivals Radio Award for History.

1990s

Benjamin Chatfield (BA French Studies 1993-96). Benjamin has just completed his first book, Mediterranean Homesick Blues: From Coventry to St Tropez to Coventry. This is a diary/guidebook/cultural smorgasbord about a year spent as a language assistant and waiter in the south of France.

Colin O’Hare (MEd Continuing Education 1991-93). After Warwick, David joined a university partnership which enabled students to progress to higher education at Walsall College. He also undertook a HECF-funded secondment, was a curriculum manager and established study programmes with partner institutions in Russia.

Laura Quigley (MA Film and TV Studies 1991-2). Laura has just published The Devil Comes to Dartmoor which is based on her award-winning play about illegal detention at Lyford Gaol during the Civil War.
Augusto Turcott-Moguel (LLM International Economic Law 1992-94). Augusto is currently living in Mexico City, involved in civil and commercial litigation. He is general director of Enlace Legal y de Negocios, S.C.

2000s

Mahmoud Alali (MA Educational Leadership and Innovation 2008-09). Mahmoud has recently contracted with a private university to teach English to students of informatics, business administration and architecture. He is enjoying the work there.

Siti Birkha Mohd Ali (MSc Engineering Business Management 2002-03). After graduation, Siti Birkha Mohd Ali returned to Malaysia and continued her role as electrical engineer. She is now a senior lecturer at one of the private local universities.

Jafar Babayev (LLM International Business Law 2005-06). Jafar is enjoying time spent with his two marvellous kids and has just started a new business. He owns a leasing company which offers leasing projects in accordance with principles of Sharia.

Andrew Bernard (BSc Management 2007-10). Andrew has started a graduate scheme at HSBC. This has allowed him to tackle roles such as project management and process management.

Ioannis Chatzopoulos (MA Sport, Politics and Society 2001-02). After graduating, Ioannis started working as a journalist for New Politics and New Sociology in Athens and became editor in chief. Now he has his own book store near the University of Athens campus.

Qiynz Chen (Jeff) (MSc Management 2007-08). Jeff began as management trainee with HSBC China in 2009 and after an 18-month rotation/secondment he relocated to Beijing as AVP Premier Relationship Manager.

Suttinee Chuanchaisit (MA English Language Studies and Methods 2003-04). Since taking a PhD in Language Assessment and Evaluation at Chulalongkorn University, Thailand Suttinee has been working as a university lecturer and head of the Department of Business English.

Mayada Dalbes (PhD Nursing 2008-11). Mayada returned to Jordan where she is assistant professor at Philadelphia University in Amman. She is head of the academic research development committee in the school of nursing.

Sabrina Dridje (BSc Psychology 2003-06 & MA Film and TV 2006-07). After working as business affairs manager for a film sales agent, Sabrina is now a freelance project manager within the creative industries and gearing up to move to New York.

Alice Edgeworth (BSc Biological Sciences 2007-10). Alice is about to start a Master’s degree at Nottingham Trent University in order to become a biomedical scientist. Her ambition is to write a popular science book and to work in hospital diagnostics.

Enrica Fierno (Exchange students 2010-11). Enrica is going to graduate at the University of Genoa but is always thinking of going back to Warwick.

John Finlayson (BSc Physics 2008-11). After graduation John was offered a part-time job working for Kidz Klub Coventry. This was too good an opportunity to pass up so he is now doing exciting stuff with inner city kids.

Miilin Ghan (MSc Engineering Business Management 2006-09). Milind is currently working at NRB Bearings Limited as a Divisional Manager. He looks after the new product development activities.

James Hall (BSc Mathematics 2006-09). James has moved on from his extra-curricular activities in the Music Centre and now works as a professional singer at Portsmouth Cathedral.

Ricardo Nunes (MBA 2006-08). Ricardo joined Novecia as financial controller for a mining operation in Angola and will be moving to Africa soon.

Rosario Ogbechie (BA Sociology with Specialism in Social Policy 2008-11). Rosario got the opportunity to intern at Goldman Sachs and is currently doing a Masters in Broadcast Journalism at City University in London.

Rachael Paddick (BA English Literature 2002-05). After graduating, Rachael got into PR and communications. She has worked in London for a PR agency, been a finalist for Outstanding Young Communicator and Chair of the Chartered Institute of Public Relations for East Anglia where she now lives.

Karen Pond (BSc Biological Sciences 2000-03). Karen worked as a medical representative for three and a half years and then applied for graduate entry medicine. She has just qualified as a doctor and is working at Gloucester Hospital.
Last year Warwick launched 50 Forward, our campaign to raise £50 million in donations in support of our ambitious plans to respond to the many challenges taking place in the world around us. The funds raised through the campaign will make a lasting impact. They will enable us to find solutions to some of the pressing situations facing the world today through pioneering medical research, increased understanding of global food security or by educating the next generation of leaders and decision makers.

The stories on the next few pages demonstrate how important your donations are and hope you join us on this journey. To get involved please complete the enclosed donation form or visit: www.warwick.ac.uk/50forward for more information.

Wolfson Foundation funds scholarships

The Wolfson Foundation has awarded Warwick £225,000 to fund three prestigious three-year Wolfson doctoral research scholarships from 2012. Warwick is one of only nine universities in the UK to be chosen to take part in the £2 million programme, the Wolfson Postgraduate Scholarships in the Humanities.

Three scholarships will be awarded to outstanding students who demonstrate the potential to make an impact in their field and go on to pursue an academic career in history, literature and languages. The award will cover full fees, maintenance and an element for research and training costs.

From its pool of talented applicants Warwick has recruited three postgraduate students from the selected disciplines, with their doctoral study beginning at the start of the 2012/13 academic year in the following areas:

- **History:** Negotiating hazardous landscapes: regions of risk and cultures of coping in early modern Britain.
- **Languages:** Analyse the novels of Jean-Philippe Toussaint and Michel Houellebecq.
- **Literature:** Examine the historical evolution of the field of Parasitology and how it shaped the dialogue between science and literature in the mid-nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Paul Ramsbottom, Chief Executive, Wolfson Foundation, said: “High quality research in the humanities is of critical importance to British society. The announcement of this pilot scheme reflects our concern about the effect of undergraduate debt on numbers of students continuing to postgraduate research. We are also acutely aware of pressures on funding in the humanities. The hope is that many of the students funded through this programme will be future academic leaders.”

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**Jagjit Thakur Ratan** (MSc Engineering Business Management & MSc Advanced Electronics Engineering 2003-05), Jagjit is currently working as an energy consultant as part of Schneider Electric supporting clients across the globe in implementing energy efficiency measures and tackling energy risks.

**Linda Roberts** (Certificate in Teaching in the Lifelong Learning Sector 2009-10). Since completing the CTLLS course, Linda has continued in her role as a Spanish tutor. Studying for CTLLS was compulsory but she is now grateful she has the qualification.

**Matthew Routledge** (MSc Engineering Business Management 2005-09). Matthew is providing real estate advice to corporate clients whilst studying for a professional doctorate through Salford University. He is currently researching the impact on motivation of virtual team working.

**Björn Schmidt** (MSc Marketing and Strategy 2005-06). Björn was recently appointed General Manager of the Electronic Media Division of Axel Springer AG, Germany’s leading media corporation. In addition he lectures in international and strategic management at the Berlin School of Economics and Law.

**Vinay Preet Singh** (LLM International Development Law and Human Rights 2007-08). Vinay is a founding partner of a law firm named Lex Juris Associates: Advocates & Solicitors in India. Recently he has been awarded the National Excellence Award 2011 for youth politics.

**Qing Qi** (MA Childhood in Society 2010-11). Qing Qi is currently back in China working at Gymboree in the early education field.

**Laura Walker Hudson** (LLM International Development Law and Human Rights 2005-06). Laura works with FrontlineSMS building free software that lets you turn a laptop and a mobile phone into a two-way text-messaging hub that doesn’t require the Internet.

**2010s**

**Thotsaphon Thongjunthug** (PhD Mathematics 2007-11). After graduating Thotsaphon returned to Thailand and started his teaching career at Khon Kaen University. Nowadays he enjoys sharing his knowledge and overseas experience with his students.

**Don’t forget to let us know what you are doing now – contact Peter White on peter.white@warwick.ac.uk**
Michael Odunlami
BA Law & Sociology
reflects...

The University is able to support a number of scholarships for academically excellent, financially disadvantaged students thanks to the support of our donors. One of our scholarship initiatives, the Multicultural Scholars’ Programme (MSP), provides financial, pastoral and careers support for low income students from poorly represented ethnic minorities entering higher education. Michael Odunlami was a recipient of an MSP scholarship in Law & Sociology and graduated in July 2012 with a 2:1. As a student Michael was a member of the Warwick Law Society Executive Committee, where he was responsible for cultivating relationships with a number of law firms. Michael also held a number of part-time roles for the University including working as a student caller.

What was the best opportunity your scholarship gave you?
The best opportunity my scholarship gave me was to undertake a vacation placement in Hong Kong at one of the world’s biggest law firms. This was an enriching cultural experience and a career defining moment which I value highly. My scholarship made this happen.

What are your plans now you have graduated?
I aspire to be a commercial solicitor in the City of London but also work abroad for a two year period. I also plan to mentor students and actively engage in philanthropic activity.

What would you say to the Warwick Benefactors whose donations have supported scholarships?
Thank you very much for contributing towards the best four years of my life so far and undoubtedly a brighter future for me. Your donations have helped to change my life for the better and have instilled in me a sense of responsibility for future generations and society at large.

What would you say to alumni and friends who are thinking about making a donation?
Donating to Warwick is like planting a seed that the science day had broken down some of their perceived barriers to higher education, showing them that they could achieve whatever they put their minds to with hard work, determination and support. It was a pleasure to see shy and nervous students develop into confident and articulate young adults and we are grateful to our graduate judges, the teachers and students of Ernesford Grange and the Westwood Academy for their involvement in the day.

There are still many students in our local area, and nationwide, who have latent potential to benefit from the challenge and experience of a student science day. We welcome alumni support of time and money to enable these events to happen. A gift of £5000 will provide transport, materials and food for 10 school children and their teachers to come to campus for a day, experience Warwick and broaden their horizons.

Further info
If you are interested in supporting a student science day or any of our outreach work, please contact Tim Farr on +44 (0)24 7615 1024 or at timothy.farr@warwick.ac.uk.

Further info
If you are interested in supporting talented students like Michael by making a donation, please complete the donation form included with the magazine, or contact Tim Farr, Development Executive by email timothy.farr@warwick.ac.uk or phone +44 (0)24 7615 1024.

University staff, graduates and students welcomed local school children and their teachers onto campus in July for our inaugural Student Science Day.

Running on a Saturday, the aim of the programme was to introduce bright students from the local area to life at the University, our aspiration being to inspire those who had not been given an opportunity to access higher education before, and encourage them to reach their personal and academic potential. Working in partnership with each other and supported by Warwick postgraduates, the students (aged 14-15) were challenged to undertake a scientific experiment in our chemistry laboratories, report on their findings and present them to a panel of distinguished alumni speakers in the formal surroundings of our Council Chamber. The students were daunted by the challenge but took to it with enthusiasm, developing new skills and knowledge and creating varied and interesting reports on their topics for their peers, teachers and our judges to enjoy. Students noted afterwards that the science day had broken down some of their perceived barriers to higher education, showing them that they could achieve whatever they put their minds to with hard work, determination and support. It was a pleasure to see shy and nervous students develop into confident and articulate young adults and we are grateful to our graduate judges, the teachers and students of Ernesford Grange and the Westwood Academy for their involvement in the day.

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The students... ...took to it with enthusiasm, developing new skills and knowledge and creating varied and interesting reports on their topics for their peers, teachers and our judges to enjoy.”

What is your favourite memory of your time at Warwick?
My favourite memory is sitting in the first tort law lecture (sadly enough!). The lecturer brought to life years of tort law litigation by using a banana peel to illustrate his points – the use of these lively and unconventional teaching methods continued throughout my degree. I will always remember that moment as the start of my high quality learning experience at Warwick!
Despite the complex-sounding name, the science of mechanochemical cell biology is basic and fundamental: it involves the study of the machinery that organises and moves the cells that make up our bodies. Ultimately, this information is used to provide better healthcare to patients.

A human body is made up of cells. Each cell has a job to do and each cell contains many molecular parts, which are moved around the cell by a kind of railway system, like that which transports freight around a country. In order to function correctly it is vital that the molecular parts of the cell are in the right place at the right time. Mechanochemical cell biology is the study of the machinery that moves these molecular parts around.

**Why is this relevant to medicine?**

Many diseases are a result of a breakdown of the cell’s railway system. A good example is Alzheimer’s disease. The brain needs continuous transport of signalling chemicals to the tips of nerve cells in order to continue to work properly. When Alzheimer’s is present in the brain, the railway tracks, which are called microtubules, are physically blocked by a protein known as Tau, so the signalling chemicals can’t get through and memory loss and impairment is caused in the brain.

Professor Rob Cross, who heads up the team of scientists at the CMCB, outlined the impact of their research:

>’Our work is discovery science, aiming to understand how the transport machinery of the cell works and to inform the development of new drug therapies for a range of global health problems that includes malaria, cancer, cardiovascular disease, Alzheimer’s and reproductive disease.’

**Further info**

If you are interested in supporting medical research at Warwick by making a donation, please complete the donation form included with the magazine, or contact Jaine Fleetwood, Associate Director of Development by email j.fleetwood@warwick.ac.uk or phone +44 (0)24 765 0201.

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Watch our video to see how your donations are helping

The next edition of Benefactors magazine will be sent in February 2013. In the meantime, please watch our video online to hear directly from several students about how you have made a lasting difference to their Warwick experience and their future through your donations (warwick.ac.uk/giving). We hope you enjoy seeing what your generosity has achieved!

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2011-12 Roll of Benefactors now online

The Roll of Benefactors listing those who made a gift between 1 August 2011 and 31 July 2012 is now online at warwick.ac.uk/giving/thanks. We would like to thank all our Warwick Benefactors for their generous support over the past year and hope that many others will join them by making a donation this year.

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Make your gift today!

If you would like to play your part in the 50 Forward campaign and help to shape the future of Warwick and its students, please make a donation today! A donation form has been included with the magazine or, alternatively, you can make your donation quickly and securely online by visiting warwick.ac.uk/go/givenow.
Your legacy can live forever... Who could you inspire through a gift in your will?

- Gifted students who need support to reach their full potential?
- Medical researchers finding a cure for cancer, diabetes or Alzheimer’s?
- Future leaders in global commerce and industry?

A gift to the University of Warwick in your will can not only support the aspirations of future generations of students, teachers and researchers, but also the wider world. Your gift could benefit a range of areas from providing student scholarships to funding pioneering medical research. We are happy to discuss your wishes in more detail.

**Please remember Warwick in your will.**

To find out more, please visit: [warwick.ac.uk/go/legacies](http://warwick.ac.uk/go/legacies) or contact Izzy Sticklee on:
+44 (o)24 7657 4375
i.h.sticklee@warwick.ac.uk