Contents

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>Foreword</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td>News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04</td>
<td>News in pictures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07</td>
<td>Convocation and Alumni Reunion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08</td>
<td>Alumni Events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Turning ideas into industry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Stay Connected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Alumni Achievement Awards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>A place of inspiration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Globally Connected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>A vision for the future</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Rise of the Helix</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Research for Discovery and Impact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Great Exhibition of the North</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Life-changing possibilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Creating opportunities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Careering Ahead</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Sports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Classnotes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Follow us online for all the latest from both our campus and our alumni community:

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Foreword

It is an honour to be writing this in my first few months as Deputy Vice-Chancellor. I am excited to be taking forward our new Vision and Strategy and working with our global community of staff, students and alumni to realise its ambition.

Over recent years, the expectations placed on universities by students, governments and the public have transformed dramatically. Our new Vision builds with confidence and energy on our existing work and our position as a globally connected but locally embedded institution that makes a positive difference to people’s lives.

As you may be aware, the Vision has been developed in extensive consultation with students, our external partners, government, the public and members of our alumni community. Through those consultations, we have seen first-hand the pride that people have in the direct relevance of our work to global issues, not least our graduates whose pride in Newcastle University encourages them to stay connected with us wherever they are making their contribution in the world.

Our new Vision embraces the idea that universities exist to serve local and global society. In this issue of Arches, you can read about how Newcastle Helix will be a global hub for urban innovation that will benefit the North East region of the UK, economically and scientifically and how the recently refurbished Hatton Gallery is a now a showcase for creative practice of global significance. Our diverse student body also continues to enrich our local communities through innovative projects, placements, and volunteering.

I hope you enjoy this issue of Arches and discovering more about our world-leading research and education as well as the ways in which we are engaging with place-making work in local and global contexts.

Professor Julie Sanders
Deputy Vice-Chancellor
Deepest fish in the ocean comes out on top

A new species of fish discovered 8,000 metres down has been named one of the most remarkable new species of 2017 by the World Register of Marine Species.

The Mariana snailfish (*Pseudoliparis swirei*) (pictured below) was discovered by scientists from Newcastle University and the University of Washington, USA. It is officially the deepest fish in the ocean, thriving at depths of up to 26,200 feet along the Mariana Trench near Guam, in the Western Pacific.

The discovery was made by Dr Thom Linley from the School of Natural and Environmental Sciences alongside Dr Mackenzie Gerringer from the University of Washington.

Featured on the BBC’s *Blue Planet II*, the Mariana snailfish doesn’t look like it could survive in harsh conditions thousands of feet below the surface. Instead of giant teeth and a menacing frame, the fishes that roam in the deepest parts of the ocean are small, translucent, bereft of scales — and highly adept at living where few other organisms can.

In deep water, snailfish cluster together in groups and feed on tiny crustaceans and shrimp using suction from their mouths to gulp prey. However, little is still known about how these fish can live under intense water pressure.
First 3D printed human corneas

The first human corneas have been 3D printed by scientists at Newcastle University.

As the outermost layer of the human eye, the cornea has an important role in focusing vision. Yet there is a significant shortage of corneas available to transplant, with 10 million people worldwide requiring surgery to prevent corneal blindness and almost five million people suffering total blindness due to corneal scarring.

Stem cells (human corneal stromal cells) from a healthy donor are mixed together with alginate and collagen to create a solution that can be printed, a ‘bio-ink’. Using a simple low-cost 3D bio-printer, the bio-ink was successfully extruded in concentric circles to form the shape of a human cornea. Taking less than 10 minutes to print, the stem cells were then shown to culture – or grow.

The innovative work has been led by Dr Stephen Swioklo (pictured left) and Professor Che Connon, Professor of Tissue Engineering (right), from the Institute of Genetic Medicine.

Corneas can also be built to match a patient’s unique specifications and the technique could be used in the future to improve or return the sight of millions of people.

Fine Art Professors elected to the Royal Academy

Two professors – and twin sisters – have been elected as new Royal Academicians in the category of Printmaking by the Royal Academy of Arts.

Siblings Jane (pictured left) and Louise Wilson (right) are joint Professors of Fine Art at the University and have been an artist duo for more than two decades.

Now in its 250th year, the Royal Academy of Arts is a renowned and independent art institution led by distinguished artists.

Louise said: ‘We are delighted to be elected as Royal Academicians. It feels a tremendous honour to be recognised by our fellow artists in such a way.’

The appointment of the duo follows Jane’s appointment as a Trustee of the Tate Gallery by the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Theresa May MP, in March 2018. ‘It will be an honour to help to shape the strategic direction of the Tate in representing the best interests of our artistic community,’ said Jane.

As Arches went to print, Jane and Louise were artists-in-residence on the island of Gapado in South Korea.
News in pictures

For further details about all these stories, please visit www.ncl.ac.uk/press/news
1. Graduates Ruth Caulcott-Cooper (1) and Aishling Mulhern (2) have landed their dream jobs with TT Games, the studio behind the popular LEGO video games. Along with fellow alumna Nina Campbell, the trio are forging their own paths in the usually male-dominated video gaming profession.

2. Newcastle University reached the semi-finals of popular BBC Two quiz show *University Challenge* for the first time ever in April 2018.

3. A new initiative between the University and Students’ Union is improving relations between residents and students in Jesmond. The programme also crowned the winners of the inaugural Best Neighbour On Campus (BNOC) award (pictured).

4. The University has joined a city-wide coalition to welcome refugees and asylum seekers to Newcastle. Professor Chris Day, Vice-Chancellor and President (bottom left) signed a pledge to support Newcastle: City of Sanctuary.

5. A statue of Dr Martin Luther King Jr was unveiled at the University on 13 November 2017 to mark the 50th anniversary of his visit to accept an honorary degree.

6. Catherine McKinnell, Member of Parliament for Newcastle North, visited the Wolfson Childhood Cancer Research Centre at Newcastle University earlier this year to learn more about their life-saving work. The multimillion-pound centre opened in September 2016, thanks to support from various foundations, charities and graduates through the Future Fund campaign.
Former Vice-Chancellor, Professor Chris Brink CBE, returned to the University in July 2018 to launch his new book, *The Soul of a University: Why Excellence is Not Enough*. It explores the role of higher education in society. It is available from Bristol University Press.

Alumna Ann Cairns was honoured with an honorary Doctor of Civil Law (DCL) degree in July 2018. Ann is Vice Chairman of Mastercard and has more than 20 years’ experience working in senior management positions across Europe and the US. Prior to this, her engineering background enabled her to become the first woman to work offshore on UK oil rigs.

The University is playing a leading role in the world’s first large-scale trial of Vehicle-to-Grid technology. The £9.8 million project involves experts from Imperial College, London, electricity network operators and is the first demonstration of its kind in the world. Myriam Neaimeh (pictured), Researcher in Transport and Energy, is the University’s project lead.

Teaching at Newcastle University has been ranked in the top 10 in Europe. The Times Higher Education Europe Teaching Rankings, a survey of 30,000 students, placed Newcastle University joint 9th out of more than 240 participating institutions.
Convocation and Alumni Reunion

Over the weekend of 22–24 June 2018, Newcastle University welcomed alumni and friends back to campus at our annual Convocation and Alumni Reunion.

The weekend’s events included a drinks and canapés reception overlooking NewcastleGateshead Quayside where graduates could enjoy a perfect view of the Great Exhibition of the North opening event, a Careers brunch, and two Guest Talks delivered by University staff. Professor Karen Ross led a discussion on challenging gender stereotypes, and Professor Ian Haynes talked about ongoing fieldwork by members of the archaeology team in the Lateran area of Rome. Graduates were also invited to attend the annual Meeting of Convocation and Convocation Celebration Dinner.

Photographs from this year’s Convocation and Alumni Reunion, including a video of Professor Ross’ talk are available on the Alumni website: www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni

A guide to Convocation

Convocation is one of the forums of the University that represents the interests of our graduates, providing an opportunity for you to hear about the progress and future of your University.

Every graduate of the University is, by right, a member of Convocation and entitled to attend meetings which are normally held annually in June during Convocation Weekend.

All alumni are invited to attend to hear from the Vice-Chancellor and President about the current issues and future challenges facing the University. An important role of Convocation is to input into this progress and ratify the election of the Chancellor. It is also a chance to raise questions and discuss any proposed changes to the University Statutes.

In 2019, Convocation will be asked to appoint two members to assume the roles of Chair and Deputy Chair of Convocation. Further details will be announced shortly.
Alumni Events

Newcastle University continues to organise, host and support alumni events around the world. Our calendar of events includes professional networking sessions, guest speakers and social mixers.

Professional Networking

The NCL Professional Network supports and develops our graduates’ careers and professional networks. These events enable graduates to build connections, meet fellow alumni working in their field and hear from leading speakers in their sector.

Over the last year, the University has welcomed guests to NCL Professional Network events in Hong Kong, London and Newcastle, in addition to other networking events in Beijing, Kuala Lumpur and Shanghai. Graduates also got an exclusive look at Newcastle Research and Innovation Institute (NewRIIS), Singapore, at its official launch in November 2017.
Alumni Mixers

Our increasingly popular alumni mixers provide an opportunity to catch up over refreshments, reconnect with classmates and let us know what you have been doing since graduation. Recently, we have welcomed graduates to our informal events in Athens, Mumbai, New York, Palo Alto, Seoul, Taipei, Toronto and Vancouver.

For details of all upcoming events visit www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/events

Reunions

Newcastle University also helps graduates organise reunions, both on and off campus. Whether celebrating a special milestone, or just to reminisce, our Advancement team offers support to help contact lost friends and make the event a memorable occasion. The University’s annual Convocation and Alumni Reunion event is also a great way to reconnect (see page 7).

To be first to hear about events in your area, or how we can help you organise your own, please take a moment to update your details at www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/intouch
Turning ideas into industry

When it comes to starting your own business, or even exploring the idea of a new venture, speaking to the right people at the right time is paramount. With an increasing number of Newcastle graduates now working freelance or starting up their own business, the University’s START UP programme can help at every stage, from pre-idea to launch and beyond.

START UP, delivered by Newcastle University Careers Service, helps students and recent graduates develop the skills and confidence to become more entrepreneurial.

‘Our START UP programme provides unique and tailored information, advice and funding,’ explains Claire Adamson, Start-up Manager. ‘Whether someone is at the early stages of developing an idea, or wants to take their business further, our team can help them achieve their aspirations.’

The figures speak for themselves – START UP supported businesses are currently trading with a combined annual turnover of £26.8 million, with over £9 million of external investment raised between them.

‘Our programme of workshops and events helps develop those important ideas, nurture business skills and boost confidence,’ says Claire. ‘It’s all completely free too. It’s always exciting to meet a recent graduate who has an idea and in turn help them to make that dream a reality.’

Arches caught up with recent graduates Matt, Jordan and Nwamaka to find out how START UP helped kick-start their own enterprises.
Lixir Tonic

Matt Mahatme (BSc Biology 2015) and Jordan Palmer (BA Hons Geography 2015)

Enterprising duo Matt (pictured left, with Jackie Wade, Newcastle University Business Adviser, centre) and Jordan (right) are refreshing the growing beverage market after the launch of their own brand of tonic water, Lixir Tonic. The five tonics they have developed can be paired with a variety of spirits or enjoyed on their own.

As part of their start-up, they received a £3,000 grant through the University’s partnership with Santander Universities, which enabled them to develop branding and a crowdfunding pitch video. The success of the pitch video has now enabled the pair to take Lixir to the UK market.

‘The great response we had for the campaign and the various businesses that have approached us with interest about the brand has really given us a lot of confidence about launching,’ says Matt.

Their relationships with – and backing of – established companies has also been invaluable. ‘Our research informed our idea and we took it to industry consultants who really liked our concept and helped us set out a plan of action,’ says Jordan.

Richsea Limited

Dr Nwamaka Okeke-Ogbuafor (PhD 2016)

Richsea is a development consultancy which delivers solutions for African coastal communities. Founded in 2017, the idea for Richsea evolved during Dr Okeke-Ogbuafor’s PhD studies.

‘I am very passionate about rural community development and realised I could do something different to the disappointing current development providers,’ she says. ‘I brought together my knowledge of marine resources and community development, so at Richsea we work with local communities to uncover marine resources for tangible community development.’

Richsea’s current focus is West Africa, particularly Sierra Leone and Nigeria, but plans are underway to cover more African countries over the next five years. This ambition to be a frontrunner in community development consultancy has its foundations in START UP.

‘The START UP team are very passionate and experienced business mentors,’ she says. ‘They helped turn my academic idea into a business one.

‘Try out an idea that you are passionate about. You never know how far you can drive an idea — or how far it will drive you!’

For further information about START UP, please visit www.ncl.ac.uk/careers/startup
Stay Connected

Graduates of Newcastle University are part of a unique, lifelong community. *Arches* finds out from some of our graduates themselves about why they keep in touch and the benefits of staying connected after graduation.

**Alex Leigh**
BA History 2013, MA International Politics (Critical Geopolitics) 2016
‘The support available and the help when you graduate is a huge thing to be part of’

**Doug Jones**
MSc Innovation, Creativity and Entrepreneurship 2014
‘You can empower the next generation of students to be equally as successful as you’

**Claire He**
MA Translation and Interpreting 2014
‘I received career guidance from alumni and I can now share these lessons with others’

**Rebecca Bainbridge**
BA Hons Modern Languages 2017
‘The alumni events are a great chance to catch up with friends and meet new people’

**Jenn Allison**
MEng Chemical and Process Engineering 2002
‘The University is built on research-led teaching, helped by alumni sharing their experiences’

**Oluyomi Adeoye**
MSc Engineering Geology with Consulting Skills 2007
‘Irrespective of where you come from, anywhere in the world, you have a place here’

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**Stay in touch...**

Updating your details enables you to:
- Expand your professional network
- Attend events
- Share your University experience
- Inspire the next generation
- Develop your career prospects
- Reunite with friends

To update your details, please visit [www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/intouch](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/intouch)

For information on Newcastle University’s guidelines on data management and retention, visit [www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/get-involved/privacy-policy](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/get-involved/privacy-policy)
Alumni Achievement Awards

Newcastle University graduates whose exceptional work makes an impact on industry, society and their community have been recognised with the inaugural Alumni Achievement Awards.

The Pride of Newcastle University Awards, in association with Nissan, is an annual celebration of the achievements and contributions made by students to university life and the wider community through extra-curricular activities. Now, in recognition of the achievements of former students, new awards have been introduced to celebrate outstanding graduate achievements both in the UK and internationally.

At the ceremony, held at Newcastle Civic Centre on Thursday 7 June 2018, Professor Sir Alan William Craft Kt (MB BS 1969, MD 1978) received the Alumni Achievement Award in Recognition of Lifelong Achievement. Sir Alan is a leading expert in child health whose work in cancer research has changed practice worldwide. In 2005 he was knighted by Her Majesty The Queen for his services to Medicine & Paediatric Oncology and remains an advocate for child health causes.

Michael Alderson (BSc Environmental Science 2008, MSc Environmental Engineering 2009) received the Alumni Achievement Award in Recognition of International Impact. An advocate for the natural environment and sustainable development, Michael co-founded the charity EcoSwell in 2013. The charity’s work and research on sustainable development has gained international recognition and also provides opportunities for Newcastle students to undertake eco-volunteering projects.

For further information about the Pride of Newcastle University Awards, please visit www.ncl.ac.uk/careers/awards/pride
A place of inspiration

Whether as a study hub for artists, or a place of inspiration for visitors, the Hatton Gallery has always been, and continues to be, a special place for many people. The much-loved art gallery, right at the heart of campus, reopened in October 2017 following a £3.8 million redevelopment.

Founded in 1925, and situated in the Fine Art Building in the Quadrangle, the Hatton Gallery stages a programme of historical, modern and contemporary art exhibitions and events.

The Hatton’s diverse collection includes over 3,000 items from the 14th–20th centuries. Its extensive archive material includes paintings, sculpture, prints, drawings and textiles, and material connected to the history of the Gallery, such as exhibition posters designed and printed in the School of Arts and Culture.

On 7 October 2017, and following 20 months of refurbishment, the Hatton Gallery reopened to the public. The renovation was made possible by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Hatton Future campaign, which was generously backed by University alumni and supporters.

The project helped conserve the historic and architectural elements of the Grade II listed building, whilst modernising it for flexible exhibition facilities, dedicated learning spaces and improved lighting. The work also included the conservation and reinterpretation of the iconic Merz Barn Wall by Kurt Schwitters, which takes pride of place in the centre of the Hatton.

Culturally important

For almost a century, the Hatton Gallery has been a major cultural resource, not just for the North East but internationally too.

To celebrate its reopening, a ground-breaking exhibition, Pioneers of Pop, included around 100 works by some of the leading British artists associated with both Pop and abstract art. The exhibition firmly positioned Newcastle as the birthplace of Pop Art and at the centre of the exhibition was visionary artist...
Richard Hamilton who taught at the University from 1953–1966. Renowned singer songwriter, and alumni, Bryan Ferry CBE studied – and was inspired by – Richard Hamilton during his time here.

Another of the University’s notable alumni, Sean Scully was also celebrated recently at the Hatton Gallery. Renowned globally as the master of post-minimalist abstraction, his 1970 exhibition presented many of his early works. Twice shortlisted for the Turner Prize, Sean was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Letters (DLitt) by the University on 13 July 2018.

The Hatton Gallery is managed by Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums on behalf of the University.

On 1 June 2018, Vee Pollock, Professor of Public Art, took up the role of Newcastle University’s Dean of Culture and the Creative Arts.

She succeeds Professor Eric Cross, who retired as Dean of Cultural Affairs in July after 16 years in the role. Vee’s new role recognises the strength of practice-led research and teaching across creative subject areas at Newcastle, and seeks to further the University’s existing strategic work with partners in the creative industries regionally, nationally and internationally.

For further information about the Hatton Gallery and details of upcoming exhibitions, please visit www.hattongallery.org.uk
With over 200,000 graduates around the world, a growing number of international research partners and a multitude of transnational research projects, you are never too far from someone connected to Newcastle University. *Arches* reports back on just some of the activities that have engaged our graduates, current students, prominent academics and local communities over recent months.

**Pittsburgh, USA**

The University of Pittsburgh and Newcastle University renewed their agreement to collaborate during a visit to Newcastle in April 2018 by Pittsburgh’s Chancellor, the Honourable Patrick Gallagher. Both institutions have research strengths in ageing, energy, education and computing science and also play an active role in their cities promoting innovation, economic development, cultural wellbeing and urban regeneration.

**Xiamen, China**

On 18 June 2018, the University welcomed the new President of Xiamen University, China, Professor Zhang Rong (pictured second from right), a valued and longstanding international partner. The campus visit showcased areas of strategic investment such as Newcastle Helix (see page 22). The Vice-Chancellor is due to make a return visit to Xiamen in October for discussions on the initiative they are leading on the Maritime Silk Road.

*Right: Staff at Newcastle University Singapore celebrate the opening of NewRIIS.*
Costa Rica
His Excellency José Enrique Castillo Barrantes (pictured right), the Costa Rican Ambassador to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, visited the University’s Centre for Latin American and Caribbean Studies in April 2018 to speak at a seminar on the abolition of the army in Costa Rica 70 years ago. He met with Professor Richard Davies, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Engagement and Internationalisation (pictured left), to discuss potential engagement opportunities with Costa Rican universities.

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
In November 2017, Newcastle facilitated a Global Health Research Group on Dementia Prevention and Enhanced Care (DePEC) symposium at United Nations University’s International Institute for Global Health. Policymakers, health economists, NGOs and leading academics discussed dementia challenges facing Malaysia and research priorities for the next five years.

Jurong East, Singapore
On 2 November 2017, Newcastle University expanded its operation in Singapore with the official opening of Newcastle Research and Innovation Institute (NewRIIS) by the British High Commissioner, His Excellency Scott Wightman. Graduates of Newcastle University were also among the first to explore the institute and its new facilities as part of the celebrations. In addition to facilitating research, NewRIIS delivers postgraduate programmes, Continuing Professional Development (CPD) training programmes and masterclasses on a variety of subjects.

Monash, Australia
International partners Newcastle University and Monash University, Australia co-hosted a biomedical research and innovation showcase in April 2018. Held at NewRIIS, the audience comprised industry, investors and academia and explored a number of collaborative and investment possibilities in South East Asia.

Read more about Newcastle’s international partnerships at www.ncl.ac.uk/international-relations/partnerships
A vision for the future

Over the past 12 months, the University's new Vision and Strategy has been taking shape. Developed in consultation with staff, students, alumni and external partners, and building upon our success as one of the world's leading universities, it represents a statement of our collective ambition for Newcastle University.
The demands placed on universities by students, governments and the public have changed dramatically in recent years. There is now a clear expectation that universities exist to serve local and global society – whether through the graduates we educate to become critical global citizens – or through our research and innovation providing solutions and new understanding to the world’s complex problems from health and the environment to terrorism and poverty.

Our students expect to play a major role in shaping their education and to have access to the latest technology to enhance their learning experience. We have clear expectations from Government, on the one hand, to be local anchor institutions with a major role in fostering inclusive place-based economic growth, and on the other, to be solving the problems faced by low- and middle-income countries as part of their official development assistance responsibility.

As one of the UK’s great civic, research intensive universities, we’re confident that we have strong foundations on which to build a forward-looking vision that enables us to meet these varying expectations, utilising our academic strengths to engage with, and be accountable to the needs of local, national and global society.

Our Vision and Strategy expresses our collective sense of purpose; we aspire to be a people-focused University that harnesses academic excellence, innovation and creativity to provide benefits to individuals, organisations and to society as a whole. We aim to work collaboratively with our many external partners to shape brighter futures, grow the economy and champion social justice.

From Newcastle, for the world
Finding answers to the question: ‘What makes us Newcastle?’ has been at the heart of the process of developing the Vision and Strategy.

Beginning in October – to coincide with the start of the new academic year – the Vision and Strategy will be brought to life through the stories of the people behind our world-leading research, teaching and engagement. The stories will illustrate our core values of excellence, creativity and impact seen through the lens of our guiding principles of working together, being visibly leading, giving our staff and students the freedom and opportunity to succeed, and responding to current and future challenges.

A whole new digital resource is being created to tell the story of how we aim to inspire all people to come together in our Newcastle ‘living laboratory’ to learn, explore and solve the most pressing issues facing our region and the world, to deliver a healthier, prosperous and more sustainable future – from Newcastle, for the world.

Read more about our Vision and Strategy over the next two pages.
A brief guide to our **Vision and Strategy**

- **EXCELLENCE|CREATIVITY|IMPACT**
  - Visibly leading
  - Working together
  - Responding to current and future challenges
  - Freedom and opportunity to succeed

- **EDUCATION FOR LIFE**
- **RESEARCH FOR DISCOVERY AND IMPACT**
- **ENGAGEMENT FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIETAL BENEFIT**

▲ STRATEGIC ENABLERS ▲
Our Vision encapsulates the essence of the institution we want to be: A world-leading University, advancing knowledge, providing creative solutions and solving global problems.

Instantly recognisable around the world as a symbol of our city, Newcastle’s famous Tyne Bridge has provided Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor Chris Day, with the perfect metaphor through which to articulate the Vision and Strategy.

● The Tyne Bridge’s parabolic arch symbolises our aspirational values of excellence, creativity and impact.

The steel ‘ribs’ that metaphorically hold up the overarching Vision are our guiding principles:

● Visibly leading: We are recognised globally for a number of strengths including Ageing and Health, Energy, Data, Cities, and Culture and Creative Arts.

● Working together: This refers to working together internally – academic and professional staff, students and alumni, across and between disciplinary boundaries and faculties – and externally with our various stakeholders.

● Responding to current and future challenges: Our priorities in both education and research need to respond more proactively to the demand side of the knowledge economy and be guided by the societal challenges facing the world now and in the future.

● Freedom and opportunity to succeed: Our people, staff and students – past, present and future – are at the heart of our strategy.

● The twin granite towers and the road deck, meanwhile, represent the interconnected strategies covering our three core functions of education, research and engagement, and the two main contexts in which we work to create inspiring places and influence globally.

● Education for life: Engaging, challenging and supporting students to discover and fulfil their potential

● Research for discovery and impact: Catalysing transformative research within and between disciplines

● Engagement and Place: Making a difference to the economy, health and social wellbeing and cultural richness of the places in which we operate.

Influencing globally: Internationalisation in all that we do.

● And underpinning it all – like the Bridge’s foundations – are the ‘strategic enablers’ – those elements that we draw upon to support our core activities of education, research and engagement:

○ our ‘people’ – students, staff, alumni and external partners

○ infrastructure and investment in our estate and facilities

○ the internal networks and academies that will help us to nurture talent and foster new skills in our 6,000 staff; empowering staff, students, alumni and ambassadors to deliver the Newcastle University message

○ our external networks and partnerships in the UK and overseas

○ effectiveness and financial sustainability to help us achieve our ambitions

○ environmental sustainability.

For further information and all the latest news from the University, visit www.ncl.ac.uk
Rise of the Helix

Newcastle’s global hub for urban innovation has entered the next phase of its development. A partnership between Newcastle University, Newcastle City Council, and Legal & General, Newcastle Helix is the UK’s biggest urban development site outside London. The flagship project brings together academia, communities, business, industry and the public sector.

The rapidly rising 24-acre site is a testbed for innovative technologies and solutions that will tackle some of the most pressing challenges facing cities around the world, such as flooding, resilient infrastructure and energy.

Formerly known as Science Central, the site has been through a period of demolition, urban coal mining, groundworks and construction and is now transformed into an exemplar of urban sustainability.

Drawing on the expertise of key industry partners such as Siemens, Microsoft and Northumbrian Water, the aim is for Newcastle Helix to improve the lives of people not just in Newcastle, but all over the world.

Newcastle Helix is already home to the University’s award-winning Urban Sciences Building, housing the School of Computing, National Centre for Energy Systems Integration and the Urban Observatory. It was officially opened by The Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP, Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, on Wednesday 27 June 2018. Also on the site is The Core, a seven-storey home for knowledge-based science and technology SMEs.

The third new building – the ‘Newcastle Laboratory’ – will open in late 2018, providing laboratories and offices for a wide range of scientific-based companies, primarily life science and healthcare. The next two years will also see the opening of the University’s National Innovation Centre. It will house three national centres: the National Innovation Centre for Ageing; the National Innovation Centre for Data; and the National Institute for Health Research Innovation Observatory.

Newcastle University’s new £29 million Learning and Teaching Centre is also due to open in 2019.

Elsewhere on the site, Legal & General has started construction of their flagship building, The Lumen. The 108,000 sq ft eight-storey Grade A building will be the largest city-centre office building with private sector funding to be constructed in the last decade.

Leader of Newcastle City Council, Councillor Nick Forbes said: ‘The ground-breaking developments that are taking place on Newcastle Helix will firmly position our city as a major national and international hub for scientific research and technology businesses, creating knowledge-based jobs for future generations in Newcastle.’
On 23 July 2018, The Rt Hon Greg Clark MP, the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (pictured centre), with Pat Ritchie, Chief Executive of Newcastle City Council (left) and Professor David Burn, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Faculty of Medical Sciences (right), visited the site of the National Innovation Centre to mark completion of the first phase of development.

For further information on Newcastle Helix, please visit www.ncl.ac.uk/helix

(l-r) Professor Richard Davies, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Engagement and Internationalisation, The Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP and Professor John Fitzgerald, Head of the School of Computing, at the official opening of the Urban Sciences Building.
Research for Discovery and Impact

At Newcastle University, we recognise the importance of research that is challenge-led and has demonstrable social, cultural and economic benefit.

**Engineering future bionics**
Our engineers are using computer vision to develop a new generation of prosthetic hands that enable wearers to reach for objects automatically.

**Building a Smart Future**
Our experts are devising ‘smart’ bricks to improve sustainability in our homes and businesses.

**Reversing Type 2 Diabetes**
Our findings on reversing Type 2 diabetes could benefit millions of people across the globe.

**Exploring artefacts through fine art**
Our experts are creating new dialogues between contemporary art and historic sites, using archaeology and digital technology.
Bracing for climate change
Our researchers are helping Europe’s major cities prepare for extreme weather events like floods and heatwaves.

Making conversations count
Our experts are using digital toolkits and apps to improve communication between people living with dementia and their loved ones.

Immersive therapy
Our specialists have developed virtual worlds to help children with autism overcome their fears and phobias.

Safeguarding the past
Our experts are safeguarding world heritage sites in global conflict zones.

Rescuing our oceans
Our researchers are shaping global understanding on how plastics threaten our seas and ecosystems.

You can find out more about our research – and download a copy of Research Impact – online at: www.ncl.ac.uk/impact

You can also request a physical copy by contacting advancement@ncl.ac.uk
Great Exhibition of the North

A spectacular ceremony along NewcastleGateshead Quayside on Friday 22 June 2018 marked the start of the Great Exhibition of the North. Expected to be the biggest event in England in 2018, the 80-day festival told the story of the North of England and how its innovators, businesses, artists and designers have shaped the present and are inspiring its future.

Alongside the main programme of events, Newcastle University organised an exciting series of ‘Inspired By’ events and activities. The events highlighted some of the University’s world-leading research in smart cities, sustainability, cultural heritage, creative arts, and ageing through a variety of performances, talks and exhibitions.

Visitors could also follow three trails through the city to learn about some of the ground-breaking innovations of the North. One of these, the Innovation trail, took visitors through the heart of the Newcastle University campus and onto the Newcastle Helix site (see page 22).

Professor Eric Cross, Dean of Cultural Affairs, said: ‘The Great Exhibition of the North was a fantastic opportunity to showcase the amazing art, culture and innovation that has come out of the North – from the inventions of the past that revolutionised the way we live to how we are leading the way in creating a sustainable future.’

For further information about Great Exhibition of the North visit www.getnorth2018.com
Life-changing possibilities

For an increasing number of Newcastle University graduates, the opportunity to collaborate and inspire continues long after graduation. Arches chats to Dr Andrew Welchman, Head of Neuroscience and Mental Health at the Wellcome Trust, to find out how his PhD at Newcastle not only shaped his career, but is now helping him change lives too.

‘I remember the Psychology Department very well,’ recalls Andrew. ‘Professor Malcolm Young brought together a group of really energetic people, it was a genuinely exciting time. The University helped me develop a real sense of possibility.’

After completion of his PhD, in human visual representation and filling-in, Andrew held a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Tübingen, Germany, and then a Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) fellowship in Birmingham.

‘I have held a series of fellowships during my career,’ he says. ‘I spent some time in Germany learning brain imaging techniques and building on the work that I had started during my PhD at Newcastle.’

In 2013, Andrew joined the University of Cambridge as Reader in Computational and Cognitive Neuroscience. He was also appointed Head of Neuroscience and Mental Health at the Wellcome Trust, the renowned biomedical research foundation, in March 2017.

‘The breadth of the job is amazing,’ he says. ‘It’s very stimulating, full of interdisciplinary exchanges, and I get to work with some really interesting people.’

Andrew came back to Newcastle recently to learn more about the University’s Wellcome Trust Centre for Mitochondrial Research. The Centre is dedicated to the biology of mitochondria in health and disease and aims to make a major difference to the lives of patients with disease caused by mitochondrial dysfunction.

‘The Centre is a great example of integrated research between academics and the NHS,’ says Andrew. ‘It integrates the patient voice, and Wellcome is justifiably proud of the work being undertaken at Newcastle.’

In between his academic and Trust work, Andrew also enjoys giving talks and engaging in public understanding of science whenever the opportunity arises. He also supervises current PhD students and has advice for others looking to follow a similar route to his own.

‘Don’t be afraid of failure,’ he says. ‘Embrace the possibilities of what you learn and when you don’t succeed it is useful to analyse why. Careers don’t need to be a single linear progression either, so keep your options open and seize opportunities.’
Creating opportunities

Throughout our history, Newcastle University has benefitted from legacy gifts. The generosity of our graduates and supporters not only benefits our research and estate, but also creates opportunities for bright students too. Arches chatted to medical student Elle Partington about how life-changing a legacy gift can be.

Elle, 21, is currently in the second year of her medical studies. ‘It has been challenging at times,’ she says. ‘I’ve had to put in a lot of hard work to keep up due to my dyslexia, but I have a lot of support from the Medical School and the University.’

Elle is recipient of the Dianne and Brian Arkley Bursary, which, alongside the University’s Student Services, supports medical students who may face difficulties in completing their studies. The fund was set up in memory of Dianne and Brian Arkley who remembered Newcastle University in their will, as a way of helping bright-minded individuals become doctors.

‘The bursary has helped me to purchase special equipment to help with my dyslexia, such as 3D anatomy programmes and apps,’ says Elle.

Elle is already looking forward to getting started again in her third year. ‘I’m excited to start as I will be on placement. It’ll mean taking a more hands-on learning approach, which I really like.’

Thanks to her bursary and her experiences at Newcastle thus far, Elle is planning her next steps and putting her skills to good use. ‘I am currently looking to take a Master’s in tropical medicine or global health. In the future, I want to work in managing epidemics, so the bursary will be incredibly beneficial in achieving this.

‘Legacies and bursaries, such as the one I received, ensure future students aren’t restricted by circumstance. They help future generations achieve their potential.’

For further information on making a gift or leaving a legacy, visit www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/legacy
Careering Ahead

A cohort of students have been celebrating successful completion of the ncl+ Career Insights Award. The programme supports under-represented students in gaining work experience, exploring new opportunities and building important networks. Due to the continuing success of the programme, the 2018–19 programme will be expanding to offer places to over 100 students.

The 2017–18 programme has been the biggest and most successful awards scheme to date. The latest cohort, who received their awards at a special event on Friday 8 June 2018, benefitted from visits to employers at the North East Business and Innovation Centre (BIC), Sunderland, and enjoyed team business projects with Nissan and Accenture.

Participating students also had the opportunity to network at an event with the Investment Association and enjoy interactive sessions with the Civil Service, Clifford Chance and HSBC in London. Opportunities also included invaluable sessions at the offices of Enterprise Rent-A-Car and PricewaterhouseCoopers, both in Leeds.

The ncl+ Career Insights Award is primarily aimed at under-represented groups and a bursary is available to support participation in the programme. As the programme continues to grow, so too does the response from – and benefits for – participating students.

‘I’ve gained many transferable skills that are needed in any industry from a group project at Accenture,’ says Amy Kunner, a Stage 3 History and Politics student. ‘The highlight of the programme was going to London where we met global businesses including Clifford Chance, and the Investment Association and the Civil Service.

‘This was valuable for me as I not only got to speak to the CEO of the Investment Association but also made contacts to help me get into the industry and I am now going for interviews with several graduate investment programmes despite having no previous financial experience.’

Due to the success of the programme, the 2018–19 programme will offer places to double the number of this year’s students. An exciting range of activities and events are currently being planned, which will include an international employer visit.

If you would like to find out more about our social mobility schemes and how you can support the ncl+ Career Insights programme, please contact advancement@ncl.ac.uk

The Careers Service invite registrations of interest from alumni who may be able to support the programme or offer work experience, please contact advancement@ncl.ac.uk
Sports

*Arches* reports back on recent sporting activity and developments – both on and off the field.

**Britain’s greatest Olympian visits University**
Seven-time Olympic medallist track cyclist Sir Chris Hoy was guest of honour at the eighth International Sport and Exercise Nutrition Conference hosted at Newcastle University in December 2017. Sir Chris (pictured left) is one of the most decorated Olympic cyclists of all time. He shared some of the secrets to success at the event, which was arranged by Professor of Sports and Exercise Science, Emma Stevenson (pictured right).

**New sports facilities**
Work is under way to redevelop the University’s existing sports centre at Richardson Road to include an eight-court sports hall, four squash courts, a strength and conditioning suite and two exercise studios. Plans are also under way at Cochrane Park Sports Ground to create two artificial turf pitches, and to update and extend existing facilities.

**The Big Win**
North East University Rugby descended on St James’ Park, the home of Newcastle United FC, on 24 March 2018 when Newcastle University faced Northumbria University. ‘The Big Uni Clash’ saw Newcastle snatch a late win after trailing 12 points behind, eventually winning 28–21. The match took place ahead of a game between Newcastle Falcons, one of the University’s partners, and Northampton Saints. Prior to the event, Professor Chris Day, Vice-Chancellor and President, hosted a reception with alumni members of the rugby team.

**Serving up future success**
Newcastle University has launched a Performance Squash Academy in partnership with the Northumberland Club, based in Jesmond. The development will benefit Newcastle University Squash Club, which currently has three men’s teams and three ladies’ teams competing in BUCS and local leagues.
Arches | The Newcastle University Alumni Magazine

New partnership with Newcastle United
Newcastle University and Newcastle United Foundation have kicked off a unique partnership to work together on outreach, education and research programmes. Joint projects will encourage learning and promote healthy lifestyles. Key areas of the partnership also include placement and volunteering opportunities and a jointly funded PhD studentship, which will develop a community-based exercise and education programme.

Rowers crowned champions
Three days of racing at Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham, in May 2018, saw Newcastle University Boat Club crowned BUCS (British Universities & Colleges Sport) Regatta Champions. Newcastle was named the Men’s Victor Ludorum, joint Women’s Victor Ludorum and the overall Victor Ludorum. Graduates may also be interested in the Blue Star Club, the official alumni boat club of the University: www.bluestarclub.co.uk

Court-ing love
Newcastle University Basketball Club’s annual Alumni Game in April 2018 involved an extra special celebration when graduate Tom Hall proposed to girlfriend Emily Jackson during the women’s match. After both teams caused a distraction, Emily turned round to find Tom down on one knee. The sport brought the couple together eight years ago and both had played for Team Newcastle during their time here. Congratulations to the happy couple!

Are you looking to get back in touch with your old sports teams, or have any photos or memories you would like to share? Get in touch via advancement@ncl.ac.uk

For all the latest Newcastle University sport and news results visit www.ncl.ac.uk/sport
Notable civil rights advocates were recognised with honorary degrees at a special ceremony on Monday 13 November 2017, which commemorated the 50th anniversary of Dr Martin Luther King Jr receiving the same award. (From l-r): Ambassador Andrew Young Jr, American diplomat and activist, and Archibald ‘Archie’ Sibeko, a veteran anti-apartheid activist and political leader, were both awarded with a Doctorate of Civil Law. Malorie Blackman OBE, the acclaimed children’s author, was awarded with an Honorary Doctorate of Letters, whilst Tyneside anti-racism campaigner and promoter of multiculturalism and equality, Tom Caulker, also received an Honorary Doctorate of Civil Law. Sadly, Archie passed away on 27 March 2018, shortly after celebrating his 90th birthday.

It was a family affair in July 2018 when a father and son both graduated together with degrees in Archaeology. Dr John Bowman received his PhD on the same day his son Henry was awarded his BA Hons. John’s daughter, Charlotte, also graduated with a degree in Zoology a few days earlier. If you have any family members who also studied, or are currently studying, at Newcastle University please get in touch advancement@ncl.ac.uk
Joanna Jarjue (BA Hons Politics 2015) is a marketing manager whose expertise enables businesses to enhance their digital offer. In addition to being a public speaker and fashion blogger, Joanna was also the youngest contestant on BBC’s The Apprentice in late 2017, reaching the penultimate stage of the competition.

Paul Sadler (BSC Naval Architecture 1983) was honoured with a Distinguished Public Service Award from the US Coast Guard. The medal, presented in December 2017, recognises Paul’s work throughout his career for advancing safety at sea which he continues via his work with the International Maritime Organization and World Maritime University. Paul also gives guest talks around the world, including at Newcastle University.

Kiko Matthews (BSc Molecular Biology 2004) became the fastest woman to row solo across the Atlantic in March 2018. Kiko was diagnosed with Cushing’s disease in 2009 which recurred in 2017 and her record 49 days at sea came only months after receiving life-saving surgery at King’s College Hospital, London. She has so far raised over £95,000 for their new critical care unit.

Joy Labinjo (BA Hons Fine Art 2017) opened her first solo show ‘Belonging’ at Morley Gallery in London in January 2018. Her paintings draw on her British-Nigerian heritage and examine the complex relationship between identity, race and culture. She also won the Woon Art Prize in July 2017 in her final year as a student at Newcastle.

Derek Kelly MBE (BSc Agriculture 1950) is founder and chairman of Kelly Turkeys, the renowned UK traditional turkey business. Since expanding into the USA Thanksgiving market and also beef farming, Derek established the Kelly Bronze Prize which benefits outstanding students on the University’s Food and Human Nutrition degree programme.

Pauline PL Chew (LLB 1994) was admitted as a Solicitor in Hong Kong. Specialising in litigation for 20 years and working as a partner since 2006 in private practices, Pauline has vast experience in litigation and high-profile cases. She also provides pro bono services to the community whenever she can.

Victoria Hills MRTPi FICE (MTP Town Planning 1998) took up the role of Chief Executive of the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) in April 2018. Victoria has held senior roles in planning and transport, most latterly for the Mayor of London, for over two decades, in addition to leading on the UK’s largest regeneration project at Old Oak.

If you have any news you would like to share with your fellow alumni, contact advancement@ncl.ac.uk
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www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/legacy