INSIDE:
Power to the people
Cold war on waste
Igniting the NCL spark

From Newcastle. For alumni.
Welcome to the 21st issue of Arches

We’re proud of the achievements of the University and our alumni community and enjoy taking this opportunity to celebrate these ongoing successes with you.

As the University continues to drive towards its Vision of harnessing academic excellence, innovation and creativity to solve some of the greatest challenges facing society today, we’ve created a new style for your magazine to reflect this global ambition.

We hope you enjoy the read!

TERI WISHART
Director of Advancement

NEWS & FEATURES
3-4. Thank you Chancellor
5-6. Honorary degrees: Summer 2019
7-8. Waging cold war on plastic waste
9-10. Power to the people
11-12. NUMed Malaysia’s decade of excellence

ALUMNI COMMUNITY
13-15. Class notes
16. From Newcastle. For the world.
17-18. Alumni are the pride of Newcastle
19-20. Alumni events
21-22. * Staying connected * Society spotlight

ALUMNI BENEFITS
23-24. Skills for success
25. Igniting the spark
26. Going out to work

PHILANTHROPY
29-30. Catalyst for change: Helen McArdle CBE
31. Professor Jimmy Steele Memorial Fund
32. Opportunity knocks
33-34. It’s good to keep in touch

Photography by: AllMarkOne, Jeffrey Cheng, Dru Dodd, John Donoghue, Mohd Hanafiah Kamaruzzaman, Eleanor Killner, Lightbox, John Millard Photography, Tempest Photography, Masitano Sichone, Freya Tweedy, Mike Urwin, Simon Veit-Wilson, Wardour, Jooney Woodward, Thomas Yong
There has never been a more exciting time to be part of Newcastle University. From its founding in 1834, a core part of our grounding has always been a focus on excellence in our teaching, our research, and the impact we have on our world.

Our students and graduates are at the heart of our vision driving our ambition to be great, not only locally in the North East of England but also globally, all over the world.

Our graduates are our greatest achievement, and the various programmes we offer our alumni are designed to keep us connected as well as support individual journeys. The connection our University makes through our alumni communities drives the resoundingly international reach of our University, cemented by our presence in Newcastle, London, Singapore, and Malaysia. Bringing a truly global outlook to our excellent teaching and student experience, our research and discoveries have a huge impact across the globe.

Our research is world leading and engages the areas of society that demand attention, from developing sustainable energy systems in Sub-Saharan Africa, to pioneering a technique to produce clean fuels from plastic waste. We are the only Russell Group University to be leading on two out of 12 Global Research Hubs set up to tackle the world’s toughest challenges. We’re proud to lead on the UKRI GCRF Living Deltas and Water Security and Sustainable Development Hubs.

Our alumni continue to remain vital to the academic, personal, and professional development of Newcastle. The recent launch of NCL spark, our online networking and mentoring platform for alumni and students, will enable us to continue supporting and connecting our students and alumni wherever they are in the world.

This issue of Arches celebrates all of our achievements made not just within Newcastle University, but across our networks around the world. We showcase some of the wonderful accomplishments made by our alumni and some of the excellent opportunities on offer to our students.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue of Arches.
Thank you Chancellor

This summer, Newcastle University said farewell and thank you to retiring Chancellor, Professor Sir Liam Donaldson.

Professor Sir Liam Donaldson has retired after 10 years as Chancellor of Newcastle University.

To mark the occasion, he received an honorary Doctorate in Humanities and Science.

In accordance with tradition, the University also commissioned a portrait of Sir Liam to hang in King’s Hall.

Reflecting on his Chancellorship, Sir Liam said: ‘In my time in office, I have been ever conscious of the hugely important role that universities play in our society. They are not just seats of learning, they shape young people’s character and value. In doing so it is no exaggeration to say that they play a part in nation building.

‘I have been fortunate to have held a great office in a truly great University, and I have been honoured to do so.’

Alastair Adams, a former president of the Royal Society of Portrait Painters, was commissioned to paint Sir Liam’s portrait.

In the painting, which will hang in King’s Hall, Sir Liam is posed in the reflected light of the King’s Quad where the statue of Dr Martin Luther King Jr now stands, with gown off to recognise the end of his tenure.

The painting was unveiled at a reception following Sir Liam’s honorary degree ceremony.

During the evening, Folk and Traditional Music student, Maisie Cowburn-Bannister, performed *Don’t Think Twice It’s Alright* and *Forever Young* by Bob Dylan, in tribute to Sir Liam, who quoted Dylan’s lyrics at his inauguration ceremony in 2009.

Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor Chris Day, said: ‘Sir Liam has been far more than just a figurehead. Always a hands-on Chancellor, he has chaired University Court through a period of sustained change for our sector, supporting and working alongside successive Vice-Chancellors and providing wise counsel and governance that I personally have found to be of great value.

Recognised as an international champion of patient safety and public health, Sir Liam was the Chief Medical Officer for England, and the United Kingdom’s Chief Medical Adviser from 1998–2010.”
I have been fortunate to have held a great office in a truly great University, and I have been honoured to do so.”

SIR LIAM DONALDSON
Honorary degrees: Summer 2019

Outstanding contributions to society have been recognised by Newcastle University.

Eight respected figures in the fields of literature, engineering, black and ethnic minority women’s rights, physics, medicine, education and music, have been awarded honorary degrees during this year’s Congregations ceremonies.

Newcastle University’s Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor Chris Day, said: ‘Each of our honorands is a leader in their respective fields and it gives me great pleasure to honour their talent and dedication with these honorary degrees.’

**PROFESSOR PAUL DAVIES**

Regents’ Professor, Arizona State University
Honorary Doctor of Science (DSc)

Award-winning physicist Professor Paul Davies’ work has made a significant contribution to research in quantum field theory and to the public understanding of science. His work has focused on big questions including the origin of the universe, the origin of life and the mysteries of time.

**DR PATRICK GALLAGHER**

Chancellor, University of Pittsburgh
Honorary Doctor of Science (DSc)

Since becoming Chancellor in 2014, Dr Patrick Gallagher has worked to advance Pittsburgh University’s legacy of academic excellence, collaboration and research innovation. Previously he was Director of the US Department of Commerce’s National Institute of Standards and Technology, and was also a member of President Barack Obama’s Commission on Enhancing National Cybersecurity.
Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus was elected as Director-General of the World Health Organization in 2017. Prior to this, Tedros served as Ethiopia’s Minister of Foreign Affairs from 2012–2016 and Minister of Health from 2005–2012, where he led a comprehensive reform of the country’s health system.

With a distinguished career spanning 40 years, Léo Heller is one of the most highly regarded water engineers in the world. His extensive experience in the field of public policy and environmental health led to his appointment, in 2014, as the United Nations’ Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation.

Umme Imam is a founding member and Executive Director of The Angelou Centre, a black-led women’s centre in Newcastle offering a range of holistic women-only services for black and minority ethnic women. The centre celebrates its 25th anniversary this year.

Ali Smith has produced more than 20 works of outstanding literary merit over the past three decades, including plays, short stories and novels. She is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and was made a CBE in 2015 for services to literature.

Kathryn Tickell is the foremost exponent of the Northumbrian pipes and fiddle. A composer, performer and educator, and a successful recording artist, her work is deeply rooted in the landscape and people of Northumbria. In 2015 she was made an OBE for services to folk music.
Waging cold war on plastic waste

Chemical Engineering lecturer Dr Anh Phan has developed a pioneering technique to produce clean fuels and materials from plastic waste.
Plastic waste – we’re drowning in it, piling it up in landfills, dumping it in our oceans.

Now, Newcastle University Chemical Engineering lecturer Dr Anh Phan has developed a pioneering technique that could revolutionise how we deal with plastic waste.

Anh is leading a research project to convert waste plastic into green energy and useful chemicals and materials through a process known as cold plasma pyrolysis.

She said: ‘Plastics are actually valuable waste materials as they contain carbon and hydrogen and have a similar energy content to fuels such as diesel.’

Pyrolysis is a method of thermal decomposition in a free/limited oxygen environment at temperatures between 400-650°C. The process can be used to generate electricity and fuels, but when cold plasma is added to the equation it can convert waste plastics into hydrogen, methane and monomers such as ethylene.

Hydrogen and methane can be used as clean fuels as they produce minimal amounts of soot and carbon dioxide, while ethylene is the building block of most plastics.

‘Instead of wasting plastics, cold plasma pyrolysis can recover valuable materials, which can be used to produce other plastic products in turn,’ said Anh.

Her study, using plastic bags, milk and bleach bottles from a local recycling facility in Newcastle, found that 24%wt of high-density polyethylene (HDPE) plastic – the most widely used, everyday plastic – was converted into ethylene, which is 55 times higher than conventional pyrolysis.

Anh said: ‘Essentially what I’m trying to do is to take the plastic pollution, recover the ethylene and then feed it back into the beginning of the plastic manufacturing process so we can stop relying on fossil fuels.’

Anh is hoping to use her findings to develop a circular, low-carbon economy, one that offers a more viable long-term solution to dealing with discarded plastic other than by simply recycling it.

Since it can take hundreds of years for certain plastics to completely degrade, cold plasma pyrolysis also offers a quick alternative, producing highly energetic electrons that can break down the chemical bonds in plastic waste in a matter of seconds.

This means the process has the potential to be affordable with the electricity used to generate cold plasma sourced from renewables. The chemical products derived from the process can then be stored as energy for use further down the line.

Anh said: ‘People in the industry keep asking me if the process is ready. There’s definitely a gap in the market for such a solution.’

‘You cannot recycle for ever. After so many times, the products turn to waste and then how do you deal with that?’

"People in the industry keep asking me if the process is ready. There's definitely a gap in the market for such a solution."

DR ANH PHAN
Lecturer Neal Wade is leading a project to develop much-needed energy systems for areas without access to modern power sources.
At the flick of a switch we can charge our mobile phones or cook a meal, but in some remote parts of the world it’s often uneconomical, or simply impossible, to create the national power grid infrastructure we take for granted.

Neal Wade, a lecturer in Power Systems in Newcastle University’s School of Engineering, is leading a project that brings microgrids to these remote regions, using – wherever possible – clean, renewable energy sources such as solar power.

A microgrid is an independent electricity supply system that is not connected to a national grid. It includes a generator and some form of storage, with a footprint of between 10 and 20 square metres, and is capable of supplying a small group of energy users.

‘The big difference with microgrids is that you need to balance the supply of power and consumption of power much more carefully than in a regular grid system,’ explained Neal.

‘A regular grid would manage this for you but, where an area doesn’t have this infrastructure, that energy storage system must sit within the microgrid.’

Energy storage is expensive, so creating these systems with an eye on cost-effectiveness is key.

Neal said: ‘It’s very important to design systems in such a way that you minimise the amount of energy storage you need to use, and then operate it in a way that has the least degradation effect on that storage.’

Neal has been working with local communities and non-governmental organisations such as Practical Action, an international development charity that implements best-practice findings from the private sector and research to alleviate poverty.

His most recent project has been in Sub-Saharan Africa where microgrids are helping modernise the way of life for local communities, giving them access to clean, safe cooking facilities, and freeing people to improve their education and opportunities instead of spending so much time looking after their basic needs.

Neal said: ‘People might be quite happy with their quality of life, so there’s a premise in there that we’re simply modernising the way that people live.

‘Mobile phone charging is a huge thing. Mobiles are widespread in Sub-Saharan Africa – a lot of people do their banking through their phones. But even charging a phone can be tricky.’

He added: ‘This isn’t about people like me or Practical Action, coming in and bringing everything with us – there’s a lot more interaction than that.

‘It’s about improving the knowledge of people, so they can work with these systems in their own communities.’

MEETING THE CHALLENGE

Newcastle University is leading two Global Research Hubs set up to tackle some of the world’s toughest challenges.

The interdisciplinary Hubs – there are 12 in total – form part of a pioneering new approach by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) and are funded through the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF).

Newcastle will lead on both the Water Security and Sustainable Development Hub and the Living Deltas Hub, which will bring together 94 organisations from 25 countries, drawing on the expertise of scientists, engineers, geographers, architects and social scientists.
Newcastle's vision of becoming the first UK university to establish a fully-owned international branch campus for medicine and the biomedical sciences began in 2004. But it would be another five years before that dream became reality and Newcastle University Medicine Malaysia (NUMed) was born as a private university in Malaysia.

This year, the purpose-built campus in Iskandar Puteri, Johor, celebrates a milestone anniversary – 10 years of providing a high quality UK medical education in Malaysia.

NUMed Malaysia has become a core element in Newcastle University’s international strategy, augmenting its global reputation. The first Provost and Chief Executive Officer, Professor Reginald Jordan, said: ‘Having seen the NUMed project through the early development stages, our move to Malaysia marked the culmination of much hard work.

'It was a most exciting, if somewhat daunting, prospect, with the challenge being to translate the planning blueprint into reality and to truly realise the NUMed vision.’

The first 24 Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) students were recruited in September 2009 and started their studies in Newcastle.

Two years later they returned to Malaysia to finish their studies, joining the third cohort of MBBS students who became the first to complete their entire five-year programme at NUMed Malaysia.

Since then, NUMed Malaysia has gone from strength to strength. In November 2011, it was officially opened in a ceremony attended by Newcastle University’s Chancellor Sir Liam Donaldson.
the then Vice-Chancellor Professor Chris Brink and current Vice-Chancellor Professor Chris Day, in his previous role as PVC for the Faculty of Medical Sciences.

Within a few short years NUMed Malaysia had added two more programmes to its provision, Newcastle’s BSc (Hons) Biomedical Sciences Undergraduate degree programme and a Foundation programme in Biological and Biomedical Sciences.

The Undergraduate programmes of study are identical to Newcastle’s UK-based provision and lead to the final degrees being conferred by Newcastle University. The MBBS programme is built around a modern, case-based approach to medical teaching, with extensive practical experience for the students and the opportunity for periods of study in the UK.

As a research-focused institution, NUMed Malaysia has also been actively carrying out research in a number of areas that will have impact in Malaysia and the greater Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) region.

To date, the campus has witnessed six congregations celebrating six cohorts of MBBS graduates, four batches of Biomedical Sciences (BMS) graduates, and three batches of Foundation students.

Current Provost and Chief Executive Officer, Professor Chris Baldwin, said: ‘Looking at where we are today, as we celebrate the 10-year milestone of NUMed, I am very grateful to the many helping hands that have shaped our past, our present, and who will help shape our future.

‘NUMed is extremely fortunate for the amazing community of students and staff that has supported and helped build us up to reach this very momentous occasion.’

NUMED TIMELINE

- **2009** NUMed Malaysia registered by the Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia as a Private Institute of Higher Learning.
- **2009** 24 Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) students recruited on to the NUMed programme arrive in Newcastle to begin their studies.
- **2010** The purpose-built campus opens in Iskandar Puteri, Johor.
- **2011** The first cohort of NUMed Malaysia students return to Malaysia to complete the final three years of their studies. A third cohort – who will complete their entire five-year degree programme in Malaysia is welcomed.
- **2011** Campus is officially opened.
- **2011** The Royal College of Physicians and NUMed Malaysia deliver postgraduate training to Malaysian ministry and health service staff.
- **2013** BSc (Hons) Biomedical Sciences degree programme launched.
- **2016** Foundation in Biological and Biomedical Sciences programme launched.
- **2018** New Provost and CEO, Professor Chris Baldwin appointed.
- **2019** NUMed Malaysia marks its 10th anniversary.
229,000-strong, Newcastle University’s alumni network is a unique community that spans the globe.

The University’s students go on to do amazing things across sectors from science and business to the creative arts. Featured here are just a few of our alumni who are making a difference in the world.
Professor Lisa Harvey-Smith was appointed as Australia’s first Women in STEM Ambassador last year.

Lisa, who graduated from Newcastle University with a Master’s degree in Physics, with Honours in Astronomy and Astrophysics in 2002, will help raise awareness about government programmes aimed at getting more women into science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

Simon Chinn, who graduated with a BA in History in 1991, is a double Academy Award winning producer.

His 2008 film *Man on Wire*, about Philippe Petit’s 1974 high-wire walk between New York’s Twin Towers, won awards including the Sundance Grand Jury Prize, the Producers Guild of America Award, the BAFTA for Outstanding British Film and an Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature.

Another film, *Searching for Sugar Man*, won more than 30 international awards, including the Academy Award for Best Documentary.

Simon founded Red Box Films in 2005 and co-founded a second company, Lightbox, in 2013.

Professor of Dermatology and Immunology, Muzlifah Haniffa completed her PhD at Newcastle in 2009.

She is among other University experts working on a world-first research project to unlock the secrets of fertility, birth defects and regenerative medicine. Their work will also have implications for stem cell therapy and childhood cancers such as leukaemia.

An Associate Faculty at Wellcome Sanger Institute – one of the premier centres of genomic discovery and understanding in the world – Muzlifah’s work has been recognised by a number of awards, including the Lister Institute Research Prize in 2016.
Tania Love was named Best Woman in Architecture in the European Women in Construction & Engineering Awards 2018.

She studied Architecture at Newcastle University and in Italy, graduating in 1992 prior to joining North East firm FaulknerBrowns in 1993. Since then she has delivered commercial mixed-use and city centre retail projects across the UK, including remodelling Newcastle’s Monument Mall.

She sits on the Royal Institute of British Architects’ Visiting Board, and the strategic board of Revo – the UK body for retail property and placemaking. A non-executive director of NE1 Business Improvement District, she is a Fellow of the RSA.

Chloe Nga Kwan Yau (BSc Marketing 2015) launched CAMELLIA茗岩® in 2017, an artisanal Wuyi Rock Tea wholesaler and bar based in Katong Square, Singapore.

Her vision is to ensure the continuation of the Chinese tea tradition in Singapore, and CAMELLIA茗岩® was recently voted the #1TeaBar in Singapore by TallyPress.com

Masitano Sichone (MSc E-Business 2017) has developed an app called Spareable, with the support of Newcastle University’s START UP Founderships scheme. The app connects community foodbanks with donors, supporters and volunteers and allows them to directly donate essential items whenever stock is low.

Masitano’s work has been recognised with a 2019 Duke of York Young Entrepreneur Award.

Peter Exley (Architectural Studies 1985) has been elected President of the American Institute of Architects.

After completing an MArch at the University of Pennsylvania in 1990, Peter founded Architecture is Fun in Chicago in 1994. In 2017, the practice was recognised as the AIA Chicago Firm of the Year. Peter is a professor at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.
From Newcastle. For the world.

From scientists to innovators of industry, Newcastle University has a proud tradition of staff and students who achieve great things in their chosen fields.

1849
Now considered one of the fathers of modern epidemiology, Newcastle Medical School graduate, John Snow, identifies cholera as a waterborne disease.

1955
Newcastle becomes known as the birthplace of Pop Art after Richard Hamilton exhibits his seminal work Man, Machine and Motion.

1960
Newcastle University researchers identify the major brain biochemical defect that causes Alzheimer’s disease.

1990s
Computing research at Newcastle University underpins the technology used on the New York Stock Exchange.

2000s
Experts at Newcastle University lead breakthroughs in the development of smart drugs known as PARP inhibitors, which can be used to treat cancer.

2016
Newcastle University engineers develop a new generation of prosthetic limbs that allow wearers to reach for objects without thinking – just like real hands.

2017
Newcastle experts are awarded the world’s first licence to offer a pioneering IVF technique to mothers affected by mitochondrial disease.

2018
Scientists at Newcastle University produce 3D-printed corneas that could help save the sight of people awaiting surgery.

2019
Dr Alan Jamieson breaks the British depth record to capture footage of new species of marine life in the Java Trench.
Alumni are the pride of Newcastle

Outstanding achievements in science and the financial sector have been recognised through the 2019 Alumni Achievement Awards.

MARIA NAZAROVA-DOYLE
WINNER OF THE ALUMNI RISING STAR AWARD
Forming part of the Pride of Newcastle University Awards, held this year in association with Northumbrian Water Group, the Alumni Achievement Awards were presented at Newcastle’s Civic Centre in June.

The annual ceremony celebrates both the achievements and contribution of students to University life and the wider community, and the positive impact the University’s alumni have nationally and internationally.

Winner of the Alumni Rising Star Award, Maria Nazarova-Doyle, was recognised for her outstanding accomplishments in the finance sector.

Her fantastic involvement with Newcastle University’s Business School has led to her becoming a recurring guest speaker to postgraduate students.

The award celebrated her advocacy work and her efforts to provide guidance to postgraduate Finance students, with the particular aim of encouraging women to enter the financial services industry.

Winner of the Alumni Impact Award, Dr Theo Anagnostopoulos, has gained scholarships, awards and published several peer reviewed papers, throughout his academic career.

He was among pioneers to introduce science communications, with an interactive approach to science education in Greece and Cyprus, and among the very first to deliver this globally.

Noticing a deep gap of knowledge between scientists and the general public, Theo started seeking the connection of scientific work to life outside the lab, working particularly to improve society.

He also co-founded SciCo, a non-profit organisation with the aim of communicating science in a simple and interactive way.
Alumni events

Stay connected across the globe through events including professional networking sessions, social mixers and reunions.

To keep up to date with alumni events visit www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/community/events

11–13.10.2019
Newcastle University Alumni Weekend

Alumni and families will be welcomed back to campus to enjoy a varied and stimulating programme, including hands-on activities, panel discussions, professional networking and tours.

Celebrate and strengthen your Newcastle connections and discover some of the world-leading work Newcastle University is doing to make a difference in society.

Can’t make it back to Newcastle? Join the event’s 5K virtual run and take part wherever you are in the world.

Complete the run at your own pace and share your photos using #NCL5K

18.10.2019
Welcome to the alumni network; the ‘Future of Work’ (Hong Kong)

Open to graduates from the last three years. Join fellow alumni over buffet refreshments to hear from alumni from a range of industries on the topic ‘Future of Work’.

18.10.2019
Welcome to the alumni network; preparing for life after university (Beijing)

Recent graduates are invited to come along and ask alumni from a range of disciplines about their careers and life after graduation.

19.10.2019
Welcome to the alumni network; 10-pin bowling (Malaysia)

Recent graduates are invited to join the 10-pin bowling social in Kuala Lumpur.

22.10.2019
Welcome to the alumni network; preparing for life after university (Shanghai)

Recent graduates are invited to come along and ask alumni from a range of disciplines about their careers and life after graduation.

25.10.2019
Welcome to the alumni network; networking (Seoul)

Join Newcastle University alumni in Seoul and welcome recent graduates to the network over refreshments.

28.10.2019
Welcome to the alumni network; NYC informal social

All alumni are invited to join an informal social to welcome recent graduates to the alumni network.

1.11.2019
Welcome to the alumni network; San Fran Breakfast

All alumni are invited to an informal social to welcome recent graduates to the alumni network.

18.10.2019
Welcome to the alumni network; the ‘Future of Work’ (Hong Kong)

Open to graduates from the last three years. Join fellow alumni over buffet refreshments to hear from alumni from a range of industries on the topic ‘Future of Work’.

18.10.2019
Welcome to the alumni network; preparing for life after university (Beijing)

Recent graduates are invited to come along and ask alumni from a range of disciplines about their careers and life after graduation.
5.12.2019

NCL Professional Network Breakfast (Newcastle)

Strategies for Sustainability with James Barker, Managing Director, Barker and Stonehouse. This event will be at Barker and Stonehouse, Strawberry Buildings, Leazes Park Road, Newcastle.

10.12.2019

NCL Professional Network Breakfast (London)

The Future of Work and Automation with Simon Constance, Partner People Advisory Services at EY. This event will be at EY, 25 Churchill Place, Canary Wharf, London.

05.02.2020

Postgraduate Open Day

Considering postgraduate study? Newcastle University’s on-campus Open Day on Wednesday 5 February 2020, is a great way to find out more.

You can:

• discuss your study options with a member of staff
• talk to current postgraduate students
• find out about funding opportunities
• get tips and advice on writing your application
• understand what it’s like to be part of our research community

As an alumni of Newcastle University you may be entitled to a 20% fee discount.

For more information and to reserve your place visit www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate/meet-us

Enquiries to pgevents@ncl.ac.uk

NCL PROFESSIONAL NETWORK

NCL Professional Network offers exclusive opportunities for Newcastle University graduates to further their professional development. Whether this is through events such as presentations, webinars, or panels, the University provides opportunities for you to network with the aim of expanding connections across multiple industries.

To find out more go to www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/community/nclprofessional

NEW SEASON OF LECTURES AND CONCERTS

The new season of INSIGHTS lectures and LIVE lunchtime concerts is due to begin soon. The events are free and open to all, with seating allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

This autumn season will feature talks from experts in the fields of history, medicine, philosophy and art, including the Director of Tate, Maria Balshaw (6 November), climate change expert, Professor Kevin Anderson (14 November) and leading stem cell scientist Professor Fiona Watt (28 November).

The LIVE programme includes an array of musical genres from classical to contemporary. Forthcoming concerts include performances from Rob Heron and The Tea Pad Orchestra who offer a North Eastern swing style like no other (24 October) and Michael Christian Durrant and Samuel Moore, who combine the world of flamenco and classical guitar (21 November).

To find out more about the events coming up this autumn, visit www.ncl.ac.uk/events/public-lectures and www.ncl.ac.uk/events/live-music
Staying connected

With over 229,000 alumni based across 187 countries, alumni societies are a great way to stay connected with like-minded individuals.

From region-specific societies, to those focused on a particular degree, industry, sport or special interest, Newcastle University is dedicated to helping alumni establish their network groups. And since no two societies are the same at Newcastle, there’s truly something for everyone.

Newcastle University is always ready to support you in setting up a new society. The University can provide tailored support for each society helping you provide the kind of group that suits you.

Alumni societies can be hosted on NCL spark, the University’s exclusive online platform, allowing societies to go global and host discussions and share resources with alumni across the world.

In order to set up a society, at least three alumni willing to support the group’s activity are required.

If you are interested in joining or setting up a society we’d like to hear from you. Contact advancement@ncl.ac.uk
**Society spotlight**

**UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY**

University of Newcastle Agricultural Society (UNAS), is open to all graduates with an interest in agriculture, food, or the rural environment.

In November 2019, UNAS will celebrate its 70th reunion weekend, when members are invited to return to campus and engage in a range of activities including a dinner, lectures and visits across the North East.

This strong network of members allows alumni to stay connected and support one another, as well as keep up to date with University news.

UNAS member, Alexander Blott, said: ‘UNAS connects Newcastle graduates, young and old, from across the rural and agricultural industry.

‘Each year UNAS hosts a number of social and educational events, enabling members to stay in touch and network to benefit their careers, businesses and their shared passion for the agricultural industry.’

**NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY BOAT CLUB**

The Newcastle University Boat Club (NUBC) has strong ties with the Blue Star Club, the official alumni boat club of Newcastle University.

As well as holding regular races, the Blue Star Club aims to help fundraise and support NUBC in its current activities. This has seen NUBC rowers propel Great Britain to the top of the medal table at the U23 World Championships in 2019.

Held in Florida, the championships proved to be the best-ever performance for NUBC with five rowers – one from Ireland and four from Great Britain – winning two gold medals, one silver and one bronze, as well as achieving an eighth place finish.

The University’s Director of Sport, Colin Blackburn, said: ‘We are delighted that the Great Britain Rowing Team topped the medal table at the recent U23 World Championships and that our students played such a prominent part in helping ensure this success.’

*Striking gold,* above. Newcastle University’s Lola Anderson (far right) won gold with the Team GB women’s quad.
Newcastle University is committed to supporting students as they enter the workplace. Featured in this section are some of the University initiatives that enable students to gain a unique, global insight into the world of work.

To find out how you can get involved, please contact advancement@ncl.ac.uk or call +44 (0) 191 208 3559.
Skills for success

Networking, communication, presentation and team working – four skills for success that students gain on Newcastle University’s Career Insights programme.

Developed to support students from different backgrounds to succeed in the graduate labour market, the programme offers a bespoke course of employability related activities.

Open to students who meet strict criteria based on need, it helps them gain relevant work experience, allowing them to explore a range of opportunities and build strong networks with employers on a local, national and global level.

Research shows that graduates’ chances of securing graduate-level employment can depend on their socio-economic background. Through the Career Insights programme the University aims to level that playing field, reflecting its commitment to ensuring all graduates, regardless of their circumstances, have equal opportunity to succeed.

MSci Biomedical Sciences student, Shauna Roberts, applied to the programme during her final year of study.

Keen to gain work experience before becoming a graduate, and aware that the graduate job market is extremely competitive, she wanted to develop skills that would help her stand out from the crowd.

A key part of the Career Insights programme is the integration of employers at every stage – from working with the Newcastle United Foundation on confidence building, through to visits to SMEs and graduate recruiters such as the Civil Service, the BBC, Nissan and GlaxoSmithKline.

Shauna was able to tap into this, visiting employers, and hearing first-hand what skills and knowledge they are looking for.

A business consultancy project with Accenture helped build her team working, negotiating and communication skills. This boosted her confidence and she went on to secure work experience with the Bobby Robson Cancer Trial Research Centre at the Northern Centre for Cancer Care.

Shauna said: ‘The highlight of the programme for me was an Amsterdam in Business trip. I put myself forward because I wanted to push myself out of my comfort zone and gain experience in an international environment.

‘This is something I would never have seen myself doing before starting this programme.’

Students submit a reflective report for assessment on the skills, experience and attributes they’ve gained, and are encouraged to capitalise on contacts made during the programme.

Shauna has now secured a place on the NHS Graduate Management Scheme for the North East, and said: ‘The programme has allowed me to gain valuable knowledge and a range of skills which I can speak about on my CV and in applications to make me more appealing to employers.’

www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni
Igniting the spark

Whether you want to become a mentor and share your career knowledge, or find a mentor and benefit from the advice and support of alumni around the world, Newcastle University’s online network will spark the right connections.

NCL spark is exclusive to Newcastle graduates and students, offering a dynamic online route to connect and network.

Tom Cullen studied Mathematics at Newcastle, completing his Master’s degree in Banking and Finance in 2017. Now working as an analyst with Barclays Investment Bank, he decided to become a mentor with NCL spark after experiencing how tough it was to break into his chosen career.

He said: ‘I wish I’d known earlier the value of the alumni network to connect, ask questions and seek advice. It’s a resource that can help you with internships, interviews and applying for jobs.’

Tom is currently mentoring a student after signing up to NCL spark at www.ncl.ac.uk/nclspark

He added: ‘If you are applying for a job, find a Newcastle alumnus who works at that company and reach out to them first. I always found there were people who would help, investing their time voluntarily and helping me open doors.’

Following a summer internship related to management consultancy, Geography student Josephine Armstrong wanted a better insight into careers in the field.

She said; ‘I had hoped to connect to a handful of mentors to allow me to ask questions and discover different pathways within the industry.

‘Instead, I had the choice of many influential local and global mentors. And, after networking with many mentors on NCL spark, I actually had the chance to meet a local management consultant.

‘Meeting face-to-face was a unique experience that I couldn’t have organised without NCL spark. It really allowed me to build confidence with regard to the application process.’

‘The alumni network is a resource that can help you with internships, interviews and applying for jobs.”

TOM CULLEN
Going out to work

Since the 2017/18 academic year, the majority of Newcastle University undergraduates have had the opportunity to complete an optional work placement year, exploring their career options and gaining valuable practical skills.

This has sparked a 97% increase in the number of students on placement and currently 550 undergraduates are working across 21 countries in nearly 300 different organisations.

English Language and Literature student, Raveena Mehta, took advantage of the scheme and now she’s hoping others will follow her lead.

She currently works as a communications intern at the Healthcare division of General Electric (GE), a global company that sells medical equipment such as MRI and CT scanners.

Having applied for PR and marketing placements, Raveena was asked to interview for a role on GE Healthcare’s communications team.

‘At that point, I didn’t even know that communications existed,’ she said. ‘That’s the advantage of doing a year in industry – you’re aware of what type of roles are available before you graduate.

‘Now that I’m in an office environment, I know what each different department does and it’s opened my eyes to what I can apply for in the future.’

Chemical engineering student, Sarah Jones, is halfway through a work placement with chemical manufacturer Synthomer. She’s already spent six months as a process engineer overseeing the production of latex at Synthomer’s site in Malaysia and is now completing her placement year at the UK site in Grimsby.

She said: ‘I thought gaining some experience in industry would be a good idea, and it has confirmed that this is an area I want to work in after all.

‘I loved working in Malaysia; it was amazing to experience a different culture. I learnt a lot because I’d never been on a chemical site. I had my hard hat on every day, checking water leaks and doing pressure tests of pipes and reactors.

‘Initially I was surprised by the responsibility that I was given, but it was such a confidence boost.’

She added: ‘Being in the workplace has given me such a boost and made me realise that communication and teamwork are as important as the academic side of things.’
Philanthropy at Newcastle contributes hugely to the life of the University, allowing it to achieve many outstanding things – just a few of which are featured here.

To find out more about how you could get involved, please get in touch with the team at advancement@ncl.ac.uk
Building excellence: Sir Terry Farrell

They blew up his building in the James Bond blockbuster Skyfall.

Thankfully, it was just clever computer graphics that tore a hole in the London headquarters of MI6, and the building designed by Newcastle alumnus Sir Terry Farrell still towers, proud and intact, over the city’s Albert Embankment today.

It’s not the only building Sir Terry has put his name to during his distinguished career as one of the world’s most eminent architects. But now a building he didn’t design is to be named after him on campus.

The Sir Terry Farrell Building – formerly the Claremont Building, on the corner of Barras Bridge and Claremont Road – will become a world-leading centre exploring Newcastle’s past and future in relation to future cities across the globe.

‘I’m delighted to have this building named The Sir Terry Farrell Building, it means a great deal to me and I will always treasure this honour,’ said Sir Terry.

‘I know the building well as, during my fifth and final year at the School of Architecture in 1960/61, I designed and worked on my final thesis there.’

Last year, Sir Terry, who founded the prestigious architectural firm Farrells, donated his personal archive and £1m to the University to help create the unique centre.

Work to transform the building is expected to start later this year and, once complete, it will house a major exhibition area for architecture and urban design, space for events, study and research, and a business start-up area for recent graduates.

The centre will be anchored around Sir Terry’s extensive archive which spans six decades of his career, and include models, drawings, papers and diaries referencing iconic and award-winning design, such as the MI6 Building and Beijing South Station in China.

It will also feature pieces from his school days growing up in Newcastle and from his five years as a student studying architecture at Newcastle University between 1956 and 1961.

Originally from Newcastle, Sir Terry played a large part in shaping the way his home city looks, including developing the Newcastle Quayside masterplan, designing the International Centre for Life, and refurbishing and extending the Great North Museum: Hancock.

He also created a masterplan for the University campus, all of which resulted in him being made a Visiting Professor in the School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape and an Honorary Freeman of Newcastle in 2016.

“'I’m delighted to have this building named The Sir Terry Farrell Building and I will always treasure this honour.”

Sir Terry Farrell
Catalyst for change: Helen McArdle CBE

Taking shape at Newcastle Helix, the city’s global hub for urban innovation, is the unique and aptly named building, The Catalyst.

Soon to be home to two national innovation centres based at Newcastle University, it will also house the Helen McArdle Atrium – a fitting tribute to a local philanthropist and entrepreneur, who has herself proved a catalyst for change in the care of the elderly.

A founder of successive outstanding care home businesses and a member of the University’s governance body, Court, Helen McArdle CBE has been a long-standing advocate for research on ageing and ensuring the highest standards of care and compassion for those who need it the most.

She said: ‘I am delighted to be honoured in this way and to be connected with the worthwhile research I see at Newcastle.

‘My own experience of working with people affected with dementia, Alzheimer’s and mobility issues in the care homes, has brought home to me the far-reaching impact these conditions have on the individual and their wider family. This underlines the importance of the work being carried out at Newcastle University.’

In 1989, Helen founded the care home business Helen McArdle Care, which grew to 19 homes across the North East before being sold in 2017. Founding Kids 1st Nurseries in 2004, she also built a portfolio of 13 nurseries by the time she sold the business in 2015. She is now a director of HMC Group, which owns and manages various land holdings throughout the North East.

An active philanthropist, Helen’s legacy is significant and touches many lives through many organisations, including Newcastle University, the Prince’s Trust, the Newcastle United Foundation, Willow Burn Hospice, the Calvert Trust and Build Africa.

In 2015 Helen was made a CBE for her services to the care home industry and the local community. She was appointed to the Court of Newcastle University in 2016.

The Helen McArdle Atrium will be an exhibition and venue space, providing a dynamic entrance to the National Innovation Centre for Ageing (NICA), which works with research specialists, businesses and the public on services and technologies to help people live better, longer lives, and the National Innovation Centre for Data (NICD), which focuses on opportunities offered by the explosion in digital data.

The Catalyst will also house the NIHR Innovation Observatory which applies Big Data analytical tools to reveal global trends in health innovation.

An extensive programme of outreach will take place within the Helen McArdle Atrium, beginning with the inaugural McArdle Lecture in December attended by celebrated ambassador of ‘ageing well’, Angela Rippon OBE.
"I am delighted to be honoured in this way and to be connected with the worthwhile research I see at Newcastle."

HELEN MCARDLE
A scholarship programme to honour the memory of the late Professor Jimmy Steele CBE was set up in May.

The fund will raise money to make it possible for more disadvantaged students to study undergraduate Dentistry and ultimately follow a career in Dental Sciences.

The programme has already attracted over £22,000 in committed donations and the first students to benefit from scholarships are beginning their studies at Newcastle University this year.

A leader in his field, Jimmy spent over 25 years sharing his wisdom, teaching and ultimately inspiring a generation of Newcastle University dentists, before his untimely death aged 55.

He joined Newcastle University in 1989, becoming Head of the School of Dental Sciences. Throughout his career, he championed students from all backgrounds and was a strong believer that ability, not circumstances, should dictate a person’s prospects in life.

Jimmy built an outstanding reputation at Newcastle where he spearheaded the Independent Review of NHS Dentistry, which aimed to ensure patients received the best and most effective care possible.

He was made a CBE in 2012 for services to dentistry and oral health, and in 2016 received the prestigious John Tomes Medal, awarded by the British Dental Association for his scientific work and outstanding contribution to his profession.

Jimmy’s wife, Professor Katie Bushby, said: ‘We are really excited that a scholarship has been established in Jimmy’s name.

‘Taking the step to start to study dentistry can be very daunting for prospective students from less privileged backgrounds. This kind of problem should never be the barrier to talented people who have a passion to study to be a dentist and fulfil their dreams.’

To add your support and to donate to the Jimmy Steele Memorial Fund visit www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/jimmy-steele
One of the biggest barriers to studying for a degree can be money.

So when money is tight, Newcastle University can step in, to ensure highly motivated, enthusiastic students from all backgrounds fully enjoy all aspects of higher education.

The University’s means-tested Opportunity Scholarships help talented students to focus more on their studies, giving them the financial security to apply for summer internships, be included in social and study trips, or take up extracurricular activities that may have been out of reach.

The extra financial support gives students peace of mind, allowing them to make the most of their University experience.

And because university is a chance to not only learn new things but also meet new people, Opportunity Scholarship students say the support also helps them make new friends.

In the academic year 2018/19, almost 25% of Newcastle’s first year undergraduate students received an Opportunity Scholarship, with the scheme covering over 107 different courses of study – from Medicine and Mechanical Engineering to English Literature and Economics.

In total, over 52% of scholarships have been given to students who were the first in their family to go to university, reflecting the University’s commitment to improving social mobility and ensuring that it’s ability – not personal circumstances – that matters the most.

For Architecture and Urban Planning student, Amy Manning, the financial support helps her buy the materials she needs for her course. Materials such as wood, cardboard, pens and specialist papers can be expensive, but her scholarship contributes to these costs, allowing Amy to present her best work.

The scheme is also supporting Callum Martin in playing for the Law football team, contributing to his match and referee fees. He’s made new friends – people who don’t study Law, as well as Law students at different stages of their degree – which has supported him in his studies.

To find out more about Opportunity Scholarships and how you could help, contact Aerian Rogers on Tel.+44 (0) 191 208 5107 or email aerian.rogers@ncl.ac.uk.
Why it’s good to keep in touch

Alumni from all over the world are brought together in one community as graduates of Newcastle University.
UPDATE YOUR DETAILS

Your University is for life and our Advancement team wants to help you make the most of being Newcastle University alumni. Stay in contact with us to hear about our latest news, events, and opportunities.

Updating your details allows you to:

• grow your professional network
• discover and attend events
• reunite with friends
• further your career
• share your University experience
• give back to our students and your University

To update your details, please visit www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/intouch

NCL SPARK

NCL spark is your exclusive graduate platform providing you with a new way to network with fellow alumni and connect with a mentor wherever you are. See the feature on page 25 and join now at www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/nclspark

BUILD YOUR NETWORK

Connect and build your network at one of our events. To browse all our upcoming events and gatherings throughout the next year visit www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/community/events

CAREERS SERVICE

For up to three years after your graduation, our Careers Service provides free careers and Business START UP support. Even if you are no longer local to the North East, graduates can access this support via email, phone, or Skype. Find out more at www.ncl.ac.uk/careers

REMEMBER WHEN?

If you want to reminisce and celebrate your time at Newcastle University, why not reconnect through a reunion? Our Advancement team provides support to our alumni interested in organising a reunion. Email us at advancement@ncl.ac.uk

CONTACT US

Contact the team at NU Advancement, Newcastle University, King’s Gate, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 7RU, United Kingdom

Telephone  +44 (0) 191 208 7250
Fax  +44 (0) 191 208 5905
Email  advancement@ncl.ac.uk
Website  www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni

FOLLOW US

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

www.facebook.com/nclalumni
@NCLAlumni
www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/linkedin
NCLAlumni

For information on Newcastle University’s guidelines on data management and retention, visit www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/contact/privacy-policy
A LASTING LEGACY

Legacy gifts of all sizes are helping transform Newcastle University.

By remembering the University in your Will, you can make a lasting difference by helping advance knowledge, create opportunity and address the global challenges that affect all our futures.

To find out more, visit www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/legacy