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ISSUE 2 2011

NORTHUMBRIA UNIVERSITY ALUMNI NEWS

In Touch

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Life after Cancer
Graduate Profiles
Reunion Roundup
Building on Sporting Success

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Dear Alumni and Friends

The Northumbria Alumni community continues to go from strength to strength and now has over 100,000 members worldwide. So, wherever you live in the world, you are never far from other people who share a link back to this great University and the city of Newcastle upon Tyne.

In this edition, we highlight some of the recent developments across campus and showcase how innovative research being undertaken by Northumbria academics is helping make a real difference to the lives of people in the region and beyond.

The origins of this institution go back more than a century (see our feature on the Timeline on page 8), and in 2012, we will be marking a very special anniversary in our history and heritage – it is 20 years since we gained University status.

We think this is worth celebrating, so in July 2012 we are planning a major celebration reunion weekend.

So, whether you graduated just a few years ago or fifty years ago, we invite you to join us for this unique reunion weekend. (See page 27 for more information).

If you aren't able to make it back to campus, you can still be part of these celebrations.

You can host a mini-reunion between 1 May and 30 September 2012 in your town, city or country with your friends from your student days with us at Northumbria (or Newcastle Polytechnic, Northern Counties College, Rutherford College of Technology or any of our affiliated colleges).

Do get in touch if you're interested in organising a mini-celebration in your area. Let's see if we can have at least 20 reunions in 20 different countries!

Thank you to all of you who have sent us updates about how your careers are progressing and how your time at Northumbria has helped shape your life. We really are interested in hearing what you are doing.

Keep in touch!

With very best wishes from your Development and Alumni Relations team



Development and Alunmi Retaltions team



Anne Tate, Director of Development and Alumni Relations

In Touch is edited and produced on behalf of Northumbria Alumni Association. Every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the information given.

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Welcome

I am delighted to introduce you to the latest edition of *In Touch*.

Much has happened since our last magazine and some of our achievements and successes are celebrated over the coming pages.

They include the official opening of Sport Central, our £30 million flagship building on our city centre campus, which features state-of-the-art leisure and fitness facilities

As a graduate of Northumbria, you now benefit from discounted membership for life. I urge you, if you have not done so already, to visit Sport Central when you are next in Newcastle upon Tyne so you can see these amazing facilities for yourself.

In this edition, we are also pleased to be able to mark the successes of you, our alumni. As you will read, some of our graduates have chosen to go into business and are already working with a number of the world's top brand names. And, there's the story of Dylan Shields whose design work is now featured on four million €2 coins.

At Northumbria we are always delighted to find out how our alumni are getting on and we would be pleased to hear from you. We also look forward to opportunities to welcome former students back to the University. In this edition of *In Touch* we feature nine ladies who returned after 50 years to share their experience of life at what was then the Northern Counties College, one of Northumbria's predecessor institutions. Their tales of a course called 'home management' where students learned how to put up wallpaper and wire an electrical plug makes for interesting reading!

I would also like to use this introduction as an opportunity to share with you some of the other exciting things that are happening at Northumbria University.



Professor Andrew Wathey

We have signed a formal agreement to work in partnership with Gateshead Council on a number of significant projects. They include the construction of new student accommodation as part of the redevelopment of Gateshead town centre.

And, shortly, we are delighted that the Turner Prize will be presented in the new Northumbria gallery at the BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art. It will be the first time the prize ceremony has taken place outside a Tate venue and we are very pleased to be so closely involved.

Please enjoy *In Touch*.

Best wishes

Professor Andrew Wathey
FRHistS FSA FRSA
Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive



Dr Karen Roberts and Rachel Harrison

Life after cancer

The work of a Northumbria academic is helping people whose lives have been touched by cancer to cope with the emotional trauma of the disease.

According to Dr Karen Roberts, a Macmillan Reader in the School of Health, Community and Education Studies, dealing with cancer is about much more than simply curing it. Many people continue to live in the shadows of the disease long after they have finished treatment.

Surviving cancer is about having to cope with the emotional consequences of treatment and overcoming the anxieties that go with this disease.

Dr Roberts, together with Dr Sanjay Rao, a liaison psychiatrist with the Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Trust, have developed an eight-week programme based around "mindfulness stress reduction" which will help cancer survivors get their lives back to normal. With patient feedback already incredibly positive, it is hoped that ultimately the programme will be rolled out across the country.

Dr Roberts said: "At the moment in this country we concentrate much of our effort on getting people through cancer treatment without too much regard for how they get their life back to normal.

"What we offer is a structured teaching programme that aims to bring together the principles of cognitive therapy and mindfulness meditation to tap into people's inner strength and develop resilience following cancer treatment.

"This project builds upon my previous research which highlighted the common problem that cancer patients experience – fear of recurrence of the disease and worries about the future."

She added: "We are very good at saying what the problems are but there are very few interventions that we currently offer cancer survivors other than listening. Our programme is about equipping people with the life skills to help them adapt and get back to normal."

Dr Roberts has also had to draw on her own experience when her son, Oliver, was diagnosed with a brain tumour when he was four years old.

"I've had to pull on all my own learning to enable me to practice what I preach and take control of my own fears.

"People get very scared about cancer. We don't have a choice about the disease but we can choose how we respond to it and how much we allow it to interfere in our lives. That's a choice we do have and that's what the programme teaches."

The project was initially funded by the Department of Health and Macmillan Cancer Support as part of a national cancer survivorship initiative which examined a number of consequences for those affected by cancer.

The eight-week programme, which is delivered in a community setting, is still ongoing and funded currently by the North of England Cancer Network.

> "Our programme is about equipping people with the life skills to help them adapt and get back to normal."

Moving forward

One person who found the programme enormously beneficial is Rachel Harrison who was diagnosed with cervical cancer at the age of 28.

"The programme was incredibly helpful and really helped me turn my life around," she said.

"It helped me understand my own behaviours and take a step back to understand why certain things upset me. I find it easier to accept that some days are difficult and I now have this tool which helps me focus my mind on the present and get me through the bad times."

She added: "As a cancer survivor, once you've finished your treatment, you're just thrown back into the world and it can feel like there is no support available to help you deal with the emotional aspects of your experience.

> "I've been in remission now for two years but still use the knowledge I learned on the programme to help me in everyday life."

"I've never needed to see a counsellor because the programme gave me the means by which I can focus my mind and move my life forward. I've been in remission now for two years but still use the knowledge I learned on the programme to help me in everyday life."

After the first programme, Rachel felt so much more positive about her life that she joined Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust and has since set up a regional support group for women who have had cervical cancer.

She added: "The survivorship programme was the trigger for my decision to get involved with the charity. My loss of fertility was the biggest emotional obstacle for me but getting involved with the charity and completing the programme helped me to become much more positive."

The spirit of enterprise

Two enterprising young Business graduates have used the remains of their student loans to set up their own mobile coffee business, The Barista.

Less than a year on, they are already working with big brands like Nokia, Inenco and Morrisons.

Sam Fletcher, 24, and Matthew Carr, 23, met in Australia whilst working as part of their Northumbria placement year and discovered a shared passion for business, the service industry and coffee.

Matthew looks back on his time in Australia as one of the key moments of his life: "Australia was a great experience for us. We learnt so much and it really helped build our confidence. I'm so pleased that we attended a University which provided all of these opportunities and support."

When they got back to the UK, they already had a business plan in place but needed to find funding and finish their degrees first. Matthew explained how they managed to tackle that problem: "We invested our student loan in coffee beans rather than spending it on ourselves."

In their final year, Sam and Matthew successfully juggled their university studies with the numerous jobs they took to raise capital.

By the time they graduated in 2010, each with First Class degrees in Business Studies from Newcastle Business School, part of Northumbria University, they had just enough money to buy a coffee machine and a van to move their equipment from one event to another.

The Barista was born and served its first coffees on a cold winter morning on Newcastle's Quayside: the perfect time and place to be selling hot drinks. Within a few months Matt and Sam were being drafted in by some of the UK and Europe's biggest brands to provide refreshment and a caffeine boost at high-profile product launches and exhibitions.

So how does it feel to be working with household names like Morrisons? Sam couldn't be happier: "As Business Studies graduates it's a fantastic experience to be working for these huge companies.

"We studied these brands at university and we wanted to emulate their success with The Barista and now we're chatting to the CEO of Morrisons about our own business. It's amazing."

It's not easy finding work in these tough economic times but for Matthew and Sam it was the perfect opportunity for them to look at setting up their own business.

Sam believes that young people should be using their natural energy and creativity to make something new: "If there aren't enough jobs out there for graduates then they should really think about making up their own job. If they have enough acumen, passion and drive, they will have a very good chance of succeeding. Plus it's great being your own boss at such a young age."

Looking to the future, The Barista boys see themselves with a fleet of mobile coffee machines, while entering into other beverage markets.

And if they come across any problems along the way, there's always somebody to offer them a few wise words: "Matthew and I are still in touch with some of our tutors and other contacts we made at University. We can always give them a call if we need advice. They're a great resource."

> "It's a fantastic opportunity to be working for these huge companies."



Matthew Carr (left) and Sam Fletcher (right). Photo taken by Carl Fleischer at Laynes Espresso, Leeds.

Do you have a story you'd like us to tell other graduates about? Please contact us at alumni@northumbria.ac.uk.

Styling the nation

A Fashion Design graduate has landed herself a top job as stylist with high street retailer New Look, after winning a national competition.



Kat Byrne (left) Fashion Director of Closer magazine and mentor on New Look Style The Nation TV show. Sarah Wilson (right) Northumbria graduate and competition winner.

Sara Wilson, who graduated with First Class honours from Northumbria's BA (Hons) Fashion Design degree in 2010, was crowned 'ultimate stylista' of the New Look: Style The Nation competition, live on the Channel 4 television programme T4 this summer.

Up against five other finalists, she wowed the judges with her final 'Oriental inspired' catwalk collection and viewers of the programme agreed, voting her outfits the best and awarding her the top job as a New Look stylist.

Speaking about her background in fashion and her student days Sara said "I absolutely loved it at Northumbria. I chose to do Fashion there because the reputation it has within the industry is very strong. The knowledge I gained from lecturers and my year in industry was an outstanding platform to start my career".

"After leaving university I went to work as Creative Visual Merchandiser with Topman, whilst test shooting to improve my portfolio; until the amazing opportunity of 'Style the Nation' came up, now I'm Stylist for New Look."

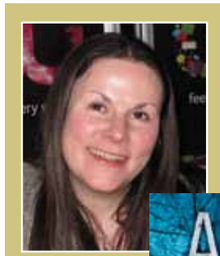
Sara's journey on the show began when presenter Nick Grimshaw scouted her in Manchester, where she worked at the time. She went on to style a live catwalk face-off, where a panel of industry judges critiqued her outfits. After a nerve-wracking live vote, T4 viewers voted Sara through to the live final where she ultimately triumphed.

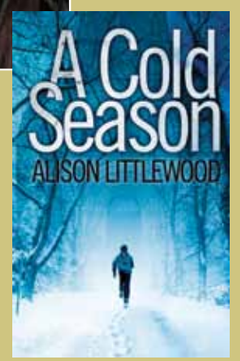
As soon as Sara was announced as the winner, she was whisked off by helicopter to music festival T4 on the beach in Weston Super Mare to start her first exciting challenge – to style American pop starlet, Alexis Jordan.

"I'm so happy. This is such an amazing opportunity to get a foot in the door of the fashion industry and I just can't wait to get started at New Look. I live and breathe fashion and this is a dream come true," said Sara.

> "The knowledge I gained from lecturers and my year in industry was an outstanding platform to start my career."

Novel success





When Northumbria graduate Alison Littlewood (left) was made redundant in 2011 she used it as an opportunity to change her life and pursue her dream of becoming a professional author.

Now she has a three-novel contract and the thought of her old job as a software marketing manager is far from her mind.

Two short story appearances in Britain's premier horror fiction magazine, Black Static were sufficient to bring Alison's talent to the fore.

Now, that early success has been surpassed by a contract with Jo Fletcher Books, the fantasy, science fiction and horror imprint of Quercus Publishing.

Alison graduated from Northumbria in 1994 after studying BA (Hons) English and History.

Her debut novel 'A Cold Season' – which was the first she'd submitted to any publisher – will be available in February 2012.

Set in a fictional village on the edge of Saddleworth Moor, in Yorkshire, it looks at just how far a mother would go to protect her child, and the psychology of faith.

The evolution of our University

The history and heritage of our University as an innovator in education provision in the city goes back many decades. Here we take a look at some of the key developments that have made Northumbria what it is today …

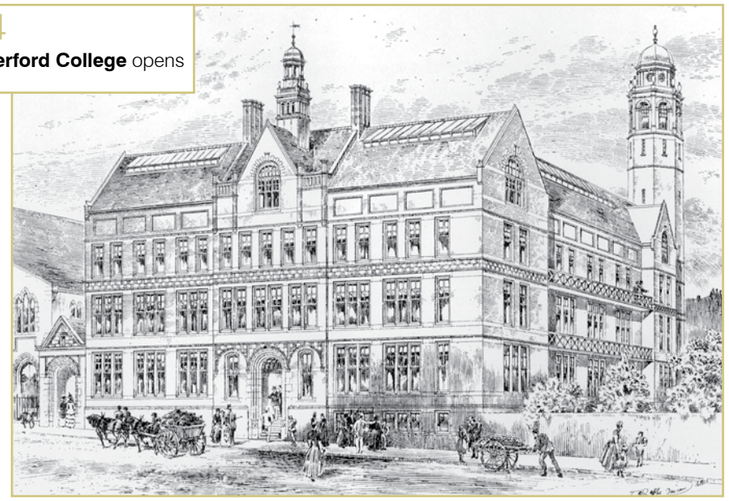
1880 1890 1900 1910 1920 1930 1940 1950 1960 1970 1980 1990 2000 2010

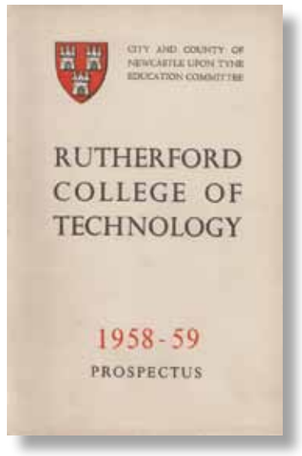
1880

Northern Counties College of Cookery and Household Management is established specialising in the training of domestic science teachers. Known locally as 'pudding school', it moved from Eldon Square to Northumberland Road, and eventually to Coach Lane

1894

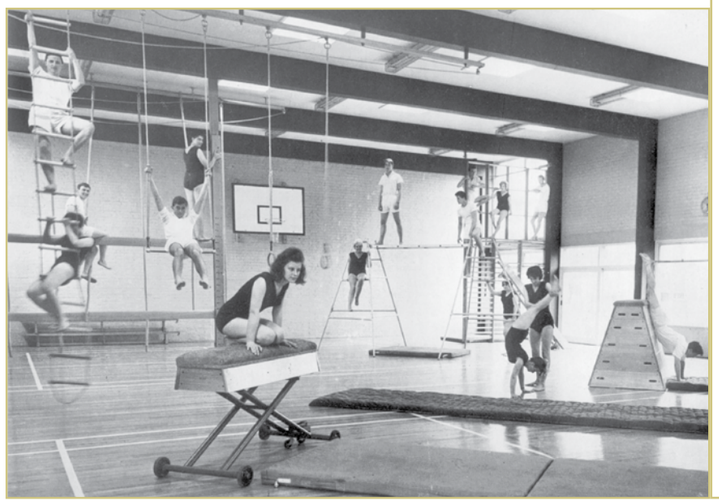
Rutherford College opens





1950s

Rutherford College of Technology and the newer **Municipal College of Commerce** offer broad syllabus of science, art, technical and commercial subjects to 3,500 students. Idea of 'sandwich' courses is introduced mixing education with industrial placements



1965

Claude Gibb Hall of Residence opens



1969

Newcastle Polytechnic formed by an amalgamation of the **College of Art and Industrial Design**, the **Municipal College of Commerce**, and **Rutherford College of Technology**

1970s

A great building programme on City Campus takes place to cater for rising student numbers – including Northumberland and Ellison Buildings, Squires, Lipman, the Students' Union, Sports Centre and the Library 'tower.'

1973

Introduction of first Humanities subjects at degree-level

Pioneering 4 year BA degree in nursing launched

1974

The **City of Newcastle College of Education** becomes part of the Polytechnic.

Building of Newcastle's Metro system starts, as does work on the new central motorway

1975

Official opening of Lipman Building by the Right Honorable Harold Wilson, OBE, MP (Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury)

1976

Northern Counties College of Education at Coach Lane becomes part of the Polytechnic making the institution a major teacher training centre

Eldon Square Shopping Precinct opens.

First intake for Combined Studies, Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy training courses – based at Coach Lane campus

1986

Nissan becomes first Japanese company to open a factory in Britain, with its car plant at Sunderland.

1987

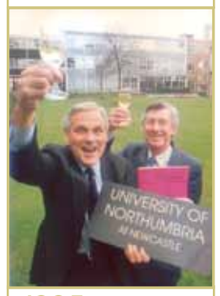
Metrocentre opens

1988

The Polytechnic has 12,000 students

1992

University status awarded on 1 September 1992, with a lavish ceremony and parade through the city centre. Other suggested names had included Newcastle City University, Queens University – Newcastle, Great North University



1995

The Bede, Newcastle, Northumbria College of Health Studies and its trainee nurses become part of the School of Health, Community & Education Studies at Coach Lane Campus

University acquires its coat of arms with its Latin motto, Aetas discendi – 'a lifetime of learning'

UNIVERSITY of NORTHUMBRIA at NEWCASTLE

1998

Angel of the North erected

Coach Lane Campus receives £22million investment



2005

Northumbria voted 'Best New University' in The Times 'Good University Guide for three consecutive years. Work begins at City Campus East (site of Warner Cinema complex near Manors metro)

2008

Official opening of City Campus East



Honorary Degrees

Some of the region's leading figures in business, industry, healthcare and the arts have recently been awarded Honorary Doctorates by Northumbria University.



Sir Leonard Fenwick – As Chief Executive of the Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Sir Leonard manages over 13,000 staff and controls an annual budget worth more than £84 million. He is well known for his efforts to promote excellent health care for the people of the North East.



Northumbria University graduate **Bibiana Aido Almagro** is the Spanish Government Minister for Equality and is one of the youngest ministerial appointments in Spain's political history. After completing her International Business Administration studies, she became a regional MP in Cádiz and is now leading significant reforms of the country's gender and equality laws.



Sir Michael Darrington joined Greggs as Group Managing Director in 1983. During his 25-year leadership the company was floated on the Stock Exchange and became one of the largest in the North East. Now retired, he is involved with the Confederation of British Industry (CBI), Business in the Community and The Prince's Trust.



Trevor Mann joined Nissan's Sunderland car plant in 1985 and is now Nissan Europe's Senior Vice-President with responsibility for manufacturing, purchasing and supply chain management. He was recently appointed to the new Automotive Council which advises the Government on how best to reduce carbon emissions.



Property developer, designer and entrepreneur **Peter Millican** recently opened the £100 million Kings Place art gallery, concert hall, conference centre and office development near Kings Cross rail station in London. It is home to bars and restaurants as well as organisations including the London Sinfonietta and *The Guardian* newspaper.



For almost 40 years, **Marshall Hall** has been a leading expert in all aspects of North East art. His dictionary, *The Artists of Northumbria*, is now considered an essential reference for art historians, curators, collectors, dealers and fine-art auctioneers. He is widely praised for his significant contribution to raising the national and international profile of artists from the North East.



Lord Shipley of Gosforth has played a significant role in the North East's public, political and educational sectors. A leading Liberal Democrat, he spent almost 35 years serving as a local councillor and was Leader of Newcastle City Council from 2006-2010. He was Regional Director for the Open University and is currently a member of the board for Newcastle Science City, One North East and the Newcastle/Gateshead City Development Company 1NG.

"We are delighted to be able to recognise the excellent achievements of so many people from the region."

Professor Andrew Wathey, Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive

Honours for graduates

OBE for Cath

Cath Purdy, whose career in the housing sector spans more than 20 years, has been awarded an OBE for her role in helping to improve thousands of homes in the North East region.

Cath, a graduate of Northumbria's Postgraduate Diploma in Housing Policy and Management in 1993, is chief executive of 'Vela', the group formed in 2010 bringing together Housing Hartlepool and Tristar Homes in Stockton.

She is a passionate advocate of the importance of good quality housing and services, and its contribution to the local economy and healthy, cohesive communities. Cath and her team have brought over £100 million worth of housing and community investment into Hartlepool and improved the lives of thousands of people.

As a key senior housing professional she plays a significant role in housing-led regeneration in the Tees Valley – she serves on the national council of the Chartered Institute of Housing, chairs the National Housing Federation North East Committee and is a board director of the Northern Housing Consortium.

Speaking about her award, Cath said: "This honour recognises the entire team at Housing Hartlepool and the valuable work that housing associations do in our local communities. I am thrilled to receive the award and want to thank everyone who has supported me."



Cath Purdy OBE

MBE for design graduate



Rob Law MBE

A Northumbria graduate and children's product design company founder has been awarded an MBE for 'Services to Business.'

Rob Law, a BA (Hons) Design for Industry degree graduate, is the founder and director of design company Magmatic, and is best known for creating the innovative Trunki – iconic ride-on suitcases for children.

Since setting up Magmatic in 2006, Rob has grown the business into a global success with annual turnover expected to exceed £5m at the end of this financial year.

Awards from Nickleodeon, Practical Pre-School, The Baby Products Association and Design Week have helped turn Trunki and their other products into 'must-have' travel accessories.

Rob said: "I am hugely humbled to be recognised this way. We've had a fantastic year: we launched five new products; struck a deal with one of the US's biggest toy companies; picked up our 36th award – not to mention seeing 750,000 Trunki cases reaching more than 60 countries around the globe."

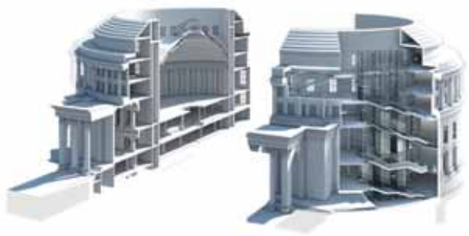
A regular business traveller, Law made the simple observation that children get bored during journeys, particularly at airports. He initially thought of the Trunki concept during his student days at Northumbria.

Law concluded, "Britain's design and business pedigree is already world class so to be among those recognised at such a prominent level is truly an honour".

In addition to Trunki, the company designs and manufactures a range of travel products including BoostApak, a dual backpack-come-car-booster seat, which was shortlisted for Consumer Product of the Year at the 2011 Design Week Awards.

Pioneering academy sets construction standard







An academy developed in partnership between Northumbria University and award winning architectural practice, Ryder Architecture is at the forefront of construction industry developments.

The new BIM Academy will support the construction industry in the uptake and effective application of Building Information Modelling (BIM).

BIM allows construction professionals to design, build and operate a building 'virtually' by developing and testing a digital prototype in advance of work actually starting, thus delivering greater cost certainty, eliminating error, cutting down the build time and reducing risk.

Recent government initiatives announced by Paul Morrell, the Government's Chief Construction Advisor, recommend "fully collaborative BIM as a minimum by 2016. The adoption of BIM is therefore no longer an option but has become an essential method of working to build an efficient, sustainable and profitable industry.

Steve Lockley, Professor of Building Modelling at Northumbria University, said: "We are delighted to be leading this important initiative with Ryder. This is world-class research with real-life application.

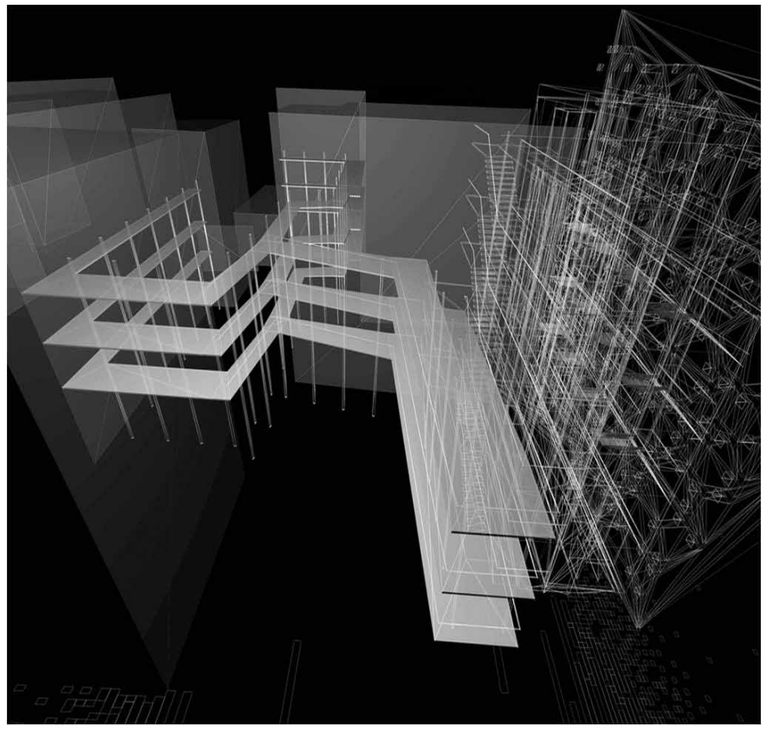
"The BIM Academy is a strong business-facing collaboration which will make a positive impact on the construction industry in terms of design innovation and value for money.

"The process involves the structured sharing and co-ordination between partners of digital information about a building project throughout its entire lifecycle, from design through procurement and construction and beyond, into the operation and management stage.

"To do this we use coordinated 3D design models enriched with data – this irons out problems and risks before they become a reality."

For more information about BIM visit **www.bimacademy.ac.uk**

"This is world-class research with real-life application."



Knowledge Transfer Partnership brings new business

A North East company has seen its sales increase by 30% thanks to the engineering skills of a Northumbria graduate.

When Gateshead-based manufacturing firm Ascendant Access wanted to expand their range of products they approached Northumbria University's award-winning Collaborative Rapid Product Development Centre (CRPD) for help.

Working together, the company and CRPD staff successfully applied for funding from the government-backed Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) programme which promotes collaboration between businesses and universities.

Each KTP involves three 'partners': a business or organisation, a university and an Associate (a recently qualified graduate). The Associate is employed by the university but works in the business, under academic supervision.

With the funding in place, Paul Curry, a recent graduate of the BEng (Hons) Mechanical Engineering degree, who had all the necessary skills for this new product development, was recruited as the Associate.

Paul was able to gain valuable experience in this KTP in design for manufacture, 3D design of complex products, custom design techniques, business and commercial exposure and obtain Chartership to CEng IMechE.

The benefits of such a KTP programme are clear: the company gains knowledge and technology while the recent graduate is able to boost their specialist skills and business acumen. For the university, KTPs help to stimulate and enhance business-relevant research and teaching.

Paul said, "I have truly enjoyed working at Ascendant. I have gained valuable commercial experience backed by academic support, worked on multiple projects and have been lucky enough to have been given the opportunity to travel to Malaysia to present a conference paper."

Following successful completion of the KTP, Paul has now been employed by Ascendant Access to further develop the company's product portfolio.



(L to R) Steve Dean, MD, Ascendant Access; Phil Hackney, CRPD Manager; Paul Curry, Northumbria graduate

"I have gained valuable commercial experience backed by academic support. I've now been employed by the company to further develop their product portfolio."

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E: bill.frain@northumbria.ac.uk



Brendan Foster, CBE in Sport Central

Building on sporting success

Sport Central, the University's £30 million fitness, learning and research facility has been officially opened by Olympic medallist and sports commentator Brendan Foster, CBE.

Brendan Foster, CBE, known to many as the man behind View From International – who organises the Great North Run – was joined by University representatives, local businesses and some of the north east's sporting stars of the past, present and future at the opening ceremony.

Speaking at the opening event, he said: "Sport Central is a wonderful facility for Northumbria University. The equipment and technologies available for research, teaching and general fitness are outstanding and will be of huge benefit to students and staff here.

"With the 2012 Olympic Games just around the corner, it is fantastic that Sport Central provides budding athletes and sports men and women in the North East with the opportunity to train with leading experts in a world-class venue."

Sport Central offers the best sport, fitness equipment and laboratory and analysis facililties in the region. With a main arena capable of seating 3,000 people, it is also able to host international sporting events and is the home court of the Newcastle Eagles basketball team.

A range of state-of-the-art labs provides dedicated facilities for the study of physiology, biomechanics, gait and nutrition as well as performance analysis. There is also a sprint track, two golf simulators, three squash courts, a six-lane swimming pool and a climbing wall.

Northumbria's Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive, Professor Andrew Wathey, said: "Sport Central will make a huge difference to Northumbria University. As well as enhancing the health and wellbeing of students and staff, it provides high-quality facilities for the University's research in physiology and sport science, and supports its outstanding teaching and learning in these areas."



"With the 2012 Olympic Games just around the corner, it is fantastic that Sport Central provides budding athletes and sports men and women in the North East with the opportunity to train with leading experts in a world-class venue."

As a graduate you can now get discounted membership at Northumbria's Sport Central and Coach Lane sport centres. So, whether you just want to use the pool or wish to access the full range of facilities there are several 'University Associate' membership options to suit. For full details visit **www.nusportcentral.co.uk**

The gift of giving

As we approach the 20th anniversary of being awarded University status, we are appealing to all graduates to consider giving something back to Northumbria – in whatever way they can.





The support of our graduates is incredibly important to us – it is one of the most valuable endorsements any university can have.

There are dozens of ways in which you could help your University, including:

- Providing a placement opportunity for our students or graduates
- Mentoring a student
- Talking to students about your career
- Hosting an alumni event or reunion
- Leaving a gift to the University in your Will
- Making a gift to the Alumni Fund

"We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give."

If you would like to support your University in any way, please contact your Alumni Relations team on +44 (0)191 227 4837 or by email at: alumni@northumbria.ac.uk

Event leads to placement

For Hayley Allen, a 2010 Law LLB Exempting graduate, attendance at an alumni event in Belfast produced an unexpected bonus when she was offered a work placement by a fellow Northumbria law graduate.



Stephen Dawson, Partner at Arthur Cox law firm.

Stephen Dawson, a partner at law firm Arthur Cox said: "We are very aware of the exceptionally challenging conditions for students and graduates at the moment. I spoke to Hayley at the event and quickly realised that her work in dealing with personal debt problems at the Citizens Advice Bureau was the mirror image of my daily job: helping lenders to lend (responsibly).

He continued: "My aim was to give Hayley the chance to see things from the other side of the fence and to understand more about the wider profession. Placements are only worth doing if they encourage people to think and to learn. I hope we left Hayley with a clear message to take back to her role at the Citizens Advice Bureau."

Hayley was delighted with the opportunity: "It was an excellent experience. I am really grateful to Stephen for giving me the placement and to the Alumni Association for arranging the event we met at."

Alumni Fund

For many graduates, the Alumni Fund is the easiest way of making an immediate contribution to the University. The aim of the Alumni Fund is simple – to help students to fulfill their potential and transform their lives. Since its launch in 2006, nearly £100,000 has been pledged by graduates to the Alumni Fund. Already, more than 750 students have been supported through a range of scholarships and hardship grants, extra resources for our libraries, labs and classrooms, as well as grants for student societies, sports and volunteering activities.

Here we highlight just a few of the Alumni Funded projects that are creating new opportunities for our students.

Every donation, no matter the size, truly does make a difference. If half of our graduates made a £50 gift to the Alumni Fund, some £2 million would be raised. That's impressive and would make a real impact.

Log on to **www.northumbria.ac.uk/alumni** at the Support Northumbria section to donate online or download a donation form.

NU:TV –runner-up in two national competitions

NU:TV – a student television project which is helping the Northumbria Students' Union to communicate in a more interesting, engaging and effective way with students across campus – has scooped two awards in national competitions.

Set up barely 12 months ago with a £3,000 grant from the University's Alumni Fund for video production and editing equipment, the station has made some significant achievements in its first year and now has 32 regular volunteers and over 100 students involved in various projects.

NU:TV was given the runner-up award at a National Union of Students (NUS) competition after clocking up an impressive 5,000 unique views on YouTube.

Students use the equipment to create promotional videos to showcase the range of extracurricular activities on offer through the Northumbria Students' Union (NSU) like societies and volunteering opportunities. The videos are shown on the NSU website and YouTube as well as the buildings' plasma TV screens.

The project was praised by a leading figure in the TV industry at the 2011 National Student Television Association Awards where it collected the Special Recognition Award. The judges paid tribute to the clear focus shown by the team behind NU:TV for achieving such a high level of success in the early stages. They also commended the University's Alumni Fund for funding the equipment.

Lucy Pritchard, Student Activities Manager at the Northumbria Students' Union said: "NU:TV allows us to engage with the student community in a more interactive way than was previously possible. It's proving increasingly popular with students and is giving the volunteers some great new skills for their CVs. I'd like to say a big thank you to all graduates who have donated to the Alumni Fund for helping to make this happen."

Camera … Action



When it was set up in 2010, the Student Photographic Society had very little equipment and was only able to cater for a handful of regular members. But a grant from the Alumni Fund, for the purchase of new digital SLR cameras, cases and memory cards, has seen the Society expand to become one of the most popular in the Students' Union.

Francesca Hughes, president of the Student Photography Society and Masters in Disaster Management student, said: "We have really benefitted from the extra cameras financed by the Alumni Fund. They are available for members to take out on society trips as well as to photograph University events, such as RAG week. In fact, we're now official photographers for many of the other societies in the University!"

The Lumix cameras we bought are popular and great for photographers of all abilities from absolute beginners, amateurs wishing to improve, to semi-professionals. They are easy to use with 'auto' functions similar to a 'point-and-shoot' digital camera, but users can also control every aspect of their photos."

Coursebook bonus for MBA students

Budding entrepreneurs on the MBA programme, delivered by Newcastle Business School, were faced with having to share an essential-reading book, but now every student on the course has their own copy, thanks to the Alumni Fund.

When students enrol on the MBA they are given a copy of the coursebook, entitled 'Strategic Management Awareness & Change' 6th edition, which they can use throughout the year. At the end of their studies, all students return the book, so those starting on the MBA programme the following academic year also get to benefit.

Books boost for students

Many students experience emotional problems such as depression and anxiety whilst they are studying. As the pressures on students increases with concerns about financial commitments and employability, more and more students are turning to the University's Counselling and Mental Health Support Team. An Alumni Fund grant of £550 was used to



expand the range of self help books and materials available for loan through the service and via the University Library.

Colleen Ryan, Counselling and Mental Health Team Leader, said: "Many of the books we were able to purchase have been loaned out and we've seen first hand that students have benefitted from reading them.

"We are very grateful to the Alumni Fund for enabling us to initiate this project which is becoming an aspect of our mainstream work."

A great big thank you...

… to all our donors on behalf of everyone at the University. From single gifts to regular monthly donations, increasing numbers of you have been donating whatever you can afford to improve the lives of our students.

For those of you who have supported us this year, your gift could not have come at a better time, thanks to the government's matched funding scheme. Your generosity means that, this year, we have a record amount to allocate to projects across campus that will help students to fulfil their true potential.

Thanks once again to everyone listed below, and those who wish to remain anonymous. Your support really is helping to make a very real difference to the lives of students and to the quality of the education we can provide.

Adrian Adrianowski
Tracey Ainsley
Susan Ainslie
Mark Aiston
David Allen
Gemma Appleby
Jennifer Armstrong
Malcolm Armstrong
Katherine Astley
Jonathan Atkinson
Mark Bainbridge
Jillian Baines
Claire Barnes
Christine Barrowcliffe
Karen Bassett
David Bates
Jacqueline Bates
Nigel Bates
David Battersby
Holly Belasco
Andrew Bell
Susan Bennett
Andrew Berry
Joanne Blackwood
Nicola Boyne
John Bradley
Theresa Brolly
F. Gordon Brooks
Melanie Brooks
Sharyn Brooks
Peter Broome
Giles Brown
Michael Brummitt
Keith Bryan
Alison Burnes
David Burt
Phillip Byrne
Ian Bywater
Brian Calverley

Peter Campbell
James Caygill
Karen Chambers
Sarah Charneca
Paul Chirnside
Lesley Clark
Claire Coates
Harold Connolly
Jane Cooper
John Copeland
Christopher Cordiner
Robert Craig
Jean Cubbin
Angela Cummings
Emma Curran
Kevin Davies
Rebecca Dawkins
Claire Deighton
Louise Donnelly
Brian Dowling
Patrick Driscoll
Christopher Drury
Gavin Edmonds
Peter Edmonds
Benjamin Edwards
Christopher Ellis
Charles Fenton
Sean Flavell
Katherine Fletcher
Gary Foston
Hazel French
Michael Friend
Simon Froom
Edith Furness
Nigel Garnham
Paul Gaze
Norman Gilberg
Alice Glaister
Martin Gollan

Karen Goodchild
Scott Grainger
Patrick Hagg
Karen Hannah
John Harrison
Lisa Hastie
Ian Hayes
Natalie Heath
Eileen Henderson
Shaun Higgins
Gordon Hindhaugh
Jane Hodgson
Carol Hogg
Lynn Holmes
George Hull
Stephen James
Ben Jeffs
Sarah Jones
Carol Jordon
Costas Kardasopoulos
Michael Kelly
Margaret Kerr
Kevin Kerrigan
Eleanor Kidd
Maurice Kitcatt
Virginia Koppenhol
Caroline Kuhn
Ann Lamb
Michael Lant
Richard Lawn
Peter Leathart
Allen Lee
Winnie Lee
Alistair Leslie
David Lewis
Mark Lincoln
Laura Lyall
Gordon MacFadyen
Donald MacKay

Michael Marsh
Carole Marshall
Mayur Mashru
Oliver Mason
Donald Maw
John McCafferty
Sally McKelvey
Jane McWilliam
Warren Middleton
Nicola Millward
Janice Murray
Karen Mustard
Timothy Naylor
Caroline Naylor-Renn
Anthony Neale
Alison Nelsey
Yolande Nelson
Thomas Nesbit
Michael Nolan
Mark Noone
Janet Nye
Robert O'Donnell
Antonia Palmer
Janet Parks
Simon Peel
Margaret Philipson
Simon Pickford
Ian Pitcher
Philip Plowden
David Pringle
Elizabeth Ryaner
Christopher Redman
Seamus Reid
Paul Rhodes
Philip Robinson
Paul Robson
Jennifer Roe
John Royley
Elizabeth Scarff

John Shallcross
Peter Slee
Toni Smerdon
Andrew Smith
Harris Sofokleous
Raymond Stark
Carl Steele
Christopher Steele
Karen Stoker
Nina Sumby
Anna Swalwell
Kevin Tang
Anne Tate
Joann Teasdale
Katherine Thomas
Graham Thompson
Ronald Thompson
Susan Tideswell
Helen Timms
Alison Turner
Hayley Tyson
Ofonimeh Umoh Abudu
Adrian Vass
Paul Veitch
Julie Walker
Michael Walker
Alison Walton
Florence Walton
Richard Webb
Alistair Weir
Andrew Wesson
Atilla Widnell
Patrick Wilson
Rosalind Woods
Andrew Wren
Katharine Wright
Kok Yap

Log on to **www.northumbria.ac.uk/alumni** and go to the Support Northumbria section to donate online or download a donation form.

Happiest days spark lasting gift

A former student of Fine Art has left a legacy to his old department within the School of Arts and Social Sciences.

Warwick Stafford studied here between 1977 and 1982 during our Newcastle Polytechnic era, and often told his family and friends that his days at the Polytechnic were his "happiest days" and that he "loved the sense of fellowship" he found.

During Warwick's life, he was inspired by creating opportunities for artists to work with their own ideas rather than be dictated to by the preferences of their Patrons.

Warwick's own work was inspired by the French Impressionists, and has been shown at the Williamson Art Gallery in Birkenhead, Merseyside and at the University of Bristol.

Sadly, Warwick passed away in 2009 but through conversations with one of Warwick's relatives, and with the aim of making the greatest impact, the 'Warwick Stafford Fine Art Prize' is being created to support a Fine Art student through their studies.

In addition the 'Warwick Stafford Art Research Bequest' will support an Annual Research Fellowship for an early career student.



Warwick Stafford pictured during his time at Newcastle Polytechnic.



An example of Warwick's work.

We are asking alumni and friends of Northumbria to consider making a gift to the University in their Will – whether it be to support pioneering research, state-of-the-art facilities, provide a student bursary or simply to help nurture the next generation of bright minds – the impact to students can be truly remarkable.

If you wish to transform lives by leaving a legacy or discuss making a gift during your lifetime, please contact Peter Storey or a member of the Development team on 0191 243 7073.

Graduate coins new Euro

Four million two-Euro coins have been produced bearing an image created by a Northumbria University graduate.



Dylan Shields pictured with the first coin to be minted bearing his design.

Dylan Shields, who completed his BA (Hons) Fine Art degree this summer, won the Europe-wide competition to design an official commemorative two-Euro coin after visiting Holland during his final year.

The 27-year-old entered the competition with his sculptural reinterpretation of the artist Hans Holbein's portrait of Desiderius Erasmus, the great Dutch humanist and writer of The Praise of Folly – one of the most influential works of western civilisation.

Dylan's concept was chosen from among 60 European artists who were asked to enter the contest, part of the European Commission's celebration of the tenth anniversary of the Euro and European Monetary Union.

The Dutch Minister of Finance and the competition commission chose Dylan's work as the winning design for the official commemorative two-Euro coin. Four million of the coins have now been produced by the Royal Dutch Mint.

> "Dylan's concept was chosen from among 60 European artists."

Reunited

Reunions and alumni events are a great way to reconnect with friends and make new social and business contacts.

You've told us you would like us to provide you with more networking opportunities, so we're doing just that by organising and facilitating reunions and events in the UK, Europe and beyond. Here's a round-up of some recent events.



Northumbria Alumni and International Office staff at the event in Lagos

Nigeria – Abuja and Lagos

The Alumni team worked closely with the University's International Office to arrange two informal get-togethers for graduates in Nigeria with events in the capital, Lagos, as well as the northern city of Abuja.

As the first events of their kind for Northumbria alumni, both were well attended by graduates from a variety of disciplines and stages in their careers and were a real success.

Ripon Cathedral – North Yorkshire

Ripon Cathedral in North Yorkshire played host to a unique alumni gathering recently, when Northumbria graduates were given the opportunity to experience Evensong followed by drinks and canapés. The visit also included an exclusive guided tour of the Cathedral and ancient crypt by the Canon Precentor, Canon Paul Greenwell, who shared his expert knowledge.



Greece – Athens

The second annual gathering of Greek alumni took place in Athens in April, at the Galaxy Bar, Hilton Hotel. Once again the event was hosted by Eustathios Sainidis, Program Leader: MBA (Corporate) and Senior Lecturer in Strategic Management with Newcastle Business School (pictured far left). It proved to be a popular evening with around 30 former students meeting up for drinks and refreshments.



Newcastle upon Tyne and Leeds

Graduates of our Newcastle Business School were invited for evenings with a twist (and a shake) at the first 'Cocktails, Canapés and Connections' networking events.

The first event was held in the business school at City Campus East with the second event held at private members club 3 Albion Place in Leeds.

Alumni were shown how to make a range of cocktails by a local mixologist, and encouraged to break the ice – quite literally – and create their own personalised blend of drink.

As one graduate observed: "It was great fun and there was a serious point to the evening too. Sometimes when you mix unconventional flavours they can work surprisingly well together. The same applies to business, where approaching problems in new ways can bring unexpected results."

Reunited ... across continents

Earlier this year, Melanie and Andrew Ashworth travelled back to Newcastle from their home in Canada for a reunion with their HND Business Studies (1984 -1986) friends to mark 25 years since graduation.

The couple, who met during their student days here, were the main organisers of the get-together and chose Habita (formerly Bar One/Northumbria Lounge) in the Students' Union as the venue.

Melanie explained what prompted the reunion: "When we were studying we had no computers, internet access, cell phones or social networks, so keeping in touch with friends after graduation wasn't as easy as it is now. Inevitably, you lose touch with people over the years, but we managed to reconnect with some of our friends through Facebook and we all agreed that a reunion would be a great idea – especially with it being a quarter of a century on!

"We had a super time seeing each other again and catching up, lots of stories and laughter. We were thrilled with how much the 'Poly' has changed and updated since our days – and become a University."

They'd also reconnected with another colleague who couldn't make the reunion because he now lives in New Zealand. So, not wanting him to miss out, the group decided to contact him during the event, using Skype for a virtual reunion across three continents.



(Left from the back) Caroline Bligh; Sarah Barnes; Jeff Petterson (Right from the back) Melanie Ashworth; Caroline Trevena; Andrew Ashworth; Lesley Stayman

"We had a super time seeing each other again and catching up, lots of stories and laughter."

Reunited ... 50 years on

Fifty years after starting their teacher training at Coach Lane, nine ladies returned to Newcastle to reminisce about their student days, life in Halls and using the modern technology of the day.

The ladies, who enrolled at Northern Counties College (one of Northumbria's predecessor institutions) to become home economics teachers, recalled just how much hard work was involved: "The working day was 9.00am until 4.00pm and we had to be on site throughout that time". In between lectures they were expected to be studying in the library.

As part of a course titled 'Home Management' they recalled making lampshades and cushion covers, learning how to wallpaper, upholster furniture, make bread and perfect their needlework skills.

They were also taught the rudiments of first-aid, how to wire a plug and even how to build a basic oven from bricks in the event of nuclear war!

There were no computers or internet to assist them in their studies, but they still remember how fortunate they had felt at the time to be able to use the very latest in new-fangled technology: electric mixers, twin-tub washing machines and tumble dryers!

The young ladies received a £6-per-week allowance from the County Council and were expected to teach in a school of the Council's choosing on qualification.

Reflecting on the changes in student lifestyles over the years, the group remembered that once they had used their two late passes per term, all the young ladies had to be in bed before the 10.00pm curfew.

Once, in an early display of student protest, they all united to break the curfew, returning en masse to Manor House at 10.30pm to the great displeasure of the warden.



Margaret Raw (pictured right, middle row) organised the event. Her friends (listed alphabetically are: Betty Bell, Maureen Gendle, Kath Hannam, Pauline Lobbam, June Sanderson, Ann Scott, Janet Stevens, Christine Turnbull.

In their leisure time, some of the ladies took part in activities organised by student societies such as the Scottish Country Dancing Society, the Debating Society or the Gilbert and Sullivan Society.

They remembered feeling lucky and excited to be invited to the Henderson Ball at a newly built hall of residence for young men across the road from Manor House. The Christmas Ball was a particularly luxurious affair with a piped-in boar's head and caviar on the menu!

"We got two late passes each term and had to be in bed before the 10pm curfew."

Who's Where

In Touch catches up with some of Northumbria's alumni to see what they've been up to since graduating and how the University helped to shape their careers.

2000s

Malini Asokan
BSc Hons Applied Computing 2005

I'm living in Malaysia working as a Programmer for Rank Alpha Technologies Sdn. Bhd., an organisation that provides business and operational solutions to the freight, transportation and logistics industries in the Asia Pacific region. I had an unforgettable 3 years at Northumbria and hope to visit again some day.

David Bell
BSc Computing for Business 2010

I'm working for HSBC in Sheffield as a Solutions Analyst within the company's Technology and Services division, with a responsibility for ensuring the most effective IT project propositions are presented to the business. I specialise in "wealth" products such as share dealing, insurance and pensions,and work with teams based all over the world.

Richard Brownlie-Marshall
BA Hons Design for Industry 2010



After University, I got my dream job for a designer starting out – an internship with the UK's leading online furniture store, mydeco.com and progressed from assistant stylist to Design Coordinator. I am now Creative Director at London's healthy eating chain, Tossed, with full control of the company's overall creative output. I get to use many of the skills I'd learned during my studies: working on a wide range of projects such as packaging design, marketing, social media and store design – opening my first designed store this September, at Westfield Stratford, in London. Earlier this year, I launched my self-titled design brand, find out more at www.playrich.co.uk

Declan Clark
BA Hons Business 2010

I have been working for Raytec Ltd in Northumberland since August 2010, as an Marketing Executive and I'm really enjoying it. The company is the world leader in low energy LED based Lighting within the Security sector and have only been around since 2005, so working for such a fast growing, modern, successful company has really benefited me since graduating last year.

Tommy Irving
BA Logistics & Supply Chain Management 2000

I spent 7 years in the Royal Navy as a Logistics Officer, with time in the Middle East, Caribbean and Europe. I then worked on board a commercial diving support vessel in the North Sea, before taking up a shore-based job in 2010 as Logistics Manager with Bell Geospace in Aberdeen.

Craig Laverick
LLM International Commercial Law 2010

I am currently in my 2nd year of doctoral research at the Lancashire Law School, part of the University of Central Lancashire. My PhD thesis is entitled 'A Critical and Comparative Analysis of the Criminal Liabilities of Ship Operating Companies for Corporate Manslaughter'. I also had an article published earlier this year, which was based on the dissertation I submitted at Northumbria University.

Emma Littlewood
BA (Hons) Geography 2006

I thoroughly enjoyed my time at Northumbria – especially the Geography field trips! I am now a Housing Services Officer for Your Homes Newcastle and have worked for the organisation for just over four years. For the past two years my partner and I have been planning our wedding and we are now really excited for our special day at the end of October 2011.

Laura Lyall
BA Hons Geography 2006; PGCE Early Years 2008

I'm a teacher in a nursery school in Gateshead which I really enjoy and am engaged to be married.

Jamie McDade
Adv Dip HE Nursing Studies 2007; BSc Hons Midwifery 2010

I work as a midwife at University Hospital Durham and absolutely love it: I get to deliver babies every day and I am also mentoring current students on placement.

Itamar Medeiros
MA Design Practice 2009



Originally from Brazil, I currently live in Shanghai (China), where I work as User Experience Manager of the Architecture, Engineering & Construction Industry Group at Autodesk® – and help promote Interaction Design as a local coordinator for the Interaction Design Association (IxDA).

We'd love to hear from you …

Anna Orpwood and **Rebecca Harbron Gray**
both LLB Law Exempting 1999-2003



Both have recently been appointed Partners in their respective Law Firms.

Rebecca, pictured left, who has remained in the North East, is a Solicitor for the Elderly and recently completed her further studies towards becoming a Trust and Estate Practitioner.



Anna, pictured right, works as a Criminal Solicitor in the heart of the East End of London. Although very differing career paths have been taken by these two alumnae, they both feel the progress they have made so early in their careers has been highly influenced by the Exempting Degree's practical approach.

Angela Sheret
PGCE Early Years Education 2010

Redundancy allowed me to pursue my lifelong career of becoming a teacher. I completed my PGCE at Coach Lane and have now been working as a teacher (in a fabulous Newcastle middle school) for a year. It's been a lot of hard work, but has been the most challenging and amazing time. I've now completed my NQT year and am fully qualified and a member of the General Teaching Council. I really do mean it when I say – thank you Northumbria.

Louise Thompson
PGCE (Early Years) 2008

I currently have a supply cover job in a primary school in South Shields teaching years one and two. In January 2012 I will be going travelling in Australia.

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1990s

Elaine Attwater
CQSW Social Work Studies 1993

I've been working as a social worker for Newcastle City Council, firstly with the adult care team, then developed an interest in working with young people with physical disabilities. I transferred into that team from 1996 until February 2010, when I was seconded to the Community MS Team, which is where I am currently.

Ray Bradwell
CQSW Social Work Studies 1993

I am a Senior Social Worker working with adults in an Integrated Team with Health in Chester le Street, Co Durham. I am also involved with an over 40's football team at Langley Park and have played for and managed them over the last 16 years.

I would not have been where I am now without the support of the Northumbria University facilities and staff.



Michael Brodie
BA Hons Accounting & Finance 1990



I've spent the last 15 years in senior management positions in the police service, local government and NHS. Currently, I'm Finance Director for the NHS Business Services Authority, with responsibility the organisation's financial strategy, planning and management and for all matters relating to property, facilities and sustainability. I am also Vice Chair of the CIPFA (Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy) North East.

Nigel Garnham
BEng Electrical and Electronic Engineering 1991



After graduating, I went to Nottingham University to do a PhD researching video coding and algorithms for the efficient compression of pictures in videoconferencing systems. My work attracted the interest of BT and after completing in 1995, I went to work in the video research group at BT Laboratories in Suffolk for 3 years. I joined Fujitsu in 1997 as Principal Systems Engineer and throughout my 13 years with the company was promoted into Product Management and Business Development roles, eventually becoming Head of Proposition Development for Fujitsu's European Telecoms business in 2008 - covering technology as diverse as voice, unified communications, cloud and secure solutions for the public sector.

After a brief spell at Orange, I joined Siemens IT Solutions and Services this year, which has subsequently been acquired by Atos. I'm now Head of Strategy for Unified Communications and work with major clients, such as the BBC, explaining the capabilities of technology and leading future developments. Twenty years on from leaving Newcastle, Nigel is planning a reunion of his fellow course members this Autumn.

Emmanuel Hamon
BA Business Administration 1996, MA Marketing Studies 1999

I am currently living and working in America.

… Don't forget to keep us updated with your contact details and career information.

Artemis Psarianou
BA Business Studies 1997

I worked for the University until 2002, firstly for the NBS overseas office and then for the Student Recruitment Team. In 2002, I got a job in Cyprus as Services Sales Manager in an IT firm and then went on to work at the Athens 2004 Olympic Games in Greece, as a Venue Manager for Spectator Services-Football. For the past seven years I've been working in Athens, within the largest IT group in Greece, called SingularLogic, occupying the position of Division Marketing Manager for Large Enterprises Sector.

Kamran Rafique
BEng Hons Communication & Electronic Engineering 1992

I have been with BP since 2006, initially in Abu Dhabi, but have recently moved to the UK with my family. I am based in Leatherhead, Surrey and working with BP on major projects in Azerbaijan region. I have been married for 17 years and have four kids, two girls and two boys. I came to the North East from Pakistan and have always had fond memories of my years in Newcastle, studying and being with friends. I've had a very successful career so far, and I owe a lot to studying here in UK.

Anthony Ryall
BA Hons Accounting & Finance 1997

Initially, I spent 4 years with Procter & Gamble in Newcastle in different roles and got my CIMA qualification. I then spent 2 years in Leeds with Ventura, a wholly subsidiary of Next, before moving into Financial Services, joining Bradford & Bingley, where I worked for 6 years. I held several roles including Regional Account Manager, Retail Financial Controller, and Strategy Manager and also gained my CIMA fellowship and my Masters degree in Strategic Management. I then moved into retail, joining ASDA as Head of Commercial Finance for New Business and completed my MBA. At the start of 2011, I got my first Finance Director level role looking after 2 UK companies owned by Europe's largest kitchen manufacturer, the Swedish firm Nobia.

I look back on my time at Northumbria with great fondness: it really prepared me for the challenges of working life and gave me



the determination to overcome obstacles. I recall tough exams, a tough timetable, lots of sport, lots of 'socialising', high calibre lecturers, and great people who have become best friends for life. As a Geordie, one of my fondest memories of life at Northumbria, was beating Sunderland University 4-0 at football.

1980s

Heather Clarke
LLB Law 1985

I was called to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn in 1986 and completed studies leading to the LLM from the London School of Economics and Political Science in 1987. I returned to Barbados in 1987 and worked briefly in private practice before joining the Attorney General's Chambers as a Crown Counsel. I later served as Senior Crown Counsel and Principal Crown Counsel respectively in that Department before I was transferred to the Magisterial Bench. I spent twelve years on the Bench and in March 2006 I assumed duties as Registrar, Corporate Affairs and Intellectual Property, a position which I still hold.

Colin Hewson
BA Sports Studies 1984

After graduating I followed a career in recreation management and between 2002 -06 ended up as CEO of a leisure trust. Since then I've been working with a world leading behavioural and organisational change company as a senior consultant. I can't remember too much about my days at Newcastle, the social life was good, too good, oh and the bitingly cold wind off the North Sea!!

Michèle Rankin
BSc Sociology 1989



I have lived in Castille in Spain for over 20 years and run a language school for children (www.theschool.es). I have two loud Spanish children and live in the country with my dog and cat.

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www.northumbria.ac.uk/alumni

Dates for your diary

Each year, the University hosts a series of public lectures, which are free for graduates, local people and the business community to attend. They include a selection of inaugural lectures by Northumbria professors as well as key speakers from industry, politics and the media.



31 October 2011 **Joanne Roberts**, Professor of International Business in Newcastle Business School, part of Northumbria University, will deliver her inaugural lecture, which asks if Wikipedia is a new form of international productions.



14 November 2011 The President of the YouGov opinion polling organisation, **Peter Kellner**, presents a guest lecture. Peter writes for a variety of broadsheet newspapers and is a regular guest on BBC2's Newsnight.



12 December 2011 **Professor Stephen Cummings** of the University's School of Life Sciences will look at 'the dark matter of biology' in his inaugural lecture.



26 January 2012 **Shami Chakrabarti** is Director of the human rights organisation Liberty. A trained barrister, Shami speaks widely on human rights values and the essential components of a democratic society.



1 February 2012 An expert in solar cell devices, **Professor Robert Miles** from our School of Computing, Engineering and Information Sciences, will look at photovoltaic materials and devices for the 21st century as he presents his inaugural lecture.



25 April 2012 **Professor Ruth Dalton** of the University's School of Built and Natural Environment will analyse the lessons social networks can teach us about building design. Professor Dalton specialises in the use of virtual environments to research how people interact in building spaces.



31 May 2012 British art is under the spotlight in **Professor Craig Richardson**'s inaugural lecture. An expert in contemporary art, Professor Richardson will consider the contemporary benefits of the term 'British art'.

These free lectures are always popular and places are limited. To reserve your place at any of these events, simply email nu.events@northumbria.ac.uk or telephone 0191 227 3025.

Calling all former students

Celebration Weekend 2012
Friday 29 June 2012 –
Sunday 1 July 2012

Whether you graduated in 2011, 2001, 1991, 1981, 1971 … or anytime in between … we invite you and your family back to Newcastle for a celebration weekend of reunions, activities, exclusive tours and a black tie dinner.

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