

# NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY

## THE SIXTIETH ORDINARY MEETING OF CONVOCATION

to be held on Saturday 17 June 2017, 14.30-16.00  
in the Curtis Auditorium, Herschel Building.

### AGENDA

#### 1. WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Chair of Convocation, Mr Antony Jones

#### 2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 11 June 2016

To receive:

The Minutes of the Fifty-ninth Ordinary Meeting of Convocation held on 11 June 2016.  
[Document A](#)

#### 3. MATTERS ARISING

#### 4. THE VICE-CHANCELLOR AND PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT TO CONVOCATION FOR 2016-17.

To receive:

A presentation from the Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor Chris Day.

#### QUESTIONS

The Vice-Chancellor and President will be pleased to answer questions at the meeting from members of Convocation and would be grateful to receive notice of these, as far as possible. Members are asked to submit these by email to the Chair of Convocation at: [advancement@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:advancement@ncl.ac.uk) or alternatively please call the NU Advancement office on 0191 208 7250 for the postal address.

#### 5. FACULTY PRO-VICE-CHANCELLOR REPORTS

To receive: The Faculty Pro-Vice-Chancellor presentations:

- i) Professor Julie Sanders, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.
- ii) Professor David Burn, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for the Faculty of Medical Sciences.
- iii) Professor Phil Taylor, Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellor for the Faculty of Science, Agriculture and Engineering.

## **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

### **6. THE PRINCIPLES FOR THE AWARD OF HONORARY FELLOWSHIPS AND HONORARY DEGREES.**

To receive:

- i) The Principles for the award of Honorary Fellowships **Document B**
- ii) The Principles for the award of Honorary Degrees **Document C**

### **7. HONORARY DEGREES AWARDED IN 2015-16 and 2016-17**

To report:

Honorary degrees were conferred on the following individuals at degree ceremonies held on the **13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> July 2016**:

**Professor Sir Eric Thomas DCL** - is an alumnus and former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Bristol. Training as an obstetrician and gynaecologist, he has held high level positions at Southampton and Bristol universities as well as public roles nationally and internationally.

**Professor James Syvitski DSc** - is an oceanographer and geologist. A Professor of Geological Sciences at the University of Boulder, Colorado, USA and chair of the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme, he is widely regarded as a world leader in Earth-system science.

**Dr Brian Alderson DLitt** - is one of the UK's most respected and influential critics, scholars and supporters of children's book history as well as being an author, translator and editor of many popular children's books.

**Ms Anne Longfield OBC DCL** - is the Children's Commissioner for England a post which has a legal duty to promote and protect the rights of all children in England with a particular focus on children and young people living away from home, in or leaving care, or receiving social care services.

**Mr Robin (Ram Prasad) Sengupta MD** - is a World-renowned Neurosurgeon and Founder Chairman of the Institute of Neurosciences, Kolkata (a 150-bed facility for the vast numbers of underprivileged people afflicted by neurological illnesses). Since 1961 he has worked for over 50 years in the NHS, mostly in Newcastle.

To report:

In 2014, Senate agreed to award honorary degrees in areas related to the University's three societal challenge themes at December 2015 congregation ceremonies.

An honorary degree was conferred on the following individual at a ceremony held on the **7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> December 2016**:

**Professor Peter Pronovost MD** - is an anaesthesiologist and critical care physician. He is a world-renowned champion of patient safety and a practicing critical care physician. He is both a clinician and an academic researcher, taking scientific evidence to the bedside, and is known for motivating health care professionals in large health systems. He is Professor of Anaesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine and Senior Vice President of Patient Safety and Quality at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in the USA.

**Baroness Sally Greengross OBE DCL** - is Chief Executive of the International Longevity Centre UK. A leading campaigner for older people, Sally Greengross has lobbied tirelessly to improve attitudes towards and policy concerning older people for over 40 years. Her campaigning began when she joined Age Concern in 1975, where she went on to become Director General from 1987 until 2000. During this time she was responsible for building Age Concern Enterprises into a multi-million-pound business.

**Professor Claudia Rankine DLitt** - is a poet and playwright. One of the foremost poets and playwrights in the world today, Claudia Rankine's work often crosses genres as it tracks wild and precise movements of mind. She has written five collections of poetry including *Citizen: An American Lyric* and *Don't Let Me Be Lonely*; two plays including *Provenance of Beauty: A South Bronx Travelogue*; numerous video collaborations, and is the editor of several anthologies.

**Jenny Saunders OBE DCL** - is Chief Executive of National Energy Action, the UK's leading fuel poverty charity, campaigning for affordable warmth in the homes of vulnerable people. Under her guidance, the NEA has made a significant contribution to the policy arena with regard to fuel poverty and continues to maintain close links to government departments in addressing these issues.

## **8. HONORARY FELLOWSHIPS AWARDED IN 2016-17**

To report:

Honorary fellowships were conferred on the following individuals at a ceremony held on **10 October 2016**:

### **Mrs Monica Doughty**

Monica was the Office and Advertising Manager of Courier for 33 years until her retirement in 1997. Before the evolution of digital publication and self-editing software, Courier was produced and published with the same process and technology as any national newspaper. Young student journalists researched, typed, edited and submitted their stories, which were eventually printed in the weekly editions of the Courier, via hot metal at a professional printing company in Consett. All national newspapers had –and indeed have today—a Production Editor and Monica was in effect the Production Editor of Courier.

Monica oversaw all copy and ran the Courier office with fierce control. Formidable and outspoken, Monica never interfered editorially but she insisted on honesty; accuracy, speed and reliability. Over four decades, she trained many of today's leading media and political figures and most regard her as a legend. Every week she spent a day at the Consett printers overseeing the setting and layout of the newspaper. It was due to Monica that Courier never paid a commercial rate for printing – year after year she bargained them out!

As the Advertising Manager Monica was hugely successful, delivering serious profits to Courier. She bartered, bullied and charmed many, many Newcastle businesses to take ad space in Courier—often against their better judgement! When Courier wrote a negative story about an advertiser, Monica never commented or interfered and usually managed to retain their business.

### **Ms Pat Ritchie**

Pat Ritchie became Newcastle City Council's first female Chief Executive in January 2013. Before that she was the Chief Executive of the Government's Homes and Community Agency (HCA) from 2010. She led the delivery of the Affordable Homes Programme, decent homes, and locally led economic development including the publication of the HCA's first development and land disposal strategy.

Pat has extensive experience in economic development, business and skills support. As Assistant Chief Executive (Strategy) at One North East, she led on the Regional Economic Strategy (RES) that put science and innovation at its heart and which identified several Centres of Excellence to build on these strengths, including Newcastle Science City. Through the RES and the Centres, the University benefitted significantly from strategic investment in a number of key projects including developments at the Campus for Ageing and Vitality. Prior to One North East, she was Deputy Chief Executive of The Wise Group, a prominent employment and training company in Scotland and the North of England.

As a world-class civic university, a strong and productive partnership with Newcastle City Council is important to us. We have been very fortunate that in Pat Ritchie we have a City leader who actively and wholeheartedly supports this partnership.

## **9. DEATHS AND OBITUARIES**

A list of deaths is available on the Alumni website and hard copies available at the meeting.

## **10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

To report:

The *provisional* date of the sixty first Ordinary Meeting of Convocation is Saturday 16 June 2018. This date is to be confirmed.

**Mr Antony E Jones**  
**Chair of Convocation**  
**13 April 2017**