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Foreword

As this edition of Arches went to press, we learned that the University had received a Gold Award in the UK government’s Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF). The news is the best possible outcome for the University and is a ringing endorsement of our long tradition of excellence in teaching.

Newcastle University was founded in 1834 to educate the pioneers of the industrial revolution – individuals who would go on to make advances in engineering, mining, shipbuilding, agriculture and public health that would resonate around the world. Teaching was then, and is still, at the heart of our University: at Newcastle we educate for life, developing and nurturing successive generations of creative practitioners, clinicians, scientists, engineers, social scientists and educationalists and setting them on the path to success.

Today, we remain fully committed to delivering the best possible educational experience for our students and we are rewarded by consistently good results in the National Student Survey, the International Student Barometer and the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) review. These are fantastic achievements and they owe a great deal to the passion, dedication and energy of our students and our academic staff.

Achieving a TEF Gold Award is an affirmation of our commitment to providing our students with excellent opportunities and investing in the high-quality facilities they need and expect. While we can in no way rest on our laurels, we can be confident that we have firm foundations on which we will continue to build in order to ensure that a Newcastle University degree – your degree – is recognised worldwide as a hallmark of excellence.

Professor Chris Day
Vice-Chancellor and President

Read our TEF submission at bit.ly/TEFnewcastle
University awarded world’s first mitochondrial licence

The University has been granted the first-ever licence to offer a fertility treatment to mothers affected by mitochondrial disease.

In March 2017, the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) granted a treatment licence to the Newcastle Fertility Centre allowing a variation to the current clinical licence, so that pronuclear transfer can be offered to reduce the risk of mothers transferring mitochondrial disease to their babies.

Known as ‘mitochondrial donation’, the IVF technique involves replacing faulty mitochondria inherited from the mother with the healthy mitochondria of another woman. Experts at the University’s Wellcome Centre for Mitochondrial Research and the Newcastle Fertility Centre have been at the forefront of research into this technique for many years.

From later this year, women will be able to receive this treatment on the NHS at the Newcastle Fertility Centre and the NHS Highly Specialised Service for Mitochondrial Disease.

Mitochondrial diseases are genetic conditions caused by inherited mutations in the DNA contained in mitochondria – tiny structures present in every cell that generate energy. They affect around one in 4,300 children born every year.

Symptoms include muscle weakness, blindness, deafness, seizures, learning disabilities, diabetes, heart and liver failure. There is no cure for mitochondrial DNA disease and affected children often sadly die in early infancy.

Professor Sir Doug Turnbull, Director of the Wellcome Centre for Mitochondrial Research at Newcastle University, said: ‘This will allow women with mitochondria DNA mutations the opportunity for more reproductive choice. Mitochondrial diseases can be devastating for families affected and this is a momentous day for patients who have tirelessly campaigned for this decision.’
Hand that sees offers new hope to amputees

A new generation of prosthetic limbs, which will allow the wearer to reach for objects automatically without thinking – just like a real hand – is to be trialled for the first time.

A bionic hand, fitted with a camera that instantaneously takes a picture of the object in front of it, assesses its shape and size and triggers a series of movements, has been developed by biomedical engineers at the University.

Dr Kianoush Nazarpour, a Senior Lecturer in Electrical and Electronic Engineering at Newcastle University, explains: ‘Prosthetic limbs have changed very little in the past 100 years – the design is much better and the materials are lighter weight and more durable but they still work in the same way.

‘Using computer vision, we have developed a bionic hand that can respond automatically, just like a real hand, so the user can reach out and pick up a cup or a biscuit with nothing more than a quick glance in the right direction,’ said Dr Nazarpour.

Celebrated poet completes award-winning trio

Newcastle University can now boast not one, but three TS Eliot Prize winners on its staff.

Northern Irish poet, Sinéad Morrissey, who joined the University as Professor of Creative Writing in March 2017, won the prize in 2014 for her fifth collection, Parallax.

She joins fellow winners in the School of English Language, Literature and Linguistics, Jacob Polley, who won the award in 2016 for Jackself and Professor Sean O’Brien, who won in 2007 for The Drowned Book.

Sinéad was born in Northern Ireland in 1972 and grew up in Belfast. Educated at Trinity College Dublin, she has travelled widely and lived in Japan and New Zealand before returning to Belfast in 1999. In 2002, she was appointed Writer in Residence at Queen’s University Belfast, and she was Professor of Creative Writing at the Seamus Heaney Centre for Poetry there before taking up her new position at Newcastle.

She has received many accolades for her work, including the Patrick Kavanagh Poetry Award (of which she was the youngest-ever winner), the Michael Hartnett Poetry Award, and the Irish Times – Poetry Now Award.
News in pictures

For further details about all these stories, please visit www.ncl.ac.uk/press/news
1 World-renowned architect and Newcastle alumnus, Sir Terry Farrell, has been appointed as a Visiting Professor in the School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape. He’s also been made an Honorary Freeman of the City by Newcastle City Council.

2 Newcastle University Business School has appointed a new Director. Professor Sharon Mavin, an international scholar in gender, leadership and organisation studies and Fellow of the British Academy of Management, will take up her post in September 2017.

3 Plans have been approved for the construction of a new £34 million Learning and Teaching Centre on Science Central. The complex will house a 750-seat auditorium, 200-seat lecture theatre and seminar rooms.

4 A study has shown that nearly 40% of patients with severe heart failure, who were fitted with a mechanical heart pump known as a left ventricular assist device (LVAD) while waiting for a heart transplant, went on to make a full recovery.

5 New research has revealed the ease with which criminals can hack an account without any of the card details. Working out the card number, expiry date and security code of any Visa credit or debit card can take as little as six seconds and uses nothing more than guesswork.

6 The University won the ‘Best university employability strategy’ award at this year’s TARGETjobs National Graduate Recruitment Awards in recognition of the support it offers students entering the job market.

7 Students at Newcastle University Students’ Union have been helping refugees integrate into the local community through two support projects: helping children with their homework; and adults studying for their International English Language Testing System (ELTS) exam.

8 Critically acclaimed English-Scottish quartet The Furrow Collective, featuring Folk and Traditional Music graduates Rachel Newton, Lucy Farrell and Emily Portman, alongside Alasdair Roberts, won Best Group at the prestigious BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards 2017.
Year of events to honour King’s legacy

A city-wide programme of events is commemorating the 50th anniversary of Dr Martin Luther King Jr receiving an Honorary degree from Newcastle University.

Freedom City 2017 is a diverse programme of cultural, teaching and research projects that is running throughout the year exploring the themes of racism, poverty and war, which Dr King spoke so movingly about during his Honorary degree ceremony.

Events are taking place at the University and major cultural venues across Newcastle and Gateshead.

To mark the start of the programme, on 16 January 2017 – Martin Luther King Jr Day in the USA – an eye-catching image of Dr King was projected onto the Students’ Union Building.

The same day, the Speaker of the House, the Right Honourable John Bercow, hosted a special event in the Houses of Parliament attended by Matthew Barzun, outgoing American Ambassador to the United Kingdom; Marcus Jones, Minister for Local Government; Dawn Butler, Shadow Minister for Diverse Communities; and Chi Onwurah, Newcastle Central MP, who later posed a question in Parliament to draw attention to Freedom City 2017.
Professor Richard Davies, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Engagement and Internationalisation, said: ‘Awarding an honorary degree to Dr King was the highest honour that the University could bestow and came at a time when he was an increasingly controversial figure. In fact, Newcastle was the only UK university to so recognise Dr King during his lifetime and it remains as one of the most important moments in our history.

‘The 50th anniversary of his visit provides an opportunity for us all to reflect on how we can contribute towards tackling the global challenges of war, poverty and racism – issues that are as relevant now as they were in 1967 – and it is rightly providing opportunities for a new generation to engage with his legacy,’ said Professor Davies.

Upcoming Freedom City 2017 events include exhibitions at the Great North Museum: Hancock and the University’s Philip Robinson Library; a new anthology of poems published by Bloodaxe Books; and performances and other events for children, families and young people as part of Juice Festival.

From September, a new module on the theme of cultural responses to war, poverty and racism will be introduced for students in the School of Arts and Cultures.

Get involved

One of the highlights of Freedom City 2017 is Freedom City on the Tyne, a day-long series of performances commemorating historic civil rights protests around the world.

Directed by renowned British theatre director, Tim Supple, and written by BAFTA award-winner Roy Williams, the event will use drama, dance, performance art and music to tell stories of how people throughout history have united to demand political and social change.

This mass participation event on 29 October will culminate in a procession of thousands of people on NewcastleGateshead’s iconic Quayside.

To find out more about opportunities to get involved in Freedom City on the Tyne and to keep up to date with other Freedom City 2017 events, visit www.freedomcity2017.com
Making an impact

Research led by Newcastle University is helping to change the world. *Arches* finds out how work being done by Newcastle’s pioneering academics is delivering real change and impact.

World-leading research centre into childhood cancer

A new multimillion-pound centre based at Newcastle University is leading the fight against cancers affecting children and young people.

The Wolfson Childhood Cancer Research Centre is allowing clinical and research teams from the University and the Great North Children’s Hospital to advance understanding of how to treat childhood cancers.

Work at the Centre, which opened in September 2016, focuses on developing less toxic therapies with fewer side effects, offering more effective treatment options for young people with advanced cancer and those whose illness has returned.

Future Fund

The Centre was made possible thanks to the support from various foundations, charities and graduates through the Future Fund campaign. Although the initial campaign has come to an end, fundraising continues at a pace to raise at least £300,000 each year to support the life-saving research being conducted by the Centre.

You can find out more about supporting this campaign and other Global Impact Fund areas at: [www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/impact](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/impact).

Internationally renowned author Bill Bryson (pictured left) is a patron of the Future Fund.
Protecting coral reefs

Research led by Newcastle University is helping to change the way the world’s precious coral reefs are protected and restored.

Coral reefs are the most biologically diverse ecosystems on the planet. In addition to preventing coastal erosion, they provide food and livelihoods for hundreds of millions of people in more than 100 countries, estimated to be worth around US$375 billion per year.

In spite of their importance, very little work has previously been carried out to establish the best way to restore damaged reefs.

Previous coral transplantation strategies have been costly and often achieved very little. Instead, the team looked for cost-effective techniques for rearing coral from spawn and devised innovative coral ‘plug-ins’. The plug-ins work by rearing healthy baby corals on cement cylinders embedded with plastic wall plugs and can then be slotted into pre-drilled holes in a damaged reef.

This new solution is considerably more successful, cost-effective and will give reefs a better chance of surviving the threat of global warming.

Managing change in future cities

A project led by Newcastle University is finding new ways to help cities adapt to the increasing demands of their population.

The pioneering Newcastle City Futures project is developing a radical new model of urban development to tackle complex challenges facing our cities. These changes include ageing populations, economic pressures, traffic congestion and extreme weather events.

Led by Professor Mark Tewdwr-Jones of the School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape, the project brings together experts from academia, government and public and voluntary sectors to work with citizens and industry leaders. The unique approach of the project is ensuring the project involves everyone in the city in the development of its future.

Using its partners’ latest environmental monitoring, urban modelling, data analysis and visualisation tools, the project aims to establish Newcastle as a test bed for urban innovation. It also links together the two National Innovation Centres on ageing and smart data and the National Centre for Energy Systems Integration, all based on Science Central in Newcastle.

For further information about Newcastle University’s research impact, please visit:

www.ncl.ac.uk/research
City connections

Since opening its doors to students less than two years ago, Newcastle University London has celebrated the graduation of its first Masters’ students and welcomed its first cohort of undergraduate students.

Building on the success of the last 12 months, Newcastle University London is continuing to forge links between students, graduates and global business leaders, and the campus is increasingly becoming a hub for industry and research events.

NU London’s weekly Masterclass series at the campus enables students to not only gain insight into the professional world but also offers a number of student placement and graduate employment opportunities. The University’s London campus has also introduced new initiatives, such as ‘Entrepreneur in Residence’, which provides students with direct contact with industry experts.

Newcastle University London’s growing body of research-active academic staff has been successful in winning a number of research grants, while the first cohort of PhD students at the campus is also actively engaging and expanding the campus’s research community.

Get Involved

The University’s alumni play a key part in delivering industry-immersive content for students and can provide valuable career insights. Newcastle University London is keen to work with graduates who can help to inspire current students by talking about their career and experience. The NU Advancement team would be interested in hearing from any Newcastle graduates willing to get involved.

The campus is also expanding opportunities for graduates by acting as a hub for alumni activity. A professional networking event held in March 2017 was designed to support graduates who are trying to make their way in the city, providing advice and tips on how to forge a successful career in London.

For more information about Newcastle University London and its programme of events over the coming year, please visit www.ncl.ac.uk/london

If you have an idea for a graduate event in London, or would like to get involved in any Newcastle University London activities, please contact advancement@ncl.ac.uk
NUMed research delivering real impact

Arches chats to Dr Michaela Goodson, Dean of Research at NUMed, to hear about the latest activity taking place at the University’s medical campus in Malaysia.

‘We’re currently developing technology for clean water supplies in the region and are collaborating on research into dementia and ageing,’ says Dr Goodson. ‘We are also undertaking research into antibiotic resistance gene transmission in water supplies and biobanking for cancers in young people.’

Since being established in 2008, NUMed has delivered cost-effective medical programmes of the highest quality, meeting the needs of both students and the Malaysian Health Service.

‘All of our research delivers real impact at community level in both rural and urban settings,’ explains Dr Goodson. ‘Our work also helps inform policy development in both Malaysia and other collaborating countries in South East Asia.’

As NUMed moves into its next phase, Dr Goodson and the NUMed team are building on a recently launched Foundation Certificate in Biological and Biomedical Sciences. ‘We’re currently increasing student numbers,’ she says. ‘And we will be further developing our medical and biomedical postgraduate programmes in the near future.’

In addition to being a part of the ‘NUMed family’, a phrase coined by the campus’s students in recognition of its strong community spirit, Dr Goodson is also a four-time Newcastle University graduate and is delighted to be a part of this latest chapter in the history of medical education at the University.

‘It is a privilege to be involved in the research programme at NUMed. The work can be challenging, but we have an excellent team,’ she says. ‘We are all very enthusiastic about our research programme and enjoy seeing our students progress.’

For more information about Newcastle University Medicine Malaysia, visit www.ncl.ac.uk/numed
New chapter for University’s Singapore operation

As the University celebrates 10 years of operations in Singapore, a new state-of-the-art research centre will mark the start of another exciting chapter. Newcastle Research & Innovation Institute (NewRIIS) will generate opportunities for major research collaborations and will deliver a portfolio of postgraduate and CPD training programmes in areas of strength for Newcastle and importance for Singapore.

Since the last edition of Arches, the team at Newcastle University Singapore, led by Professor Ian Postlethwaite, Dean and Chief Executive Officer, has been working hard to get NewRIIS ready for business.

Located in Singapore’s Jurong East district, the institute houses four research laboratories, a visualization suite, two 50-seat classrooms, open-plan research areas and seminar facilities, and will be a hub for research, collaboration and innovation.

An official opening ceremony is set to take place in autumn 2017, but various research workshops and forums are already taking place at NewRIIS. These events, combined with a range of CPD courses delivered by academics from across the University, are facilitating engagement and collaboration with renowned research partners and global industry leaders.

As a result, NewRIIS offers a first-class postgraduate learning environment alongside high-quality space for world-class research.

‘I am delighted with the speed with which we have created this fantastic space,’ said Professor Postlethwaite. ‘It will enable us to collaborate with top researchers in Singapore and strengthen our reputation for excellence in both teaching and research. I look forward to showing our alumni around!’

For more information about Newcastle University Singapore, please visit www.ncl.ac.uk/singapore
Redeveloping Richardson Road

It’s the end of an era for Richardson Road halls of residence and the start of a new chapter for student accommodation at Newcastle University. Demolition of the old halls, affectionately dubbed ‘Ricky Road’ by successive generations of students, commenced in the summer of 2016 to make way for a brand new development.

Situated just a short walk from the University and city centre, Ricky Road has always been popular with students. Opened in 1972, for over four decades the flats have housed thousands of Newcastle University students.

A £75.5 million investment will see Ricky Road’s outdated accommodation being replaced by a new development, Park View Student Village. Set to open in September 2018, it will consist of six new blocks providing almost 1,300 en suite bedrooms equipped with the high-quality facilities that today’s students expect.

Reunite with your fellow Ricky Road residents

The nostalgia surrounding Ricky Road is clear and, when news of the demolition was first announced, graduates were quick to share their memories and reactions to the news on our social media pages. A number of graduates expressed an interest in holding a reunion with their former flatmates.

If you are considering organising a reunion, whatever the occasion, NU Advancement is here to help. Get in touch with the team at advancement@ncl.ac.uk for further information.

Park View Student Village will not only be home to students, but a colony of bats too! Two new bat houses have already been built as part of the redevelopment. An ecology survey found that the site was an active area for pipistrelle bats, primarily in terms of roosting, maternity roosting, commuting and foraging. The mammals’ houses have been designed to blend in with the landscaping and existing trees within the site.
All in a Day’s work

The University’s new Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor Chris Day, has taken up his new role at a turbulent time for UK higher education. Against a backdrop of increasing global competition and Brexit, he is not only steering the University through some difficult challenges but also charting a course for new opportunities. *Arches* met him as he completed his first 100 days in office.

Chris Day has been at Newcastle University for three decades since beginning his University career as a research fellow in 1987, giving him an invaluable insight into the way the University has changed and evolved over time.

‘In my interview for the job of Vice-Chancellor and President, I was asked about my vision and strategy,’ says Professor Day. ‘Newcastle has a long history of teaching and research excellence and my predecessor, Chris Brink, also ensured that our work and research has real impact.

‘Our current strategy was conceived in 2008 when the world was a very different place, so I feel now that the time is right for us to refresh our vision and values and to ask, as an institution, what defines us,’ says Professor Day.

Amid growing competition in the global HE market, uncertainties arising from Brexit, and the need to deliver impact, Professor Day is all too aware that the University cannot rest on its laurels.

‘Wherever I go, I can talk proudly and at great length about our world-leading research and our excellent teaching,’ he says. ‘Whatever measures you use for student satisfaction, such as the National Student Survey, the International Student Barometer and the Quality Assurance Agency review, we always do very well. But in terms of our reputation and international standing as an innovative and collaborative institution that is tackling some of society’s big issues, we are not performing as well as I believe we should be doing – or indeed as well as we can do.

‘We have been using the strapline “Excellence with a Purpose” for several years now as a way of encapsulating our role as a civic university – that is to say, our commitment to research and teaching that has a tangible impact on society. My personal opinion is that this notion of a university existing for the public good is now firmly embedded in everything that we do. Going forwards, therefore, I’m equally as comfortable with the ‘purpose’ being the advancement of knowledge as I am with it being focused on turning our more applied research into a new product or bringing about a change in government policy,’ says Professor Day.
‘I am committed to creating a University-wide environment in which we can nurture and celebrate our academic and professional services staff, students and alumni, alongside increasing our efforts to raise our profile. In turn, this will enable us to recruit and retain talented staff and students who will drive forward our commitment to addressing some of the most pressing issues facing society.

‘Since being appointed, I have met with many colleagues from all over the University to seek their views on how we should develop our strategy in the medium and long term. We are in the midst of a programme of consultation with staff, students and stakeholders, and my aim is to have our revised strategy in place by early next year,’ says Professor Day.

To ensure the University continues to make a major impact on the world stage and plays a fruitful role in its many partnerships in the North East and beyond, it is developing a new strategy. As part of this, we are undertaking a reputation survey that will help inform this future strategy and ensure that it is ambitious, relevant and distinctive. We will be seeking the views of our alumni as part of the survey.
Our economic **impact**

An independent assessment, published in February 2017, shows that the University adds £1.1 billion to the economy.

With over 27,500 students and 5,780 staff, the majority of whom are based at its city-centre campus, Newcastle University is the fourth largest employer in the North East and accounts for 6% of all jobs in Newcastle. With a total annual income of £475 million, Newcastle University also has the fourth largest income of the 31 higher education providers in the North of England.

An economic analysis by Regeneris and Urban Foresight highlighted the value of research funding attracted to the region by the University. Research grants and contracts totalling £105 million have helped support major investment in R&D, including two National Innovation Centres in the fields of ageing and data and a national research centre for subsea and offshore engineering on the banks of the Tyne.

The University is a driver in attracting new businesses and jobs to the region. In partnership with Newcastle City Council, the University is creating Science Central, a £350 million urban regeneration project aimed at creating a global centre for urban innovation in the heart of the city.

The University also impacts in other parts of the region, operating two research farms in Northumberland, a coastal research and teaching centre at Cullercoats and a major new marine technology facility at Blyth on the North East coast.

Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor Chris Day, said: ‘Even though we have grown in scale and diversity, and are now operating on a truly global stage, with campuses in London, Malaysia and Singapore, we continue to have a profound impact on the city of Newcastle and the North East of England.

‘The challenge is how – as an anchor institution in Newcastle – we build on this to address issues of social inequality in our region while recognising that we also need to adapt to the wider impact of Brexit, globalisation and major societal changes, such as an ageing population.’

Read the full report online at: [www.ncl.ac.uk/press/news/2017/02/economicimpact](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/press/news/2017/02/economicimpact)
Opening the Spring 2017 lectures season in the week following the presidential inauguration, Iwan Morgan, Professor of US Studies at UCL, attracted 600 people to hear a fascinating talk about President Trump. Other highlights of the season have included talks by one of the UK’s most respected religious thinkers and social commentators, Professor Mona Siddiqui; military historian, Antony Beevor; the former Director General of Age Concern England, Baroness Greengross; and Chi Onwurah, MP for Newcastle Central.

This year’s programme has marked a number of significant anniversaries, including 80 years since the Jarrow Crusade; 100 years since Lenin’s momentous journey from Switzerland to Russia; the 125th anniversary of the School of Agriculture; and the upcoming 50th anniversary of Dr Martin Luther King Jr receiving his Honorary degree from the University.

Reverend Jeffrey Brown, who was an architect of the Boston Miracle in the 1990s, gave the first in a series of lectures to mark that historic occasion. In his talk ‘The courage to Listen’, he shared his experiences of working with groups of disenfranchised youths in Boston, which ultimately brought about a 79% decline in violent crime in the city.

Reverend Brown is Associate Pastor at Twelfth Baptist Church in Boston, which was the base for Frederick Douglass, the former slave and great abolitionist who spent two years in Newcastle in the 1840s. It is also where Dr King was an assistant minister while studying at Boston University and where he met his wife, Coretta.

Listen again to the talks by Professor Morgan and Reverend Brown, and others, which can be found in our recordings archive online at www.ncl.ac.uk/events/public-lectures/archive.

To find out more about Insights, please visit www.ncl.ac.uk/events/public-lectures
Newcastle University has become an official partner to Newcastle Falcons, the North East’s Premiership rugby club.

The new three-year strategic collaboration will deliver mutual benefits in the fields of sports education, training and research, including a jointly funded PhD studentship.

Students on Newcastle University’s Sport and Exercise Science degree programme will have access to facilities at Kingston Park Stadium, the home of Newcastle Falcons, while the Falcons’ first team and academy squads will use the University’s training and medical facilities. In addition, the agreement includes a number of community programmes and coaching opportunities.

Newcastle University’s men’s and women’s rugby teams will also play home fixtures at Kingston Park when the pitch is available.

Performance Sport Manager, Fraser Kennedy, said: ‘This partnership reflects our strong commitment to providing excellent opportunities for our students to engage in sport.’

Left to right: Harry Glover (Newcastle University), Alex Tait (Newcastle Falcons), Elle Bloor (Newcastle University) and Will Witty (Newcastle Falcons).

Four Newcastle graduates helped propel Team Great Britain to a silver medal in the M8+ at the first Rowing World Cup regatta of the season in Belgrade, Serbia.

Sam Arnot, Tim Clarke, James Rudkin and Tom Ford were making their international debut as part of the GB men’s eight. They led the field for most of the race until the Netherlands managed to edge into the lead in the final 100m, nudging the GB crew into second place by a margin of just 0.68 of a second.

James Rudkin, who was recently named most promising under 23 male rower in the UK by GB Rowing, said: ‘Silver was a good result for our first race in the eight, and we’re excited and hope to develop as the season progresses.’

Tom, Sam and James were also in the men’s coxed four that won the Prince Albert Challenge Cup for the University at Henley Regatta in 2014.

For all the latest sport news and results from Newcastle University, please visit www.ncl.ac.uk.sport
Philanthropic contributions – both financial and in kind – from the alumni and friends of UK universities are on the rise. Deputy Director of Advancement, Dan MacDonald, tells *Arches* why this generosity is so important to the life of the University.

‘The UK higher education sector recently reached a significant landmark, recording a 23% increase in philanthropic giving to universities and securing a staggering £1 billion in philanthropic income from new pledges and gifts in the 2015–16 financial year. Around the world, there are 10.7 million alumni from 109 UK universities who represent 80% of the total number of donors taking us to this milestone.*

Behind the big numbers are gifts of all sizes and a great many stories of why people contribute and what the funding can achieve. In this edition of *Arches*, we report on how philanthropy has helped level the playing field for students from less advantaged backgrounds, giving them the opportunity to take up internships and grow in confidence, in readiness for a challenging job market. Our Benefactors’ Fund for Enterprise and Entrepreneurship gives entrepreneurs a leg up when they need it most through the Founderships Programme and supports their journey towards securing investment.

Impressive certainly, but of course what these headline numbers don’t show is the incredible level of support in kind from alumni who are willing to spend hours with students and staff, and who champion the University at home and overseas. Now more than ever, these contributions are critical as we compete for the best talent and partners, and actively source and welcome offers from alumni who would like to provide career opportunities, act as mentors, host events and more besides.

Goodwill is certainly out there in abundance among our alumni. Be it through volunteering, giving, or just coming along to one of our engagement events, together we can grow our community of support in all its forms and create a rewarding experience for everyone.’


If you would like to find out more about how you can get involved, please get in touch with the team at advancement@ncl.ac.uk
Laura Buckle (BA Honours in Journalism, Media and Culture), reports on a two-day networking trip to London for students taking part in the University’s Career Insights Programme.

Predominantly based within London’s business hub, Canary Wharf, this visit granted 32 Newcastle University students the opportunity to engage with global and national businesses.

Now in its second year, the programme is designed specifically to help students from widening participation backgrounds build their careers by gaining work experience and building strong networks with employers. It involves an annual trip for the students to spend time visiting companies and getting a feel for what it’s like to live and work in London.

This visit began with a professional networking event for alumni working in finance, banking and investment in the City, hosted by Ann Cairns (MSc Medical Statistics, 1979), President of International Markets for Mastercard.

Although I and the other Career Insights students were from a range of different specialisms, the event allowed us all to gain professional networking skills and engage with Newcastle University alumni.

It was so inspiring to hear about their career paths, despite them being in our exact position only a few years earlier. Listening to their experiences really highlighted how fast university goes by and added greater importance to networking events like those held in London and in our Careers Service back on campus.

Ann Cairns said: ‘It was our pleasure to host the Career Insights students at Mastercard. They had the opportunity to hear from colleagues working across the company whilst getting a taste of what it’s like to work in Canary Wharf. As an alumna myself, it was great to be able to give back to the university that gave so much to me and to be part of a programme that is inspiring the next generation.’

Hosting Students

If you would be interested in hosting students for half a day as part of the Career Insights Programme 2018, please contact advancement@ncl.ac.uk or call +44 (0)191 208 3559.
The Armstrong: reconstructing the past to create the future

Alexander Armstrong’s deep-rooted family connection to the North East of England is well documented – he is a descendant of the eminent industrialist, Lord Armstrong. Today, the respected comedian, actor, musician and TV presenter is lending his support to an appeal towards the cost of restoring the historic University building that bears his family name.

‘Newcastle University is spending £26 million to restore the iconic Armstrong Building to make this historic and celebrated building fit for the 21st century; a place that will continue to play a central role in the life of the University.

‘I cannot imagine a better restoration for an historic building than this one.’
Alexander Armstrong

The Armstrong Building is, of course, best remembered as the place where Newcastle students graduate. My wife is a Newcastle graduate, and warmly recalls the King’s Hall on her graduation day.

For me, the building is a reminder of Lord Armstrong, the Tyneside industrialist and philanthropist, who founded the college that would eventually become Newcastle University.

Over the years, though, this fine Victorian building began to look a little unloved, although in fact, nothing could be further from the truth. It is right and proper, then, that the Armstrong should benefit from a comprehensive restoration.’
Magnificent undertaking

‘And what a magnificent undertaking it is. I have to say, they’ve really done the old place proud. Modern hardwoods blend with original timbers, some of which have been exposed when suspended ceilings have been removed to reveal beautiful rafters. Skylights have introduced light to corridors, and clever sectioning has made the very best use of available space, creating academic staff offices and fabulous teaching spaces.

Throughout, there is a light, airy modern feel, yet the character of the Victorian building has been retained.

Most spectacular of all, the floors and ceilings around the main staircase have been opened up, so that the grand, restored glass dome at the very top of the building can be seen from ground level, just as it could originally. I cannot imagine a better restoration for an historic building.

The University is asking its alumni and friends to help raise £2.8 million towards the cost of the restoration. Already £500,000 has been raised, so there’s still £2.3 million to go.

There are so many reasons to donate to this project. You might be drawn by the restoration and maintenance of the built heritage. You may be delighted to see the provision of beautiful surroundings and high-quality facilities for the students and staff of today and the future. You might agree with me that a prestigious university like Newcastle, with its growing international reputation, ought to have such a well-maintained architectural gem at its heart. Or, like many other Newcastle graduates, you might simply want to say thank you for all that you received from Newcastle, and give a little back.

Although I am not a Newcastle graduate, my family connections to the University and the area make it a special place for me. I am sure it is to you too, and I will be so grateful if you can do your bit in response to this appeal.’

Thank you.

The Armstrong Appeal

Newcastle University architecture graduate and TV presenter, George Clarke, has taken a keen interest in the Armstrong restoration, and has recorded a special message in support of the appeal. To see the film and to donate to the appeal, please visit www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/get-involved/ armstrongappeal
Turning big ideas into successful ventures

An increasing number of graduates are turning their ideas into successful business ventures with the help of the University’s Rise Up Founderships Programme, the University’s innovative business start-up package for graduate entrepreneurs. Arches caught up with three of them, Shantelle Million, Vincent Efferoth and Lukas Passia.

Royal recognition for innovative care plan

Shantelle Million (BA Honours English Language, 2016) has just received a Duke of York Young Entrepreneur award for her innovative business MiCarePlan.

Like many entrepreneurs, Shantelle’s business began with an idea. ‘I created an electronic care plan system to be used in residential care settings,’ explains Shantelle. ‘It helps care staff record information, which is used to create statistics to help improve care standards.’

The idea came from Shantelle’s experience working as an assistant in homes caring for people with dementia. ‘I was full of ideas, but lacked business experience,’ says Shantelle.

Armed with her ideas and a determination to deliver her care plan system, Shantelle applied for Newcastle University’s Rise Up Founderships Programme, which provides support in the form of grants, business coaching, training, office space and networking introductions.

‘Founderships enabled me to turn my idea into a viable business,’ says Shantelle. ‘A lot of people go out and try to find the thing that will allow them to start their business, but I was the opposite. I’d found a problem and the only way to solve it was to go into business.’

Shantelle is already reaping the benefits of taking part in the Founderships Programme. ‘Care providers, local authorities and the NHS have all been in touch with me,’ she says. ‘Lots of people are hearing about MiCarePlan and seeing the positive impact it is having.’

Shantelle received her award from HRH The Duke of York – one of only 16 awards presented to students and graduates who have established a successful business – at a ceremony in April 2017.

For further information about Newcastle University’s Careers Service and the free support available to budding entrepreneurs, please visit www.ncl.ac.uk/careers/enterprise
Afternoon tea with a twist

With their own spin on tradition, NOVELTEA founders and former Newcastle University Business School students, Vincent Efferoth and Lukas Passia, have developed an innovative new alcoholic drink of cold-brewed tea infused with a matching spirit of either gin or rum.

NOVELTEA's initial range features The Tale of Tangier, an infusion of Moroccan green mint tea with spiced rum, and The Tale of Earl Grey, which infuses gin with botanicals for a rich and smooth taste.

The brand has already captured the attention of trendy bars, five-star establishments and artisan food halls alike. In April 2017, NOVELTEA will launch with Fenwick Newcastle store as a retail partner.

Robin Winterschladen, Wine Buyer at Fenwick Newcastle, said: ‘The UK is a dynamic market for gin, rum and tea, and with its alcoholic tea blends, NOVELTEA presents a very unusual but on-trend proposition. We are delighted to be the first retailer to stock NOVELTEA within our flagship store.’

Lukas said: ‘When we set up NOVELTEA, our mentors at Newcastle University guided us through many aspects of the start-up stage, from R&D and mixology, to advising us on supply, manufacturing and strategy. We have been very fortunate to have had access to the Founderships Programme, and have been introduced to some very influential connections as a result. It has been instrumental in getting the brand to where it is today.’

Lukas Passia (left) and Vincent Efferoth
An international experience

Undertaking a period of study or work abroad can be a great way to learn about the culture and gain experience of working practices in different parts of the world. Arches looks at some recent examples of international collaboration.

Studying and working abroad can be a life-changing experience for students. It can broaden their horizons, enhance their cultural awareness, create opportunities to make a difference to people’s lives by sharing knowledge and expertise, and develop the skills that will help ensure students succeed in a competitive global market.

The University supports students and staff by offering a wide range of opportunities to gain experience abroad through formal mobility programmes, fellowships and scholarships, international electives, internships, collaborative projects, volunteering and expeditions.

A group of 12 undergraduate dental students are visiting Indiana University – Purdue University Indianapolis in the USA where they will work in partnership with Indiana students, undertaking community engagement and offering oral healthcare to underserved populations in deprived areas of Indianapolis. The US students will then make a return visit to Newcastle. The exchange, led by Newcastle University’s Clinical Senior Lecturer, Dr Paula Waterhouse and Senior Lecturer, Dr Richard Holmes, is intended to enable both sets of students to gain an awareness of the barriers to oral healthcare faced by patients in the UK and USA.

Meanwhile, Ching Khai Ho (Stage 4, MB BS, Newcastle University Medicine Malaysia) travelled to the UK to undertake an elective in orthopaedic and vascular surgery at the Freeman Hospital in Newcastle, shadowing consultant surgeons in their daily
hospital routine. Ching also hopes to learn how the UK’s National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidelines are applied in practice in the UK as they differ from Malaysia’s clinical practice guidelines.

As part of Newcastle University Business School’s award-winning Global Experience Opportunity (GEO) programme, in 2016 Christina Ong (Stage 4, Marketing BSc Honours) and Josh Collingwood (Stage 3, Accounting and Finance BA Honours) completed a six-week internship in Ahmedabad, India, working with the Self Employed Women’s Association (SEWA), a trade union fighting to secure economic, social and legal rights for women working in India.

Christina and Josh worked alongside students from the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIMA) and Boston University’s Questrom School of Business, creating digital marketing and social media strategies for SEWA’s training school. They also made recommendations on how to improve profitability at one of SEWA’s distribution branches.

Kirsten Dutton, a PhD student in the School of Civil Engineering and Geosciences, has received a Santander Mobility Award to travel to the United Arab Emirates where she will work with researchers at the Petroleum Institute in Abu Dhabi examining microbial mats and their fossil counterparts, which are some of the earliest signs of life on Earth.

International Partnerships Manager at Newcastle University, Alison Tate, said: ‘International collaborations are essential to the development of teaching and research projects that address the needs and challenges of a global society. The International Relations team at Newcastle works closely with colleagues in NU Advancement to identify opportunities for partnership and support arising from links with our family of graduates around the world.’

Your Feedback

If you have memories of taking part in an activity overseas or learning from other cultures here on campus, we’d love to hear from you.

Tell us about your recollections and how you think you benefited from exposure to other cultures. What were the benefits and do you have any advice for current students?

Contact advancement@ncl.ac.uk

For further information about international partnerships, please visit www.ncl.ac.uk/international-relations
Globally connected

In late 2016, Newcastle University launched a new programme designed specifically with graduates’ careers and networks in mind. The NCL Professional Network allows Newcastle’s global alumni community to make important business connections to help further their careers, as well as providing support for professional development.

The NCL Professional Network connects graduates working in similar industries and professions in four sectors: marketing, media and journalism; finance, banking and investment; creative careers; and enterprise and entrepreneurship.

Anna Gardner, Alumni Programmes Manager, explains the benefits the network offers to Newcastle alumni: ‘The NCL Professional Network gives our graduates the opportunity to meet and network with fellow graduates from similar industries. Through this network they can develop relationships that can really enhance their career prospects and employability. In an increasingly competitive marketplace, these connections can be crucial to enabling them to climb the career ladder.’

NCL Professional Network events offer a relaxed setting where graduates can meet like-minded professionals, hear expert opinions and develop key contacts.

‘Our networking events regularly feature speakers who are leaders in their field,’ explains Anna. ‘It gives our graduates a chance to receive expert advice and gain valuable insights to help them on their way to a successful career.’
Digitally connected
The NCL Professional Network extends beyond networking events. The University's Alumni LinkedIn page is a forum for discussion, sharing knowledge and promoting new opportunities. You can find and join the Newcastle University Alumni LinkedIn group at www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/linkedin

From late autumn 2017, graduates and students at Newcastle University will also have the opportunity to be part of a professional online networking platform.

‘Wherever our graduates are now – and whatever they’re doing – they will be able to benefit even more from being part of Newcastle’s global alumni community,’ said Anna.

The platform will transform the way alumni can stay in touch with the University and each other. It will also enable alumni to connect with current students, wherever they are in the world, to share knowledge and an insight into life after university,’ she added.

For further information about the NCL Professional Network, please visit www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/community/nclprofessional

If you would be interested in being part of our e-mentoring trial, please contact alumni.volunteer@ncl.ac.uk

Christian, BA Honours in Politics and Economics, 2013 attended the University's first professional networking event for graduates in financial services. He works within Asset Management at Charles Stanley, providing investment advisory and investment management services to private clients, trustees, and charities. In 2015, he founded Charles Stanley's Graduate Investment Group, which provides a structured framework for developing investment research skills and forms part of the company's graduate training scheme.

Alvin, BA Honours in Marketing and Management, 2015 ‘The professional networking event not only provided a prime opportunity to meet brilliant minds and build valuable networks, but also offered a unique platform with which to better understand the prevailing job market and gain industry insights.’ Alvin is now working in the Private Equity Group within KPMG.

Louis, Stage 2, BA Honours in English Literature ‘It was really interesting to see how real businesses network as well as having an opportunity to meet with alumni from Newcastle and see what they’re doing now. I would definitely recommend it to other students.’
Lifelong opportunities at Newcastle

Newcastle graduates go on to do many fascinating and varied things when they leave the University. Whether they stay in the region or move to another part of the world, they remain part of a very special community. With so many networks and communities to be part of these days, Arches asks Charlotte Pearson, Head of Alumni Engagement, ‘Why keep in touch with the University?’.

‘We’re fortunate that many of our graduates remain involved and contribute to the success of the University,’ explains Charlotte. ‘Every graduate I meet has an enormous sense of pride that they studied here. However, for Newcastle University graduates, their experience does not simply end at graduation.’

Traditionally, graduates would keep in touch with their alma mater for nostalgic reasons, but as Charlotte explains, this is not the only reason for Newcastle’s graduates to remain connected with their University.

‘Our graduates always have fond memories of their time studying here. Many stay in touch for this reason, but a growing number of graduates engage with us because of the benefits and services we offer,’ says Charlotte. ‘We’re now organising more events and activities than ever before. Graduates who attend for the first time are always pleasantly surprised to hear what we can offer them.’

Among the benefits offered to graduates is access to a growing Professional Network (see page 28), but there are many more opportunities to get involved with the University. Whether it be through mentoring, delivering career insights or providing internships, giving back is mutually beneficial to graduates and students.
‘It’s a two-way process,’ advises Charlotte. ‘Graduates can help inspire current students, but they also boost their own CV at the same time. Working with the University is a fantastic way to develop new contacts, gain new skills and recruit from the latest pool of talent coming out of the University.’

Aside from opportunities to shape the student experience, what else does the University offer?

‘The list of reasons to keep in touch is always growing!’ says Charlotte. ‘The University’s award-winning Careers Service can offer expert advice to graduates, including support for budding entrepreneurs up to three years after graduation. We also offer a 20% reduction in fees for further study.’

The list of benefits for graduates doesn’t end there.

‘With discounted memberships of our Sports Centre and access to the University Library, graduates can continue to make use of our campus facilities too,’ says Charlotte.

‘Our regular newsletters and social media channels enable graduates to share the latest news from campus and their former classmates too. Many graduates organise class or group reunions, so if anybody is considering a reunion, they should get in touch to see how we can help.’

However graduates choose to remain connected with Newcastle University, Charlotte’s first advice is simple – keep in touch.

‘We always love hearing from our graduates, find out what they’re doing and what their plans are,’ says Charlotte. ‘By keeping in touch, we can let them know about opportunities, events or projects they may be interested in.’

### Keeping in touch...

**Updating your details enables us to:**

- Send you relevant news and information
- Offer you opportunities to get involved
- Notify you about new events and reunions
- Tailor your communication preferences

**In addition, the University:**

- Never passes control of any data to third parties
- Allows graduates to tailor their preferences and opt out of unwanted communications at any time

The University takes the storage of graduate data very seriously. Stored only on the NU Advancement database, the University is registered with the Information Commissioner.

For further information on the University’s guidelines on data management and retention, or to update your details, visit [www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/intouch](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/intouch)
Remembering Monica

Former Student Union Presidents lead tributes to ‘Mon’.

Tributes have been paid to Monica Doughty, who died in October 2016. ‘Mon’ was Office and Advertising Manager of the University’s award-winning student newspaper, The Courier, for 33 years until her retirement in 1997. For more than three decades, she trained many of today’s leading media and political figures and most regard her as a legend.

Just two weeks before her death, Monica was awarded an Honorary Fellowship of the University in recognition of her contribution to the life and work of the institution. Mon was delighted to be joined at the ceremony by family members and former Presidents of the Students’ Union, Dianne Nelmes (1973–74), Nick Richardson (1977–78), Antony Jones (1978–79) and Joe Carlebach (1983–84).

Alumni and friends of Monica gathered in March 2017 to remember her and celebrate. Fittingly, the event, ‘Mon – a Life’, was held in the Students’ Union.

Organised by Nick Richardson and fellow alumnus Dominic Pinto (Union Society and SRC Secretary 1978–79), the event also saw the launch of a student journalism award, ‘The Monica Doughty’, which will be presented each year at the Students’ Union’s annual Media Awards.

Monica, seated centre, with Joe Carlebach (far left), Antony Jones (third from left), Nick Richardson (fourth from left) and Dianne Nelmes (third from right).
Allan Chong (BA Hons Architecture, 2016) has won the most prestigious student architecture award in the world. Allan was awarded the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) President’s Bronze Medal for his design project ‘Formless – An Alternative Typology for Preservation’.

Dr Onkar Dhanoya (BDS, 1985) is celebrating 30 years at the helm of a long-established dental practice in Stanley, County Durham. After graduating, Onkar and his colleague Dr Chopra took over Stanley Dental in 1986. He has since opened two further dental practices, which he runs under the banner of Honour Health to better reflect the advanced range of dental and skin treatments he and his team are able to provide for patients throughout the North East.

Professor Sarah Hainsworth (BEng Hons, Science of Engineering Materials, 1989; PhD 1993) was inducted as a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering. Professor Hainsworth has been appointed as Pro-Vice-Chancellor for the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences at Aston University from 1 September 2017.

Rebecca Hartshorn (née Boam) (BA Hons Architectural Studies, 2001) was awarded a British Empire Medal for her contribution to Services to Skills and Industry in the 2016 Queen’s Birthday Honours list. Rebecca is the youngest-ever recipient of this award in the county of Derbyshire.

Emeritus Professor Monica Hughes (PhD, 1966; MA Greek and Roman Archaeology, 2010: PhD, 2016) gained her second PhD at the age of 76, exactly 50 years after her first one. Professor Hughes followed up a successful academic career in molecular genetics by conducting research in classics and archaeology: her thesis was an analysis of time and culture in late Hellenistic Athens, between 200BC and 50BC.

John Peter White (LLB, 1968) has been a solicitor since passing his Law Society Finals in 1969. For the last 22 years, he has been the in-house Solicitor for the Unex Group, a large private property group based on a racehorse stud near Newmarket. Married with four sons, he is now looking forward to his retirement and some overseas travel.

Graduates in print


Reunion news
Newcastle University Sailing Club held their 45th reunion at The Grand Hotel in Tynemouth. Anyone from the 1971–72 sailing club era who is interested in attending the next one, please contact advancement@ncl.ac.uk.
20% tuition fee discount
for Newcastle University graduates

Find out more
www.ncl.ac.uk/funding/alumni