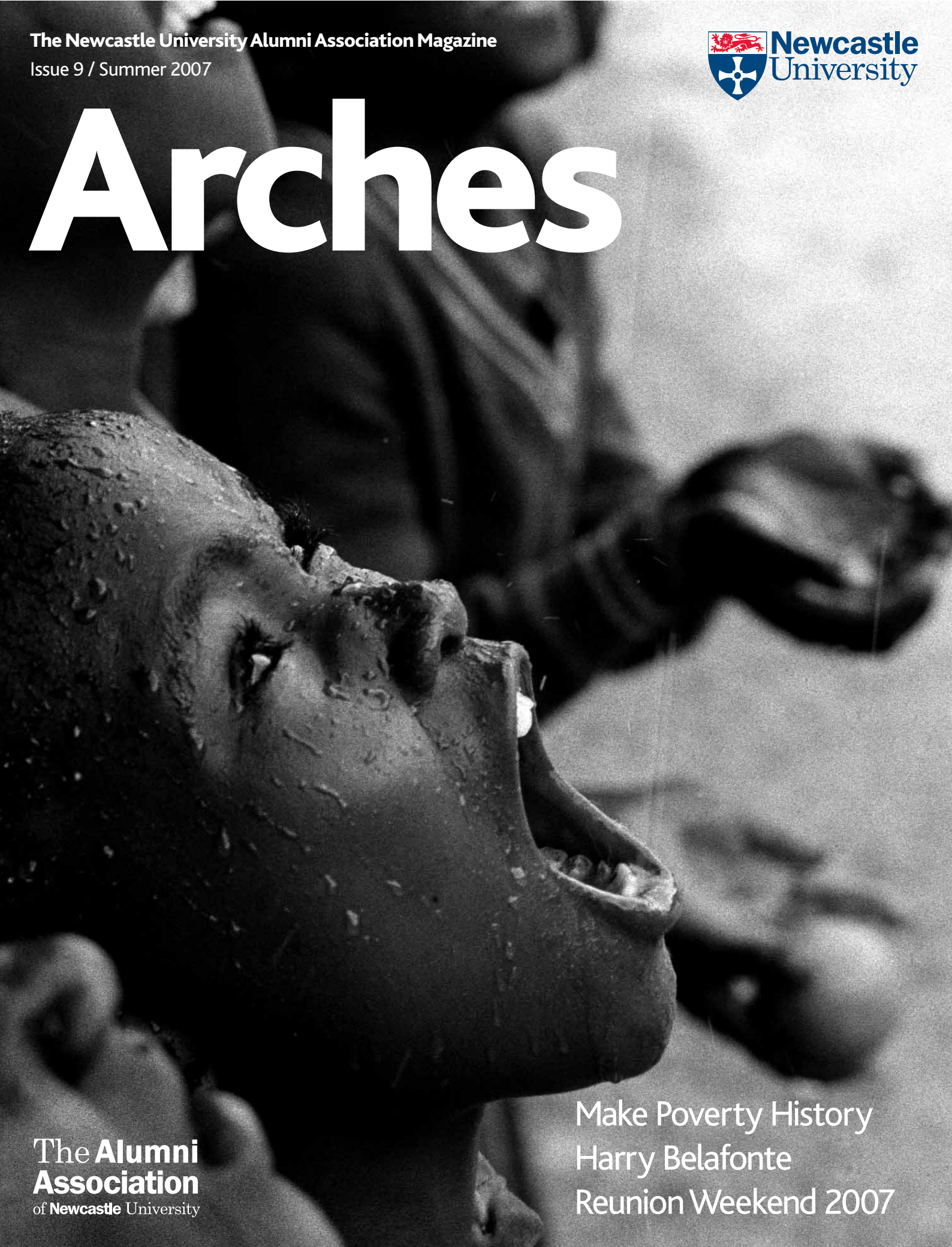


The Newcastle University Alumni Association Magazine

Issue 9 / Summer 2007



# Arches



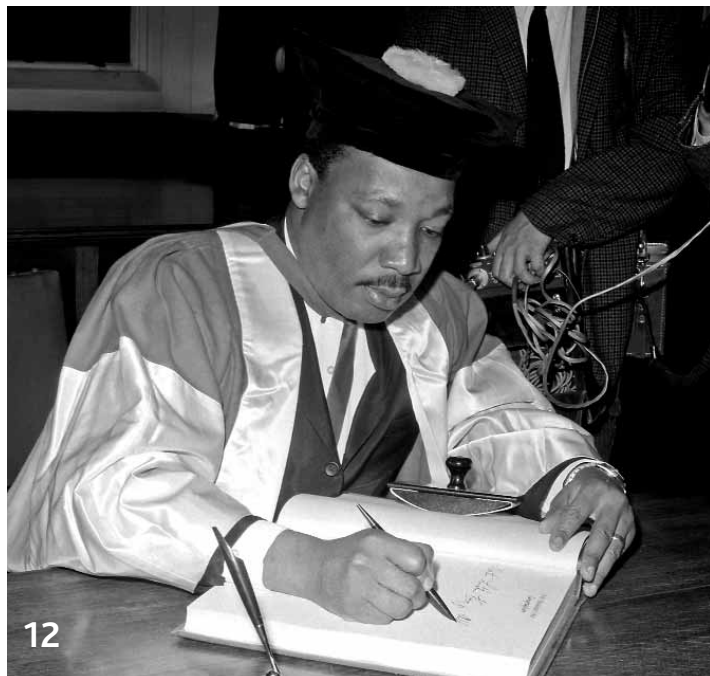
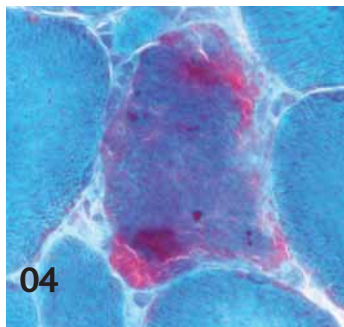
The **Alumni**  
**Association**  
of Newcastle University

Make Poverty History  
Harry Belafonte  
Reunion Weekend 2007

Arches Communications Strategy Board  
Development & Alumni Relations Office  
Newcastle University  
6 Kensington Terrace  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE1 7RU

Telephone: + 44 (0) 191 222 7250  
Fax: + 44 (0) 191 222 5905  
E-mail: alumni-office@ncl.ac.uk  
Website: www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni

# Contents



Cover image: Chris Steele-Perkins (BA Psychology 1970). School children during a rainstorm in Lesotho, Southern Africa (1981).

ACS Board members are: Dan Howarth (Editor, DARO; alum), Lauren Huntington (DARO), Kara Byers (alum), Sharmishta Chatterjee-Banerjee (Business School), Prof Patrick Chinnery (Faculty of Medical Sciences), Robin Cordy (alum), Dr Eric Cross (Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences), Jennie Gundill (Union Society; alum), Melanie Reed (Press & Communications Office), Mark Scrimshaw (Chair of the Alumni Association; alum), Helen Stark (alum), Melissa Suddes (Student Recruitment Office), Gareth Trainer (Careers Service; alum), Dr Andrew Young (Faculty of Science, Agriculture & Engineering)

Acknowledgements: Many thanks to Chris Steele-Perkins, Fran Sears at Magnum, Riannan Zoucha at Belafonte Enterprises, Obay Al-Dewachi and Fouad Kasim Mohammad at the University of Mosul, Jane Cartridge in DARN, Derek Hawes at Print Services, Clare Weber at the Friday Project and Phil Hesketh and Kate Lancaster at Hesketh Talking. Very special thanks to Shirley Tindle, Melanie Reed, Mick Warwicker, Dave Whitfield at Infinite Design, Prof Brian Ward at the University of Manchester, and all the staff in DARO, who have helped to make this magazine possible.

Picture credits with thanks: Chris Steele-Perkins, Colin Cuthbert Photography, Owen Humphreys PA, Dave Miller, Newcastle University Print Services, the Courier, Simon Veit-Wilson, Richard Lewisohn.

## 04 – 08 News

Keep up to date with the latest news straight from campus

### Arches Feature

## 09 – 11 Helping to Make Poverty History

A look at the work of the University and its alumni in support of the Make Poverty History Campaign

### Arches Feature

## 12 – 13 To honour a King

Brian Ward looks at the issues surrounding Martin Luther King's visit to Newcastle in 1967

### Arches Feature

## 14 – 15 Rebuilding education in Iraq

Amidst the current conflict in Iraq, the University of Mosul is restoring its academic reputation. *Arches* speaks to its President, Newcastle graduate Obay Al-Dewachi

### Arches Interview

## 16 – 17 The voice of freedom

A singer, actor and committed humanitarian, Harry Belafonte is one of the last century's great cultural icons. Dan Howarth speaks to him exclusively in *Arches*

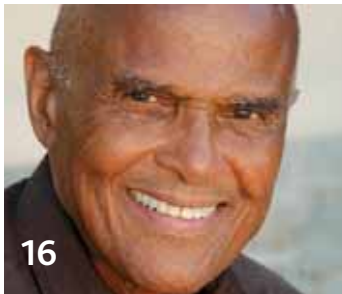
### Arches Feature

## 18 – 19 Portrait of a master sculptor

A look at the career of Derwent Wise, one of the North East's most extraordinary artists, whose life's work was recently exhibited at the Hatton Gallery

## 20 – 21 The Courier

Highlights from the University's award-winning student newspaper



## 22–23

### Alumni news

Politics graduates launch a 24-hour student essay competition, and Steve West is awarded this year's Louis Jeantet Prize for Medicine

## 24–25

### Bookmark

Reviews of books from the alumni community, including Philip Hesketh's *Life's a Game So Fix the Odds*, and Miles Mendoza's *Website of the Day*

## 26–27

### Classnotes

Catch up with the latest news from old friends and acquaintances across the world

## 28

### Alumni profiles

Folk musician Katie Doherty and computer specialist Terry Charlton

## 30–31

### Events

Details of this year's forthcoming Reunion Weekend, and how to book your place

## Foreword

Mark Scrimshaw,

*Chair of the Alumni Association*



**This edition of *Arches* celebrates Newcastle's proud affiliation with some of the past century's greatest humanitarian activists.**

As the only British university to recognise Martin Luther King Jr with an honorary

doctorate in his lifetime, one must question whether this is a reflection of remarkable perspicacity, or the continuation of a deeper tradition? Well, possibly both.

One of the great features of Tyneside's history is its support for radicalism; both on British soil throughout the fight for social reform in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and that of its overseas counterparts. Radical speakers found eager ears on Tyneside – the great Italian liberator Garibaldi visited in 1854, and was presented with a sword paid for 'by the pennies of hundreds of workingmen'. And the city's very own Joseph Cowan was the wellspring of many radical causes, with his statue outside the Assembly Rooms a fitting tribute.

Seen through this prism of centuries of radicalism, the honorary doctorate awarded to Dr King in 1967 is perhaps no surprise. But it is undoubtedly a great source of pride.

This same pride is resonant in our links with Harry Belafonte, a trusted friend and adviser to Dr King who was bestowed with the same award 30 years after the death of the civil rights leader. Harry Belafonte is interviewed exclusively on p.16.

Also in this edition is an article on the work of the University and its alumni in support of the Make Poverty History campaign; and a reflection on the work of artist Derwent Wise, recently seen at the Hatton – a man who followed in the footsteps of Victor Pasmore and Richard Hamilton as significant modern artists to have taught Fine Art at the University.

Once again then, an edition which reflects on the great achievements and tradition of this University, and some of the people who have built its wonderful reputation.

Mark Scrimshaw

# News

For more information about any of these features and to keep up to date with the very latest alumni news from Newcastle University, visit: [www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni)

## Research centre flexes its muscle

### Medical Research Council backs new centre for neuromuscular research

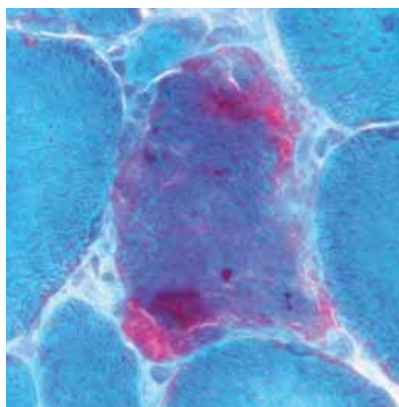
The University's Neuromuscular Research Group has won MRC backing to become part of the first UK centre for translational research into muscle-wasting diseases such as muscular dystrophy.

The MRC Centre for Neuromuscular Diseases is a joint initiative between Newcastle University, the Institute of Neurology at University College London (UCL) and the Institute of Child Health. Its aim is to turn basic science findings into clinical trials and new treatments for neuromuscular diseases.

Neuromuscular disorders – conditions that affect either the muscles themselves, or the nerves controlling the muscles – affect around 200,000 people in Europe, and up to 30,000 people in the UK. Most conditions result in chronic long-term disability and, often, premature death from respiratory failure.

Although there have been impressive advances in understanding the molecular basis of many neuromuscular diseases, these have not yet been translated into new treatments.

Professor Kate Bushby who, along with Professors Volker Straub, Doug Turnbull and Patrick Chinnery will head up the MRC Centre, said: 'This new Centre will enable us to improve the likelihood of translating scientific findings into effective treatments.'



*A ragged red fibre, which is a feature seen in the muscles of patients with mitochondrial diseases*

'The establishment of the UK research centre means we can work with the country's largest groups of neuromuscular patients, which we hope will lead to the formation of national clinical networks that will help us to make significant progress in tackling these rare diseases.'

The University is also leading a multi-million pound international 'network of excellence' aimed at improving treatment and finding cures for thousands of patients with debilitating neuromuscular diseases, known as TREAT-NMD, which stands for Translational Research in Europe – Assessment and Treatment of Neuromuscular Diseases.

## Singapore graduates make waves

Five managers from Singapore's booming marine industry made a special voyage of their own – to take part in Newcastle University's graduation ceremony.

They flew to Newcastle with their proud families after becoming the first to graduate from the University's new international Master's degree programme in marine technology, which is taught entirely in Singapore by lecturers from the University.

The University had expected to present them with their postgraduate degrees in Singapore but they insisted on travelling to North East England to take part in the ceremony, which was held at the award-winning Sage Gateshead music centre for the first time.

After the ceremony, Singapore graduate Bak Hai Beh, Director of Business Development at Vision Zenith in Singapore, said: 'It was a long way to come but it was worth it. We are very proud to graduate with Newcastle University.'

*Professor Tony Roskilly (second left) outside The Sage Gateshead, with newly graduated (l-r) Yin Chow Go, Alam Akm Khorshed, Yang Ligu, Jayakumar Balasingam and Bak Hai Beh*



# International student recruitment partnership

## Plans unveiled for international student centre on campus



**Newcastle University is aiming to attract hundreds more international students through a pioneering agreement with a private company, INTO University Partnerships, which will finance the construction of a new International Student Centre on the campus and help recruit students via its network of overseas agents.**

Once built, the new Centre will provide teaching and residential accommodation for an additional 500 students per year – the expected intake within five years of the first students arriving this September.

Some of the students will be taught on programmes equivalent to the final year of English 'A' level education, recognising that in many countries secondary schooling ends a year earlier than in the UK.

While there will be no compulsion for these students to enter an undergraduate programme at Newcastle, it is estimated that about 300 may do so. These will be in addition to the current

student intake. The Centre will also deliver programmes to help international graduates progress on to Newcastle Masters' programmes.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Christopher Edwards, said the partnership with INTO will enable the University to respond to increasing international competition for students, while maintaining the highest standards.

The ability to attract students from many different countries brings enormous cultural benefits to the University – and there are also important economic considerations, he said. The additional income generated by the INTO partnership will be shared between the University and the company, with the University's portion being invested into teaching and other facilities.

INTO operated a successful pilot project at the University of East Anglia before reaching agreements with Newcastle and Exeter. A number of other universities have expressed an interest in similar initiatives.

## Updates

● **Health Secretary Patricia Hewitt has named Newcastle as one of 11 biomedical research centres of excellence – described as 'among the most outstanding centres of medical research in the world' – and will share £450 million over the next five years to drive the development, testing and uptake of new and better ways to prevent, diagnose and treat ill-health.** The Newcastle Centre will be a partnership between the University and the Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, specialising in the diseases and disorders of ageing.

● **A biotechnology company co-founded by Newcastle University has been bought for 150 million dollars by the pharmaceuticals giant, AstraZeneca.** Arrow Therapeutics Ltd, which specialises in the discovery and development of anti-viral therapies, was established in 1998, as a 'spin out' company by Newcastle, Cambridge and Oxford Universities and University College London. Professor Trevor Page, Pro-Vice Chancellor for External Affairs and Research Liaison, said: 'Arrow is an excellent example of how university research can both contribute to the UK economy and directly benefit people, which is exactly the type of thing that the government is asking universities to do'.

● **The University's income reached £288 million in the academic year to 31 July 2006, the annual accounts have revealed. The figure represents four per cent growth on the previous year.** Funding council grants rose from £105.6 million to £112.4 million, academic fees and support grants from £46.4 million to £49.6 million and research grants and contracts from £55.5 million to £57.9 million.

# Newcastle hosts Science Cities summit



A summit of leading science policy-makers met in Newcastle in February 2007 to discuss how the UK's economic future will be shaped by Science Cities like Newcastle. The third Science Cities Summit included speeches from Richard Lambert, Director General of the Confederation of British Industry, and Malcolm Wicks MP (pictured), Minister of State for Science and Innovation.

Newcastle, one of six Science Cities in the UK, is already a leading light in several areas of science, reflected in the four main themes of Newcastle Science City: stem cells and regenerative medicine; ageing and health; molecular engineering; and energy and the environment. The initiative aims to capitalise on this status by encouraging more links between research and business, to help the economic development of the whole North East region.

This approach to the future was highlighted by Mr Wicks in his speech, who talked of a science city being an 'innovation ecosystem' where entrepreneurialism is allowed to flourish by bringing together key partners from universities, businesses and the public agencies.

Newcastle Science City is being driven by a core partnership of Newcastle University, Newcastle City Council and the Regional Development Agency, One NorthEast, working with strategic partners from across the region.

Malcolm Wicks also highlighted other key areas that would be vital to the long-term success of the initiative, including the roles of education and the wider community. His address urged the six cities to ensure that local children grow up with an awareness of being in a Science City.

## Newcastle scientists advise Sir Richard

Newcastle University scientists have been advising businessman Sir Richard Branson on his plans to establish a pioneering cord blood stem cell bank, which would allow parents to invest in their children's future health by saving cells taken from the umbilical cord at birth.

The Virgin Health Bank will enable parents to store the cord blood stem cells at low temperatures for possible use in the treatment of certain blood disorders later in their children's lives and also for possible donation to other people needing treatment.

Newcastle University Professors Steve Proctor and Colin McGuckin, two of the world's leading experts in cord blood stem cells, have provided medical and scientific advice to Sir Richard, who is founder of the Virgin group of companies.

The scientists joined Sir Richard and his team for the London launch of the project on 1 February 2007.

Professor McGuckin said: 'Advances in cord blood medicine around the world are amazing, with research teams turning the theoretical into reality. Cord blood therapies will become routine and we will save lives.'

*Sir Richard upon launching the pioneering Virgin Health Bank*



# Surveillance on the increase

**Britain is waking up to a surveillance society which is intruding into our private space, according to Dr David Murakami Wood, a lecturer with the School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape.**

Dr Murakami Wood headed the Surveillance Studies Network which produced a report for the Information Commissioner's Office. The report shows how pervasive surveillance looks set to accelerate in years to come.

He said: 'The surveillance society has come about almost without our realizing it. With technologies that are large-scale, taken for granted and often invisible, surveillance is increasingly everywhere.'

Projecting forward 10 years to 2016, the report describes a surveillance society as one where technology is extensively and routinely used to track and record our activities and movements, often in ways which are not obvious to ordinary individuals.

Methods include systematic tracking and recording of travel and use of public services, automated use of CCTV, analysis of buying habits and financial transactions, and the work-place monitoring of telephone calls, e-mail and Internet use.



# Coin challenges image of Cleopatra's beauty

**The University's Shefton Museum made international headlines after putting a Roman coin depicting Antony and Cleopatra on display on Valentine's Day. The coin shows the pair as anything but the beautiful queen and handsome general Hollywood would have us believe.**

The silver denarius, dating to 32 BC, was discovered in a collection from the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne during research for the Great North Museum project.

Assistant Director of Archaeological Museums, Clare Pickersgill, says the coin supports recent research challenging Cleopatra's image. 'The popular image of Cleopatra is of the beautiful queen, adored by Roman politicians and generals. Hollywood, through stars like Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton in the 1963 film, has added to the idea', she said.

Lindsay Allason-Jones, Director of Archaeological Museums, said: 'Roman writers tell us that Cleopatra was intelligent and

charismatic, and that she had a seductive voice but, tellingly, they do not mention her beauty. The image of Cleopatra as a beautiful seductress is more recent.'

*The silver denarius bearing the image of Cleopatra  
Photo credit: Owen Humphreys, PA*



● **Three-quarters of women still do most of the cooking and food shopping for their partner and family, according to research from the University's Human Nutrition Research Centre designed to help health promotion policies to be targeted more effectively.**

Lead author, Dr Amelia Lake, said: 'Women have made great progress in terms of equal opportunities over the last few decades, so it surprised us to find that many women assumed the traditional female role of chief cook and food shopper'.

● **Personal computers of the future will be so powerful that they are likely to need refrigerators to cool their chips.** The University is leading a three-year government-funded project to develop a tiny refrigeration system for computers, by miniaturising technology developed for satellites and jet fighters. Project leader, Dr Brian Agnew, will draw on experience gained 30 years ago, when he helped the MoD develop a shoe-box sized refrigeration unit that pumped liquid around the suits of jet fighter pilots to keep them cool in desert conditions.

● **The government's Chief Medical Officer, Sir Liam Donaldson, formally opened the University's new Institute of Health and Society (IHS), a multi-million pound research centre which will tackle many of the major health issues facing our global society.** Researchers in the IHS will be looking into conditions such as diabetes, obesity, stroke and cancer, as well as issues like ageing, how environment affects health, public health inequalities and the changing role of the NHS.

## Mild winter is snow joke for Olympic hopeful!

For music student, Ivy Taylor, the increasingly mild winters present something of a problem: the lack of snow means there are very few places in Europe for the Olympic-hopeful snowboarder to train.

'Even our base resort in Morgins, Switzerland, didn't have enough snow to build its usual boardercross track so we had to travel four hours a day to be able to train on one', said Ivy.

Boardercross is a relatively young sport, combining speed and skill, with groups of four athletes racing against one another to finish the course in the fastest time possible.

Ivy has just returned from taking part in her first international competitions, at the World University Games, held on the Olympic course at Bardonecchia, Turin, where she was placed 10th overall, and at the World Snowboard Championships in Arosa, Switzerland, where she finished 36th. When she completes her degree this summer, Ivy will be joining the British team full time to concentrate on her preparations for the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver.

*A light covering of snow just isn't enough for GB snowboarder, Ivy Taylor*



## Schools visit Newcastle's secret garden



**Moorbank Botanical Gardens has opened its doors to schools from across the region as part of a new access programme.**

One of Newcastle's best kept secrets, Moorbank is home to the most diverse collection of flora in the North East, and provides a unique opportunity for local schools to study how plants adapt to life in different climates.

Led by Drs Aidan Doyle and Anne Borland of the University's Institute for Research on Environment and Sustainability (IRES), the project is part of the University's programme of Education for Sustainable Development.

Dr Borland said: 'Our goal is to establish Moorbank as an 'extra-mural' arm for schools across the region, delivering educational programmes that will complement the science curriculum across all stages of education'.

The partnership between University scientists and local schools will develop

educational activities that link with University-related research, particularly topical issues of environmental and biological relevance. These issues include photosynthesis and carbon trading, medicinal plants and biodiversity conservation, and plant responses to pollution and climate change.

Schools that have so far been involved in the outreach programme include Tanfield College of Science and Engineering, Sir Charles Parsons School, Jarrow Specialist Engineering School, and St Cuthbert's High School. Amongst other projects, students have measured light and humidity in order to establish how environmental factors influence the shape and size of leaves.

As part of ongoing efforts to widen access to the garden, Moorbank will be open to the general public from 2-5pm on July 4 and October 28. It will also be open on Saturday 30 June as part of this year's Reunion Weekend.



**In 2005, an international coalition of organizations and individuals embarked upon a campaign to end extreme poverty throughout the world. As part of this movement, Make Poverty History was launched in the UK and Ireland. It mobilized vast peaceful demonstrations to put pressure on the government; campaigning for trade justice, action against HIV/AIDS, debt cancellation and an increase in aid for the world's poorest nations.**

*Left: Celia Alldridge with baby Alana, whose future will be brighter thanks to the work of the MST in Brazil (© Dave Miller)  
Below: School children in sub-Saharan Africa*



# Helping to Make Poverty History

# Helping to Make Poverty History

The Make Poverty History campaign was only intended to operate for a year, whilst the UK's presidency of the EU and hosting of the G8 summit made it the focus of international attentions. The coalition was disbanded the following January, but its purpose has lived on through the passion and determination of its member organizations.

In January this year, Newcastle University awarded five of the movement's leading activists with Honorary Doctorates of Civil Law; the highest and most prestigious honour a university can bestow. As exemplified by the work of the University's Development Areas Research Network (DARN), under the leadership of Professor Nina Laurie, Newcastle has aligned itself with the aims of the Make Poverty History campaign, and is working towards the objectives set in place by the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals.

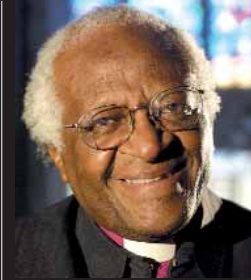
Last year, the University was granted Fairtrade status, which reflects its commitment to the increased sale and consumption of fairly traded products on campus. Working in partnership with Traidcraft, a leading UK fair trade organisation that was founded by Newcastle graduate Richard Adams (MBA, Hon DCL 2005), the University is helping to ensure that producers from the world's poorest regions receive a fair price for their goods.

It was 40 years ago this year that Martin Luther King Jr set foot in King's Hall to receive an honorary degree from the University. In his speech, Dr King described poverty as 'one of the great and grave problems of our world'. This is a fact that has hardly changed in the last four decades, and the gap between rich and poor has never been wider. However, with the Millennium Development Goals (see right) firmly in place and worldwide campaigns similar to Make Poverty History still taking place under the international banner of the Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP), there is hope that the eradication of extreme poverty is a very real possibility.

Many of the University's staff, students and alumni are engaged in work that complements the aims of the Millennium Development Goals. Grouped into four headings, here is a small selection of the work that is having such a positive impact on the lives of many millions of people throughout the developing world:

### Health

Working with the World Health Organisation for more than 20 years, a group of University scientists led by Professor Philip Home (of the School of Clinical Medical Sciences) have been contributing to the prevention and treatment of diabetes in the developing world, and have



**'Now THAT is making History! God Bless You'**

*Archbishop Desmond Tutu, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, in a letter to the University*

## The UN Millennium Development Goals

These eight goals form a plan, agreed to by all the world's countries and leading development institutions, to meet the needs of the world's poorest nations by 2015. Approved in September 2000 as part of the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the goals commit UN member states to:

- Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- Achieve universal primary education
- Promote gender equality and empower women
- Reduce child mortality
- Improve maternal health
- Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- Ensure environmental sustainability
- Develop a global partnership for development



*Clockwise from right: Young mothers and their children in Tanzania; healthy babies also in Tanzania; village people in Bangladesh; the Fairtrade mark which distinguishes products that use fairly traded ingredients; fishermen in Ecuador, who are being encouraged to use their traditional practices and beliefs in the management of their natural resources; Archbishop Desmond Tutu*



conducted some of the first detailed population-based studies of the disease in Africa.

In March this year, students of the Medical School also hosted the annual Medsin Global Health Conference, attracting future health professionals from across the UK and raising awareness of global inequalities in health.

### Agriculture, water and the environment

For millions living in poverty across the developing world, water is one of their most precious commodities. University researchers are helping local communities in the world's poorest countries to develop water management policies, improve agriculture and create a sustainable environment. In rural South Africa for example, scientists have delivered a strategy for the fairest and most efficient ways of meeting different demands for scarce water resources. Their findings have far-reaching implications for water policy throughout semi-arid Africa.

### Education

In many parts of the developing world, poor parents are abandoning public schools and paying what little money they have to provide their children with a private education, in the hope that it will give them a route out of poverty. Professor James Tooley has conducted award-

winning research in this area, and has recently been appointed as a special adviser to a leading Asian investment agency, who plan to invest £50 million in a project to improve schools in developing countries.

### Empowerment

A great deal of work in the fight against poverty involves empowering local communities to play an active role in creating a better future for themselves. Since 2004, Celia Alldridge (BSc Combined Studies in Science 1999) has been working with the MST in Brazil, a movement that aims to bring agrarian reform and social justice to one of the world's most socially unequal countries. In March, as part of her role in co-ordinating the gender-sector of the MST, Celia helped to organise this year's Rural Women's Conference. Bringing together 1300 women from across the country, the conference included workshops, debates and mobilizations, empowering its attendees to fight against the violence and repression they face on a daily basis.

**Further details and links to the above projects are available on *Arches Online* at [www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/arches](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/arches) For more information on the work of DARN, visit [www.ncl.ac.uk/darn](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/darn)**



### Honorary degree awardees

**In January this year, a special honorary degree ceremony was held at The Sage Gateshead to reward the work of five leading Make Poverty History activists. Vice-Chancellor Christopher Edwards said: 'In honouring major contributors to the Make Poverty History campaign, we are recognising their dedication to eradicating debt and hunger in the developing world – aims which Newcastle University both shares and applauds'. The awardees were:**

**The Rt Hon Gordon Brown MP** Gordon Brown's proposals for a new deal between developed and developing countries formed the basis of the comprehensive package agreed at the G8 summit, which will allow more efficient progress by Africa in meeting the Millennium Development Goals.

**Bob Geldof KBE** Organiser of Band Aid, Live Aid and, more recently, Live 8, Bob Geldof has long been a leading spokesperson for the plight of African countries.

**Dr Susan George** A political economist and author of a number of books on subjects such as hunger and debt, Dr George acts as a consultant to numerous international organisations.

**Dr David Golding** Dr Golding is a founder member of the national board of the Jubilee Debt Campaign, Development Coordinator of Make Poverty History North East and Honorary Chaplain of Newcastle University. He is also a long-serving voluntary representative of the British relief and development agency, Tearfund.

**His Excellency Benjamin William Mkapa** As Former President of the United Republic of Tanzania, President Mkapa initiated a number of liberal economic policies to qualify his country for debt-relief, and introduced a five-year Primary Education Development Plan which has already brought Tanzania close to achieving Millennium Development Goal number 4.



# TO HONOUR A KING

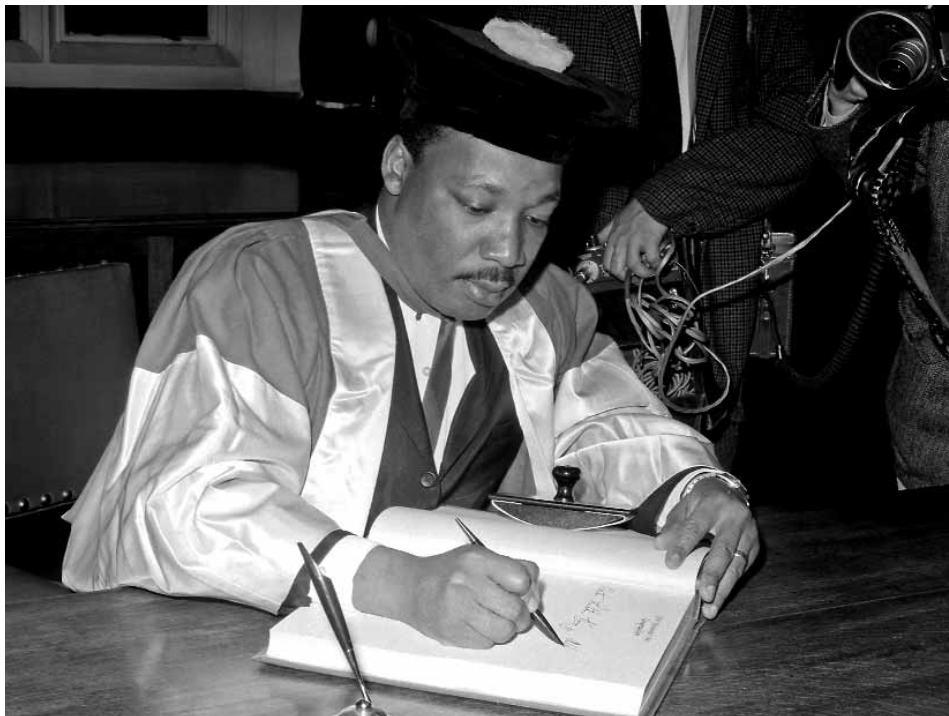
**It was forty years ago this November that Newcastle University bestowed its highest mark of distinction upon a man whose tireless work for civil and human rights inspired a generation around the globe.** By Brian Ward

**In awarding Martin Luther King Jr with an Honorary Doctorate of Civil Law, Newcastle became the only university in the UK to recognise the work of the civil rights leader during his lifetime.**

What was truly remarkable about the occasion, however, was the fact that King took the trouble at all to make the trip to Newcastle to receive his award. Travelling with his close friend and activist colleague Andrew Young, King's trip to the UK lasted barely 24 hours; a mere eight of which were spent in Newcastle itself. This amounted to an amazing gesture to receive the latest in a succession of doctorates from a university in the North East of England, the exact whereabouts of which apparently eluded King's organisation, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. When making arrangements for the trip, King's secretary had innocently asked if Newcastle was a plane ride away from London, or whether King and Young could get a taxi.

King's visit to Newcastle was squeezed into his frenetic schedule between a host of other commitments. Just weeks before the ceremony was due to take place, King was imprisoned in an Alabama jail, where he contracted a virus, hardly

*Below: Martin Luther King signing the Roll of Honorary Graduates upon receipt of his award; below right: King with the then Chancellor, 10th Duke of Northumberland Hugh Percy; and above right with fellow honorary graduands and Vice-Chancellor Charles Bosanquet.*



having time to recuperate before his arrival in Newcastle. During the days immediately before his visit, King also campaigned for Carl Stokes in his successful bid to become the first black mayor of Cleveland, Ohio; and barely a day after his departure from the UK, he was back in Atlanta to record some speeches for the Canadian Broadcasting Company. With this in mind, there is hardly any wonder that Andrew Young confessed to a guest in Newcastle that 'he was rather exhausted on his trip as Martin Luther King was indefatigable and never stopped working'.

With so many pressing commitments, it begs the question as to why King was so keen to honour such an inconvenient and relatively inconsequential engagement? The answer to this may lie in the precise nature of his tactical preoccupations in late 1967 and, perhaps even more crucially, his psychological condition and general morale during the last months of his life.

By 1967, King was strategically, emotionally and physically exhausted by his years at the forefront of the freedom struggle. Despite his continued commitment to his work for racial and social justice, it was clear that King's confidence and general optimism had faded during the late 1960s. The Herculean efforts of the civil rights movement had outlawed statutory racial discrimination, but left in their wake a number of more obstinate barriers to genuine equality of opportunity for African Americans. King's response to this new challenge was increasingly to interpret

black oppression in terms of a global struggle against the triple, mutually reinforcing evils of imperialism, poverty and racism.

King believed that the antidote to these interlocking triple evils was some form of peaceful, social democratic revolution. He called for an interracial alliance of all the working men and women of America in a Poor People's Campaign, which he hoped would unite the dispossessed of all races, religions and creeds in mass acts of nonviolent protest in Washington.

However, this public radicalisation of his ideas and tactics, coupled with his stance against the war in Vietnam, made King many enemies. It alienated many of the white liberals who felt that the civil rights struggle had effectively ended in victory with the passage of the Voting Rights Act in 1965, and the establishment of de jure equality. It also angered some of King's black contemporaries, who felt he was losing the support of those liberal whites with whom they thought he should be seeking to forge alliances.

Although the initial plans for the Poor People's Campaign temporarily rekindled his optimism about the possibilities of effecting significant change, King remained disillusioned by the constant criticism and lack of support for his new social and economic initiatives.

It was in this context of frustration, anxiety and creeping despair at home that the recognition of his efforts from abroad assumed a special significance and therapeutic value for

King. This had certainly been the case when he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo in 1964; and it was also undoubtedly so three years later when he was honoured by Newcastle.

Humbly, King accepted his award from Newcastle as the representative of a much larger movement. Much to the delight of those present at the ceremony, he unexpectedly gave an impromptu speech. Delivered in King's characteristically resonant, eloquent style, the speech stressed that King accepted such honours, not as an individual, but as a representative of the many extraordinary ordinary people who formed the civil rights movement: 'In honouring me today, you not only honour me but you honour the hundreds and thousands of people with whom I have worked and with whom I have been associated in the struggle for racial justice. And so I say thanks, not only for myself but I also thank you for them, and I can assure you that this day will remain dear to me as long as the cords of memory shall lengthen.'

On 4 April 1968, less than five months after his visit to Tyneside, Martin Luther King was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee. When news of his death reached Newcastle, the University issued a statement that deeply deplored the killing, flew its flag at half-mast, and organised a memorial service.

By inviting King to accept an honorary degree at Newcastle, the University was able to acknowledge the international significance of his social and political achievements at a time of great personal doubt for the civil rights leader. This was an experience that not only continues to mean a great deal to the University, but clearly also moved the great man himself, in the final months before his death.

**Original footage of the honorary degree ceremony and Martin Luther King's acceptance speech is available online at [www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/arches](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/arches)**

**Brian Ward** Professor Brian Ward holds the Chair of American Studies at the University of Manchester. He taught history at Newcastle University between 1990 and 2000, and was Director of the Conferences on Civil Rights and Race Relations, hosted by the University in 1993 and 1998. Those Conferences generated two important collections of essays on the history of the civil rights movement: *The Making of Martin Luther King and the Civil Rights Movement* (Macmillan, 1996) and *Media, Culture and the Modern African American Freedom Struggle* (University Press of Florida, 2001)

**'Words are certainly inadequate for me to express my deep and genuine appreciation to the University of Newcastle for honouring me in such a significant way... I can assure you that you give me renewed courage and vigour to carry on in the struggle to make peace and justice a reality for all men and women all over the world.'**

**Dr Martin Luther King Jr upon receiving his Honorary DCL in King's Hall, 13 November 1967**





# REBUILDING EDUCATION IN IRAQ

**In a time when the Iraqi people are deeply concerned about their future, institutions such as the University of Mosul are picking up the pieces of a shattered higher education system. At Mosul's helm is its President, Newcastle graduate Obay Al-Dewachi (MSc Agricultural and Food Marketing 1977). Dan Howarth speaks to him about his pivotal role in revitalizing a once prosperous academic tradition.**

**Deep in the heart of northern Iraq, on the banks of the Tigris River, lies the ancient city of Mosul; home to a diverse population of over 1.73 million people, and one of the Middle East's largest and most prominent universities.**

With around 30,000 students and 4,000 staff, the University of Mosul dwarfs many UK institutions. Founded in 1967 during a time of academic prosperity in Iraq, the University endured a turbulent era under the regime of Saddam Hussein, culminating in the fall of the Ba'ath government in early 2003, and the ensuing conflict that has seen the country come dangerously close to civil war.

Professor Al-Dewachi has held the presidency of the University since 2003. Previously Dean of the College of Administration and Economics, he was appointed to help restore the University's intellectual integrity, and drive it towards a state of professional autonomy that was unfeasible under the rule of Saddam.

'Nowadays, the University enjoys the merits of freedom of speech, away from political disputes and affiliations that are no longer allowed', he said. 'We enjoy a typical academic environment where only the scientific, social and educational aspects of life are tackled and investigated.'

Although not idyllic, life at the University seems a lot brighter compared to the events of four years ago. When Professor Al-Dewachi first took up his post, the conflict in Iraq had caused severe damage to the infrastructure of the University. Buildings, furniture and equipment had been damaged by fire and bombing, and



*Clockwise from far left: The University of Mosul's student-centre; students in the College of Dentistry's Teaching Clinic; the main campus of the University; the Presidency Building; Professor Obay Al-Dewachi*

widespread looting had stripped the University of much of its property. 'We suffered heavy losses in our libraries, labs, computer facilities and other areas, amounting to between 70–100 per cent of our assets', he said.

International support has been welcomed, with funds invested in restoring buildings and facilities, and enabling access to the Internet across campus; allowing students to access online collections whilst the University rebuilds its library.

So far, the University has made steady progress. Building on Iraq's rich agricultural heritage, Mosul has the only agricultural research centre in the country. It is also in the process of establishing a teaching hospital to complement its highly respected college of medicine, and is building its new Assyrian Library, which is set to become the largest of its kind in Iraq.

The University has also begun to develop international collaborations, and a number of students have been awarded scholarships by overseas universities in countries such as France, Australia and the USA. Professor Al-Dewachi has noted the absence of the UK in such schemes, however, despite its academic patrimony of the institution: 'The University of Mosul was established on British standards and disciplines, and 70 per cent of the qualifications held by our staff members were awarded by British universities'.

Newcastle University itself has quite a resonance at Mosul, having awarded degrees to over 70 of its teaching staff. In fact, two of Professor Al-Dewachi's brothers are also Newcastle graduates. Although the University of Mosul is steadily returning to the grandeur of its

## 'The state of affairs in Iraq has had great impact on university management, and requires adaptation to some risky situations,'

*Professor Al-Dewachi*



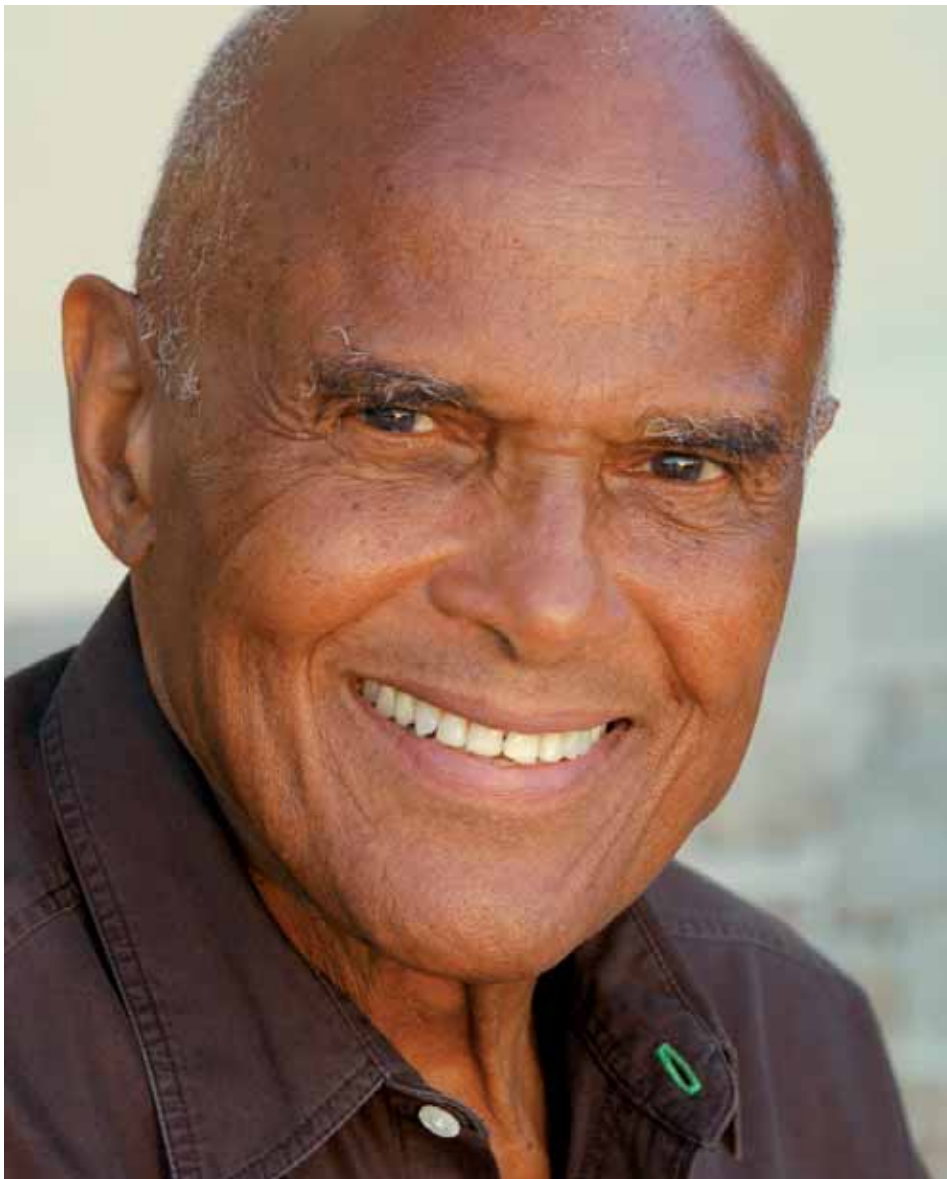
academic roots, Professor Al-Dewachi is well aware of the many dangers that still face its staff and students. 'The lack of security is the most problematic issue that affects Iraqi universities', he said. 'Although we have found that by forbidding political activities on campus, we have been able to minimize its effect on our academic activities.'

It is not just academic activities that are threatened by this lack of security, however, and several of the University's staff have lost their lives during the conflict; most notably in 2004 when the Dean of the University's Law School was murdered. In spite of this danger, Professor Al-Dewachi remains resilient. 'The state of affairs in Iraq has had great impact on university management, and requires adaptation to some risky situations,' he said. 'Thank God, acts of assassination at the University are relatively limited.'

Professor Al-Dewachi is confident about the future of the University of Mosul, and this optimism is reflected in a moving blog written by an anonymous female student at the University, known only as Najma. In *A Star from Mosul*, Najma writes about how much she enjoys university life in Mosul, and the career aspirations of herself and her friends; showing a great deal of hope and promise for the future.

Let us hope that these blossoming developments at the University will foreshadow a move towards peace and prosperity for the whole of Iraq, in the years ahead.

**For more images of the University of Mosul, its campus and students, visit our *Arches Online* pages at [www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/arches](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/arches)**



'I've not quite adjusted to the fact that I'm 80, since the last birthday I remember is when I was 30, laughs Belafonte, his distinctive raspy voice echoing through the telephone. Fifty years ago, Belafonte was selling more records than Elvis Presley. His third album *Calypso* was the first ever record to sell over a million copies, and his starring role in 1957's *Island in the Sun* established him as the most sought after African American actor in Hollywood. Not bad for a young man from Harlem.

Although he was born in New York, much of Belafonte's childhood was spent in the Jamaican mountains of Saint Anne, and the island's capital of Kingston. 'It gave me a great set of contrasts through which to live my life', he explains. 'I was very rewarded with the ability to grow up and to know two different systems of government, and to know two different cultures, and I have been made the richer for that experience.'

It was the influence of the Caribbean that inspired Belafonte's foray into traditional folk music, and the recording of the song for which he is arguably most famous: *Banana Boat Song*.

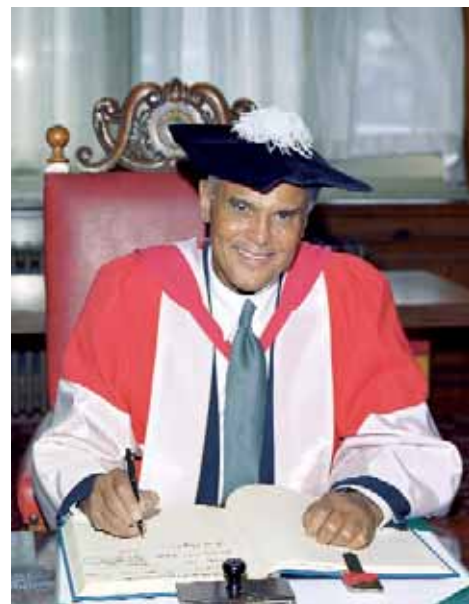
Belafonte was initially met with opposition from predominantly white members of the music industry, who felt that mainstream America wasn't interested in Caribbean folk music. They were wrong, however, and Belafonte achieved unprecedented sales and widespread critical acclaim – the first time the words of the black working class had broken into white American popular culture.

This mainstream success allowed Belafonte to begin voicing his views on issues he felt strongly about. His great friend and mentor, the entertainer Paul Robeson, had once said to him: 'Get them to

# THE VOICE OF FREEDOM

**This year marks the 80th birthday of a man whose remarkable career has firmly established him as a cultural icon. His voice ignited a musical revolution, and his unparalleled humanitarian work has helped make freedom a reality for millions of people.**

Dan Howarth speaks to the enigmatic Harry Belafonte (Hon DCL 1998).



sing your song, and they'll want to know who you are'; and sure enough Belafonte was able to start drawing attention to the social injustices that were plaguing his country:

'Having been born into poverty, I had always felt that if good fortune came my way, one of the things I would be obliged to do, and want to do, would be to work as hard as I could to end poverty, not just in America but across the world.'

It was this commitment to the struggle for human rights, and more potently racial equality, that brought him to Martin Luther King Jr. 'I first met Dr King in 1954, and we became close friends,' he reminisces. 'He was a man I greatly admired for his cunning and genius, and to be in his service gave me an opportunity to develop philosophically, socially and politically. With those elements at work in our relationship, we did many things together, and I served him loyally and faithfully for the rest of his life.'

In 1960, Belafonte first introduced King to a young presidential candidate called John Kennedy; forging a relationship that would bring a great deal of political muscle to the Civil Rights Movement. It was also Belafonte who encouraged King to take the work of the Movement to an international platform, using his funds, contacts and abilities as a performer to raise its profile, particularly in Europe.

As the safety of the civil rights leader and his family increasingly came under threat, Belafonte took financial responsibility for those who were dearest to King's heart. He arranged cover for an almost uninsurable King, which would provide a lifeline for his family in the event of disaster, and privately paid for the education of his children.

Disaster did strike on 4 April 1968, when

King was assassinated. For Belafonte, this huge personal loss was also corroborated by the murders of his friends John Kennedy in 1963 and his brother Bobby in June of 1968. When asked about the threat to his own life, Belafonte is resolute: 'Many people in America have been murdered for their political point of view, because they spoke out for the right to vote, and because they demanded equal opportunities economically and in the educational world. So to not have some preoccupation with that fact is to be foolhardy. Having said that, it is not enough to deter one from what one feels he or she must do to achieve the relief of human suffering. Life is to be the price paid for moral truth, and I think I'd rather pay that price than live a life of spiritual death in fear and do nothing.'

Since the death of Martin Luther King Jr, Belafonte's contribution to humanitarian causes has remained unsurpassed. His vigorous support of the anti-Apartheid movement in South Africa made him the first recipient of the Nelson Mandela Courage Award, a man with whom he has also developed a close friendship; and his work with UNICEF in Africa has brought international attention to the plight of millions more people, for whom social equality is a distant hope. 'Art, to me, was always a weapon for peace and a tool for human development,' he enthuses. 'I think its purpose is to serve humanity.'

It is for all of these reasons that Newcastle University awarded Harry Belafonte an Honorary Doctorate of Civil Law in 1998, in the same way that it bestowed its greatest honour upon Dr King 31 years previously. 'I'm ever grateful to Newcastle for the honorary degree, and the chance to go there with my friend Julian Bond,

and be so graciously and majestically treated,' he professes humbly. 'My mother, who always pained at the fact that I never finished secondary school would have been absolutely delighted, and I'm quite sure she is.'

'It does a great deal to validate what I stand for, because I am often in a place of controversy, and people are often defining me in some ways that are not quite so pleasant, but when institutions such as Newcastle and others reach out and say "we anoint you for your humanity and for the contribution you make to society" then that's a huge validation, and it really encourages me and gives me a kind of feistiness that's necessary to face my detractors.'

Even at 80 years old, Belafonte is still dedicated to social activism. He spends time with young men in street gangs and prisons to encourage them to take on social and political responsibilities, and is still involved in projects that convey his objectives to an ever-wider audience.

He has recently appeared in the film *Bobby*, which recounts the events leading up to the assassination of Bobby Kennedy in 1968, and is also in the process of making a full-length documentary about his life and journey.

And despite the continual presence of social injustices in many countries, he remains confident about the progress of humanity. 'I think the twenty-first century is filled with great curiosity, and great change is promised for the future. I think this is probably one of the most exciting centuries in human development.'

**The full interview with Harry Belafonte is available exclusively on *Arches Online* – [www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/arches](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/arches)**



*Opposite page: Harry Belafonte now, and receiving his Honorary DCL from Newcastle in 1998 Above: Talking to students in the Union's Cochrane Lounge Clockwise from left: Calypso was one of the world's first albums to sell over a million copies; Belafonte with his wife at the unveiling of a plaque to commemorate Martin Luther King's visit; with Mo Mowlem and other honorary graduands during the ceremony*

**A recent exhibition at the University's Hatton Gallery celebrated the life of Derwent Wise, one of the North East's most extraordinary artists.**

By Dan Howarth, Karen Chapman  
and Clara Raven

# PORTRAIT OF A MASTER SCULPTOR



In a fruitful career spanning more than five decades, Wise crossed the divide between sculpture and painting, uniting the disciplines with his unique ability to capture the intricate complexity and beauty of his subject matter.

He died in 2003 at the age of 70, and the Hatton exhibition was the first major retrospective of his work since his death.

Curated in collaboration with Wise's family, the exhibition encompassed painting, drawing, sculpture and relief; displaying work amassed from a range of private and public collections that Wise had produced since the beginnings of his career in the early 1950s.

A native of Cleveland, Wise studied Fine Art at Newcastle University, from where he graduated in 1956. Taught by eminent sculptors Murray McCheyne and Geoffrey Dudley, Wise developed an interest in casting, and his early career led him to teach at Salford Technical College and Wolverhampton School of Art.

In 1964 he returned to Newcastle, and joined the University as a lecturer in sculpture. It was here that he was accorded the title of Master of Sculpture in 1976, a position in which he remained until his retirement in 1994.

## 'Personally I miss this meticulous, melancholic and hilarious friend,'

*John Milner, art historian*

Despite his roots as a sculptor, Wise became drawn towards painting in the late 1970s. Enduring the often critical comments of his sculptor peers, Wise began to paint, exploring colour and form by direct observation of the natural world around him. The work he produced was clearly that of a sculptor, with a solidity of form and mastery of depth that betrayed his origins.

The atmospheric views he depicted were of scenes he knew intimately, mainly in and around Northumberland and the Lake District. 'Derwent was never really interested in painting areas with which he was unfamiliar' said his wife Elizabeth, who also studied Fine Art at the University, 'he needed to thoroughly absorb them.' In doing this, Wise created meticulous paintings which thrilled those who loved that Northern landscape, with its light, weather and geology.

The exhibition featured a selection of the commissioned works Wise created for friends and family, and more unusually, an example of a figurative sculpture for the now dilapidated Church of Christ the King in Bowburn, Co. Durham; the sculpture being the only item the congregation demanded be saved.

Memories of the artist were fondly recalled by John Milner, an art historian and close friend: 'Derwent Wise was a maker, and he studied closely what many of us take for granted. He felt no distance from the craftsman, the engineer, wall-builder or draughtsman, and he shared and paid homage to their skills and abilities in making their works. He also used this to make art that was thought through, arresting, individual and beautiful.'

Presented between November and January, the exhibition was the first time that works from the entirety of Wise's career had been exhibited together, and perhaps it will also be the last; but in so doing, it showed the diversity and genius of a truly great artist, and extraordinary craftsman.

'Personally I miss this meticulous, melancholic and hilarious friend,' added Mr Milner. 'He was as difficult and delightful as a good friend could be.'

**Opposite page:** *Holy Island Harbour (2003) Private Collection; Clockwise from below: Hetton Law (c. 1983) Private Collection; a photo from the exhibition, the figurative sculpture of Christ can be seen in the background; Derwent Wise; Northumbrian Landscape Towards Kyoeloe (1978) Detail, Collection of the Hatton Gallery*





Latest news from the independent voice of Newcastle students

## Editorial



Welcome to the all new *Courier* section of *Arches*! Here you can find the latest goings on at the Union Society and catch up with the best of student news.

Following on from the much publicised decline of the planet (I say this with my tongue only slightly in cheek), the Union is trying its very hardest to get in on the act of saving it. This year's Ethics and Environment Officers have worked tirelessly to instate recycling as an everyday activity in the Union Building, with much success. More success than our sports teams had in this year's Stan Calvert varsity, unfortunately! Northumbria watch out, we'll be back with a vengeance next year.

Elsewhere, Newcastle made the national news when we were named as the place to

come if you are a 'rah,' or 'new Sloane.' Apparently the campus is brimming with pashminas and posh accents. But hasn't it always been the case? Apparently it used to be Bristol but I've a sneaking suspicion that it's nothing new.

As I write this the Union is currently awash with colour. No, it's not RAG week, although this year's was a resounding success... it's election week! Over 30 candidates running to become next year's officers. By the time you're reading this they will have been elected after a gruelling week of leafleting and hobnobbing with prospective supporters. The President's position is hotly contested for its second term after a ten-year absence. And as for me, in the next edition of *Arches*, someone else will be writing this here column and I will have joined you guys in the big wide world of alumni! Wish me luck.

Jennie Gundill  
(Editor)  
xxx

## Flash mob hits Newcastle

Passers-by were left baffled in February when the 'flash mob' craze hit the centre of Newcastle.

Hundreds of people gathered at Grey's Monument to take part, mostly students who learnt about the event from a group set up on Facebook, the online networking website.

Flashmobbing is a sudden gathering of people into a crowd. They do something unusual or bizarre in unison then disperse as if nothing had happened. In the Newcastle case, participants held a pose and then formed a silent conga line around the Monument before going their separate ways.

The event certainly got people talking: it made the local BBC news, page three of the *Evening Chronicle* and, most bizarrely, Turkish television! Stephanie Grant



## 'Solution' to your stationery needs

The Union Society is turning its trash into tools as part of a new eco-friendly initiative to cut down on waste.

The transparent bags which now adorn the walls and pillars of the building are not, in fact, a new design feature, but are intended for the 8,000+ plastic cups that are used and discarded during an evening of shenanigans at Solution, the Union's flagship student night.

The plastic cups are then recycled into a range of rulers, pens and pencils, emblazoned with witty slogans, and sold at a bargain price in the Union Shop; allowing students to ease their conscience, save the environment and study hard all at the same time. Lizzie Pitt

# Fighting AIDS in Tanzania

by Katie Bristow

**A student is preparing to embark on a life-changing trip this summer to help fight the growing AIDS epidemic in Africa.**

Patrick Goold (pictured right), a second-year Law student, will spend a month in Tanzania, in the foothills of Mount Kilimanjaro. Volunteering as part of an international effort to help countries with HIV/AIDS epidemics, Patrick's key responsibilities will include working in clinics and raising awareness of the disease in local communities.

It is currently estimated that around 40 million people are living with HIV around the world and this number is ever increasing, with more than 7,000 cases diagnosed every year. Aid efforts are crucial to alleviating the problem and volunteers such as Patrick are of inestimable value to the cause.

'I'm a big advocate of aid work and a big fan of the analogy that to give a man a fish will feed him for a day but to give him a fishing rod will keep him with food forever,' Patrick explains.

'Whilst in Tanzania I want to help alleviate the suffering of HIV/AIDS but the bigger concern will be to raise awareness about the disease and how it spreads.'

Patrick works as part of Cross Cultural Solutions (CCS), an international volunteer organisation that runs volunteering programmes in 12 different countries around the world, providing a wide range of volunteering opportunities, including teaching, working with the elderly and women's empowerment.

The schemes run all year round, and can last between one and 52 weeks. Although CCS provides accommodation, food and emergency insurance, Patrick still needs to raise £2600 to cover the cost of the trip – a somewhat daunting task with the added difficulty of learning to speak Swahili!

Patrick remains resolute, however, and is committed to making a difference in Africa. 'Countries like Tanzania don't have the educational programmes, health care systems or

resources to fund large drug production,' he added. 'We have to get involved if we want to make a difference, otherwise all we do is spout rhetoric about a country's self-reliance and nothing will be done.'

**More information about the organisation and its work can be found at [www.crossculturalsolutions.com](http://www.crossculturalsolutions.com).**



## Stan Calvert defeat

**Newcastle verdict: must try harder. This is the easy analysis of Newcastle's humiliating 31-45 defeat in the Stan Calvert Cup before Christmas, but in reality, effort from the players wasn't the problem – class was.**

Much was made before the event about tactics and the lengths both sides would go to in order to be able to have bragging rights in the city for the next twelve months.

In the end, no amount of alleged tactical selections or cheating stood in the way of Northumbria's victory on the day.

Newcastle's AU President Anthony Keane was nothing but gracious after watching his side be annihilated, although he found it hard to hide his disappointment.

'It goes without saying that the event was an overall disappointment, although we did see a number of strong Newcastle performances,' said Keane. 'For example the women's rugby, badminton, fencing and lacrosse sides all secured solid victories, and both the men's basketball and women's netball sides deserve credit for their effort in losing performances.'

Gemma Davies

*Below: Newcastle and Northumbria go head to head in the Stan Calvert Cup*



## *Alliterati* is upon us

**Ever the hotbed for literary activity, EngSoc has re-launched its student literature magazine, *Alliterati*.**

Under the new editorial guidance of Sam Parker, a second-year English Literature student, the magazine has taken a brave new direction, fusing its wealth of literary prowess with an imaginative selection of hand-drawn images.

Showcasing the musings of the University's best up and coming writers, poets and illustrators, *Alliterati* is set to be published three times a year, and is open to contributions from students across campus. Sam said: '*Alliterati* aims to provide a platform for tortured souls, jilted hearts and tickled bones for years to come'.

**For more information on *Alliterati*, visit its website at [www.myspace.com/alliterati](http://www.myspace.com/alliterati)**

# Alumni News

## Politics graduates launch 24-hour essay prize

**A group of politics graduates have sponsored a 24-hour essay writing competition, offering a cash prize to students who were willing to rise to the challenge.**

Friends Graeme Brown, Zak Birks, Nick Fraser-Cranfield, Conor Byrd and Des Wibberley (all BA Politics and Economics 2001) came up with the idea, encouraging students to use their knowledge and essay writing abilities to answer a question only given to them 24 hours before the deadline.

Graeme said: 'We were the first year to pay tuition fees, so we know that University can be quite expensive compared to how it used to be, and we thought a small prize-fund would help the students who won. We also wanted to ask students to look at a contemporary issue related to politics today, as when we were students a lot of the politics modules we took were focused on the past, and we felt it would be

interesting to ask students to look to the future.'

The first prize of £350 was awarded to Matthew Smith, a third-year Politics and History student, and there were two-runners-up prizes of £100 each. The graduates also helped to judge the competition.

Politics lecturer Dr Derek Bell, who helped to organise the competition, said: 'A competition like this is a great chance for students to show that they can synthesise what they have learned, and bring it together in an imaginative and engaging way for a mixed audience. It is also an excellent opportunity for us to reward some of our most able and hard-working students.'

Graeme added: 'We're definitely going to run the competition again next year, and we hope it will become a regular feature of the Politics calendar'.

## Gift aids University ambitions



**Newcastle's Chairman of Convocation has made a generous double gift to the institution, corroborating his**

**long-standing support of the University.**

Jack Jeffery's (BSc Chemistry & Bacteriology 1953; MSc Applied Science 1960) donation is helping to fund two of the University's priority areas: access and sustainability.

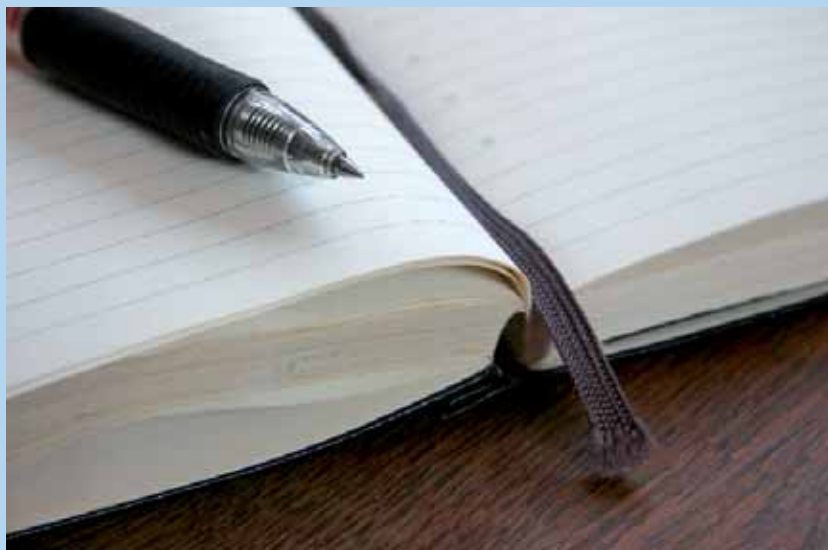
Half of his gift has been used to establish the Elsie Jeffery Bursary, in memory of Mr Jeffery's late mother, which will enable students from Tanfield School, near Stanley in County Durham to go on to further study at Newcastle.

Himself a former pupil at Tanfield (then Stanley Grammar School), Mr Jeffery wanted to make a gift structured to support both institutions. 'My father and mother made a lot of sacrifices to make it possible for me to go to University', he said. 'I hope the Elsie Jeffery bursary will help keep her memory alive by helping a student each year from Tanfield to go on to study at Newcastle.'

The other half of the gift will be used to support outreach work at the Institute for Research on Environment and Sustainability (IRES), through which Mr Jeffery has also worked tirelessly as a member of the University's Development Council.

A distinguished figure in the water industry and public health sector, Mr Jeffery was recently appointed Chairman of Northumbria Larder, the North East of England Regional Food Group, and is also a Director of Durham County Waste Management Ltd and County Durham Environmental Trust. He was awarded an Honorary Fellowship of the University in 2005 to mark his outstanding contribution to University activities.

Vice-Chancellor Christopher Edwards said: 'This is a wonderful example of Jack Jeffery's continuing generosity to the University; many young people in the North East will have cause to be grateful to him in the years to come'.



# Supporting you for life after University



**The Alumni Association has recently revamped its benefits and services package, offering Newcastle graduates access to campus facilities, and special offers and discounts on a wide range of services to help make your life after graduation a whole lot easier.**

As well as being able to sign up for alumni membership of the library and sports facilities, including the fully refurbished gym on campus, you can enhance your professional development with access to the University's award-winning Careers Service, and boost your language skills at the Open Access Centre, one of the UK's leading institutions for self-study language learning.

The Alumni Association has also forged partnerships with a number of leading businesses to offer you exclusive

discounts on services from car-hire and accommodation to finance and leisure. Graduates can take advantage of deals with the likes of Malmaison, Holiday Inn and DFDS Seaways, and the portfolio of offers is constantly expanding. A recent addition to the package is Benchmark for Business, which offers heavily discounted access to conferences hosted by some of the world's finest business brains, including Malcolm Gladwell, Philip Kotler and Steven Levitt.

**Full details of the new benefits and services package are available online at [www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/services](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/services). Alternatively, you can contact the Development and Alumni Relations Office on 0044 (0) 191 222 7250 for a copy of our brochure.**

## Award for cancer researcher



**A Newcastle graduate has been awarded the most sought after prize for biomedical research in Europe: the 2007 Louis-Jeantet Prize for Medicine.**

Dr Stephen West (BSc Biochemistry 1974; PhD 1978) is a Principal Scientist at Cancer Research UK's London Research Institute (LRI), in Hertfordshire. His pioneering research into the repair mechanisms of DNA has uncovered new information on the development of cancer and neurological disease.

One of the key findings made by Dr West is the discovery of a 'molecular switch' that controls an essential DNA repair process – demonstrating for the very first time how a genetic fault can lead to breast and ovarian cancer in some women. Dr West has also identified a key protein that cells use to repair their DNA and protect us from cancer. His work has laid the foundations for any future attempts to destroy the ability of cancer cells to repair themselves.

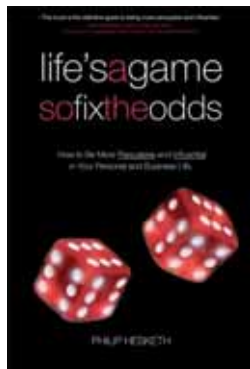
The Louis-Jeantet Prize for Medicine is awarded annually to between one and three scientists engaged in biomedical research across Europe, and is designed to encourage further projects of excellence. Each prize winner is awarded € 400,000 (£270,000) to pursue their research and € 75,000 (£50,000) for personal use.

'The Prize is a great facilitator of research', said Professor West. 'It's important to get recognition from the scientific community, and additional funding is a godsend.'

'This award is testament to the hard work and dedication of the many students and researchers who have worked in my laboratory over the years. They have contributed to the development of new ideas and directions.'

# Bookmark

## Reviews of books from the alumni community by our resident bookworm Biblos.



### Life's a Game So Fix the Odds Philip Hesketh

**Genre: Self-improvement**  
**Published: 2005 (Capstone)**  
**ISBN: 1-84112-682-9**

**How persuasive do you consider yourself to be? The skill to exercise influence over your peers, and display a subtle mastery at the negotiating table is arguably one of life's most desirable qualities.**

I, for one, have trouble controlling my own decisions, never mind influencing those of other people – so I felt I needed some direction. And few could be better qualified than Philip Hesketh (BSc Psychology 1975) to offer such guidance.

Having founded one of the country's most successful regional advertising agencies, Philip carved out a career in sales and advertising that took him across the globe. He is now one of the UK's most sought after professional speakers, and specialises in the psychology of persuasion.

In *Life's a Game So Fix the Odds*, Philip imparts the wealth of over thirty years worth of experience to help you enhance your ability to persuade. The book's subtitle is 'How to be more persuasive and influential in your home and business life', and the advice he offers allows you to develop skills that are easily transferable to most situations that require negotiation.

The book is broken down into six areas, in which Philip analyses the very nature of human relationships, and discusses the mechanics of how persuasion and influence work. He then goes on to suggest a number of cognitive tools to use in negotiation, providing carefully crafted mnemonics to help the reader put them into practice.

By establishing your persuadee's needs with genuine care and sincerity, Philip suggests that you've taken the first steps to becoming a better persuader. He denounces the tactics of unscrupulous salesmen, and through exposing their hard-sell methods, demonstrates how showing empathy and being likeable facilitate the path to effective negotiation.

With 95 per cent of our thoughts taking place in our subconscious, the majority of our decisions are effectively out of our control – as Philip constantly reiterates: 'We buy emotionally and later justify logically'.

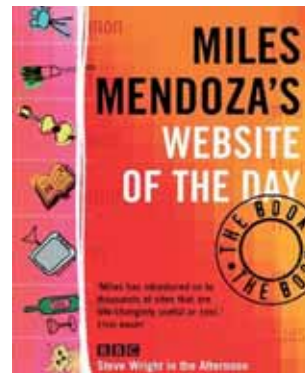
Philip's friendly style of writing makes the book easy to pick up, and hard to put down. He uses a wealth of factual information and hilarious anecdotes to illustrate his points, and his frankness and honesty give him an endearing quality.

I would recommend this book to anyone who wants to get better results at the negotiating table, without compromising on their integrity. A thoroughly entertaining and informative read.

**For more information on Philip Hesketh, and to order a copy of the book, visit his website at [www.heskethalking.com](http://www.heskethalking.com)**



*Philip Hesketh*



### Website of the Day: The Book Miles Mendoza

**Genre: Reference, computing**  
**Published: 2006 (Friday Books)**  
**ISBN: 1-905548-31-1**

**The vast, anarchic nature of the Internet has rendered it nearly impossible for many of us mortals to uncover much of its treasures. But fortunately for us, Miles Mendoza (BA Combined Studies 1988) makes it his business to hunt down the best sites that the web has to offer.**

An authority on web-exploration, Miles presents the popular Website of the Day slot on BBC Radio 2's Steve Wright in the Afternoon (2–5pm weekdays), in which he trawls the Internet to find its most useful, entertaining, and occasionally pointless websites.

The book has been produced for novices and seasoned surfers alike, providing an illustrated catalogue of places to visit online. Starting with a snappy introduction to the Internet for those of us who are less web savvy, Miles takes the reader on a journey through the best websites for travel, music, online shopping and nostalgia; as well as providing an in-depth guide on how to access the Net's best blogs and podcasts.

His tireless research leads the reader to such wonderfully useful sites as the Guide to Comfortable Sleeping in Airports, as well as the more obscure Rent-a-Peasant.co.uk and the Britney Spears Guide to Semiconductor Physics. As a companion to the book, Miles also runs a website which indexes every site he mentions, and provides constantly updated links.

Miles' book is a witty and insightful commentary on some of the web's most curious material, and is well worth an investment.

**Copies of the book are available at Miles' website: [www.websiteoftheday.info](http://www.websiteoftheday.info)**

**Both of the above books are available to buy online and from all good bookshops.**

*Miles Mendoza*



## **Preview:**

### **Northern Exposures: Rural Life in the North East**

**Chris Steele-Perkins**

**Genre: Photography**

**Published: June 2007**

**(Northumbria University Press)**

**ISBN: 1-904794-20-2**

*Northern Exposures* is the sixth book by award-winning photographer Chris Steele-Perkins (BSc Psychology 1970). A member of the elite Magnum Photos agency, Chris has taken his unique style of photo reportage across the world, capturing the unconventional nature and diversity of human society with visual wit and a constant eye for the extraordinary.

In *Northern Exposures*, Chris returns to the North East, focusing on rural life in and around the former pit villages of the region. The book captures the essence of a dying way of life; exposing a fascinating culture of ferreting, whippet racing and pigeon fancying, as well as the harsh realities of the countryside. In a way, his study is a love letter to a region and culture for which he feels deep, undying affection; as he says, his photographs 'serve as both eulogy and elegy'.

To coincide with the launch of the book, there will be a special preview at Northumbria University Gallery on 7 June 2007, followed by an exhibition of Chris's work between 8 June – 20 July.

**For more information, visit  
Northumbria University's website  
[www.northumbria.ac.uk/universitygallery](http://www.northumbria.ac.uk/universitygallery)**



# Classnotes

If you would like your news to be printed in the next issue of *Arches*, please contact DARO

either by phone on 0044 (0) 191 222 7250 or by e-mail at [alumni-office@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:alumni-office@ncl.ac.uk)

## 1940s

Mr John LEE (member of staff in Geology 1945-76) celebrated his 96th birthday on Valentine's Day this year. He first joined the Geology Department (now part of the School of Civil Engineering and Geosciences) in 1929 as a Laboratory Steward under Professor Hickling, before leaving in 1936 to join the government's Geological Survey department. He attended University in London, where he graduated with a BSc in Physics and Maths in 1945, before returning to Newcastle to take up a post as a Graduate Technical Assistant, where he remained until his retirement in 1976.

## 1950s

**Botany 1957:** As part of this year's Reunion Weekend, Michael Bridges and Adrian Dyer are hosting a Golden Jubilee celebration for graduates of BSc Botany 1957. They would like to meet up with fellow graduates from that year, especially the following: Bob Parry, Joan Palmer (née Radcliffe), Patricia Bradbury, Dennis and Melanie Hyde (née Brown), Alan Burns and Joseph Burns. If you were a member of this class, please contact Michael by e-mail at [bridges.ms@googlemail.com](mailto:bridges.ms@googlemail.com), or by telephone on 01248 713474

## 1960s

Dr Hazel KNOWLES SMITH (BA General: English, History & Archaeology 1969) is the author of a new book entitled *The Changing Face of the Channel Islands Occupation*, which looks at the relationship between islanders and the Nazis in WWII. Following a PhD at Southampton University, Dr Knowles Smith's research challenges conventional knowledge in this area, providing evidence that the level of collaboration was far less than is documented.

Dr Rose NAHAR (BSc Zoology 1960, MSc Cytology 1961, PhD Human Genetics 1980)

Returned to Bangladesh after completing her degree, where she took up a position as Assistant Professor of Zoology at Jagannath University in 1982. She retired from there as Professor and Chairperson in 1998. A prominent figure in zoology and anthropology, Dr Nahar was awarded the World Medal of Freedom by the American Biographical Institute in 2006.

Dr Richard YEOMANS (BA Fine Art 1967) has recently retired from the University of Warwick, where he was a senior lecturer and co-ordinator for Art and Design in the Institute of Education. His work is still flourishing, and his new book *The Art and Architecture of Islamic Cairo* has just been published by Garnet Publishing (ISBN 1-85964-154-7).

Ahsan ZAIYOUNA (BSc Applied Science 1967) would like to find his old friend Ms Gilberte HERMELIN-CADIGAN (BDS 1970). If anyone knows of her whereabouts, please help Ahsan to get back in touch by e-mailing him at [azaiyouna@hotmail.com](mailto:azaiyouna@hotmail.com)

## 1970s

The Rev. Geoffrey HYLAND (Postgraduate Certificate in Education 1976, Master of Education 1979) retired from full-time education in 1990 after 19 years at Boldon Comprehensive in South Tyneside, latterly as Head of the Sixth Form. He is now Interim Minister to the Parishes of Tow Law, Stanley, Crook and Sattlely in County Durham.

Dr Christine MCLEAN née BROWN (BSc Botany and Zoology 1971) completed a PhD at Hatfield Polytechnic (now the University of Hertfordshire) in 1979. She is married with two daughters, and has worked at Norfolk Wildlife Trust, the Nature Conservancy Council and the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology.

Angela Louise QASIR née WILLIAMS (BA General: French, German and History 1974) is a teacher of English and academic co-ordinator of Bloomfield Hall Schools in Pakistan, which she founded in 1984. Angela writes a weekly column in the Monday edition of Pakistan's *Daily Times*, and often directs and acts in plays with her students.

Elaine POVEY (Diploma in Applied Social Studies 1973) is an organic farmer in rural North Herefordshire. She runs The Buzzards, an idyllic country retreat centered around a 300 year-old farmhouse, which is perfect for a relaxing holiday in the tranquil West Midlands countryside. For more information, visit [www.thebuzzards.co.uk](http://www.thebuzzards.co.uk)

## 1980s

Dr Stephen BURNLEY (BSc Chemical Engineering 1980, PhD Chemical Engineering 1983) has been appointed to a Senior Lectureship in Environmental Engineering at the Open University.

Chris TAYLOR (BSc Agricultural Zoology 1981) travelled down under to undertake a veterinary science degree at Queensland University, Australia, following his graduation, and now works as managing vet for RSPCA at their Newcastle clinics. This was after spending 14 years working as a teacher and head teacher of veterinary nursing in Tamworth, New South Wales.

**Mechanical Engineering 1986 and 1987:** Vera Gair and a group of friends are holding an event to mark the 21st and 20th anniversaries of BSc Mechanical Engineering's Classes of 1986 and 1987, as part of this year's Reunion Weekend. If you would like to get involved, please contact our Events Officer, Maria Szpitan, at [m.szpitan@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:m.szpitan@ncl.ac.uk)

## 1990s

Simon CRABB (MEng Microelectronics and Software Engineering 1997) is currently an entrepreneur in the new media industry. The company he formed in 2000 has just celebrated its sixth birthday.

Josephine ELLIS née SWINDELLS (BA Linguistics 1997) and Frank ELLIS (BA Architecture 1997) have recently been married. They have been together since meeting in Josephine's first week at Newcastle in 1994. Josephine is currently pursuing an MSc in Town Planning at the University.

Miss Kazue FUJINO (MA in Linguistics for TESOL 1995) is now working back in Japan, providing translation services and English tutorials. She is also a dedicated member of the Toastmasters Club, a worldwide not-for-profit organisation for speech-making activities, where she served as an Area Governor in Japan last year.

James KING (BSc Surveying 2003) has joined US-based web solutions company Evolving Systems Inc as Vice President of Worldwide Sales and Marketing, working from their London office.

## 2000s

Daniel BROOKS (LLB 2000) is set to marry Melanie BANKS (BA Geography 1998) on

September 15th this year. They met whilst in their first year of study, but Daniel admits to spending 'too much time in the pub', which explains their differing years of graduation! Daniel intends to enjoy his stag-do back in Newcastle this August Bank Holiday weekend.

Ben WEBSTER (MEng Marine Technology 2001) has been appointed business developer for Renewable Energy Projects at the Engineering Business (EB), of Riding Mill, Northumberland.

## Classifieds

Calling all Toastmasters! Kazue Fujino (MA in Linguistics for TESOL 1995), of the Japanese branch of the Toastmasters Club, is interested in hearing from other graduates across the world who are also enjoying activities as toastmasters. Please e-mail her at kazue\_fujino@yahoo.co.jp

Whereabouts of Ronald Vincent de Paul Jackson: David Scott, who began a course in Mechanical Engineering at the University in 1959, would like to get in touch with his old

friend Ronald Vincent de Paul Jackson, who studied Geography and Anthropology at the same time. Originally from Barrow-in-Furness, Mr Jackson lived in Eustace Percy Hall. If anyone knows of Mr Jackson's whereabouts, please contact Dan Howarth at d.j.howarth@ncl.ac.uk or by telephone on 0191 222 5892.

## Obituaries

The University is deeply saddened to announce the deaths of the following Newcastle alumni. Please visit our website at [www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/news/obituaries](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/news/obituaries) where you can read full obituaries of the deceased.

Dr Wolfgang BRASSLOFF

(BA Modern History 1943)

Dr Robert CHOA (MBBS 1973)

Dr Fiona CLARKE (MBBS 1986)

Dr Arthur COX (DSc Pure Science 1966)

Mr Dave ROUTLEDGE (BSc Agriculture 1976)

Mr Brian ROWE (BSc Mechanical Engineering 1955)

# PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE



This beautifully illustrated colour portrait of Newcastle University is now available to buy at the special price of £25\* (RRP £45).

The book tells the fascinating story of the evolution of this vibrant and dynamic institution; richly evoked in archive images, and vividly told in anecdotes, memoirs and memorabilia contributed by students and teachers from every generation to the present.

To order your copy, please contact Ben Wilson at [ben.wilson@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:ben.wilson@ncl.ac.uk) or on 0044 (0) 191 222 3559

**"I hope that you enjoy reading this book. For some, it will be a trip down memory lane. For others, it will give a flavour of a rapidly evolving University with a proud history in one of the UK's most vibrant cities."**

Vice-Chancellor Christopher Edwards



Available from the Development & Alumni Relations Office at the discounted price of £25\* (RRP £45). Cheques and all major credit cards are accepted.

\*Exc P&P— UK £4.99; International costs vary

For more information visit [www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni)

# Alumni Profiles



## Katie Doherty

(BMus Folk and Traditional Music 2005;  
Master of Music 2006)

**Singer-songwriter Katie Doherty has reignited the North East's traditional music scene with her inventive blend of folk and contemporary music.**

Katie graduated with first class honours from the University's innovative Bachelor of Music degree in Folk and Traditional Music, based at The Sage Gateshead, in 2005, before advancing to a Master of Music degree a year later.

She now sings with a number of bands, primarily the eponymous Katie Doherty Band, with fellow Newcastle graduates Shona Mooney, Olivia Ross, Calum Stewart, Ian Stephenson and Julien Batten.

Since winning the coveted Musicians' Benevolent Fund Award for Song Creation in 2004, Katie has been working on her debut album, which she plans to release soon. She has recently appeared with Olivia on the latest album by renowned folk musician Kathryn

Tickell, *Strange But True*, singing Robert Burns' *Winter is Past*, for which she also wrote the melody.

In addition to her abilities as a performer, Katie is also an adept musical arranger. Earlier this year, she was appointed as Musical Director for the Royal Shakespeare Company's production of *As You Like It*, for which she rearranged original scores by eminent composer Howard Goodall, composed incidental music, and taught music to the cast. Since opening in February, the production has received great reviews, with the music highly commended – the *Daily Telegraph*, for example, said 'Howard Goodall's folksy music is a delight'.

With her work with the RSC now completed, Katie is channelling her efforts into a songwriting project with local schoolchildren in Newcastle, which will culminate in 1,000 children singing at a festival at The Sage Gateshead on 9 July this year.

**For more information on Katie, and to listen to her music, visit her band's website at [www.myspace.com/katiedohertyband](http://www.myspace.com/katiedohertyband)**

## Terry Charlton

(BSc Computing Science 2001)



**Computing Science graduate Terry Charlton has returned to campus after five years in industry, with a pretty large feather in his cap.**

Having spent most of his graduate years as Research and Development Manager with CiA Training, a Sunderland-based provider of training solutions and services, Terry has created iCourse Professional, a type of computer software that is set to revolutionize IT training methods.

iCourse Professional allows its users to create simple, customised training courses from CiA's huge repository of open learning materials; ensuring that their training needs are met with relevant and accessible content. Having taken almost a year to develop, the software has been a great hit with trainers, and has allowed CiA training to expand into new areas of the ICT market.

'It's taken a long time to create, and has been a true labour of love!' said Terry, who has now begun a full-time PhD in the University's School of Computing Science.

Now devoting most of his time to academia, Terry retains a part-time role at CiA Training as a consultant, keeping an eye on the roll-out of iCourse Professional, and resolving any issues that arise.

Funnily enough, this isn't the first time that Terry has dabbled in consultancy work. During his travels to New Zealand after graduation, Terry found part-time work developing e-learning systems for antipodean trainers, whilst his friends were picking fruit!

Inspired by his previous endeavours, Terry hopes to create a new e-learning product for IT beginners, whilst maintaining his position at CiA Training and pursuing his doctorate.

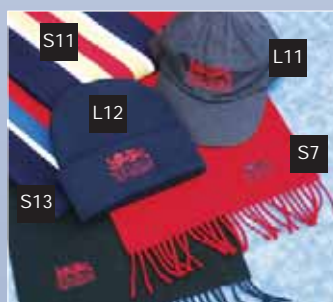
**For more information on iCourse Professional, visit [www.ciatraining.co.uk](http://www.ciatraining.co.uk)**

# Wear your Newcastle colours with pride



The Memorabilia Shop has a wide selection of quality merchandise, designed exclusively for Newcastle University. For our full range of products, visit our online store at [www.ncl.ac.uk/university-shop](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/university-shop) which can be accessed 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Alternatively, you can visit the shop itself on campus or request a colour brochure from the telephone number below.

## Official Memorabilia 2007



### Clothing

- L20\* **Newcastle University Rugby Shirt** . . . . . £42.95  
*Size options XS, S, M, L, XL or XXL*
- L21\* **Navy/White T-Shirt** . . . . . £11.95  
*Size options XXS, XS, S, M, L, XL or XXL*
- L22\* **Newcastle University Hoodie** . . . . . £32.95  
*Size options XS, S, M, L, XL or XXL*

### Scarves and Ties

Scarves and ties are available in general University and faculty colours, please e-mail or telephone if you are unsure of your faculty.

- S1\* **Alumni** (Grey or Blue, Silk) . . . . . £19.95
- S2\* **Lion** (Silk) . . . . . £19.95
- S3\* **University Shield** (Silk) . . . . . £19.95  
(Navy or Wine)
- S4\* **University Shield** (See S3, Polyester) . . . . . £9.95  
(Navy or Wine)
- T5\* **Broad Stripe** (Polyester) . . . . . £9.95
- T4 **General University Tie** (See T11, Polyester)
- T11\* **Humanities and Social Sciences Tie** (HASS) . . . . . £9.95
- T12\* **Medical Sciences Scarf Tie** (MEDICS) . . . £9.95
- T13\* **Science, Agriculture and Engineering Tie** (SAGe) . . . . . £9.95
- S6 **General University Scarf** . . . . . £22.95  
(Pure Wool also S11/12/13)
- S11\* **Humanities and Social Sciences Scarf** (HASS) . . . . . £22.95
- S12 **Medical Sciences Scarf** (MEDICS) . . . . £22.95
- S13\* **Science, Agriculture and Engineering Scarf** (SAGe) . . . . . £22.95

### Miscellaneous

- M18 **Newcastle University Monopoly Game** . . £24.95
- H1\* **Wooden Wall Plaque** . . . . . £27.50  
(Light, Medium or Dark Base)

### Jewellery

- J14\* **Gold Plated Enamel Cuff Links** . . . . . £19.95

### Parchment Frames

- M26 **Gilt Parchment Frame** (30cm x 40cm) . . £19.95
- M27\* **Black Parchment Frame** (30cm x 40cm) . £19.95

### Leisure Wear

- L11\* **Baseball Caps, Cotton Drill** . . . . . £7.95
- L12\* **Bronx Wool Hats** . . . . . £7.95

To order, please either visit our online store, or contact us by post, fax or telephone:

Memorabilia Shop  
Museum of Antiquities  
Newcastle University  
Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 7RU  
Tel: 0191 222 7849  
Fax: 0191 222 8489

\* Indicates item shown in photographs. Items not to scale.  
All orders subject to availability and price change. An alternative item may be substituted if out of stock. Allow up to six weeks for delivery.  
Prices correct at time of print March 2007.

# Events

The Development and Alumni Relations Office organises a number of alumni events and reunions each year, and all graduates are encouraged to attend where possible.

For our full events programme, and reviews and photos from previous events, please visit our website at [www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/events](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/events). Please keep us informed of any change to your

postal or e-mail addresses, using the contact details at the bottom of the page, so we can ensure that your event invitations arrive with you in plenty of time.

## Reunion Weekend 2007

Graduates of all ages and disciplines are invited to join us for the highlight of our annual events calendar, Reunion Weekend 2007. This year we're celebrating the 50th meeting of Convocation, as well as milestones for Law and Computing Science, and a number of other occasions.

As part of this year's programme, guests can choose between a three-course dinner in King's Hall, or a barbeque on the Union lawn, hosted by our Gold Network (Graduates of the Last Decade). Our Convocation Lecture will be given by the illustrious playwright Alan Plater (Hon DLitt 2005), and the annual Walton Trophy Golf Tournament will be hotly contested by alumni at the newly refurbished Close House golf course.

To book your place for any of these events, please use the attached booking form, or log on to our Reunion Weekend website where further information is also available:

[www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/reunion](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/reunion)

## Highlights of the programme include:

### Saturday 30 June

#### Convocation – 50th anniversary

11am – 1pm, Room 2.21/2.22 Research Beehive, Old Library Building Chaired by Jack Jeffery CBE (BSc 1953, MSc 1960), our annual meeting of Convocation celebrates its fiftieth birthday this year. Vice-Chancellor Christopher Edwards will deliver a report on current developments and plans for the University, and alumni are invited to share their views.



#### Convocation lunch 1 – 2pm

##### Courtyard restaurant, Old Library Building

This lunch is for those who have attended the meeting of Convocation. Hosted by the Vice-Chancellor and Chair of the Alumni Association, it will provide an opportunity for the University to thank its alumni supporters.

## Afternoon events and activities 2 – 5pm

**Law, Windsor Terrace** Celebrating 85 years of legal education, and 30 years at Windsor Terrace, the Law School will be throwing open its doors to alumni. The event will also feature a lively debate, hosted by Ashley Wilton, Head of School.

#### Computing Science

##### Room G.21/G.22 Devonshire Building

It is 50 years since computing was established at Newcastle University, and the School of Computing Science will be hosting a special presentation, followed by refreshments in the Devonshire's grand Atrium. To stay posted on these plans, please register your interest at [www.cs.ncl.ac.uk/50th](http://www.cs.ncl.ac.uk/50th)

**History, King's Hall/Quadrangle** An opportunity for alumni of the School of Historical Studies to rub shoulders with staff and fellow graduates. Hosted by Dr Martin Farr, the School's Alumni Officer.

#### Politics, Politics Building,

**40-42 Great North Road** Emeritus Professor Hugh Berrington will host a panel discussion entitled 'The Blair Years: A Retrospective'. Joined by students and staff, the discussion will provide a variety of perspectives on the longest-serving Labour Prime Minister, and there will be ample opportunity for audience participation. Refreshments will be provided, and there will be lots of time to chat to fellow alumni, staff and students about Politics then and now.

#### Alumni Football Match, Kick-off: 2pm,

**Longbenton Pitch, Coach Lane** London-based Newcastle Old Boys football club will be pitching their wits against a team of graduates led by Richard Holme (BSc Food & Human Nutrition 1998) of Garnett FC. If you would like further information on the match, or fancy showing your support from the touchline, please either contact Richard at [richardholme@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:richardholme@yahoo.co.uk), or Robert Lusher (LLB 1998) of the Old Boys at [rlusher@cclaw.co.uk](mailto:rlusher@cclaw.co.uk)



**Eustace Percy Halls reunion, Venue to be confirmed** Are you a graduate from the 1960s? If so, the chances are you stayed at the infamous Eustace Percy Halls. As they say about the 60s, if you remember them, you probably weren't there; so let us jog your memory! Thanks to the work of Trevor Owen (BSc Mech Eng 1966), a group of ex-residents will be returning to campus to reminisce about many misdemeanours... They would love you to come along and bring your pictures, memories and friends.

**Moorbank Gardens, 2 – 5pm, Meeting point at the reception desk, Courtyard restaurant 2pm** Hidden away from the main University campus, Moorbank's blend of exotic flora and quintessential Englishness make it the only garden of its kind on Tyneside. Open exclusively for Reunion Weekend guests, this will be a rare opportunity to visit one of the city's best kept secrets.

**Donor reception, 3 – 4:30pm, Howden Room, King George VI Building** This annual reception for donors will thank those alumni, supporters and friends who have generously contributed to the Annual Fund since Spring 2006. Hosted by the Vice-Chancellor, this reception is an opportunity for donors to meet with students who have benefited directly from the Fund, as well as our student callers and representatives from the Development and Alumni Relations Office. By invitation only.

## Evening activities

**Convocation Lecture – Alan Plater 5 – 6:30pm, Alex Campbell Lecture Theatre One, Bedson Building** Alan Plater is one of the UK's most prolific, original and entertaining writers. A former Architecture student at the University, he was awarded an honorary degree in 2005 for his enormous contribution to literature. His lecture 'Sing a Song of Tyneside' is sure to be one of the highlights of the programme, and is not to be missed.

**Reunion Weekend Dinner, 7 for 7:45 onwards King's Hall, Armstrong Building** This year's annual reunion dinner will take place in the University's very own King's Hall. The evening will commence with a drinks reception in the main foyer, followed by a sumptuous four-course dinner. Wine will be served with dinner, and a cash bar will also be available. Reunion groups can book tables and sit together by contacting Maria at [m.szpitun@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:m.szpitun@ncl.ac.uk)



**GOLD Network Barbeque, 7 – 10pm, Outside the Students' Union Building** As an alternative to the formal dinner, why not dine al-fresco in true summer style? The GOLD (Graduates of the Last Decade) Network will be hosting this culinary extravaganza in front of the Students' Union, and the Men's Bar will be open to quench your summer thirsts. Guests are welcome.

**Brighton Beach, 10pm – late, students' Union** What better way to unwind than a night of old fashioned fun at the Union? Relive your student days with entry to Brighton Beach, the Union's immensely popular soul, jazz and indie night.

## Sunday 1 July

**Walton Trophy Golf Tournament, Close House, Wylam, Northumberland, Registration: 11.30am; Tee-off: 12:10pm, Late lunch 4.30pm** End this year's Reunion Weekend in style, with a round of golf at one of the North East's finest golf courses. Set in the magnificent surroundings of Close House in Wylam, the trademark narrow fairways and challenging par 3s have great appeal to golfers of all abilities. Upon completion of the course, a delicious two-course meal will be served in Close House's prestigious Chivalry Suite, before the winner of the Walton Trophy is announced. Guests are very welcome.

### Classes of 1957, 1962, 1967, 1972, 1977 and 1982

Convocation and Alumni Reunion Weekend is open to and supported by alumni of all eras and we welcome you back to campus whether you graduated last year or 60 years ago. However, we particularly wish to encourage good attendance from alumni who graduated in the following years who celebrate class anniversaries in 2007: classes of 1957, 1962, 1967, 1972, 1977 and 1982. We already have a number of alumni from these classes planning to attend, so if it's your class year too, why not make 2007 the year to pay us a return visit on your own or with family and friends?

## Additional Information

### Contact Your Friends Online

If you plan to contact friends from your time at Newcastle to see if they are attending, why not sign up for and search our online alumni directory, NUGrad? Over 7,500 alumni are already signed up for the directory at [www.ncl.ac.uk/nugrad](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/nugrad) Alternatively, DARO holds a database of over 70,000 contactable alumni and will be happy to forward messages on your behalf.

### Disabled Access

Disabled access provision is not uniform across campus. Please contact DARO for advice on disabled access issues on +44 (0) 191 222 3638 or e-mail: [m.szpitun@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:m.szpitun@ncl.ac.uk).

### Accommodation

Special rates have been negotiated at several hotels in and around Newcastle. Accommodation is also available in University Halls of Residence for those interested in the full 'trip down memory lane' experience. Take a look at our website for full details of all accommodation options at [www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/events/reunion](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/events/reunion). Alternatively, to request a full list to be sent to you please contact Maria.

### University Memorabilia Shop

Alumni returning for Reunion Weekend 2007 can benefit from a special 15 per cent discount on all merchandise purchased at the Memorabilia Shop. The shop will be open between 10.00 am and 5.00 pm on Saturday 30 June.

### Contact Us

If you need any further information on any of our events, have any suggestions on future events, or would like to recommend a venue, please contact our Events Officer Maria Szpitun by e-mail at [m.szpitun@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:m.szpitun@ncl.ac.uk) or by phone on (+44) 0191 222 3638. You can also visit our website at [www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/events](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/events)

## Booking

Please complete and return the attached booking form, using the address given at the bottom. To request additional booking forms please telephone +44 (0) 191 222 7250 or visit our website at [www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/reunion](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/reunion) where you can also book online. Final details, including tickets, venue details, campus maps and parking information will be sent from mid-May to those booking in advance.

## Reunion Weekend 2007

Saturday 30 June – Sunday 1 July 2007

### It's that time of year again!

With Summer quickly approaching, Reunion Weekend 2007 is just around the corner, and this year's programme is packed with events to tickle the fancies of all our alumni.

Why not gather together a group of friends, and make sure you are part of the celebrations?

(More details and booking form overleaf)

Here is just a taster of what we have on offer this year, for more information and online booking, please visit our Reunion Weekend 2007 website

- 50th anniversary of Convocation
- Lecture by illustrious playwright, Alan Plater
- Alumni Football Match
- Reunion Weekend Dinner in King's Hall
- GOLD Network Barbeque
- Access to Brighton Beach, the Student Union's immensely popular soul, jazz and indie night
- The annual Walton Trophy alumni golf tournament at Close House