Welcome to the first issue of *Arches*, the new magazine of the University of Newcastle upon Tyne.

I do hope you will enjoy reading our new University magazine which replaces the former Newsletter. Not only is *Arches* our first colour publication for alumni, staff and friends of the University, but it also departs from the format of the Newsletter to bring you a wider range of news on the University, the region and the activities of our alumni.

The launch of Arches marks an important step forward in our ongoing work to improve communication with key external stakeholders. I would therefore encourage you to engage actively with the magazine as a reader and to pass on your thoughts and comments to our Editorial Board.

Highlights in Issue 1 include a feature on our exciting plans for the future development of the University campus in accordance with the Masterplan provided by a team of architects led by alumnus Sir Terry Farrell. There is also a piece on Newcastle Gateshead’s bid to be European Capital of Culture in 2008, a bid which the University is actively supporting in a variety of ways.

Please do provide us with feedback on Arches, which should be directed to the Arches Editorial Board at alumni-office@ncl.ac.uk. Those interested in reading a wider selection of University news stories are recommended to visit our news online pages at http://www.ncl.ac.uk/news/.

Very best wishes

*Professor Christopher Edwards*

Vice-Chancellor

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University is commended by government watchdog

The University of Newcastle upon Tyne’s commitment to teaching quality and student satisfaction have been commended in a report by the government’s watchdog on standards in higher education.

An audit team from the Quality Assurance Agency [QAA] made a week-long visit to the campus and found ‘many areas of good practice across a wide range of the University’s activities’.

‘Students reported no conflict between their expectations as raised by the University’s prospectuses or other promotional materials and their subsequent experiences,’ says the report.

‘The University is notable for its success in establishing a comprehensive, well-integrated learning infrastructure,’ the report concludes. ‘There is a strong emphasis on teaching quality and evidence of widespread student satisfaction.

STUDENTS RANK NEWCASTLE AMONG TOP 10

Newcastle upon Tyne has been ranked among the top 10 universities in The Virgin Alternative Guide to British Universities. The 2003 edition assessed 98 universities on the basis of student surveys, facts and figures. The University was awarded the maximum 20 points for the social scene and scored highly for student satisfaction, teaching excellence, graduate employment rate and student clubs and societies.

Further affirmation of Newcastle upon Tyne’s reputation as one of Britain’s top universities came in the Sunday Times University Guide 2002, published in September, which praised the University for its excellent teaching and low drop-out rate, concluding: ‘It is hard to imagine a better place to be a student’.

University and MoD sign training agreement

The University of Newcastle upon Tyne has been chosen by the Ministry of Defence (MoD) as the first ‘civilian’ institution to deliver undergraduate degree programmes across the whole of the armed forces and MoD Civil Service.

Under the MoD’s new Defence Technical Undergraduate Scheme (DTUS), the University will provide first degree programmes in engineering and science disciplines for future technical officers in each of the three armed services.

By 2003 – 04, it is anticipated that some 150 DTUS students will be on campus studying subjects including civil engineering, electrical and electronic engineering and computing science.

The University was chosen from among 15 of the UK’s leading universities as one of the two higher education institutions to lead the DTUS programme – the other is Southampton. The selection followed a rigorous appraisal of the range and reputation of the University’s academic provision, and an assessment of the overall quality of the ‘student experience’ at Newcastle upon Tyne. The agreement was signed by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Christopher Edwards, and Major General Robert Baxter CBE, Commandant of the Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham. Professor Edwards commented: ‘The University welcomes this further recognition of the strength of our reputation as a provider of high-quality degrees across an impressive range of engineering and science disciplines.’

Major General Baxter said: ‘I have great confidence in entrusting the young men and women of the armed forces and civil service to the staff at Newcastle upon Tyne, and hope that this will be the start of a long and fruitful co-operation’.

SINGING SCIENTIST FOLLOWS THE SOUND OF MUSIC

Talented student Owain Bennett was spoilt for choice of career, despite gaining a first-class degree in physics.

For in addition to being an excellent scientist, Owain is also an accomplished tenor, and has shared the stage with opera singer Lesley Garrett.

Following his graduation in July, he was faced with the difficult decision of continuing a promising academic career or building on years of musical experience. Music won, and he has now signed up for an HND in Music Production at Newcastle College.

Owain, who also plays the piano and the guitar, said: ‘It was a difficult decision to make about my future, because I did enjoy studying for my degree and I’m very interested in physics and science in general. But there are a lot of similarities between physics and music production, particularly with the technical side of things, which I will be studying as part of the HND. I’d like to get a music technology-related job at the end of the course’.

An estimated 8,000 people watched Durham University’s rowers triumph over their Newcastle rivals in this year’s Northumbrian Water University Boat Race, taking the overall trophy for the sixth year in a row.

Only a strong performance from Newcastle’s freshers in the first race of the afternoon prevented a Durham hat-trick.

The most convincing win of the afternoon belonged to Durham’s Women’s crew, who avenged last year’s defeat by Newcastle in fine style, winning by six clear lengths.

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And in the Men’s Varsity race, Durham retained their grip on the title with a four-length victory over Newcastle.

Chairman of the Boat Race Executive Committee, Graham Rayner, said: ‘Once again, the Northumbrian Water University Boat Race has provided a magnificent day’s sporting entertainment with high-quality performances from all of the crews’.

‘The Durham Men’s and Women’s Vlls were particularly impressive. However, the convincing win by Newcastle’s freshers means that Durham might have a fight on their hands to retain the title next year’.

Spectators lining both banks of the river were treated to a rare spectacle as, bathed in glorious sunshine, the Tyne’s two ‘moving’ bridges – the Swing Bridge and the Gateshead Millennium Bridge – opened simultaneously to herald the arrival of the Men’s First Vlls as they raced towards the finish line in front of Tyne-side’s new contemporary arts centre, BALTIC.

The final results were:

Freshers: University Newcastle upon Tyne won by 3.5 lengths. Women’s Vll: University Newcastle upon Tyne won by 4 lengths.

‘Once again, the Northumbrian Water University Boat Race has provided a magnificent day’s sporting entertainment with high-quality performances from all of the crews’.

A win for Newcastle’s freshers – but Durham take the title again

The University of Newcastle upon Tyne Magazine | Issue 1 Autumn 2002 | http://www.ncl.ac.uk/
A new £8.3 million Research Institute which has opened at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne will boost international research efforts to understand more about the human brain.

The main purpose of the building however is to understand the brain. Professor Young, who led the successful bid to fund the building against the keenest competition from other universities, has coined the phrase Visual Neuroecology to describe the new discipline that has been founded.

The evolutionary group works closely with another which is studying the different visual worlds that humans and other animals inhabit. ‘They analyse image sequences computationally to find out what people can discriminate and what animals can discriminate’, he says.

‘Until now we have not had the tools to understand what it is about a peacock’s train, for example, that the peahen is paying attention to. Is it colour, the number of eyes, iridescence or a combination of these?’

A third group is trying to understand how the brain actually mediates and controls behaviour. They have use of the Institute’s £2 million Magnetic Resonance Imager (MRI), one of only two of its kind in Europe, which scans the brain and pinpoints which areas are active. Between the three groups in Visual Neuroecology, staff have published an astonishing 30 research papers in the world’s leading discovery Journals, Science and Nature.

Professor Young, who has recently been appointed Provost of the Faculty of Science, Agriculture and Engineering, points out that less is understood about the brain than any other organ in the human body – despite the fact that a third of all NHS patients are suffering from some type of brain disorder.

While the development of new drugs to treat these conditions is a tantalizing prospect, there may be other benefits to the research as well. ‘Understanding how we see things and respond to them could help us design computer games which are more fun to play’, says Professor Young.

‘Until now we have not had the tools to understand what it is about a peacock’s train, for example, that the peahen is paying attention to. Is it colour, the number of eyes, iridescence or a combination of these?’

1. think, therefore I am. With those words, the philosopher René Descartes founded the principle that there is no absolute knowledge, only what we perceive through our experience of our mind and senses.

2. Almost 400 years later, Malcolm Young, Professor of Psychology at the University, is excited. He believes that science is close, perhaps within a decade, of discovering how the human brain is ‘wired up’.

3. This would not only tell us a great deal about how we make sense of the world around us but may lead to new treatments for a variety of brain disorders, such as Parkinson’s disease, the effects of strokes and dementia, and cast new light on little-understood conditions like autism and dyslexia.

4. A better understanding of the way we process information collected by our senses would be of major interest to artists and philosophers as well as being a huge leap forward for medical science.

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Our Oldest PhD Graduate

For a man who held a senior position in the World Bank, has travelled the world and been happily married for 49 years, with two children and three grandchildren, you would not think there was much left to achieve in life. Yet at a ceremony on 13 July 76-year-old Bill Sheldrick became the oldest person yet to graduate with a PhD from the University of Newcastle upon Tyne.

In fact this was the third occasion on which Dr Sheldrick has graduated from the institution. More than 50 years ago he left King’s College, Durham, which later became part of the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, with two engineering degrees that launched him into a successful career in the international chemical industry.

Born in 1925 in Chester-le-Street, County Durham, Bill became a pupil at the town’s grammar school, where he met his wife, Dorothy. He left in 1943 to join the Royal Navy during World War Two.

After the war ended the valuable engineering qualifications he gained at the Royal Naval Engineering College, Plymouth, helped his university application. In 1946 he was accepted onto the second year of the three-year Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering. When he successfully completed this, he joined the first intake on the new MSc in Chemical Engineering.

In a long career with Fisons Fertilisers, he rose from chief chemical engineer to the position of general operations manager, responsible for 10 factories. Then in 1975 the World Bank asked him to take over the new post of head of the Fertiliser Unit, a job based in Washington, USA, but which took him all over the world until his retirement in 1989.

Having retired to Dorset, destiny took a turn in January 1998 when Dr Sheldrick met a Newcastle upon Tyne professor at a conference. Professor Keith Syers shared his research interests, and suggested Dr Sheldrick develop his ideas through a PhD in the University’s Former Faculty of Agriculture and Biological Sciences. For the next three years Dr Sheldrick mainly studied at long distance but also periodically travelled the 400 miles and nine hours by train from Dorset to Newcastle to meet with his main degree supervisor, Dr John Lingard of the then Department of Agricultural Economics and Food Marketing.

The doctorate describes an original mathematical computer-based model to measure nutrient flows in soils for 197 countries between 1961 and 1996 and is a particularly important tool for developing countries where soil nutrient depletion could lead to mass famine.

Dr Sheldrick admits there were both low and high points during his studies: ‘One of the most useful things when I was on the course was the Internet, which made research so much easier. I could get into university databases and access electronic journals, and I would regularly use e-mail to exchange ideas with my supervisors’.

‘The course was hard work but I didn’t really change my habits. I’m used to sitting in front of a computer and working until two and three o’clock in the morning. What was hardest was learning to write English in an acceptably academic way. I would feel so humbled. I never had an idea criticized but I was taken to task on the way I wrote’.

Dr Lingard commented: ‘Supervising Bill was a challenge for me too; given his experience and wealth of knowledge, it was difficult for a 55-year-old senior lecturer to steer the thesis down the required academic route. We had our differences and disagreements along the way but I am delighted with the final outcome. Bill worked incredibly hard over a four-year period and is a shining example to some of our less-committed, younger undergraduates’.

As a young student, Dr Sheldrick had considered studying for a PhD but decided against it. ‘I had already lost some time with the war and was running out of money. I had been to university for four years and I felt I had to go out and work. I don’t regret the decision because although I think I would have enjoyed working in academia I wouldn’t have enjoyed the pay’.

With a number of publications in the pipeline, continuing his research at the University is now a possibility. Dr Sheldrick said ‘I don’t like the word retirement. I think it’s right that you move on to make room for other young, talented people who want to get a foot on the career ladder, but I still think there is plenty of room in the world for people with experience and expertise’.

Our Oldest PhD Graduate

ALUMNI SHORTS:
The Alumni Association website has recently been reorganized and expanded in scope. Pay us a visit at http://www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/

ALUMNI SHORTS:
Over 10,000 alumni have responded so far to our Spring 2002 questionnaire. If you have not yet replied, why not complete the questionnaire online at http://www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/contact/update/
The film industry’s love affair with the free-spirited Spanish gypsy, Carmen, spans the last 100 years and covers cinematic styles from art house to Hollywood and cartoons to pornography, new research has found.

Experts have identified over 70 Carmen films based on George Bizet’s nineteenth-century opera – proof, according to Dr Ann Davies, of the Centre for Research into Film and Media, that the story is still relevant to the present day.

‘It deals with familiar situations and emotions – love, jealousy, attitudes to women and male fantasy’, she commented.

Carmen is most filmed opera

INTERNET BANKING CAUSES BIGGEST SHAKE-UP IN 400 YEARS

Internet banking is causing the biggest shake-up in the UK financial services industry since the seventeenth century, according to new research.

Professor of E-Business, Feng Li, surveyed 26 UK banks and building societies offering services via the Internet and found that new companies are posing a major threat to the traditional banking industry by cleverly adapting to the twenty-first century ‘Martini’ customer, who demands banking ‘anytime, anywhere, anyway’.

‘My research has revealed that these new players are posing a serious threat to existing banks by changing the rules of the competition and raising the general expectation of customers for services from all financial companies’, he added. ‘For most banks their future success depends on maintaining a proper balance between the traditional brick and mortar structure and electronic channels’.

Banks to build strong relationships with their customers

‘The Internet, as a new distribution channel for financial services, has lowered barriers to entry into the banking system, allowing new players, often equipped with new technologies and business models, to enter the market’, said Professor Li.

‘The problem is much easier to solve when there are different trees growing in the area. It is easy to tell the difference between an oak tree root and, for example. It is when you are faced with trees of the same kind in the same vicinity that we scientists have to step in’.

Scientists are using DNA fingerprinting, a technique used to catch criminals, to help insurers identify trees that are causing houses to collapse.

‘Rogue trees get criminal treatment’

Recent interest in a planned reunion for alumni who undertook firewatching duty at King’s College during the Second World War has provoked a flurry of memories from alumni. Although the campus was fortunate to escape bomb damage during the war, many students of the time undertook firewatching duties, often as a prelude to joining the services.

Interestingly, conditions of service seem to have varied not only over the duration of the war, but also according to the department to which the firewatchers were attached. A number of Agriculture and Architecture graduates recall trying to sleep on pallets in the long-demolished Grey’s Hall on the nights when there was no alert, while Medical students seem largely to have been based within the Medical School and associated buildings.

Also, not all firewatchers seem to have received the 3s 6d nightly allowance that is well remembered by others – largely because it seems to have financed some good evenings at The Crows Nest pub (affectionately described by some respondents as ‘The S*** and Twigs’) and other hosties in the Haymarket area.

In between a number of memorable incidents, firewatching involved a great deal of quiet time which unsurprisingly was filled in many different ways. Neil Cardoe (MB BS 1944) recalls that he was supervised on duty by the Professor of Anatomy, Professor Short, who passed the time by teaching his team the ins and outs of the anatomy of the human body on available blackboards within the Medical School. Meanwhile, Richard Potheggill (BSc 1950) recalls that Professor Edwards, of the School of Architecture, filled the time doodling plans for the development of the University estate, unaware that these would later influence key civic planning decisions in the post-war period.

Lord Eustace Percy, who was Rector of King’s College at the time, played an active role in the firewatching duties and is fondly remembered by many surviving firewatchers. Frederick Wolff (MB BS 1946, MD 1957), who came to Britain as a refugee from Germany in March 1939, remembers Lord Eustace inquiring at length about his background when they firewatched together in 1942/3. The previous year Lord Eustace had vouched for Professor Wolff after an 11-month spell of internment as a German national on the Isle of Man.

A selection of memories of wartime firewatchers can be accessed online at http://www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/news/rememberwhens/ For details of the planned reunion on 26th March 2003 please e-mail alumni-office@ncl.ac.uk

A full assessment takes about two weeks, after which the team produces a report based on the findings. This will be a vital piece of evidence for insurance companies wanting to settle claims disputes.

‘Internet banking causes the biggest shake-up in 400 years’

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‘My research has revealed that these new players are posing a serious threat to existing banks by changing the rules of the competition and raising the general expectation of customers for services from all financial companies’, he added. ‘For most banks their future success depends on maintaining a proper balance between the traditional brick and mortar structure and electronic channels’.

Rogue trees get criminal treatment

Scientists are using DNA fingerprinting, a technique used to catch criminals, to help insurers identify trees that are causing houses to collapse.

‘Rogue trees get criminal treatment’

Neighbour disputes have been known to last for years if the ‘guilty’ tree which triggered the subsidence cannot be pinpointed. Roots, which suck water from the ground and cause the clay supporting a house to dry out and contract, can sprawl for several metres beyond the tree owner’s garden, making identification difficult. Dr Kirsten Wolff and Maree Hala have set up a company, Bioprophies Ltd, to carry out scientific analysis of the roots. It is believed to be the first business of its kind.

A full assessment takes about two weeks, after which the team produces a report based on the findings. This will be a vital piece of evidence for insurance companies wanting to settle claims disputes.

Dr Wolff said: ‘The problem is much easier to solve when there are different trees growing in the area. It is easy to tell the difference between an oak tree root and chestnut tree root, for example. It is when you are faced with trees of the same kind in the same vicinity that we scientists have to step in’. For further information see http://www.bioprofiles.co.uk/
The physical identity of the main campus will itself be reinforced by creating four new quadrangles to enhance the setting of the University buildings and faculties.

Sir Terry Farrell

King’s College graduate Sir Terry Farrell (BArch 1961, DCL 2000) has come a long way since collecting a first class honours degree at the School of Architecture in Newcastle upon Tyne. During a 40-year career he has completed high-profile building schemes and masterplans in many cities across the globe, with signature projects including the award-winning Winnersh Technology Park, in Reading, and the Pencils of Promise, a large-scale educational building in New York. Sir Terry currently has a practice in London and New York, working on projects within the United States, Europe, the Middle East and Asia.

Sir Terry Farrell’s Vision

The University of Newcastle upon Tyne Magazine | Issue 1 Autumn 2002 | http://www.ncl.ac.uk/
As the University looks forward to the future development of its main campus it is interesting to look back at the history of its association with the site it occupies at the northern end of the city centre.

The origins of the University lie in two separate colleges of the University of Durham, both located elsewhere within the city: the College of Medicine established in 1834 and originally located on the present site of the Manors station; and the College of Physical Science established in 1871 and initially based in a series of rented rooms within the city.

The association with the current campus site was established in 1883 when both Colleges moved location, though they failed to agree on shared premises. The College of Medicine moved to a new site on Northumberland Road (later the Dental School and Hospital and now no longer owned by the University), while the College of Physical Science relocated to Lexi’s Gardens on the present site of the Armstrong Building. The purchase of the Armstrong Building site and the subsequent building of the Quadrangle took place despite the tightened financial circumstances of the College. Philanthropic donations from supporters of the College were essential in keeping the building programme on course between 1895 and 1906, when the Armstrong Building and King's Hall were officially opened by King Edward VII. Even the adoption of the name Armstrong College in 1904 as a memorial to the first Lord Armstrong was linked to a financial appeal aimed at raising £10,000 for the completion of the Quadrangle.

The opening of the School of Fine Art Building in 1911 and School of Architecture Building in 1914, both largely funded by local philanthropists, helped to complete the Quadrangle, though the immediate beneficiary was the army, which evicted the College from its premises in August 1914 and used them as a military hospital for the duration of World War One.

It was the inter-war period which witnessed the consolidation of the main campus site, assisted by the union of the previously separate College of Medicine and Armstrong College as the newly named King’s College in 1937. New buildings for Bacteriology and Mining appeared in the 1920s, as did the Old Library Building in 1926 and, very significantly for the student experience, the Union Society Building in 1925. Meanwhile, the opening of Henderson Hall in Heaton in 1932 provided students with their first ever purpose-built halls of residence. However, perhaps the most important building project of the period was the modern, purpose-built new Medical School (King George VI Building) opposite the Royal Victoria Infirmary which was completed in 1938.

At the end of the Second World War consideration was given to the idea of moving the site of the College out of the city centre altogether to a more spacious location, possibly in Gosforth. The key decision to remain a city-centre campus was taken in conjunction with a compulsory land purchase in 1946. The considerable expansion of the University estate in the period after the War was initially concentrated in this area, with notable developments being the completion of the Herschel Building in 1962 and the Clarendon Tower complex in 1968. More recently the campus was expanded beyond these bounds in a number of directions. The east of the Great North Road the Robinson Library building was completed in 1984 and a cluster of terraces came to provide accommodation for several academic and administrative departments. Meanwhile, the relocation of the Medical and Dental schools to the north-western fringes of the campus behind the Royal Victoria Infirmary has effectively extended the campus well beyond the line of the first post-war compulsory purchase area in the direction of the Town Moor.

Although the rapid post-war expansion of the campus estate has become a distant memory, the campus continues to evolve within its bounds with exciting new opportunities for improvement linked to the Terry Farrell & Partners’ Masterplan. In 2002 the Medical School unveiled an impressive new entrance building complete with state-of-the-art lecture theatre facilities. Meanwhile new work is well underway on the new Environmental Research Institute on the Devonshire car park site and the Northern Institute for Cancer Research – Paul O’Gorman Building on the Clarendon Brewery site.
Newcastle Gateshead
Capital of Culture 2008

In short headline terms, winning is expected to mean up to 17,000 new jobs and four million extra visitors, bringing in up to £400 million extra income.

In a 2001 poll, 39 per cent of people knew that Newcastle Gateshead were bidding to become European Capital of Culture 2008. In 2002, 79 per cent knew.

This year, after an astonishing run of cultural successes and critical acclaim – the Gateshead Millennium Bridge, BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, the Blue Carpet, the Sage Music Centre – 84 per cent think we should bid, and 90 per cent think we have a good, very good or excellent chance of winning.

In response to how people would describe Newcastle Gateshead, there were increased responses to these descriptions... friendly, historical, fun, prosperous, modern, vibrant, ambitious, great atmosphere... and decreases in cold, grey, dirty, rundown, backward, boring.

What a remarkable turnaround in the self-esteem of the region, its people’s self-confidence and recognition of the impact of artistic/cultural projects. This probably all started with the Year of Visual Arts in 1996, which delivered a wide range of projects including Antony Gormley’s Angel of the North. Arguably without this year of delivery and enthusiasm, we would not have had the confidence to bid for 2008, or indeed the national profile to sustain it. Now we find ourselves in the position of being one of the favourites to win the bid.

What is European Capital of Culture 2008 and who will decide who gets it?

Following the success of the European City of Culture programme, which ran until 2004, the European Union has agreed a successor programme entitled European Capital of Culture. Each member state in turn will nominate a city to hold the title. The UK will nominate a city to hold the title in 2008.

The purpose of the title is not simply to highlight existing cultural excellence, but to encourage cities to develop and innovate in the cultural field. It will be an opportunity to show that culture is central to the life of a city, and demonstrate its contribution to regeneration, social inclusion, education and business.

An independent advisory panel, chaired by Sir Jeremy Isaacs, will consider the bids from all 12 contender cities in detail. The panel will recommend a shortlist of cities to the Ministers for consideration and the shortlist will be announced on 30th October 2002. These cities will be designated ‘Centres of Culture’. The UK nomination for European Capital of Culture will be selected from this shortlist for nomination by the Prime Minister to the European institutions in spring 2003. A jury, whose members are nominated by the EU institutions, will report on the nomination during 2004, and the Council of Ministers will formally designate the city as European Capital of Culture 2008.

With the likely expansion of the European Union it could be 30 years before it is Britain’s turn again, and it probably could not have come at a better time for Tyneside. At the moment it is almost impossible to avoid positive media references, national and international. Indeed Newcastle Gateshead’s growth as a creative city was recently recognized by Newsweek International magazine, which named it as one of the top eight creative cities in the world.

How is the University getting involved?

The University’s role in helping formulate the bid included:

- a call for interest throughout the University with several meetings of interested parties;
- establishing a University-wide mailbase for gathering and disseminating information about cultural activities;
- an excellent response: the sheer variety and originality of ideas surprised many. Proposals came from predictable areas, including Science, Engineering, and Medicine, but also from less predictable areas, including English, Drama, English, etc.

We eventually submitted over 30 ideas, including many crossing the boundaries between science and the arts, eg Operating Theatre in the Medical School – an exciting collaboration with Live Theatre, producing dramas concerned with illness and its treatment.

The University has been especially important in shaping several key areas of the bid: the Landscapes section, a completely refurbished Hancock Museum will act as a ‘gateway’ for the new Environment Research Institute. This is part of a broader plan to refocus the Hancock’s activities more closely on the University’s teaching and research agendas. The Moorbank botanical gardens will move to Exhibition Park, so it will be in close proximity with both the Institute and the Museum, encouraging synergies between all three.

There are exciting plans to develop the Bessans Bridge car park into a major cultural quarter, involving new facilities and buildings for the museums, the performing arts and spoken word, and a children’s centre. The Playhouse andGBethanian Studio will also be refurbished, providing vastly improved facilities that will be available for student productions as well as for the resident company Northern Stage.

All these developments will allow the University to exploit its resources more effectively and to integrate the ‘public face’ of cultural activities with the core activities of teaching and research.

How can you help?

The next 12 months are crucial. The Newcastle Gateshead bid will stand or fall on the amount that the region is in public eye. There have been some big events, like the opening of the BALTIC and the continued construction of the Sage Music Centre, but the region’s cultural activities need to be constantly in the public eye, especially in London where decisions will be made.

We have a very strong bid, but we must keep making this clear to those outside the region. The support of all those with influence outside the North East will be vital if our bid is to succeed.

Mark Scrimshaw (BA History 1976), who is Vice-Chairman of the Alumni Association, is actively involved in promoting the 2008 bid. A fuller version of his article is available online at http://www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/
He can be contacted at mark.scrimshaw@bbc.co.uk
Alumni Golf Tournament
The annual Alumni Golf Tournament for the Walton Trophy took place at Close House on Friday 23 August. A record turnout of 41 golfers and in quite playing conditions led to some very high-scoring rounds. This year Donald Wovles (BSc 1974) won the Walton Trophy with a score of 41 off a handicap of 16. The ladies competition was won by Mary Oldfield with a score of 35 off a handicap of 27.

Convocation and Alumni Reunion Weekend 2002
Convocation and Reunion Weekend had a strong regional theme this year with leading figures within the North East playing a role. Our Convocation Lecture speaker, Dr John Bridge, Chairman of One NorthEast, the regional development agency, delivered an exciting paper which provoked much discussion and questioning from those attending.

We also enjoyed an illustrated lecture from Andrew Dixon, Chief Executive of Northern Arts, on the subject ‘The North East: A Cultural Journey’. The lecture emphasised the strength of the cultural renaissance already taking place in the region, as Newcastle Gatehead bids to become European Capital of Culture in 2008. The message was well illustrated during an exclusive introduction to the Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art on the Gatehead Quayside, led by Sue Northgren, the Baltic Director.

The annual meeting of Convocation received a report from the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Christopher Edwards, on the restructuring of the University. It also elected six alumni to serve for three years as representatives on the Alumni Development Group (ADG). Donald Gascogne (MB BS 1981), Roger Harvey (BSc 1972), Richard Kay (BSc 2001), Rosalind Normandale (BA 1983), Judith Penny (BA 1967), Mark Scrivsman (BA 1976).

The traditional Reunion Weekend Dinner was held in the splendid surroundings of King’s Hall and rounded off in style a full weekend of activity that included events as diverse as a guided River Tyne Cruise, a trip to the acclaimed Segedonum Roman Fort at Wallandi, an alumni/student debate, a tour of the Hatton Gallery, a lecture with slides from alumni mountaineers Phil Amos and Adam Thomas, and a demonstration in the Quad of traditional Northumbrian sword dancing by The King’s Men.

Convocation and Reunion Weekend will take place on Saturday 7 June next year, with internationally renowned opera singer Sir John Rockcliffe providing the Convocation Lecture.

Full details of the weekend will be published online early next year at http://www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/convocation. For Convocation visit http://www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/involve/convocation/ For ADG visit http://www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/involve/adg/

British Council in Thailand and China
Alumni networks for Thai and Chinese graduates of British universities have been established with the support of the British Council in Thailand and China.

For further information visit http://www.britishcouncil.org/th/thukaiya/ for Thailand http://www.britishcouncil.org.cn/ for China

Medical Reunion 1947
Despite the distance and the minor inconveniences of increasing age, 29 people, 19 of them medical graduates of the Medical School, met for their 55th-year reunion during the Alumni Reunion Weekend 2002.

We had dinner together at the Copthorne Hotel, and a very enjoyable evening it was, exchanging news of colleagues and families present and absent.

Changes in the University campus, the size and the scope of the University were acknowledged with great interest and those living elsewhere were astonished by the extent of the development of the Newcastle and Gateshead Quaysides.

We agreed not to wait another five years before meeting again!

Lorna Rozner (MB BS 1947, PPH 1951)

Forthcoming Alumni Events

11 November 2002
Extraordinary Meeting of Convocation - 6pm Monday 11 November 2002. David Shaw Lecture Theatre, Medical School. All alumni are invited to attend an extraordinary meeting of Convocation to be held to receive recommendations for changes to be made to the University Statutes as a result of institutional restructure. Members of Convocation will also receive a report on the exciting Masterplan for the future development of the University campus drawn up by Terry Farrell & Partners. The meeting of Convocation will be followed by a reception with wine and refreshments.

Papers for the meeting are available at http://www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/involve/convocation/ Contact the Development & Alumni Relations Office (ADG) at alumni-office@ncl.ac.uk

16 November 2002
Agriculture 1977 Reunion – John Rockcliffe is arranging an Agriculture reunion which will take place at the Agricultural Dinner in November. Contact John Rockcliffe at john.rockcliffe@adas.co.uk

16 November 2002
Agricultural Society Reunion Dinner at Newcastle Contact Wilma Lister at wj.lister@ncl.ac.uk

9 November 2002
London Alumni Reception with Sir Terry Farrell – 6.30pm, Tuesday 19 November 2002. The Royal Institute, Albemarle Street, London. Join us for an exclusive evening of wine and canapes in central London. World renowned architect Sir Terry Farrell [March 1961], will join with the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Christopher Edwards to speak in the famous Faraday Lecture Theatre on the University’s exciting plans for the transformation of its city campus.

Online booking at http://www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/royalinstitution.htm or telephone 0207 911 2250

26 November 2002
North of England Branch – Talk by Lesley Braiden. Recruiting Undergraduate Students. It is essential to book for this meeting. Contact John Pearcy at johnpearcy@yahoo.co.uk

8 December 2002
North of England Branch – Christmas Lunch – Taking place at the Copthorne Hotel. It is essential to book for this meeting. Contact John Pearcy at johnpearcy@yahoo.co.uk

Possible Events

January 2003
North of England Branch – Talk by Peter O’Rahm – Hidden Tyneide. It is essential to book for this meeting. Contact John Pearcy at johnpearcy@yahoo.co.uk

Summer 2003
MB BS 1993 Reunion Contact Tim Woods via DARO at alumni-office@ncl.ac.uk

July 2003
MB BS 1973 Reunion Contact Dr Michael Best via DARO at alumni-office@ncl.ac.uk

Two one-day forums for potential alumni entrepreneurs were held at the University in April. The events were organized jointly by the Development and Alumni Relations Office, the University’s Careers Service and TECDO, a local enterprise agency. Around 120 alumni and staff attended the two events, which also featured a number of successful alumni entrepreneurs playing roles as facilitators. Quite a number of delegates registered for a special exit route programme run by the Careers Service and TECDO, and it is hoped they will benefit from the support and advice of the University in pursuing their business start-up ambitions.

Check out the enterprise site at http://www.careers.ncl.ac.uk/enterprise/ for information on further enterprise activity at the University.

US Alumni
Alumni get-togethers have been held on both the east and west coasts of the USA in summer 2002. Several University of Newcastle upon Tyne alumni joined with other British ex-pats for a barbecue in celebration of the Queen’s Golden Jubilee, at the home of Janet and Michael Canning, in Los Gatos, California. Janet (Diploma 1964) and Michael (BSc 1963, PhD 1966) have been living in California for over 25 years. It was a great afternoon with many shared tales of current activities, as well as past memories of Britain and Newcastle. Our thanks go to Janet, Michael and Alwen Bradley (BA 1979), the Alumni Association representative on the West Coast, for their work on this event.

There was also an opportunity for alumni in New York to meet with Dominic Pinto (BA 1978), Chairman of the Alumni Association, when he visited the East Coast in July. A small and enjoyable gathering was arranged at a restaurant

Contact Us
Please contact the Development and Alumni Relations Office (ADG) for further details on any of these events on

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

13 February 2003
North of England Branch – ‘Talk by Ian Forster – ‘Yohima’. It is essential to book for this meeting. Contact John Pearcy at johnpearcy@yahoo.co.uk

6-9 March 2004
Ruby Reunion of ‘64 Dental Alumni in conjunction with the Founders & Benefactors Weekend. Contact Geoff Bronaut at gskronaut@hotmail.com

26 March 2003
Reunion of King’s College Firewatchers of 1939-45. Contact DARO at alumni-office@ncl.ac.uk

27 March 2003
North of England Branch – AGM and Talk by Ian Fells – ‘Energy’. It is essential to book for this meeting. Contact John Pearcy at johnpearcy@yahoo.co.uk

7 June 2003
Convocation and Alumni Reunion Weekend – The Convocation Lecture will be delivered by the internationally renowned opera singer Sir Tom Allen.

Contact Us
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It's time to celebrate! We are bringing together all our alumni from the 50 years in which AIESEC UK has been developing young leaders who grow up to be the business leaders of today. We are an organisation which strives daily to live by the ideals of our global foundation in 1948, and would not exist if not for the thousands of committed and passionate volunteers who have continuously followed in the footsteps of the first pioneers of AIESEC. For 50 years AIESEC UK has been developing young leaders who grow up to be the business leaders of today. We are an organisation which strives daily to live by the ideals of our global foundation in 1948, and would not exist if not for the thousands of committed and passionate volunteers who have continuously followed in the footsteps of the first pioneers of AIESEC.

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