**Contents**

**News**
04 – 06
Keep up to date with the latest news straight from campus

Arches Feature
07
The perpetual apprentice
A look at the work of sculptor Jennifer Allinson, on the eve of her latest exhibition

Arches Feature
08 – 09
A formula for success
Arches meets Chris Brink, Newcastle University’s seventh Vice-Chancellor

Arches Feature
10 – 11
Harnessing the power of stem cells
Martin Cox looks at recent developments in stem cell research at Newcastle

Arches Feature
12 – 13
Breaking news in Tel Aviv
Arches chats to editor and journalist Jeff Barak

Arches Feature
14 – 15
Seven flights of fancy
We delve into the world of Seven Stories, the Centre for Children’s Books

Arches Feature
16 – 17
Water relief in Darfur
The story of Sarah Andrews, an alumna working amidst the conflict deep within Sudan

Arches Interview
18 – 19
Bird of prey
Arches chats to Rugby World Cup finalist and Newcastle student, Mat Tait

**Cover image:** Story Lab, Seven Stories, the Centre for Children’s Book. © Infinite Design

**Contributors:** Dan Howarth (editor), James Johnston, Martin Cox, Sarah Andrews, Gemma Davies, Stewart Evans, Liz O’Sullivan, Katja Linssen, Bill Herbert, Anna Wright, Caroline Callaghan and the Press Office.

**Acknowledgements:** Many thanks to Kathryn Row and Alison Neill at Seven Stories, Cathy Atkinson at Cravens Advertising, Anna Wright and Laura White at Gardner Richardson, Colin Willis at Business Link, Gail Fulthorpe at Northern Rock, Mark Smith at Newcastle Falcons RFC, Christine Macgregor and Suzanne Fearless-Aden at Bloodaxe Books, Adam Chatway, Garry Dane, Gareth Trainer, Carole Riley, Alison Pickard, the staff at the Press Office and The Courier. Very special thanks to Marion Wilson, Shirley Tindle, Dave Whitfield at Infinite Design, and all the staff in DARO, who have helped to make this magazine possible.

**Picture credits with thanks:** Alex Telfer for Cravens; Sporting-heroes.net, North News and Pictures, BioTransformations Ltd, Newcastle University Print Services, The Courier and Eddie Gerald.

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Foreword
Mark Scrimshaw,
Chair of the Alumni Association

'Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until faced.'
James Baldwin

Welcome to the latest Arches, and at a particularly relevant point in a university’s history – when a new vice-chancellor takes residence.

Chris Brink is a man with a fascinating and vigorous past. He comes to us after five years as Vice-Chancellor at Stellenbosch, having been active at universities in Australia as well as South Africa. His personal commitment to equality of access is well known, as was his active part in the transition period from apartheid amongst South African academic institutions. Whatever struggles we face, they are as nothing compared to that one, and I welcome a man with his record to our University.

Professor Brink will have been one man in the region to be happy at the outcome of the Rugby World Cup, but a key reason for England’s gutsy and unexpected run to the final is also celebrated in this edition. Mathew Tait is a second-year Biomedical Sciences student, and he’ll be remembered for many years for the blistering run that so nearly pulled off the Cup – but hopefully it’s a memory which will be soon overshadowed by other exploits.

It’s also time for the second election to the Alumni Consultative Group, which represents you all to the University, and administers the Fund. I’d like to personally thank the members of the ACG over the past three years for their efforts and support in what’s occasionally been a turbulent time, but which has been rewarding and illuminating – and with things like the Great North Museum and the New Writers’ Centre to come, the future looks equally bright.

Details on how to get nominated for the ACG can be found on page 29 – and this of course applies to current members who need to stand again.

Mark Scrimshaw
Cooking up new ways to teach science

Recent graduate Rose Stephenson (BSc Medical Microbiology and Immunology 2007) is inspiring young scientists of the future with her innovative hospital science kits.

Thousands of sick children miss out on practical science lessons every year simply because hospital teachers do not have access to the necessary resources.

By using cheap household items such as vinegar and sugar, Rose has devised kits which are safe, fun and easy to use. The kits have proved so successful that a company in Middlesex is now looking to market them across the country.

‘Obviously, you can’t use a Bunsen burner in bed, so I had to improvise and either alter existing experiments to fit, or invent my own that were suitable for use in a hospital setting,’ said Rose. ‘I’m a bit of a science geek really and loved coming up with ideas to make the kits fun to use.’

Her dissertation research showed that hospital teachers need simple, inexpensive materials that are safe, easily transportable and accessible for pupils with disabilities.

After discovering there were no kits currently available that matched these needs, the 22-year-old set out to produce a lab kit, workbook and accompanying teachers’ guide for practical Key Stage 3 science lessons. She also designed similar packages to help pupils complete A level Biology course work – all in just ten weeks!

‘Every item in the kit can either be found at home or bought from a local shop,’ added Rose. ‘The aim is for the kits to be cheap to re-stock, and safe – the most dangerous item is vinegar, and the worst that will do is taste horrible if you drink it!’

New research set to improve hi-tech security

Scientists at Newcastle University have developed an inventive way of improving password security for hand-held devices such as the iPhone, Blackberry and Smartphone.

The software, which uses pictures instead of letters and numbers, could also soon be expanded into other areas.

The team of computer scientists, led by Dr Jeff Yan, have developed the alternative software in response to growing concerns over the security of traditional passwords created from words and numbers. The BDAS system, which builds on existing DAS technology, allows users to create ‘graphical passwords’ on top of a background image. Those who took part in testing the system created passwords that were significantly more secure than ordinary text, and most testers also found them easier to remember.

Dr Yan has received a £66,000 grant from Microsoft Research (MSR) to support his work, which will also enable the team to carry out further research into how easily the BDAS system can be used by people who have difficulty with textual systems, such as those with dyslexia.
Light-activated antibodies help fight cancer

Scientists at Newcastle University have developed a cancer-fighting technology which uses light to activate antibodies which very specifically attack tumours.

Therapeutic antibodies have long been recognised as having excellent potential, but getting them to efficiently target tumour cells has proved to be very difficult.

Now, Professor Colin Self and Dr Stephen Thompson have developed a procedure to cloak antibodies, which can then be activated by UV-A light and so can be targeted to a specific area of the body just by shining a probe at the relevant part.

This procedure maximizes the destruction of the tumour whilst minimising damage to healthy tissue.

Professor Self said: ‘I would describe this development as the equivalent of ultra-specific magic bullets. This could mean that a patient coming in for treatment of bladder cancer would receive an injection of the cloaked antibodies. She would sit in the waiting room for an hour and then come back in for treatment by light. Just a few minutes of the light therapy directed at the region of the tumour would activate the T-cells causing her body’s own immune system to attack the tumour.’

BioTransformations Ltd, the company set up by Professor Colin Self to develop the technology, is looking to begin clinical trials on patients with secondary skin cancers in early 2008.

Willow Foundation lays roots in Newcastle

Earlier this year, Newcastle University was the host for an event publicising the work of the Willow Foundation.

Founded in 1999 by BBC presenter and former Arsenal goalkeeper, Bob Wilson and his wife Megs, the Willow Foundation funds special days for young adults who suffer from serious illness. The Foundation was established in memory of the couple’s daughter, Anna, who tragically died at the age of 31 from malignant schwannoma, a rare form of cancer.

Over 70 members of staff from the Newcastle Hospitals NHS Trust attended the event, along with friends and supporters of the charity, including Newcastle United goalkeeper, Steve Harper.

James Johnston, Development Manager at the University, said: ‘We were delighted to help the Willow Foundation raise its profile in the region. The Faculty of Medical Sciences has excellent links to local hospitals, and this gave us the opportunity to make patients and staff aware of the invaluable work of the Foundation.

‘Since running the event, Willow have seen a substantial increase in applications from across the region, meaning more seriously ill patients will have the opportunity to share unforgettable experiences with their loved ones.’

The University would like to thank Joe Carlebach (BA Politics 1983) for his help in facilitating this event.

University research delves into Channel 4 archives

As Channel 4 celebrates 25 years of broadcasting on British television, media analysts from Newcastle University are conducting a major archiving and research project that will make its history of programming more accessible to scholarly audiences.

Tony Purvis and Gareth Longstaff from the School of Education, Communication and Language Sciences have been trawling the C4 archives at the British Film Institute, in preparation for a conference, book and season of screenings to mark the anniversary this year.

Their work relates specifically to C4’s pioneering foray into gay and lesbian programming, which gave rise to the popular magazine shows Out on Tuesday (1989) and Out (1990–1994).

In addition to presenting a paper at the conference, which was held at London’s National Film Theatre in November, Gareth and Tony are in the process of writing an article relating to the programmes which they will publish in early 2008.
Water project keeps Vicky’s memory alive

When Vicky Buchanan (BA Geography 2000, MPhil 2002) was tragically killed in a road accident in October 2006, her fiancé pledged to fulfill her dream of improving the lives of drought-stricken families in Ethiopia.

Continuing the work Vicky began whilst studying for her dissertation in water development with ActionAid in 1999, Adam Chataway (BA Geography 2002) set up Vicky’s Water Project – a charity which has now raised £400,000 to supply clean water to the 18,200 inhabitants of Lera Town, Ethiopia.

Adam and Vicky met whilst studying at the University, and were due to be married on 22 September. Instead, on 30 September, some 190 of their friends and family gathered in Newcastle to take part in the Great North Run, to raise money for the Project.

Adam pointed out that 81 of the runners had started as students almost 10 years ago to the day, and it was no coincidence that they found themselves back in Newcastle supporting Vicky’s Water Project.

‘The collective effort that Vicky’s Water Project has inspired has been phenomenal,’ he said. ‘I am pleased and proud of the way everyone has chosen to remember Vicky and carry her name forward.’

Presenting the Project with a cheque for £5,000, Vice-Chancellor Professor Chris Brink, said: ‘As an African who grew up in a town on the southern edge of the Kalahari desert, I am well aware of the importance of water, and its potential to change people’s lives.’

‘When you suffer a personal loss such as the sudden death of Vicky, to turn that sense of grief into a beacon of hope is very admirable indeed.’

To find out more about Vicky’s Water Project, visit www.vickyswaterproject.com

Greenhouse gas emissions from power stations could be cut to almost zero by controlling the combustion process with tiny tubes made from an advanced ceramic material, claims a research team led by Newcastle University.

The material, known as LSCF, has the remarkable property of being able to filter oxygen out of the air. By burning fuel in pure oxygen, it is possible to produce a stream of almost pure carbon dioxide, which has commercial potential for reprocessing into useful chemicals.

LSCF is not a brand new material – it was originally developed for fuel cell technology – but a team of engineers at Newcastle University, led by Professor Ian Metcalfe, in collaboration with Imperial College London, have developed it for potential use in reducing emissions from gas-fired power stations and possibly coal and oil-fired electricity generation as well.

Professor Metcalfe said: ‘The cheapest way to dispose of waste carbon dioxide from combustion is to release it into the atmosphere. We have been doing this since humans first discovered how to make fire.’

‘The technology we have developed may provide a viable alternative, although whether it is economical to introduce it will depend largely upon the carbon credit system that governments operate in the future.’

Professor Ian Metcalfe with an LSCF tube
A sculptor by profession, Jennifer Allinson infuses her work with the skill of the engineer, seamstress and carpenter. The first noticeable element of her work is its sheer attention to detail, and the method within its apparent madness. ‘I am fascinated by materials and industrial processes,’ she says. ‘I want to be an expert in everything I make.’

This may be an unattainable ideal for some, but for Jennifer it’s just part of the creative process. A perpetual apprentice, Jennifer has worked with skilled artisans and engineers to refine her craft. After graduating from Newcastle in 2003, she studied at the renowned Munich Academy of Fine Arts, where she learned to turn and carve wood under the tutorship of Christoph Bergmann. ‘He was fantastic,’ says Jennifer. ‘It was thanks to him that I developed my ‘process’ as an artist.’

Since then, she has worked closely with a number of craftsmen, acquiring an insight that has enabled her to produce such meticulous works as Dare (2004), and the forthcoming Winter Flowers (2007).

In addition to her project work, Jennifer has taken on commissions, and worked in a consultancy capacity for creative businesses. She has also been approached by a number of agencies to offer educational workshops in sculpture.

In fact, one of Jennifer’s most striking qualities is her entrepreneurial spirit. Her creativity is underpinned by tenacity, drive and great business acumen; talents that brought her success at the 2006 Enterprise Challenge Awards, where she scooped the prize for New Trader of the Year.

Having worked for two years as a self-employed artist, Jennifer has now also stepped into an exciting full-time role at Universities for the North East (unis4NE), a consortium of the region’s universities that aims to promote collaboration in the arts. In her role as Higher Education Cultural Development Manager, she works with the region’s universities and arts organisations to facilitate discussions, develop relations and work on collaborative projects. Her studio work is therefore now very much a ‘moonlighting’ activity, and a real contrast to her current day job.

But with the daunting prospect of her first major public exhibition on the horizon, Jennifer is constantly alternating between her full-time job and preparations for Winter Flowers. ‘It really is all go,’ she laughs. ‘And I’m becoming adept at extreme multitasking!’

Earlier this year, Jennifer was approached by the curator of Newcastle’s Laing Art Gallery to be part of its forthcoming exhibition, Seasons, which will run from winter to the spring. In keeping with the theme of the exhibition, and with funding from the Arts Council, Jennifer has created Winter Flowers; a complex and provocative sculpture that juxtaposes the coldness of steel and aluminium with luxurious silks and leathers. Although Jennifer playfully refuses to divulge any more information at this point, she promises it will interrupt the bleakness of winter with vibrancy and colour.

Seasons: Paintings from the Laing Collection will run at the Laing between 15 December 2007 and 6 April 2008. For opening times and other enquiries, visit www.twmuseums.org.uk/laing

A medieval archery set. Habit-restricting contraptions. Dandelion people. These are no ordinary pieces of art; but then Jennifer Allinson (BA Fine Art 2003) is no ordinary artist.

THE PERPETUAL APPRENTICE
A formula for success

Eminent logician. Habitual thinker. Proven visionary. Chris Brink’s arrival at Newcastle is the culmination of a long and deeply personal journey.
Dan Howarth speaks to the University’s seventh Vice-Chancellor.

Chris Brink has travelled a great distance on his journey to Newcastle; not just in terms of mileage, but also cultural transformation and personal discovery.

His preparation for the Vice-Chancellorship spans three continents and four universities. His academic record is unparalleled, with expertise in mathematics, computer science and philosophy; and no less than six degrees under his belt. His résumé chronicles a decade of institutional change, which has driven his past universities to the forefront of the knowledge economy.

But the mild-mannered South African is modest about his achievements; a quality that can be due, perhaps, to his humble beginnings.

Chris Brink grew up in a remote town at the southern edge of the Kalahari Desert, where rain seldom quenched the intense heat, and the absence of television meant little access to the world’s media. ‘I grew up without idols, without conscious role models, and without academic mentors,’ he remembers. ‘My main recollection is of a slow and cumulative process of learning to figure things out for myself.’

His foray into academia began with a move to Johannesburg at the age of 18, where he studied for a degree in mathematics and computer science. Postgraduate studies in maths and philosophy followed at Rhodes University, Grahamstown, before the award of a prestigious scholarship allowed him to cross the equator and pursue a PhD in Algebraic Logic at Cambridge University, in the UK.

When Professor Brink returned to South Africa, his career gained great momentum. He achieved the coveted A-rated status of the National Research Foundation of South Africa, marking him out as one of the leading intellectuals of his generation; and he began to show great vision at university management level.

In the mid-1990s, as South Africa began to break free from decades of apartheid, Professor Brink was appointed as Coordinator of Strategic Planning at the University of Cape Town (UCT); a role that involved restructuring the entire institution in the wake of this great societal change. It was here that he began to acquire his reputation as a transformer; an epithet that would resonate throughout his future career.

Success at UCT led to Brink’s appointment as Pro-Vice Chancellor (Research) at the University of Wollongong in Australia, and an entirely new challenge. Located 52 miles south of Sydney on Australia’s South East coast, the town of Wollongong was struggling to emerge from the decline of industry, the main commodity of which was a once abundant supply of coal and iron ore – drawing many parallels to the simultaneous demise of Newcastle’s coal and steel industry. The University of Wollongong breathed new life into the region’s economy, with information technology and cultural redevelopment laying the foundations of a new industry fuelled by education and knowledge.

In 2002, Professor Brink was inaugurated as Rector of Stellenbosch University, back in his home country. After eight years of democracy, Stellenbosch was in some respects still reflecting society as it had taken shape during the era of apartheid in South Africa. Although the breathtaking surroundings and natural quintessence of Stellenbosch University have led many to refer to it as a paradise, it was a paradise...
that was for a long time inaccessible to many ethnic groups.

The remnants of apartheid were not the only issue Professor Brink had to face at Stellenbosch. A move towards multilingualism, after a lifetime of conducting university activities solely in Afrikaans, was not welcomed by the traditional support base of the university. And the dangerous tradition of ‘initiation’ in the halls of residence, which had resulted in instances of injury and death, had to be brought to an end.

This need to transform the cultural identity of Stellenbosch led Professor Brink to embark on a five-year plan of action, that he saw through to completion before leaving office in 2007. ‘What was required at Stellenbosch was a complete change of consciousness,’ he said, ‘and a demonstration that it is possible to enhance excellence and diversity at the same time.’

Chris Brink’s legacy at Stellenbosch continues to be held in great esteem. ‘The Vice-Chancellor’s Award for Succeeding Against the Odds’, which he established during his tenure, continues to be awarded to students who achieve high standards in the face of great hardship. And Brink’s successor at the University, the distinguished theologian Professor Russel Botman, is the first black person to be appointed to the Rectorship.

The emotional reaction to Professor Brink’s exit from Stellenbosch can only be matched by his welcome at Newcastle. He was formally inaugurated into the Vice-Chancellorship on 23 October, in a historic ceremony which drew hundreds of guests from the University and the North East community. In his citation, the University’s Public Orator, Professor Paul Younger, described the new Vice-Chancellor as ‘a leader with exceptional human qualities’.

Chris and his wife Tobea are now settled in Newcastle, with their youngest children – a nine-year-old daughter, and seven-year-old son. Their eldest daughter, Carmen, is 23 and still lives in South Africa, although she visits the North East regularly. ‘We’re very happy to be in the North East,’ says Professor Brink. ‘We love the countryside, and we find Newcastle a very liveable city – not least because we have been so warmly received.’

Exciting times lie ahead for the University, with a leader like Chris Brink at its helm. And the question of whether his arrival at Newcastle will shake up the apparent complacency of UK higher education is on many people’s lips. ‘I am not much of a blueprint kind of person,’ he says. ‘It is important to take account of the fact that while you think, life keeps on happening. And I am a lumper, not a splitter. I like putting things together, rather than taking them apart.’

But his plans for the University are clearly stated in a quote from his inaugural address: ‘We do not wish to define ourselves in relation to others. We do not wish to be the Harvard of the UK, or the Oxbridge of the North. We wish to be the Newcastle of the world.’

The full interview with Professor Brink, and transcript of his inaugural address, are available on Arches Online at: www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/arches
Like all pioneering ventures into the depths of science, stem cell research is marked as much by myth as it is by magic. Amidst the frenzied media coverage and ethical debate, scientists in the North East are pressing on with continued vigour and composure. What is the future for stem cell research?
Martin Cox (MBA 2004), Manager of the North East England Stem Cell Institute, examines the evidence.

Harnessing the power of STEM CELLS

Hybrid animal–human embryos; mice created from sperm developed in a lab; reduced-rate IVF treatment for women who donate their eggs to research; an artificial liver; the world’s first cloned human embryo. It sometimes seems that the news headlines are a never-ending series of stories about stem cell research coming out of Newcastle.

While these are some of the media’s recent stories, stem cell science at Newcastle actually has a long history.

Adult stem cells, found in virtually every part of the body, have been known about and studied actively in Newcastle for many years. Bone marrow transplants – which are a form of stem cell therapy, using the body’s natural source of blood production to repair damage caused by haematological diseases – have been carried out in the city’s hospitals for over 20 years. And Newcastle was one of the first two places in the UK to start storing umbilical cord blood.

Embryonic stem cells were first identified in mice in 1981 and in humans in 1998; and since then, the science has progressed extremely rapidly. Because embryonic stem cells have the potential to turn into virtually every type of cell in the human body, they have attracted a huge amount of interest from scientists, advocates and critics alike.

A combination of foresight and serendipity has allowed Newcastle to take full advantage of this developing science: foresight from some of the leading lights in Newcastle University’s Faculty of Medical Sciences; and the serendipitous co-location of the University’s Institute of Human Genetics with the Newcastle Fertility Centre, at the Centre for Life. Early investments have since escalated beyond anything anticipated.

The role of the Centre for Life in this process cannot be underestimated. As well as bringing the NHS Fertility Centre’s long-
standing research on human egg and embryo development together on site with the IHG’s interest in vertebrate developmental genetics, the Centre has also facilitated vitally important relationships between ethicists, sociologists, philosophers and – most importantly – the local community.

Dealing with issues which many people find challenging puts extra responsibility on institutions and individuals working at the very cutting edge of science. The approach throughout has been to explain the work to the public and to engage with them. For example, when a licence was received to carry out somatic cell nuclear transfer (therapeutic cloning) in summer 2004, a public lecture and debate were held at the Centre for Life. The academics involved in the recent debate around human–animal hybrids have similarly not been afraid to explain their views over the radio waves, TV channels or at public consultation events.

We are extremely lucky to also work with the Policy, Ethics and Life Sciences Research Institute (PEALS), a joint initiative between the Universities of Durham and Newcastle, which carries out critical assessments and evaluations of much of our work from an ethical and public policy angle.

Building on Newcastle’s long-standing strengths in adult stem cell science and more recent developments in embryonic stem cell science, we have expanded dramatically in the past three years. Partly as a result of a brave and far-sighted decision by the regional development agency, One NorthEast, to invest almost £10 million in stem cell science in the region in 2005, we have been able to build world-class facilities and attract some of the world’s best brains to the North East.

In Newcastle alone, we have recruited five new professors in less than two years, between December 2005 and August 2007. Add to this, significant investment in other academics at lecturer, senior lecturer and reader level, and we have now assembled an elite team, working in very close collaboration with academic colleagues in Durham. The two universities have recently signed an agreement to establish a joint North East England Stem Cell Institute (NESCI), with the explicit aim of making the region one of the top ten places in the world to undertake stem cell research by 2010; and top five by 2015.

The third key party in NESCI is the Newcastle Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, which has provided key interactions among clinicians in bone marrow transplantation, those investigating early stage clinical applications of stem cell therapies, and the Newcastle Fertility Centre. Newcastle is a major national transplant centre, and this work will start on both teams’ research parallel approaches are being employed.

A team led by Dr Lyle Armstrong is using animal eggs, with the nucleus replaced by human genetic material, to perfect its techniques and grow human embryonic stem cells. At the same time, a team led by Professor Alison Murdoch wants to allow women to donate more eggs in exchange for reduced-rate IVF. To address this issue, two parallel approaches are being employed. A team led by Dr Lyle Armstrong is using animal eggs, with the nucleus replaced by human genetic material, to perfect its techniques and grow human embryonic stem cells. At the same time, a team led by Professor Alison Murdoch wants to allow women to donate more eggs in exchange for reduced-rate IVF. To address this issue, two parallel approaches are being employed.

Dealing with issues which many people find challenging puts extra responsibility on institutions and individuals working at the very cutting edge of science.’

Martin Cox, manager NESCI

In early 2005, Newcastle became the first place in the world to successfully clone an early stage human embryo. However, this work is painstaking and technically very difficult. One of the key restrictions is the lack of availability of human eggs, which are usually donated by women undergoing IVF. To address this issue, two parallel approaches are being employed. A team led by Dr Lyle Armstrong is using animal eggs, with the nucleus replaced by human genetic material, to perfect its techniques and grow human embryonic stem cells. At the same time, a team led by Professor Alison Murdoch wants to allow women to donate more eggs in exchange for reduced-rate IVF treatments. Both teams’ procedures have undergone extensive ethical and legal discussion and debate, involving the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority, Parliament and local ethics committees. It is likely that work will start on both teams’ research programmes by the end of this year.

Newcastle University has a small charitable fund to support stem cell research. It is used primarily to allow PhD students and postdoctoral scientists to attend conferences and training courses they wouldn’t otherwise be able to afford. We are always pleased to discuss potential fundraising ideas.

Contact: office@nesci.ac.uk or call (00 44) (0) 191 241 8678. Donations can be made at www.justgiving.com/nuscrf

‘Dealing with issues which many people find challenging puts extra responsibility on institutions and individuals working at the very cutting edge of science.’

**Martin Cox, manager NESCI**
Breaking news in Tel Aviv

A veteran editor of three of the biggest news institutions in Jewish media, Jeff Barak (BA English Literature 1983) is now looking towards his next challenge. Dan Howarth catches up with the dynamic Tel Aviv-based newsman.
Two decades of delivering news to the Jewish community have firmly established Jeff Barak as one of the most respected figures in Israeli journalism. But the name Barak won’t ring many bells with the class of 1983: whilst studying at Newcastle, Jeff’s surname was Black.

Having lived in Israel since the mid-1980s, Jeff and his family chose a new surname in 1989, reflecting their Jewish heritage. The Hebrew ‘Barak’ is a combination of his and his wife’s surnames, although it has proved to be a bit of a tongue-twister for Jeff’s north-Leeds accent. ‘I have difficulty pronouncing my name properly in Hebrew,’ he laughs. ‘I’m unable to roll my Rs, which are needed to produce the necessary guttural sound. In hindsight, I should have probably chosen a different name!’

Softly spoken and with a gentle sense of humour, Jeff’s demeanour seems far removed from the stereotype of the hard-bitten newsroom supremo. Perhaps this is why he has such a successful track record in the editor’s chair.

Jeff was recently appointed to a senior editing position on the English language edition of Ha’aretz, Israel’s oldest daily newspaper. Ha’aretz is the largest of two broadsheet papers to be produced in the country, and its English language edition – which is published and sold with the International Herald Tribune – has a loyal readership of 15,000 in print; with many tens of thousands more staying abreast of its online news coverage through its dedicated website.

Jeff’s foray into the media began soon after he graduated, whilst working for a youth organisation in London. His role involved editing the organisation’s magazine and, not having been involved in The Courier as a student, this was the first time Jeff discovered his flair for writing. Within a year, Jeff had fulfilled his lifelong dream of moving to Israel. ‘I first went to Israel as a child, and it made a very strong impression on me,’ he says. ‘I went back a few times as a teenager, and knew it was somewhere I really wanted to be.’

Whilst perfecting his Hebrew during a six-month course at a language school, Jeff began reviewing books for The Jerusalem Post; the country’s other main broadsheet paper. Following a short spell as a news editor on Israel Radio, Jeff moved on to the Post as a full-time staff writer.

In 1989, the Post was taken over by Conrad Black’s Hollinger Group, causing its political leanings to change from left wing to centre right, and resulting in a controversial upheaval that saw 30 senior journalists quit the paper. Luckily, Jeff was undertaking his compulsory military service at the time, and so managed to avoid the struggle. ‘The staff exodus was not so much to do with the change in political affiliation, but more because of the change in management style,’ says Jeff. ‘Given that I was in the army, I was quite fortunate to be away from it all, and by the time I came back things had settled down.’

Jeff returned to the Post as news editor, and the following decade saw him rise through the ranks to become editor-in-chief. By 1999, Jeff had run out of room to grow within the paper, and decided to take a sabbatical at another asset of the Hollinger Group, the UK’s Daily Telegraph, relocating to London with his wife and three young children. ‘The Telegraph was, and is, a very successful newspaper, and there was obviously a lot for me to learn by going there,’ he says. ‘It was a really enlightening experience, and a great opportunity to take some of that experience back to the Post.’

But when Jeff returned to Israel a year later, the beginning of the second intifada had thrown the country into turmoil. Riots and suicide bombings became daily occurrences, as violence flooded onto city streets and neighbourhoods. Jeff remembers the events of September 2000 with sadness: ‘It was horrible. There was a period when it felt like you would wake up every morning to news of another bomb on the bus, and 10 to 15 deaths. People I knew were killed, and it’s emotionally very draining.’

In 2002, Jeff headed back to the UK once again; this time to pull the world’s oldest Jewish newspaper, The Jewish Chronicle, out of an all-time slump in circulation. This wasn’t the only challenge facing Jeff, however, as uprooting his family once more proved to be a difficult task. ‘My kids weren’t initially keen on coming back to the UK, as they were older, and had their friends in Israel,’ he says. ‘It turned out to be a really positive decision for all of us though, and it was nice to give my kids a chance of experiencing British culture, and the place I grew up in.’

After four years in London, Jeff returned with his family to Israel, where they have remained ever since. Until recently, Jeff continued to write for The Jewish Chronicle as its Israel correspondent, and was also editor-in-chief of Ynetnews.com – the English language website of Israel’s largest newspaper group, Yedioth Ahronoth.

Now living in Jerusalem with his wife and three children, and with his new role at Ha’aretz to embrace, Jeff doesn’t plan on leaving Israel any time soon. ‘The plan at the moment is definitely to stay where we are! Everyone is settled, and we’re enjoying life here,’ he says. ‘Israel is the place where I ultimately feel most at home.’
Seven flights of fancy

Cast your mind back to a time of myths and monsters, fairy tales and fantasy. We invite you to join us in the wonderful world of Seven Stories, the Centre for Children’s Books.

Dirty beasts, iron men, funnybones and muggles. Mustard in the custard, and a bad case of frobscottle-induced whizzpoppers. The realm of children’s literature is a world where imagination knows no bounds.

Sadly it’s also a world that many of us have left behind, in favour of grown-up stuff like satire, cyberpunk and Mills & Boon (depending on our tastes of course).

Fortunately, the folks at Seven Stories are here to help make sure we don’t forget those far reaches of the imagination, where we journeyed through the quixotic words and pictures of authors such as Ted Hughes and Roald Dahl, and illustrators like Janet Ahlberg.

Housed in a converted Grade II listed mill, tucked under Byker Bridge in Newcastle’s artistically diverse Ouseburn Valley, Seven Stories opened its doors to the public in August 2005. The Centre is the first of its kind in the UK, and has become a new national home for children’s literature. Its extensive collection of manuscripts and original artwork is complemented by innovative exhibitions and creative activities; both preserving this meaningful part of our literary heritage and making it accessible to visitors of all ages.

Seven Stories’ name derives from both the theory that only seven types of story exist in literature, and the seven floors that constitute the Centre. Each storey has its own unique twist, presenting aspects of the genre in different ways. On entering the building, visitors are greeted by walls adorned with life-size illustrations, produced by Quentin Blake (a patron of the Centre) and other award-winning illustrators. The floors above
contain galleries featuring the work of a veritable who’s who of children’s books; the Engine Room uses interactive exhibits, allowing visitors to explore their own creativity; and Storylab enables more detailed access to the Seven Stories collection, through the use of digital media.

On the very top floor, in the Artist’s Attic, visitors can meet writers and illustrators in person, and explore the art of story-making through live readings and workshops. Seven Stories also has its own independent bookshop, and a café with a menu inspired by children’s books (though thankfully without a snozzcumber in sight).

Seven Stories was dreamed up by Elizabeth Hammill and Mary Briggs, who first established it as a charity in 1996. Although they have now stepped down from the day-to-day running of the Centre, they remain involved as Collections Consultant and Executive Consultant respectively. Both Elizabeth and Mary have been awarded OBEs in the 2007 Honours List for services to literature.

Newcastle University has built a successful partnership with Seven Stories from its opening, particularly through the Children’s Literature Unit at the School of English Literature, Language and Linguistics. The Centre provides work placements for undergraduate students from across the University, and allows access to its vast archive of materials through the Special Collections Unit at the Robinson Library. Kathryn Row, Marketing and Communications Officer at Seven Stories, said: ‘We are proud of our partnership with Newcastle University, and we aim to build a thriving research culture around our unique collection to help develop the study of children’s literature in the UK.’

Now headed up by Chief Executive, Kate Edwards, Seven Stories is surpassing its target of 70,000 visitors per year, and the £6.5 million Centre is making a valuable contribution to the preservation of children’s literature. ‘I think it’s fair to say that Seven Stories is exceeding expectations, but there’s still so much that we want to do’, said Kate. ‘Seven Stories can be THE National Centre for Children’s Books, and the journey that will take us there will be a challenging one – but looking at what we’ve achieved so far, I can’t fail to have confidence for the future.’

Seven Stories is open seven days a week, and admission charges apply. For more information, visit www.sevenstories.org.uk
Water relief in Darfur

In the midst of the ongoing conflict in Darfur, skilled professionals from around the world are working to improve the quality of life of the Sudanese people. Sarah Andrews (MEng Civil and Environmental Engineering 1999) is helping to ensure clean water and sanitation are available for those affected. This is her story.
I have known for a long time that I wanted to be involved in humanitarian aid work but I believe strongly that you should add to your education with some practical experience before embarking on a career in such a high-stress environment.

‘Having worked for the last eight years for Scott Wilson in Chesterfield, I decided last Christmas to apply for a post, and by March I was out in Sudan. This all happened very quickly, but when heading for somewhere like where I was going, you find it better to limit the time your family and friends have to try to change your mind!

‘I work for Tearfund, a UK-based NGO (non-governmental organisation) in their disaster management team in Darfur. Tearfund have been here since 2004, but I am still in my first six months. I am a water and sanitation manager, which involves looking after water supplies, latrines and solid waste management for displaced Sudanese people and refugees who have fled from Chad. We make it a policy to work with all sides in this conflict based purely on need, rather than political affiliation or ethnic background. This sounds simple, but in reality it can be very tough.

‘I have a team of about ten Sudanese staff working for me. They are a very mixed group, none of them engineers. But what they lack in technical expertise they more than make up for in loyalty and hard work. Part of my job is to capacity build these staff, and the community, into coming up with solutions to their own problems. In return they are attempting to teach me Arabic!

‘We work a six-day week in searing 40 degrees-plus temperatures, which takes some getting used to when you first get here. The ex-pat team (who in my case are from Kenya, Burundi and the UK) live and work together 24 hours a day; which you can imagine is often one of the most challenging parts of the job!

‘Security is clearly our main concern – it is something we take very seriously. We are at risk from armed rebels wanting to take our vehicles, or from being caught in crossfire between different armed groups, or sometimes just from people who don’t want us to be there. Thankfully, I have remained safe so far and I hope that it continues that way. Some of our Tearfund staff have been through some terrible incidents in pursuit of their duties, but when questioned a common answer is that it is worth it to be able to make a difference to the lives of the people they help.

‘The players in this conflict are so numerous and complex that I wouldn’t know where peacemaking should begin. Thankfully I can leave that to the professionals. But I am a competent engineer, so I can put my skills to some use in Darfur.

‘I hope to be here for some time to come and maybe see some of the displaced people returning home, but that is a pretty big wish.’

Sarah Andrews

Some of our Tearfund staff have been through some terrible incidents in pursuit of their duties, but when questioned a common answer is that it is worth it to be able to make a difference to the lives of the people they help.’
Lectures, lab-based practicals, extensive reading; life for a Biomedical Sciences student is hard work. Add in the gruelling training regime of a Guinness Premiership rugby club, and the pressure of representing your country in a World Cup final, and you’re close to appreciating the workload of Mathew Tait. But Mat certainly isn’t complaining about it.
The 21-year-old outside centre, who plays for Newcastle Falcons, is widely hailed as the hottest young talent in the game. His lightning pace, strength and vision on the rugby pitch are complemented by his academic excellence away from the floodlights – three As at A level, and the ability to pursue a full-time BSc in Biomedical Sciences in his spare time.

Mat is the youngest England player ever to grace the field in a Rugby World Cup final. To put things into perspective, he watched England lift the 2003 trophy from his sixth-form common room at Barnard Castle School; the same school that produced rugby greats Rob Andrew and the Underwood brothers.

And Mat isn’t the only member of the Tait dynasty to be put through his paces at Newcastle University – his younger brother Alex, a member of the Falcons Academy and England U18 squad, also studies here.

James Johnston speaks to Mat about his game, his studies and life outside rugby.

A career in professional rugby must be hard work for any man, without the added pressure of a full-time degree! How do you manage to balance these two huge commitments?

Well the truth is it’s quite hard work, and I try to prepare ahead as to what I’ll be doing; although that’s been quite difficult lately. Rugby training is most important if there’s an upcoming clash; and it must come first as it’s my job. I managed to combine the two last year, and will work hard this year to keep it up; the University has been great in helping me to do that.

What made you come to university at this stage of your rugby career?
I just decided it was something I wanted to do. There’s always the old cliché of ‘what if I get injured and never play again?’ I wanted to be proactive in thinking ahead, and my brain was dying! It was crying out for stimulation!

Why did you choose Biomedical Sciences?
I wanted to become a doctor when I first left school, but the hours for doing Medicine along with my rugby would be impossible. With Biomedical Sciences I can always do an accelerated course in Medicine afterwards. I’d like to go into either medicine or veterinary work after rugby, but hopefully I’ve got at least another ten years left in the game before I have to think about it!
Pride in the Lion

A new book traces the history of Newcastle University’s Rugby Football Club back more than a century, originally to the College of Science, then Armstrong College, King’s College and, once we received our charter in 1963, Newcastle University. There have been many adventures along the way and achievements that have kept us as one of the foremost student clubs in the country. By Stewart Evans.

It is easy to understand the pride that Newcastle University’s students have in their Rugby Club. They are following in the footsteps of some of the game’s great heroes. Young players, donning the shirt for the first time, will be keen to emulate the likes of John Jeffrey (Scotland), Brian Keen, Dick Cowman, Dave Caplan (England), Joe Clarkson (USA), Ken Goodall, Paddy Johns, Simon and Rory Best (Ireland), and now Women’s internationals Damilola Erinle, Katie Storey and Tamara Taylor.

Not surprisingly, the trophy cabinet has benefited from outstanding teams: the Northumberland County Senior Cup and Seven-a-side Cup (no less than five times) have resided in it, as have trophies from national university (UAU and BUSA) competitions. There have been, and still are, intense rivalries. Before 1963, King’s College versus Medicals was the match of the season; then inevitably the fixture against Durham received prominence; and now Northumbria are the team to beat.

However, the Club’s proudest boast is in providing opportunities for players at all levels to participate in meaningful, competitive rugby. We believe that we are national student leaders in this respect. Today, we field 22 teams, week in week out. Four men’s teams and two women’s teams represent the University in BUSA competitions, four teams play in the North East Student League and 12 teams compete in a well-organised intramural league.

Our record off the field is equally impressive. Strong links with professional rugby through Newcastle Falcons, hosting international touring teams and touring ourselves, and the good fun and enjoyment from playing or being involved in rugby, all contribute to an excellent Club.

Pride in the Lion: The History of Newcastle University Rugby Football Club, priced at £25 (including postage), will be published in the autumn as a high-quality, hardback book with over 100 illustrations. Further details can be obtained from Joyce Fenn, Secretary of the NURFC Vice-Presidents’ Association, at the address below:

Keswick House, Newcastle Road, Houghton-le-Spring, Tyne and Wear DH4 5PX
E-mail: Joycefenn166@aol.com

Below (L-R) The Medicals team that beat the College of Science 26 – 0 in the first ever Don’s Cup Final in 1902; Tamara Taylor, England international, former Newcastle University player and current Women’s coach; ‘The White Shark’ John Jeffrey, famous Agrics, Newcastle University, Scotland and Lions player. Photo by permission of Associated Sports Photography; 1st XV Captain Ben Duncan single-handedly taking on most of the Durham team. Photo courtesy of Tom McNicholas.
Arches Update

Graduate Connections relaunched

The University’s award-winning Careers Service has relaunched one of its most sought-after services: Graduate Connections. Now we need help from recent alumni to improve it even further...

Graduate Connections is a searchable online database featuring career profiles of Newcastle graduates, accessible to current students on- and off-campus. The information supplied by graduates gives students a real insight into working in a certain profession and how best to get a foot in the door. Additionally, it allows students to develop their networking skills, by contacting registered graduates via e-mail. This is done through an online form and does not disclose the graduate’s contact details. Most students, however, find that the information provided online is sufficient, and the number of e-mails received by individual graduates is fairly small.

Signing-up to the database is simple: just fill in a short online form at the URL below, which asks for your comments on things like your ‘typical working day’ and ‘three pieces of advice for entering this area of work’. This is an easy but effective way to pass on the wisdom that can only be acquired through real work and life experience, and to hopefully inspire others to follow in your footsteps.

To register, please visit: www.careers.ncl.ac.uk/graduateconnections/register

Vorsprung durch Deutsch

by Liz O’Sullivan

How do you fancy learning German over the summer and getting paid for it, with a free trip to Germany included? This is just what 14 students did from May to September 2007 as part of the German Extension Course at Newcastle University.

In 2006, the School of Modern Languages secured funding to train future secondary school teachers in German. The aim of the programme is to increase the pool of teachers who can offer more than one language; with participants developing enough knowledge of German during the course to enable them to teach up to Key Stage 3.

The 12-week course consists of four hours’ tuition every morning and some self-study in the afternoons. Aside from gaining linguistic competence, students also get to learn about German life and people, and have the opportunity to visit the cultural attractions of Hamburg and Berlin.

If you have a language degree (or fluently speak a language in addition to English) and have a place to begin formal teacher training in modern languages in the same year, you are eligible to enrol.

For more information about the 2008 course, please e-mail: german.extensioncourse@ncl.ac.uk

Students enjoying German culture on the extension course
ENTERPRISE. One of the most intriguing phenomena in today’s working culture. For those with an enterprising mind, the path to success is paved with opportunity; whether it leads through the ranks of an existing organisation, or to the grand development of your own business idea.

The North East has long been a breeding ground for entrepreneurial activity, nurturing the growth of enterprises from the steam trains of George Stephenson to the IT empire of the Sage Group. But the real strength of the region’s thriving industry is in the collective output of its small businesses, encompassing trades as diverse as science, engineering, retail and manufacturing; as well as the flourishing creative and digital sectors.

With the help of the regional development agency, One NorthEast, we at Newcastle are helping to cultivate the entrepreneurial spirit in our students; through enterprise modules, internships and a consummate network of industry professionals – including our own graduates.

And, of course, we are hoping to support the development of our enterprising alumni, through the provision of workshops, masterclasses and networking events. For example: our Enterprise Challenge Awards continue to encourage and celebrate the growth of business ideas in the student and alumni communities; and our GOLD Network is currently being rolled out across the UK and Europe, offering social and business networking opportunities for those who have graduated within the last decade.

We are also in the process of profiling those who have started their own business, and the ways they benefit from being their own boss.

If you are interested in benefiting from this support, or would like to get involved in another way, please contact the Careers Service or Development and Alumni Relations Office for more information.

www.careers.ncl.ac.uk
www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni

Getting your business ideas off the ground

For those graduates with a budding entrepreneurial spirit and an itch to work for themselves, the North East is an exciting place to do business. But those first few steps towards becoming your own boss can be a daunting prospect.

Help is at hand, however, from Business Link North East, the government-sponsored service that provides information, advice, support and guidance to help entrepreneurs put their business ideas into practice.

Business Link North East was launched in April 2007, and is funded by One NorthEast and the Learning and Skills Council. Its highly experienced team provides support to anyone who is thinking of starting a business in the region, and also helps existing businesses to deal with problems, challenges and opportunities.

Colin Grimston of Business Link shares his insights into starting up a business, exclusively in Arches Online. You can read his tips at www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/arches

For more information on the services available through Business Link, visit www.businesslinknortheast.co.uk
From gourmet grub to Shakespeare in your local park, our enterprising graduates offer a bouquet of innovative, wholesome and delightful services.

The Hotlist is our pick of businesses run by members of the alumni community. If you would like to feature your business on this page, e-mail the editor at: thehotlist@ncl.ac.uk

**Founders: Pete Hunt and Andy Ross (BSc Information Systems 2003)**

The team at Fresh Element are passionate about three things: fresh, natural and local food. They specialise in creating delicious gourmet food in a variety of guises from formal corporate functions to private dinner parties and most things in between.

www.freshelement.co.uk

**Founder: Justin Turner (BSc Information Systems 2004)**

Pink Impression is a full and spot colour printing business with pricing details and order processing available online. Its services cover a range of printing needs from business cards and stationery, to canvas prints and direct mail services. Pink Impression is committed to providing affordable high-quality print in an environmentally responsible way.

www.pinkimpression.com

**Founder: John Lawler (BEng 1999)**

Elected as a tribal chief for the work he did in Ghana during his gap year, John Lawler set up Madventurer in 1998. Nine years on, the company sends over 500 volunteers a year overseas. It offers them the opportunity to teach, build, coach sports and undertake work experience in Africa, Asia, the South Pacific and South America.

www.madventurer.com

**Founder: Andy Pape (BSc Theoretical Physics 1994)**

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Tel: 020 7907 4520 or e-mail: andy@inspiredadvice.co.uk

Newcastle University cannot take responsibility for any of the services or products purveyed by the businesses featured here.
Newcastle celebrated its place as one of the country’s best universities for sport at the end of the last academic year, as it secured a 9th place finish in the 2006–07 BUSA rankings.

With 1630 points, Newcastle was over 500 points ahead of bitter rivals Northumbria, who entered the rankings in 18th place.

After finishing the previous season at number 15 in the table, most notably two places behind Northumbria, this year’s improvement is all the more significant and well deserved; especially given the superb victories that some of Newcastle’s sides have produced.

However, there’s still obvious work that needs to be done, as champions Loughborough accumulated almost 5000 points. But for Newcastle’s sportsmen and women, this season’s achievement has been the result of gritty determination and impressive performances.

The greatest pride will, of course, be taken from overtaking Northumbria, particularly following this season’s Stan Calvert defeat.

The rugby union thirds lifting the BUSA Vase in April
The Courier, Jim, but not as we know it

The final touches are currently being added to The Courier’s long-awaited website, after almost two years of hard work and development.

Advanced turning-page technology will allow those readers, who are unfortunate enough not to be able to pick up a hard copy every week, to read the paper in its full splendour; and turn each page as if they were running their fingers through actual ink-laden sheets.

The online edition will feature unique links to video and audio clips which accompany the articles, harnessing the multimedia power of the web. And, as well as the latest edition of The Courier, there will also be an archive of recent years’ Couriers available, along with exclusive online features such as audio vox pops, a business and economy page and ‘Pulpcasts’ – the Pulp team’s guide to the best in toon entertainment.

Regular free news feeds will also be available to subscribers via e-mail, so make sure you sign up!

Be part of The Courier Online experience at www.thecouriernewcastle.com

The Courier hits 60

In 2008, our beloved newspaper turns 60 years old.

The Courier has been providing Newcastle University students with the news that matters since 1948, and in celebration of this historic date, we are throwing a birthday party on Saturday 19 January at the recently refurbished Union Society. Ex-editors, secretaries and current Courier contributors will gather to look back at some of The Courier’s finest front pages, and look forward as The Courier enters the digital age with the launch of its website: www.thecouriernewcastle.com

Students’ Union goes under the knife...

The Union Society has undergone a facelift over the summer months, with the rejuvenation of its catering facilities. Pie and chips in the Basement are gone, replaced by freshly prepared sandwiches and quality hot meals brought to you by table service.

The tired-looking Cochrane Lounge has now been transformed into the Cochrane ‘Grab and Go’, where students can enjoy sandwiches prepared specifically to their needs, as well as a range of exotic salads and cold pasta dishes.

Whilst the successful vegetarian MLK brand is staying, it’s being moved up a floor to the new catering facilities that incorporate the re-branded Global; where all hot food will be available.

Food will be served from dawn to dusk, from a variety of breakfast dishes first thing, to jacket potatoes, salads, paninis, gourmet burgers and main meals throughout the day and evening.

The latest addition to the Union Society, and arguably the most impressive of the new facilities, is the introduction of Rijo, a smoothie and cocktail bar located on the ground floor in the old Airport Lounge. Other universities across the country have found the implementation of smoothie bars to be very successful and profitable, as well as promoting healthy living for their students.

Relax in Rijo, the Union’s new smoothie bar
Our resident bookworm, Biblos, returns to review *The Stones of Petronicus* by alumnus Peter Tomlinson. And this issue’s guest reviewer, Professor Bill Herbert of the School of English Literature, Language and Linguistics, casts his expert eye over a recent collection of poetry by his colleague, Dr Jack Mapanje.

**The Stones of Petronicus**  
Peter Tomlinson

*The Stones of Petronicus* is the first in a series of books, chronicling ‘the Petronicus Legacy’.

Expertly penned by Peter Tomlinson (Certificate in Education 1968), the book tells the compelling story of a young boy’s journey into adulthood, and his battles against the evils of an oppressive society.

Early in the story, we meet Petronicus, a travelling healer who rescues an orphaned baby from abandonment, and almost certain death. As the child grows, the two form an impenetrable bond, forged through the great wisdom of Petronicus, and the boy’s unwavering loyalty to his guardian.

What follows is a tale of companionship, virtue and deep human integrity; following the pair as they embark on a relentless quest for wisdom.

Tomlinson’s gripping dialogue is cleverly interwoven with fantastical imagery and enchanting narrative to produce a thoroughly captivating read. Highly recommended.

**Beasts of Nalunga**  
Jack Mapanje

*Beasts of Nalunga*, which was shortlisted for this year’s Forward Prize for Best Collection, marks another stage in this remarkable poet’s evolution.

He has been justly celebrated for his subtly coded work, written during the repressive regime of Hastings Banda in Malawi, and for the directness and insight of his writings about imprisonment by that regime. In both his use of symbols and his judicious poetry of protest, Mapanje has explored territory parallel to the Chinese ‘Misty’ poets, who emerged from the Cultural Revolution only to be plunged into the trauma of Tiananmen. They responded with a series of oblique strategies that reinvented the tradition of Chinese poetry, and this aspect of Mapanje’s poetry similarly reconsiders African writing in English: in both cases, this has produced work of international significance.

This collection continues to explore that intense, closed, suffering world with the titular Beasts of Nalunga; creatures at once supernatural, politicised, and instantly recognisable. In the poem *On U Win Tin’s 75th Birthday* the voice of the jailer, able to torment the prisoner physically but really attempting to destroy him spiritually, is heard again:

...should you attempt to smile, laugh, sing, break wind, even accidentally... we your jailers will show you what bars Insein Prison is capable of imposing...

But this repressive psychopathy is balanced by a fresh and funny series of poems, relocating Mapanje in an England that has been radically altered by war and terrorism from the country he first visited as a graduate student, but which still offers unexpected moments of liberation:

A Sahara girl on parched feet, cupping, cupping, Cupping the water madly, laundering her palms, Giggling and laughing. Then rubbing the hands On her skirt, she threw her bottom on the sandy Beach and let the sea breathe in and out on her As she relaxed her crossed legs – ‘Free at last!’

The result is a volume of politically nuanced and always entertaining poems from a writer who has been tested by inhumanity, only to emerge as all the more humane, sane and completely mature.
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

### Clothing

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<tr>
<td>L22*</td>
<td>Splash Top (Gortex Type Lining)</td>
<td>£37.95</td>
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*Size options XXS, 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.

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<td>Lion (Silk)</td>
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*Light, Medium or Dark Base

### Jewellery

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

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Newcastle University
Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 7RU
Tel: 0191 222 7849
Fax: 0191 222 8489

Postal charges apply, please contact the shop for more information.

* 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 October 2007.
1960s

Dr David BOOCOCK (BSc Mechanical Engineering 1961; PhD Applied Science 1966) married Ruth HUSBAND (BSc Zoology 1964; DipEd 1965) in Easter 1965. Ruth taught at Clegwell School in Hebburn, before she and David moved to Derby and started a family. David had a long and wonderful career with British Rail (including design of the APT) until he retired in 1996.

Roger OVERTON-SMITH (BA Economic Studies 1967) is married to Sue SLATER (BA General Arts 1969). They live in West Sussex and have two sons and three grandchildren. Roger qualified as a Chartered Accountant, and now commutes to London where he is Head of Audit for the London Fire Brigade. They meet up occasionally with Henderson Hall friends, including John Patching, Martyn Ibbotson and Peter Farrar. Sue’s flatmates also try to meet up including John Patching, Martyn Ibbotson and occasionally with Henderson Hall friends.

1970s

Dr Peter GOODERHAM (BA Economics 1975) was awarded the CMG (Commander of St Michael and St George) in the 2007 Queen’s Birthday Honours List. He is currently Director, Middle East and North African Directorate at the UK government’s Foreign & Commonwealth Office.

Members of the Newcastle University Sailing Club from the late 60s and early 70s have held a reunion every five years since 1972, and are set to celebrate 40 years in March 2012, at the Black Watch battalion. Prince Charles was said to be delighted with the painting.

Georgina BARCLAY (BA Fine Art 1998) is a lecturer in Classics at the University of Liverpool, a published poet, and a celebrated etcher. His etchings have been exhibited at London’s Mall Galleries, the Royal Birmingham Society of Artists, Liverpool, America, Canada, Bulgaria and Italy; with a forthcoming show at the Tallinn Print Triennial at Estonia’s renowned Kumu Art Museum. Some of his work can be seen at www.frederickjones.exto.org

1980s

Dr Simon FIELDING (BA English Language and Literature 1989) is pleased to announce that he recently gained a PhD from Oxford Brookes University, after six years as a part-time student, with the thesis ‘England and Englishness in the Recent Poetry of Northern Ireland’.

Professor Jesús Ángel MIGUEL-GARCÍA (BA Latin American Studies 1984; MA 1996; MPhil 1998) is the founder and director of The Spanish Institute of Manitoba, Canada. He has received the prestigious MTS Pioneers Business Award and the Star of the City of Winnipeg Hospitality Award. He moved to Canada with his wife in 2002, after working at the Open University as Languages Manager, and lecturing at Newcastle University.

Bernard RYAN (BSc Geophysics 1984) died on 11 April 2007, after battling with bipolar illness for several years. After graduating from Newcastle, Bernard married his wife Jan in 1989, and carved out a successful career in IT which took him around the world. He leaves behind Jan and their two beautiful daughters, Saskia (13) and Katrina (11).

1990s

Dr Adrian WINBOW (MB BS 1969; DPM 1975) has been appointed as Medical Director at Cygnet Hospital Golden Green in Sevenoaks, Kent. He has been in independent private psychiatric practice since 1986, holds a Diploma in Psychological Medicine, and is a fellow of the Royal College of Psychiatrists. His special interests include depressive illness, alcohol misuse, chronic fatigue syndrome and eating disorders.

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Arlene SMITH (M Ed 1999) is the founder and director of The Spanish Institute of Manitoba, Canada. He has received the prestigious MTS Pioneers Business Award and the Star of the City of Winnipeg Hospitality Award. He moved to Canada with his wife in 2002, after working at the Open University as Languages Manager, and lecturing at Newcastle University.

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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

Please visit www.frederickjones.exto.org
Professor Zaini UJANG (MSc Environmental Engineering 1991; PhD 1996) has been appointed as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) of the Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM). A leading authority in environmental engineering in developing countries, Professor Ujang is former Vice-President of the International Water Association (2004–6), and is a prolific author of scholarly materials in this area.

2000s

Jenna BELL (BSc Medical Microbiology and Immunology 2007) has been appointed as Technical Support Co-ordinator for ImmunoDiagnostic Systems (IDS), a North East-based manufacturer of medical testing kits.

Helen BARKWORTH-KNIGHT née WEILAND (BA German with Spanish 2002) recently started a new job at a Leeds-based not-for-profit organisation helping young people undertake volunteering projects in other EU countries. Married to Toby BARKWORTH-KNIGHT (BA History 2002) since 2005, they met in their first year at University when they both lived in St Mary’s Halls. Natalie RAW (BA History 2001) was one of Helen’s flatmates and was her bridesmaid. Helen is still very close to many of her University friends and remembers her Newcastle days with a great deal of fondness!

Dr Robert CASSERLEY (MBBS 2000) climbed to the summit of Mount Everest on 17 and 24 May this year, which now makes him a four-time Everest summiteer.

Justine Nia CLARKE (BA French and German 2001) is now a Year Six class teacher in Somerset and is hoping to become a modern foreign languages co-ordinator at the school. Justine, who holds an MA in Applied Translation Studies from Leeds University, decided to have a career change after a spell as a translator, which led to her doing a PGCE in Primary Education (French) at Durham University. She continues to do some freelance translation in her spare time.

Kieran FITZSIMONS (MPhil Music 2003) played the organ at the 2007 ceremony in which his wife, Dr Janet SIMKIN, was awarded her PhD. Kieran held the organ scholarship at Newcastle in 1999–2000, and still plays at University congregations when he can get time away from his job as a music teacher in Gateshead.

ACG Elections 2008

Make your vote count!

The Alumni Association of Newcastle University comprises over 100,000 members worldwide, all hailing from diverse professional and cultural backgrounds. The Alumni Consultative Group (ACG)* represents alumni interests at the University, making sure our graduates are involved at every level of strategic planning.

ACG members are nominated by their fellow alumni, and sit on the committee for a three-year term. June 2008 will see the current ACG come to an end, enabling a new set of graduates to exert their influence on campus.

We would therefore like to invite nominations for the next ACG, which will run from June 2008 to 2011. There are 10 positions to be filled, and each nominee must be put forward by at least two members of the Alumni Association.

Nominations will be printed in the Spring 2008 edition of Arches, when voting will commence. Members will then be elected prior to Convocation 2008, during which the Chair and Vice-Chair of the ACG will be chosen by attendees.

The deadline for nominations is Friday 29 February 2008, and you can send us your vote either by post or e-mail to the address below. Please include the following information:

- Full name and degree details
- Nominated by (name)
- Seconded by (name)
- A written statement to support your nomination

Postal address:
Development and Alumni Relations Office,
Newcastle University,
6 Kensington Terrace,
Newcastle NE1 7RU

E-mail: alumni-association@ncl.ac.uk

*The ACG tries to meet three times each year on a Saturday morning – normally for a two-hour meeting. Members are expected to make every effort to attend meetings.
The Development and Alumni Relations Office (DARO) 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

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.

Review of Reunion Weekend 2007

Thanks to everyone who attended this year’s Reunion Weekend celebrations on 30 June. Aside from the odd torrential downpour, the weekend was a great success, with over 230 alumni and 120 guests joining in the festivities.

The morning began with a convocation address by the now former, Vice-Chancellor, Christopher Edwards, for the final time before his retirement, followed by a buffet lunch at the University’s Courtyard restaurant. After lunch, attendees had the opportunity to visit their former schools, and take part in activities such as a panel discussion in Politics, and a virtual reality display in Computing Science. Meanwhile, Reunion Weekend’s first North vs South football match took place at Cochrane Park, where London-based Newcastle Old Boys FC squared up against Garnett Bohemian FC Newcastle Old Boys; a match which Garnett won by three goals to nil.

A private reunion for former residents of Eustace Percy Hall also took place in the afternoon, as well as a special reception to thank our Annual Fund donors.

One of the highlights of Reunion Weekend was undoubtedly the Convocation Lecture, which was given by distinguished playwright and screenwriter, Alan Plater. His lecture, entitled *Sing a Song of Tyneside*, was warm, witty and insightful.

In the evening, guests had the choice of a barbecue outside the Union Society Building, or a four-course dinner in the University’s prestigious King’s Hall. For the BBQ-goers, promises of ‘sizzling barbie tucker on the Union Lawn’ were smashed as the heavens opened and they had to take shelter in the Mens Bar: not that anyone complained too much! Food was served and booze was guzzled, with an eclectic performance by Charity Case and the Jazz Impostors providing a soundtrack to the evening.

The dinner in King’s Hall commemorated 50 years of Convocation, and brought together University staff, VIPs, and alumni reunion groups; many of whom were also celebrating their own personal milestones. Music was provided by the delightful Armstrong Quartet, a string ensemble with Lucy Gilbert (BA English Literature 2006; MA Media and Journalism 2007) on second fiddle.

A full review of Reunion Weekend, along with photos from the event, is available online at www.ncl.ac.uk/events/recent
Alumni reunions: lost and found

**MB BS Class of 1958:** 2008 marks the fiftieth anniversary of graduation for 1958’s MB BS alumni, and class members are organising an event at the Durham Marriott Hotel Royal County on 18 July 2008 to celebrate. The organisers would like to get in touch with the following people: Peter Calomel, Pauline Hardy, Ted Kennair, Nil Osa Kwao, Alan McComas, Margaret Sanderson and June Simpson. To obtain the reunion programme, please contact Dr Mary Anderson by e-mail at mary@jander.demon.co.uk

**Electrical Engineering Class of 1961:** John Dore and Bill Stephenson are organising a weekend of activities to celebrate their fiftieth anniversary of becoming Newcastle students, on 9–10 October 2008. After months of combing the globe to track down their classmates, all but eight have been found. John and Bill are still looking for Jack Levett, Jim Dale, Sultan Salahuddin Siddiqui, George Thomson, John Day, George Smith, Terry Wynyard and Gurlal Singh (aka George) Grewal. If you know the whereabouts of any of these engineers, please contact John at: johnrdore@googlemail.com (full details of the event are available on our website).

Events Diary 2008

**Forthcoming Events:**

**19 January 2008**

**Sixtieth birthday of The Courier.** The recently refurbished Union Society is the venue for a party celebrating *The Courier*’s coming of age as a sexagenarian! Ex-editors, secretaries and current *Courier* contributors will gather to look back at some of paper’s finest front pages.

If you are an alumni of *The Courier*, and would like to get involved, contact the current editor, Gemma Davies, on 0191 239 3940 or by e-mail at editor.union@ncl.ac.uk

**28 February 2008**

Business networking event at the British Embassy in Athens.

**7 May 2008**

**Greek alumni event.** Greece-based alumni are invited to a seminar followed by a drinks reception at the Yacht Club Greece in Piraeus, Athens. Please keep an eye on our website for more information.

**27 May 2008**

**Annual Politics Lecture by Lord Patten.** Newcastle University is set to launch a series of annual lectures in Politics. The Inaugural Lecture will be given by our Chancellor, Chris Patten, at the Royal Society in London, followed by a drinks reception. To register your interest for this event, please contact DARO, or visit our website.

**21 June 2008**

**Reunion Weekend 2008.** Although still to be confirmed, this is a date to pencil in your diaries. More information will be available over the next few months, so keep an eye on our website.

Contact Us

If you need any further information on any of our events, have any suggestions for 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 or by phone on 0044 (0) 191 222 3638. You can also visit our website at www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/events
Think postgraduate study
Think Newcastle

We have over 250 taught postgraduate programmes and research degrees available, some of which are fully funded. We also offer a 10% alumni tuition fee discount on most of our postgraduate programmes.

For more information see www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate, enquire online at: www.ncl.ac.uk/enquiries or call us on 0191 222 5594

Postgraduate Open Days
28 November 2007 and 1 February 2008