We are very grateful to the Friends of the University of Sussex for their generous support of a broad range of scholarships, prizes and world-leading research projects at the University of Sussex. This report details the impact of the programmes supported by the Friends this year, and features a selection of inspirational stories. It also outlines our alumni engagement activities across the United States of America. If you would like any additional information about any of these programmes or activities, please do let us know.

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The Rudd Centre goes from strength to strength

Research into child mental health, conducted at the University of Sussex's Andrew and Virginia Rudd Centre for Adoption Research and Practice, has been named as one of the UK’s 100 best breakthroughs from UK universities for its significant impact on people’s everyday lives. Professor Gordon Harold, Director of the Rudd Centre, was honoured in the “UK’s Best Breakthroughs” list of the last century for his pioneering work, which has fundamentally shifted the Government’s approach to child mental health.

The list of breakthroughs demonstrates how UK universities are at the forefront of the world’s most important discoveries, innovations and social initiatives. Professor Harold’s work is listed alongside the discovery of penicillin, ultrasound scans, MRIs, work tackling plastic pollution, the invention of the portable defibrillator and the establishment of the Living Wage. The list was compiled by Universities UK, as part of a new MadeAtUni campaign, which aims to change public perceptions of universities and bring to life the difference they make to people and communities across the UK.

This year, Dr Ruth Sellers was appointed as Andrew and Virginia Rudd Senior Lecturer in Child Development and Community Mental Health. She received her PhD from Cardiff University and is an ESRC Future Research Leader Fellow in the School of Psychology at the University of Sussex. Her primary research interests focus on the examination of risk and resilience-based processes underlying child and adolescent psychopathology.

Professor Leon Feinstein has been appointed as Honorary Professor to the Rudd Centre. He is currently Director of Evidence in the Office of the Children’s Commissioner for England. In his honorary role, he will work with schools and departments across the University. Professor Feinstein was formerly the Director of Evidence at the Early Intervention Foundation; he has also worked as chief analyst in the Cabinet Office’s Implementation Unit and in the Prime Minister’s Delivery Unit, amongst other senior government positions. He is also a Sussex Economics alumnus.

Professor Feinstein says he is very much looking forward to coming back to Falmer and starting this new association. “Sussex provides a tremendous academic base for working with people across policy, practice, research and science, as well as offering unique undergraduate and postgraduate training potential through this role. I am excited by the opportunity that this position presents to improve both science and future policy advice.”

The aim of the Andrew and Virginia Rudd Centre for Adoption Research and Practice is to advance insights into the social, psychological and community-based processes that play a role in the development of children across multiple family settings, with a particular emphasis on the specific challenges faced by adopted children and their families. A unique initiative in the UK, the Rudd Centre is fundamentally directed towards advancing scientific knowledge, practice improvements and policy developments around vulnerable children and families.
Friends support Cancer Science PhD scholar

Rose Westhorpe’s PhD Scholarship in Cancer Science is supported by the Friends of the University of Sussex. Describing her work, Rose writes, “My work had identified the region of a protein (called Tof1 in yeast/Timeless in humans) that carries out a particular function we’re interested in. This function ensures that cells can restrict increased levels of torsional stress/twisting on the DNA, which may have detrimental effects to the cells when they try to separate the DNA during cell division.

We have now looked into this result more and repeated the experiments several times, it has turned out to be one of the most exciting findings of my research so far, and is a significant result that we hope to publish in a scientific journal this year.

In addition, we have now identified other interesting regions of Tof1/Timeless that appear to carry out different but equally important functions. We hope that our research will give new insights into how the Tof1/Timeless protein responds to different types of DNA damage and genomic instability. As always, the more we learn about what is going on inside the cells, the more questions arise. But it’s a great feeling when you get a new and interesting result.

I’m still spending time teaching, both on undergraduate courses and by training Master’s students in the lab. The first Master’s student I taught has now begun his own PhD, and I’m sure he will be a very successful student! We have a new Master’s student in the lab learning more about Tof1/Timeless and he’s making good progress.”
Two PhD scholars in Jewish Studies supported by the Friends

The Friends of the University of Sussex currently support two Bader Philanthropies PhD scholars as part of the Centre for German-Jewish Studies: Stefan Boberg and Liza Weber.

Liza Weber’s thesis is called *documenta and its Double: Germany’s Myth of Modernism in Memory and Provenance, from ‘Degenerate’ to documenta (1937-1955)*. Discussing her progress to date, Liza says, “*documenta and its Double* calls into question the widely held understanding of the 1955 documenta exhibition as a rehabilitation of modern art once deemed ‘degenerate’ under the National Socialist regime. Combining the methodologies of provenance research and oral history, the project simultaneously traces the trajectory and living memory of modernism in Germany throughout the twentieth, and indeed twenty-first, century. Its guiding research question is: was the 1955 documenta an answer to the trauma that resulted from the Nazis’ original anti-modernist smear campaign, or a partial perpetuation of the trauma that the quinquennial exhibition is still trying to bring to light?”

Liza facilitated a focus group called *Recollecting documenta Collectively* in Kassel, Germany, to which she invited all the Contemporary Witnesses whom she has interviewed in the past two years. Now in their eighties and nineties, and despite illnesses and immobility, a dozen Contemporary Witnesses participated over the course of the day. The event was filmed by the Media Collection of the *documenta Archiv*, Kassel, and will be preserved for posterity.

Stefan Boberg’s thesis is entitled *The Volkskartei Registry for Enrolment and Segregation Compiling Personal Data in National-Socialist Germany*. Asked about how his work is going this year, he says, “Since I began my research on the *Volkskartei* [right], my approach to the topic has changed significantly. My findings first suggested that the drive towards an ever-more centralised registration had its origins long before the beginning of the Nazi rule.
I then widened the scope of the thesis to trace the development of registration and census-taking to their 19th century origins at the formation of the modern nation state, focusing on Prussia. This allowed me to contextualise the initiatives during the Nazi era against the backdrop of the historical development and eventually to draw different conclusions regarding the character of Nazi registration than previous research on the topic.

Contrary to earlier findings, my thesis now argue that registration policy of the Nazi era was marked by a great continuity, implementing measures devised in the Weimar era. Only in 1937 did a specific National Socialist registration system begin to take shape. The establishment of the Volkskartei in 1939 marked the end-point in this development. Whereas earlier research believed the card index was first and foremost utilised to monitor individuals, I will be able to prove that its main purpose was to replace censuses by providing a dynamic database."

That is, Stephan writes, with one vital exception. "The data on descent that was aggregated during the census was collated with the Volkskartei and the population registers, targeting Germany’s Jews and ‘Gypsies’ to be segregated and eventually deported. While this is widely accepted in historiography, I will soon be able to dismiss objections that have been made over the past years."

The University of Sussex was the first university in England to establish a Holocaust Memorial Day and it continues to be a flagship event on campus each year. Holocaust Memorial Day this year featured a variety of fascinating and moving speakers and culminated in a showing of Pierre Sauvage's documentary Not Idly By: Peter Bergson, America and the Holocaust. The film tells the story of Hillel Kook, who travelled to the United States in 1940 to raise money and warn American Jews of the fate that awaited their families in Europe. After the screening, Astra Kook Temko and Becky Kook, daughters of Hillel Kook, discussed the film.

**Holocaust Memorial Day 2018 programme cover image**

*Image: Woman with Headscarf, calligraphic portrait incorporating the names of Jewish prisoners who perished at Mikhailowa, by Arnold Daghani*
The Social Impact Prize awarded for new life-saving app

Winners of the 2018 Social Impact Prize are Joanna Kmiec and William Halle. They designed their product, Deadline.Live, as a safety net for people living alone with a serious illness. It combines an app with a Bluetooth bracelet and acts as a ‘dead man’s switch’, alerting friends and family whenever the owner doesn’t check in regularly. Joanna says, “It’s a dream come true for us to start making our idea a reality.” William, who is diabetic, adds, “The next step is to launch a crowdfunding campaign to build our wearable device, so we can’t wait to start using our marketing support from Sussex Innovation.”

“The standard of entries this year was extremely impressive and gave us a real challenge as judges,” says Peter Lane, Innovation Support Manager at Sussex Innovation and a member of the Social Impact Prize judging panel. “Deadline.Live stood out with a professional brand image, a working prototype and an innovative solution that could deliver real social value to diabetic care. William Halle and Joanna Kmiec had direct experience of the problem, knew their market well and demonstrated real ambition to take their app and next-stage wearable product to market.”

Hlanganiso Matangaidze won second place for his idea, Renewable Energy Development (RED). The project will distribute low cost alternative energy sources such as wind and solar power to rural communities in Zimbabwe.

The Social Impact Prize is awarded to the enterprise with the most potential to bring about positive social change. As well as earning the title of Sussex Student Entrepreneurs of the Year, the winners receive a £10,000 prize consisting of a cash award and ongoing membership, consultancy and marketing from Sussex Innovation.

Second place winners receive £8,000.
Inaugural MacQuitty Prize for Humanities & Social Sciences awarded

Delighted at the news that she won the inaugural MacQuitty Prize for the Humanities & Social Sciences, Josie Jolley (below, right) writes, “I had been homeless for five years when I applied for university. I was tired of sleeping in hostels, public toilets, people's attics, on spare sofas and floors. Nobody wants to employ a homeless teenager and boredom was kept at bay only by fear. On the precipice of giving in to overwhelming desperation and alienation, I began my Geography BA at the University of Sussex.

The monumental impact the Geography department has rendered on my life is inexpressible. They have stoked the flames of an all-consuming desire to continue learning, and so winning this prize is all the more significant because it offers both a promise and a pivotal turning point. It is a promise to follow this passion. It holds the economic security to pursue a PhD without distraction. Throughout my undergraduate degree, studying shared a precarious timetable with three simultaneous part-time jobs. Now, my work need not be stacking supermarket shelves at four am or cleaning student rooms; it can be what I love. It is a privilege beyond all imagining to stand on this threshold, knowing I can now give myself unconditionally to studying, researching and learning.

It is also a pivotal moment, demarcating opportunity. It will never be a case of ‘then’ and ‘now’ – homelessness and the fear of returning to it will forever haunt everything I do. The difference is that this prize marks those years as worthwhile. Who I am, who I want to be, draws from those experiences. I would love a career in academia: to share knowledge, to be challenged daily and to listen to the voices and stories people have to tell about themselves and their worlds. Receiving this award is testimony to the importance of that work, those voices. Above all, winning the MacQuitty Prize gives me the confidence and courage to continue listening to them.”

Thomas Atherton (right) won the 2018 MacQuitty Prize for Science. Asked what the £10,000 award means to his future, Thomas says, “The University of Sussex’s Mathematics Department has helped me achieve things I never thought possible and pushed me to ever-greater heights. This led me to the idea that I might pursue a career in academia, and so the next step is a Master’s course in Mathematics at the University of Warwick. The MacQuitty Prize will make my time there considerably easier, allowing me to focus on my work without financial concerns.”
New Geoffrey Oldham Memorial Scholarships launched

Professor Geoffrey Oldham, co-founder of the Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU), passed away in October 2017. Geoff served as Deputy Director of SPRU before becoming Director in 1982, and his work on science and technology policy and developing countries is unparalleled. To commemorate his work and continue his legacy, the Geoffrey Oldham Memorial Scholarship Fund was launched, for Master’s study at SPRU.

To date, a total of eleven scholarships have been funded by donations from individuals and organisations who worked with Geoffrey around the world, as well as family and friends. The first four scholars have now arrived at Sussex. Their journeys here are diverse but they are united by a desire to bring positive change to the world, thereby honouring Geoff’s legacy.

“The scholarship has enabled me to pursue my academic interest and personal ambitions to transform the governance of my country. I will forever be grateful for the opportunity to study in the field that was so close to Prof Oldham’s heart,” said scholar Aida Nor.

The Sussex Fund keeps on giving

"Having been independent from the age of fifteen, I supported myself all the way through school, college and university. This generous award from the Sussex Fund will now allow me to focus on my postgraduate studies. In doing so, I hope to inspire my four younger siblings to fulfill their potential through education as well. Thank you so much!"
– Lana, Sussex Fund recipient

The Sussex Fund provides financial assistance through hardship bursaries; encourages excellence via scholarships; and offers opportunities that students might not otherwise have. We are committed to widening participation and enhancing the student experience at Sussex, helping those who need it most. This is possible thanks only to the generous support of the alumni, staff and friends of the University. In 2018, the Sussex Fund raised more than £200,000.
Jesse White Master’s scholar explores pre-WWI colonial alliances

Wishing to express his appreciation to the Friends for the Jesse White Scholarship, Max Müller (left) says, “Your crucial support has allowed me to make memories that have shaped me intellectually and had a decisive impact on my outlook on life. Without the scholarship, I wouldn’t have had the liberty to fully concentrate on my studies or explore exciting aspects of the international experience, with the guidance of my mentors in seminars, as well as in the library. This freedom is an invaluable luxury.”

For his final thesis, Max wrote about the colonial extra-European contributions to the alliance formation in the preliminary stages of the First World War. “It was the most exciting and insightful project of my academic career thus far. Never before have I delved so deeply into historical and political subject matter and, in addition to being academically challenging, I learnt a lot about myself in the process. I’m excited to see what the future has in store.”

Windle Conservation Project focuses on Woman’s Own collection

The project to conserve the University’s rare and heavily used collection of bound Woman’s Own magazines has continued this year. The collection, which is housed at The Keep, is often used in teaching for both undergraduate and post-graduate students, and for school groups. Ten bound volumes have been conserved, all from 1940-1955, taking approximately 200 hours. These repairs are often made more difficult by previous repair attempts that are now causing new damage.

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Friends of the University of Sussex scholar tests his Maths mettle

The Friends of the University of Sussex Master’s Scholarship is available to students in any academic school. It helps ensure that talented students from America are given the opportunity to fulfil their potential, regardless of their background and resources. In 2018, the Friends Master’s Scholarship was awarded to Tyler Stevens (left), who is studying for a Master’s in Mathematics. He recently graduated from Brigham Young University with a Bachelor’s degree in Physics, with a minor in Mathematics.

“The first term went better than I expected and I learned a lot. This term, I have been able to choose classes that will make me more employable (eg Machine Learning and Monte Carlo Simulations). However, this term will be much more difficult than last and I am excited for the chance to test myself. I spent last semester working on the first part of my thesis with Dr Peter Giesl and, with luck, we will be able to make a lot of progress this term,” Tyler says.

Richard Nelson SPRU 50th scholar tackles security policy research

Raul Araiza (right) has just completed his Master’s as a Richard Nelson scholar. He says, “I had the honour to finish my studies and graduate from the Science and Technology Policy course with distinction. This past year was as fulfilling as it was challenging, and I am sure the experience will help me achieve my career goals, not only due to the helpful and fundamental knowledge I acquired, but a Master’s degree from such a prestigious programme and university will help me stand out amongst other candidates.”

As asked about his future, Raul continues, “My time in SPRU led me to pursue a career in security policy research and emerging technology governance. Since graduation, I’ve been working on publishing my thesis and writing a chapter for an academic book on security studies. I’m now back in the United States, ready to pursue my new career path, thanks to the preparation I got at Sussex.”
Visiting & Exchange students combine studies and European travel

The Visiting & Exchange Student Scholarship offers the opportunity for students from the United States to spend time at the University of Sussex, thereby providing the kind of trans-Atlantic educational experience that alumni find so valuable. This year, the Friends supported two V&E scholars: Miles Kish (right) and Serena Sandiford (below), both coming from the University of North Carolina, Ashville.

“My short time at Sussex has afforded me opportunities I never thought possible. When I applied to study here, I knew I’d meet new people and experience a different type of university. Sussex has given me that and so much more” says Miles. “I study politics, and in today’s tempestuous times it can be difficult to separate fact from rhetoric. At Sussex, I’ve learned from truly revolutionary professors within an internationally renowned program. My studies at home have given me a wide understanding of today’s politics, but here I’ve dived deeper into the political structures of yesterday, today and tomorrow, and been exposed to new schools of thought and methods of analysis that will prove invaluable in my career.”

Speaking about his personal experiences here, Miles continues, “I’ve been truly lucky to meet the warmest and friendliest people here, on campus and off. Classmates, flatmates or just mates – I’ll carry these relationships with me for many years. Before coming here, I’d never left America, and I’ve been trying to make the most of the ability to travel. Whether it’s a day trip to Portsmouth or a week in Hungary, I’ve been able to expand my horizons and my comfort zone. While I’ve learned a great deal about politics and international relations, I’ve also learned a lot about myself, and for that I can only say thank you.”

Of her time here, Serena Sandiford says, “The V&E scholarship has given me many opportunities while I expand my education as well as travel in another country. While American and British educations are different, they’ve both been great experiences. I love the University of Sussex and I’m so grateful to be here!”
New Junior Research Associates benefit from Friends support

The two Junior Research Associates supported by the Friends of the University of Sussex in 2018 were Linnea Berg (below, right), whose poster was *Spooky Action at a Distance: Translating Textual and Traumatic Entanglement in the Poems of Bruno K Oijer*, and Eleanor Stebbing (below, left) who called her poster *A Lifetime of Movement Distilled in a Candy Box: Representing the Personal Papers of Katrina Sa’ade in the Planet Bethlehem Archive*.

Because the JRA scheme has expanded considerably in recent years, a Sussex Undergraduate Research Office has now been created, which has a number of under-graduate research schemes under its remit, some of which are international. This year the office expects to welcome a number of international students from the following universities: the University of Chicago; the University of California Santa Cruz; Georgetown University; and Cornell University, who will all participate in the International JRA scheme at the University of Sussex this summer.

The University of Sussex is a member of the US Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR). Paul Roberts (Assistant Director of the Doctoral School) and Julie Carr (Doctoral School Officer) attended the CUR biennial conference held in Arlington, Virginia, in July 2018. “We would love to continue developing our undergraduate research relationship with the US and hope to attend the next conference, which will be held in June 2020 at Purdue University,” Julie says.

The JRA scheme rewards academic excellence by supporting high-achieving undergraduates who are seriously considering post-graduate study to realise this ambition by working alongside Sussex’s top research faculty during the summer holiday. Over eight weeks, undergraduates build connections with researchers, work closely with academic supervisors and mentors, and gain invaluable research experience for future PhD study. The JRA Scheme is a unique chance to participate in real-life research and explore whether students would be suited to a career in research.

Once their projects are completed, candidates produce academic posters and present their findings during the annual Undergraduate Research Poster Exhibition. The winner of the competition goes on to represent the University of Sussex at the prestigious Posters in Parliament event in London, at which the top JRA students from across the UK are invited to exhibit their posters at the Houses of Parliament.
New recipient of the Gita Beker Busjeet Memorial Prize

This year’s winner of the Gita Beker Busjeet Memorial Prize is Elena Buzzi (right), who studied Economics and International Relations. “Elena has been an outstanding student, scoring consistently high marks and impressing academically in both her subjects. She’s been an exemplary student and an excellent role model, and this award is extremely well-deserved,” recalled Professor Barry Reilly, Head of the Department of Economics.

Elena says of her future, “After three enriching and wonderful years at Sussex, I will now begin my Master’s in Environmental Policy at Sciences Po Paris. I aim eventually to start a career as a project manager for social enterprises in the field of environmental sustainability and sustainable community development.”

Gita Beker Busjeet was an alumna of the University of Sussex who passed away in 2012. Her father, Vinod Busjeet, established the Gita Beker Busjeet Memorial Prize in her memory. The prize aims to recognise the best-performing undergraduate student on a joint degree encompassing Economics, Politics, Development Studies or International Relations.
Alumni Engagement across America

Thanks to our global network of Alumni Consuls, our community of graduates benefit from a regular programme of networking events and get-togethers. The alumni events featured here are just a small sampling of the gatherings that our US alumni have held during the past year. They demonstrate that friendships forged at Sussex can endure a lifetime and that our community of alumni is well and truly thriving.

US-based Sussex alumni at an event held at the University Club of San Francisco, California

Sussex alumni at a social held in Washington, DC

Adrienne Drell (ENGAM 1964), third from right, with her Sussex friends in Tucson, Arizona
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