Tributes to Professor Alan Jones
"Many of you here will have met Alan Jones either as an individual or certainly from his research work. His was a really significant contribution to the field. Some will know too that Alan essentially made history by being the first ever to receive a DSc when he submitted his portfolio of crystallisation and transport process research back in 1993.

But above all I recall Alan as the quiet but thoughtful leader who watched over the development of Chemical Engineering at UCL in the first decade of this century. He had a good sense of humour which was often needed as we worked to build the presence of process engineering across UCL. Alan was a tireless supporter of his staff and proud to have spent his career at UCL.

His legacy then is not simply in the pioneering crystallisation studies but in the individuals whose lives he touched. In this way his impact endures and we are, all of us, the richer for that."

- Prof. Nigel Titchener-Hooker

Prof. Nigel Titchener-Hooker
Dean of Engineering, UCL
Department Photos in 2012/2013
"I joined UCL Chemical Engineering in August 2012. I was supposed to overlap with Alan initially, before becoming Head of Department in October 2012, but that was unfortunately not to be, as Alan was already very ill at the time, so I had to take over the reins immediately.

When faced with difficult decisions, I often asked myself “How would Alan have done this?”.

I regret having had so few opportunities to interact with him. On the few occasions that I did, including after my interview for the post in March 2012, he struck me as a modest and open man, thoughtful and generous with his time.

He was immensely proud of the Department and of UCL. His dry sense of humour came through even during the last few months of his life; when I asked him how he was doing, he told me “Fine in spirits, and also the kidneys are fine now. Unfortunately, everything else in the body is not doing its job.” An admirably courageous man."

Prof. Marc-Olivier Coppens
(Head of the Department)
Dr Han Wu perfectly embodies all UCL stands for. I got in touch with her thanks to Alan, as Han was his last postdoctoral researcher. I strongly believe that we live on in those we care for and mentor; with Han, one could not dream of a better and truer mentee, and Alan’s legacy is in safe hands.

As Head of Department, I appreciate his legacy very much, and have built on it to grow, with our wonderful colleagues, an outward-looking Department to its current strength and size, internationally recognised. Most importantly, I wanted to raise the ambition while preserving the friendliness. A tall order. No tall and strong house is built on weak foundations. The foundations Alan left were very strong indeed: financial strength, a significant and strong undergraduate student base, outward-looking, collegial and friendly.

Alan’s picture is clearly displayed in my office, which was his, for all to see. He will always live on in our Department and its people."

- Prof. Marc-Olivier Coppens
"Alan gave me my break into academia. As a non-engineer coming into an engineering department, he showed me what an engineer should be. His calm wisdom taught me so much and his dry wit often had me in stitches."

- Prof. Dan Brett

"Alan was always supportive. Although the department had very limited budget, he allocated fund to refurbish the laboratory with high standard for us. He was not only a Head of Department but more like a friend to foster young academics.

My group grew quickly from 3 to 18 members, with research fund from EPSRC, Newton Fund, Leverhulme, Qatar, and others, thanks to Alan’s consecutive supports and encouragement."

- Dr. Junwang Tang
"Alan will always live in my memory for his caring friendship and for his mentorship during the early years of my career at UCL. He was an exceptional scientist and an astute manager; we owe him a lot for the success and standing of the Department of Chemical Engineering at UCL."

- Prof. Paola Lettieri (Vice-Dean in the Faculty of Engineering)
“I had the privilege of benefitting enormously from Alan’s wisdom. He never ceased to provide insightful comments and advice. He listened carefully and patiently, offering always his advice and support. I will always be inspired by his calm demeanour and his gentlemanly attitude.”

- Prof. Asterios Gavriilidis
‘I would like to express my appreciation of Alan for his encouragement of over-optimistic computer-modellers, and as a great person to work with, as we continue to find out how subtle chiral resolution is in practise.’

Sally received the ‘Interdisciplinary prize’ from Royal Society of Chemistry in 2015

‘I’d credit the work I’ve done with Chemical Engineers as starting with my work with Alan.’
"Today we are remembering Alan’s contribution to crystallisation. I would like to remember some of his other attributes which led to him becoming Ramsay Memorial Professor and Head of Department.

Alan was an excellent and efficient administrator. He would always see the wider picture. He brought the department through difficult times. He set the scene and laid the foundations for the department’s expansion. Alan was an excellent judge of character and had a way of getting the best out of people.

Alan was modest and, I believe, underestimated his own ability. He was dedicated Head of Department. When in hospital recovering from open-heart surgery and at home convalescing, he wanted to be kept informed and was a valuable source of advice.

Some of his favourite sayings were: “If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it” and “Count to ten before pressing send”.

It is sad that Alan was not able to enjoy his retirement from the headship. The department lost a good friend and a great asset."
"Alan Jones was one of life’s true gentlemen, and was a pleasure to work with.

He was very supportive of the technical staff, even when budgets were tight, Alan would manage to find the odd few thousand pounds for much needed equipment. He had a dry sense of humour and cared greatly for the safety of all in the department, staff and students alike.

In my first year of working for Alan, he called me into his office and said that he had an important project for me. This got my pulse racing and I instantly thought of all the interesting things that I could be involved with. Alan then made his announcement – Can you stand on my desk and change that flickering fluorescent tube for me, but mind you don’t fall off the desk, that will create a lot of paperwork!

Alan Jones, you are missed."

- Mr. Mike Gorecki
"I remember Alan Jones as someone who I respected greatly in his role of Head of Department.

He struck me as being very competent but always calm, considerate of others, and never needing to be overbearing in ensuring the efficient running of the department.

I also remember fondly his quiet sense of humour and wish that I had had the privilege of working with him for more than the few years that I did."

Dr. Simon Barrass
"I knew Alan for many years and he was one of the best managers I've had. He genuinely cared about his staff and always gave them credit for their work on his projects and contributions to the Department.

When Alan took over as Head of Department he really turned things round for the better and built a strong foundation for the future in both Staff and infrastructure the influence of which will be evident for many years to come.

When Alan fell ill it was clear just how much support Alan had from his staff as everyone worked together to keep the Department running smoothly and continue Alan's work to further improve the Department."

- Mr. Martyn Vale
"Through 25 years of knowing him, from Lecturer to Head of Department, Alan was a key presence in the Department for both his students and certainly for his colleagues, including the Administrative Staff. He always made himself available whenever we required help and guidance. He also worked extremely hard ensuring our working environment was to a high standard, "happy staff - happy boss" was his motto!. He mostly enjoyed his afternoon cup of tea! But mostly Alan was always on hand to give advice and guidance which enriched our time working within the Department of Chemical Engineering especially with his "wonderful sense of humour".

- Mrs. Pat Markey
"I always enjoyed Alan's company and working for him ".

- Mrs. Valerie Potter
I was lucky to have Alan as my PhD supervisor. He would always make time to listen to my proposals and dilemmas and would provide good advice and encouragement. With Alan you always left a meeting with clear ideas and a revived sense of ambition. He was very good at taking care of his students - even at the most challenging times, he thought of us, wanting to ensure that we had everything we needed to succeed in our research.

Dr. Miguel Ardid

I was thrilled when I joined Alan’s group in early 2010, and always feel lucky to work with him since. He treated us like real friends with an adorable sense of humour. Our group worked together like a nice family and we always help each other. Alan has been extremely supportive to my research and my career development. He was trying to give me a good job after my postdoc, although I didn’t take that job, I decided to stay at UCL because of him.

Dr. Han Wu
"Alan was a very calm and collected person - somebody you would feel comfortable to go and speak to. I remember meeting him in his office after my PhD upgrade exam - it was procedural for him to meet every PhD student after they have passed. He made sure that I had the right support system to see my PhD to completion."

- Dr. Noor Al-Rifai

"Prof. Jones was always a very kind, approachably and friendly guy, with a funny sense of humour, will never forget some of his advice on exams!"

- Dr. Toby Neville
I wish to share my journey in UCL as his MSC research student.

When the list of research projects were released, I read through each project, and was immediately drawn to the topic 'Precipitation of Calcium Carbonate' under the supervision of Prof Alan Jones. I decided to meet him in person. I was pleasantly surprised with his cheerful nature, and his depth of knowledge in the field.

When I first started my project, Prof Jones calmly brought me to the basement of the Engineering building and explained the core of the project that involves the study of calcium precipitation in a tall, industrial scale draft tube bubble column, or as he called it, 'the rocket'. With his guidance and supervision, I managed to complete the project really well, thanks to his invaluable input throughout.

I still remember his lectures as if it was only yesterday I last sat for his class. He takes time to explain the theories clearly and enjoys interacting with his students, and what's remarkable about him, is that he was always smiling despite a very busy day.

- Mrs. Shamsun Nisha Shahul Hamid

Mr. Rajan Patel, Ms. Shamsun Nisha Shahul Hamid, Ms. Angelica Nunez-Merchand, Mr. Thanos and Mr. Keith Doran
“Prof Jones was a wonderful leader who nurtures his students with the ability to achieve and do our best. He's always ready to assist us, and I remember he's also very down-to-earth and sometimes chats about his family.

He once proudly described his twin sons' achievement in swimming competitions and their interest in music. I asked, 'Do you play any instrument?' He burst into laughter, and said 'I can play the CD!'. To this day, I'll never forget that humorous quote of his.

Long after I've left UCL, I started sending him Christmas Card each year. Although I did not receive any reply, I always wished him well and suggested that he brings his family for a holiday in Malaysia.

I will always remember him for his kindness, his wealth of knowledge (I wished I had bought his book with his signature as a remembrance), and above all, his humble, fatherly qualities that made him a well-liked academician. He remains special to every student who had the privilege to be taught by him.

- Ms. Shamsun Nisha Shahul Hamid
(Shell Centenary Scholarship recipient in 2000)
Condolence From Alan’s Friends and Students

Dr. Slobodan (Boban) Jancic  
Principal, SJJ Management Consulting, Switzerland

Dr Stelios Rigopoulos  
Imperial College London, Mechanical Engineering

Prof. Sally Price  
UCL, Chemistry

Dr. Doris Braun  
University of Innsbruck

Mrs. Anna Harrington  
UCL, former Departmental Manager of Chemical Engineering

Mrs. Valerie Potter  
UCL, former Departmental Administrator of Chemical Engineering

Ms. Agata Blaszczyk  
UCL, former Administrator of Chemical Engineering

Mr Rajan Patel  
MSc Student

Mrs. Shamsun Nisha Shahul Hamid  
MSc Student

Miss Angelica Nunez-Merchand,  
MSc Student

Mr Thanos  
MSc Student

Mr Keith Doran  
MSc Student

And, Many many more......