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Professor Sir Steve Smith
Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive, University of Exeter
2013 - 2014 at the University of Exeter has been a year of achievements that really defines the direction in which our University is heading.

Our ambition as a University is to transform lives through undertaking pioneering research and offering a world-class education for our students. It is our aim to be a leading international university demonstrated by being one of the top universities in the world and top 10 in the UK. And 2014 was a year of unprecedented external recognition for our ethos, strategy and approach. We were ranked 7th in the Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2015, our highest ever domestic ranking, and we are also now ranked first amongst Russell Group in Universities for overall satisfaction in the National Student Survey (NSS).

This year was also unprecedented as we have continued to invest strategically in our students and staff, in our academic subjects, and in our buildings. Last year, one of my personal highlights was the opening of the Research, Innovation, Learning and Sustainability (RILD) building by the World Dementia Envoy, Dr Dennis Gillings CBE. The academics working in the building are already making major scientific advances in dementia and diabetes research that are directly improving the life of patients, as well as teaching the doctors of tomorrow.

In June, construction began on our £52million Living Systems Institute (LSI), which will bring together leading mathematicians, physicists, cell and molecular biologists, biomedical scientists and engineers to pioneer an exciting new approach to understanding how diseases evolve and how they can be diagnosed more accurately and cured more effectively.

The University is committed to the principles of the Athena SWAN Charter which aims to support and encourage gender equality within Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine (STEMM) subjects. We received the Charter in June 2011 and received Bronze status in March 2012. The University of Exeter Medical School (UEMS) and Sports and Health Science both won Silver awards, the combined departments of Biology and Geography at our Penryn Campus in Cornwall, along with Mathematics, Computer Science and Psychology have achieved Bronze status in 2013.

Professor Sir Steve Smith and Professor Chinnor Living President of Tonghua University, Beijing.

The Chancellor was invited to plant a mulberry tree in the Community Garden and ask all students and members of the local community about how the space is a positive place for people to go to share their experiences of growing food, learn about sustainability and develop new skills. The event was supported by the Student Green Unit, Exeter Student Union, staff, student volunteers and the local community. Norrie Blackeby, co-founder and treasurer of the Exeter Community Garden said, “The community garden does not belong to one person or group. It belongs to anyone who has an interest in growing food, care about nature, the environment and most importantly is willing to share their time and effort to share their experience with others.”

The Chancellor, Baroness Blackaby, Benjamin CBE, with Norrie Blackeby, co-founder and treasurer of the Exeter Community Garden in October.

The multi-award winning £27.5million RILD building was officially opened in June by the World Dementia Envoy, Dr Dennis Gillings, CBE. RILD embodies a pioneering partnership between the University’s Medical School and the Royal Devon & Exeter NHS Foundation Trust (RD&E) which aims to support and encourage gender equality within Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine (STEMM) subjects. We received the Charter in June 2011 and received Bronze status in March 2012. The University of Exeter Medical School (UEMS) and Sports and Health Science both won Silver awards, the combined departments of Biology and Geography at our Penryn campus in Cornwall, along with Mathematics, Computer Science and Psychology have achieved Bronze status in 2013.

The RILD building.

The University uses the BRE Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) as a tool for delivering sustainable buildings. All of our new developments aspire to achieving BREEAM Excellent. The Environment and Sustainability Institute (ESI) at the Penryn campus achieved “BREEAM Outstanding”.

The welcome.

Professor Sir Steve Smith, Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive of the University of Exeter.

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THE YEAR IN FIGURES

IN FIGURES

90% OF OUR RESEARCH RATED AS WORLD-LEADING IN THE LATEST RESEARCH ASSESSMENT EXERCISE 2014

7TH IN THE UK IN THE TIMES AND SUNDAY TIMES GOOD UNIVERSITY GUIDE 2014

6TH IN THE TIMES GOOD UNIVERSITY GUIDE 2014

BEST UNIVERSITY IN THE UK STAFF-PORTABLE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SATISFACTION 2014

9.5% INCOME FROM HIGHER FEES IN 2013-14

6TH IN THE TIMES AND SUNDAY TIMES GOOD UNIVERSITY GUIDE 2014

WE ACHIEVED £500 MILLION RESEARCH FUNDING IN 2013-14

WE HAVE AN ALUMNI NETWORK OF MORE THAN 100,000 PEOPLE

£475 MILLION INVESTED IN NEW INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES IN 2013-14

43% UNDERGRADUATE APPLICATIONS HAVE GROWN IN THE LAST 3 YEARS

WE CONTRIBUTE HALF A BILLION POUNDS TO OUR REGIONAL ECONOMY

IN THE RUSSELL GROUP FOR STUDENT SATISFACTION 2014

ANNUAL REVIEW 2013 - 2014

Once again another busy, successful year at the University and in the spirit of innovation, we have taken a different approach to sharing our story with you in this new format. Here are selected highlights to give a flavour of the work accomplished and the contributions from our University community. Our website will give you more information about these and other achievements which you can view at www.exeter.ac.uk.

INTERNATIONAL

Launched in 2010, we are entering the last year of our current internationalisation strategy and are now looking to the next phase which will take us to 2020. Once again we have enjoyed sustained progress and we have seen Exeter ranked firmly in the top 1 per cent of universities globally.

This year has seen a number of trips for the Vice-Chancellor and colleagues with visits to 12 cities in seven countries including Beijing, Peking, Shanghai, Munich, New York and Brazil raising the profile of the University of Exeter as a world-leading research institution and discussing with colleagues overseas the increasing importance of international research collaboration and meeting students and alumni.

The University’s international student population represented around one quarter of all students at Exeter in 2013/14. We are proud to be able to attract students from more than 130 different countries and to employ staff from 76 countries. The University supports a wide diversification of social cultures by hosting free events such as the Chinese New Year celebrations and Diwali which are open to all staff, students and local residents.

During 2013/14 Exeter was selected as the first UK university member of Generation Study Abroad, a five-year US government-supported initiative of the Institute of International Education (IIE) which aims to double the number of US students studying abroad by 2020. The number of Exeter students studying abroad increased from 683 in 2012/13 to 746 in 2013/14, a rise of 9.5%. Exeter’s inbound Study Abroad headcount also continues to increase. We welcomed a total of 666 Erasmus, international exchange and fee-paying study abroad students in 2013/14, an increase of 25% on the previous year’s total of 533. This year inbound students from universities in 34 countries came to enjoy the ‘Exeter Experience’ on our campuses, thus adding to the international diversity of student life.

RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

Supporting world-class research

It has been another exceptional year for Exeter. The University won £271 million of research awards and made funding applications to the value of £292 million. Over the last five years, Exeter has seen a 55% increase in research council funding against 1.7% for the sector as a whole. We have risen in the ranking for all research councils and the EU income increased 270% over this period. Our total research portfolio is now worth £200 million per annum.

We are one of the fastest growing research universities and have world-class research in all subject areas. University of Exeter researchers continue to make major contributions in a wide range of disciplines including food security, graphene, diabetes, climate impact, the digital economy, global uncertainty, social change, extraterrestrial planets and renewable energy.

Our research is often undertaken in partnership with governments, industry, charities and other social organisations which ensures that research is undertaken in response to societal need and the results are used for the benefit of us all. We have strengthened research links with our corporate partners, generating more than £5.5 million in awards. At the Penryn campus, the Environment and Sustainability Institute (ESI) works with businesses in Cornwall, the Isles of Scilly and beyond, to translate research and expertise into innovative business practices, products and services in order to respond to the challenges of environmental change. A major £5.5 million development of the Science and Engineering Research Support Facility (SERSF) at the Penryn campus will see expansion for the University’s Business School, Marine Renewables team and Centre for Ecology and Conservation, and on the Streatham campus, the £5 million Living Systems Institute is under construction.

The GW4 Alliance, a collaboration between the universities of Bath, Bristol, Cardiff and Exeter, has provided funds of £650,000 for 35 projects to tackle some of society’s highest priorities ranging from climate change to dementia. The Alliance has succeeded in attracting significant funding from all the UK research councils to train research students. For example, we won the largest Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) Doctoral Training Programme (DTP) in the UK, providing 200 studentships in the field of environmental science.

Science Park Centre nears completion

The Exeter Science Park opened for business this year and the new hub for the Park, the Science Park Centre is due to open in 2015. The Centre is designed to attract businesses engaged in science and technology. The team behind the Exeter Innovation Centre will manage the Centre.

SETsquared

SETsquared, the enterprise partnership of the universities of Bath, Bristol, Exeter, Southampton and Surrey, was named the best university business incubator in Europe, and second best in the world by the University Business Incubation (UBI) Index. In its 11-year history, SETsquared has provided incubation support to 1,000 companies and helped them raise over £1 billion investment.

Leading the way on climate change research

Exeter as a city has more authors involved in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) than any other place in the world. Exeter’s leading climate scientists convened the world’s first meeting of the international climate community to discuss the future of climate science in May 2014 following the release of the IPCC’s Fifth Assessment Report (AR5).

It attracted more than 500 people from academia, industry, government, and the public to discuss how the AR5 would inform future climate change research. The results of the conference were seen on Twitter by more than 3.6 million people.

Professor Neil Adger said: “This amazing conference confirmed Exeter’s key position in this global debate and enabled members of the public to engage global authorities on climate change”.

In January the University’s first ever Massive Online Open Course (MOOC) in climate change, led by Professor Tim Lenton, attracted more than 16,000 participants.

OUR STUDENTS

In 2013/14 there were 19,325 students at the University, of which 4,217 were postgraduates; some 70% of home/EU undergraduates came from state schools and 30% from independent schools.

We are proud to be able to attract students from more than 130 different countries and to employ staff from 76 countries.

At the University we have a student-focused philosophy which results in very high levels of student satisfaction. Our students are the most satisfied of the Russell Group universities, according to the results of the National Student Survey ( NSS) 2014, and we ranked 4th overall for the most satisfied students.

We are currently 7th in the UK in The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2015.
OUR CAMPUSES
The University of Exeter is committed to the principles and practice of environmental sustainability in our activities across the organisation. We aim to reduce the environmental impact of our operations and make a positive contribution to the local environment through the sensitive management of our campuses.

We have been recognised as one of the ‘greenslest’ universities, attaining a First Class Award in the People & Planet Green League 2013 for the fifth year running. Both the Streatham and St Luke’s campuses received a Green Flag award in 2013.

At the World Architecture Festival in 2013, The Forum building won in the Higher Education and Research Category, up against competition from around the globe and it was the only UK project to be highlighted. The flagship, £48.5million student services building continues to be the hub of student activity on the main Exeter campus.

At South Cloisters on our St Luke’s campus, a £10.5million upgrade to research and learning spaces is underway, which will provide new facilities for the Medical School and other students based at this campus.

OUR ALUMNI
The alumni community of the University of Exeter is now more than 100,000 graduates across 170 countries, supporting Exeter students past, present and future. Our alumni support the University in many different ways. Some volunteer their time, for example in the form of practice job interviews, one to one mentoring, giving careers talks, or advising the University, amongst many other volunteering programmes. Others fund scholarships and bursaries allowing talented students to attend Exeter regardless of their financial or personal backgrounds. Some donate to world-changing research, for example in the Medical School, or the facilities to support all we do, such as new sports equipment.

However, they contribute to the life and work of the University; they share a belief in the power of an Exeter education and the impact of Exeter research to help shape and inform a better future. Through their support, our alumni and friends have helped place Exeter amongst the very best universities in the world, securing and improving the value of studies here.

Over the last year, just under 2,000 donors made a donation to support the University and our students, totalling over £1million. Gifts ranged from £1 to over £366,000 and have supported a wide range of projects across all campuses. We are delighted to announce that volunteering time increased in the last academic year by nearly 2,000 hours, with over 800 alumni donating more than 9,000 hours of their time to help Exeter students.

The support and encouragement of our alumni always plays a huge part in our success at Exeter, every gift of time and money, of every size, really does make a difference.

OUR COLLEGES

Humanities
While in the top echelon of UK institutions for many years, Humanities continues its rise by making an increased impact in the international university rankings. The College is now ranked 65th in The Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2014/15, while in the QS World University Rankings 2014, English is in the Top 50, with History and Modern Languages in the Top 150.

As well as a strong performance in undergraduate recruitment in all our disciplines, 2014 was also noteworthy for the launch of our innovative postgraduate MA in International Film Business, in partnership with the London Film School. Combining unrivalled film sector expertise with world-class academic resources, this programme was specifically designed to ensure students get ahead in this most competitive of industries and surpassed all our expectations in terms of its popularity.

Life and Environmental Sciences
We are ranked in the world’s top 100 for the second consecutive year. The Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2014/15 ranked the University of Exeter 98th for Life Sciences, acknowledging our status as being among the very best globally. Performance was judged across all core missions: teaching, research, knowledge transfer and international outlook.

Medical School
Our emphasis on focused growth and innovation will establish Exeter as a centre for excellence for clinical research and healthcare. This year we launched two new strands of work, bringing together and strengthening our expertise in the fields of primary care and precision medicine. We also opened the Research, Innovation, Learning and Development building, a partnership with the NHS Foundation Trust. Our Medicine programme is ranked as one of the best in the UK for student satisfaction, and we have invested in enhancing our teaching facilities for all our students.

Business School
The Business School is on target to be triple accredited with re-accreditation by AMBA and AACSB, submission this year to add to our existing EQUIS accreditation. We were 5th in the sector in the Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education survey and the MSc in Marketing was accredited by the Chartered Institute of Marketing. The School sees a new venture at the Penryn campus with iBc Business and the joint ACCA Massive Online Open Course received over 13,000 enrolments.

Social Sciences and International Studies
Another successful year for research, recruitment and league table results and was also notable for a number of milestones. The Graduate School of Education celebrated 160 years of teacher training at our St Luke’s campus while the 50th anniversary of Politics was marked by the University’s first Houses of Parliament Open Lecture. The College launched its Q-Step Centre for quantitative skills and the dedication of student volunteers was recognised in the first Student Engagement Celebration.

Engineering, Mathematics and Physical Sciences
We continue to deliver on our reputation as the growth college, with record intakes in 2014/15 for both undergraduate and postgraduate students. In addition, the College has already started to see the benefits from its new research strategy and has successfully been awarded four centres for doctoral training, and continues to generate year on year growth in research applications, awards and income.
OUR CELEBRATIONS

The University is currently celebrating a number of anniversaries

125 YEARS
CAMBORNE SCHOOL OF MINES

CELEBRATING
10 YEARS
At our Penryn & Truro campuses

160 YEARS
AT ST LUKE’S

90 YEARS
OF THE LAW SCHOOL

For more information about our anniversaries visit www.exeter.ac.uk