

dunelm

THE MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS
OF DURHAM UNIVERSITY

MAGAZINE

THE FIRST WOMAN BISHOP IN
THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
A DURHAM ALUMNA

WHAT THE COLLEGES MEAN TO ME
CHAIR OF COUNCIL REFLECTS

PROFESSOR JOE ELLIOTT
ON THE DYSLEXIA DEBATE



Top 100 in the Times Higher
Education World Reputation
Review rankings 2015

THE  TIMES
THE SUNDAY TIMES

SPORTS UNIVERSITY
OF THE YEAR 2015

Awarded for success in sport education, research,
achievement, participation and outreach.

2015

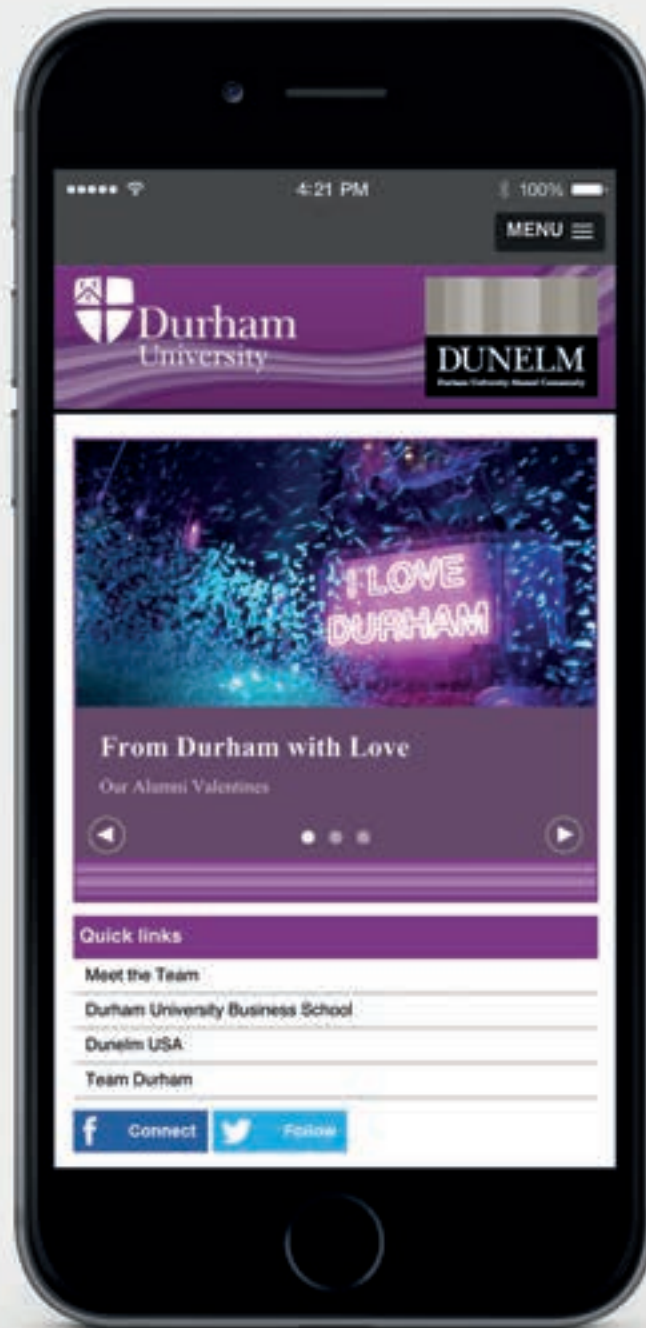
ISSUE 01

DUNELM

Durham University Alumni Community

www.dunelm.org.uk

The new alumni community website



We'll be continuing development of the website over the coming months, so do let us know what you think and what you'd like to see there.

The alumni community offers useful connections all over the world, with a global events calendar backed by a network of alumni volunteers and associations, combining professional networking and social gatherings with industry-specific workshops and research dissemination. We have major events in cities across the UK and around the world, ranging from formal dinners, grand balls, exclusive receptions and wine tastings, to Christmas carol concerts, sporting events, family days and more.

DUNELM
Durham University Alumni Community

welcome

Welcome to your new alumni magazine. It is particularly gratifying to find a new way to represent the Durham experience. Since I joined the University two and a half years ago, I have been amazed by how multi-faceted it all is. I therefore hope that the new version of this magazine is able to reflect that richness in the same way that Durham First did for so many years. In fact, in order to continue to offer exceptional communication, we have updated your alumni magazine, your website - www.dunelm.org.uk - and your various social media pages. All in all, it is an exciting time to be part of the Durham community. Not only has a fellow Durham alumna become the first female bishop in the Church of England, but we are about to welcome a new Vice-Chancellor, who I believe will take the University to even greater success. I hope very much that you will support his endeavours by helping Durham and its community excel. Why not have a look at the events' calendar and come along to an alumni gathering (p30). Or why not host an event yourself as part of our Dunelm Days celebration in May (pp 33-34)? Do join in if you are able. We love to hear from you and of your many and varied activities.

Bruno van Dyk
Director of Development and Alumni Relations

Editor
David Williams
Alumni Relations Manager

Design
Curious12 curious12.com

Print
[statexcolourprint statex.co.uk](http://statexcolourprint.statex.co.uk)

Contact
Alumni Relations Office
The Palatine Centre
Durham University
Stockton Road
Durham
DH1 3LE

t +44 (0) 191 334 6305
f +44 (0) 191 334 6073

alumni.office@durham.ac.uk
www.dunelm.org.uk

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A round-up of news from Durham University



DURHAM UNIVERSITY UNVEILS NEW LANDMARK BUILDING

Durham University has unveiled plans for a £10 million new building to house its world-renowned Ogden Centre for Fundamental Physics. Two major gifts have been made towards the project: £3.35 million from the Ogden Trust, founded by Durham alumnus Sir Peter Ogden (Physics, University College, 1968) and £1.5 million from the Wolfson Foundation.

The original Ogden Centre for Fundamental Physics, established by an earlier £2 million gift from the Ogden Trust, was opened in 2002. It incorporates two prestigious institutes: the Institute for Computational Cosmology, one of the world's premier theoretical cosmology groups, and the only Institute for Particle Physics Phenomenology globally.

The new building has been made necessary by the Centre's rapid growth and academic success, and will enable it to maintain its leading global position in the decades ahead.

The world-renowned architectural practice Studio Daniel Libeskind (SDL) is designing the new building. SDL has designed numerous projects of global significance, including the Jewish Museum in Berlin and the master plan for Ground Zero in New York.

The planned new development will be located adjacent to the current Physics department on South Road, Durham. The unique design of the proposed building will reflect the international standing of the two research institutes, giving a clear and recognisable identity in the context of Durham's architectural heritage.

Follow progress on the project: <http://bit.ly/1xQKmGC>



Left to right: Prof Chris Higgins, then VC of Durham University, Sir Peter Ogden, Chair of the Ogden Trust, and Lady Catherine Ogden

ALL OF DURHAM'S SUBJECTS RECEIVE A TOP TEN RANKING THE ONLY UK UNIVERSITY TO ACHIEVE THIS RECOGNITION

All of Durham University's courses are ranked in the UK's top ten according to the 2015 Complete University Guide. This secures Durham's position as one of the finest all-round universities in the

country, delivering excellence in education and research across all its disciplines.

The Complete University Guide 2015 places Durham as the leading university in the UK in terms of proportion of its courses (100 per cent) ranked in the top ten in the country. We are the only University to achieve this result.

In addition, Durham is second only to Cambridge in the total number of courses it offers which are ranked the leading course in the subject in the UK.

All but three of Durham's 22 ranked Departments/Schools offer courses ranked in the top five in the UK.

The Complete University Guide, which ranks 123 British universities, named Durham as the country's fifth best university overall for the fourth year running.

SPIN-OUT COMPANY KROMEK RAISES £15 MILLION IN FLOTATION

A Durham University spin-out company specialising in digital colour x-ray imaging attracted the attention of investors worldwide after its shares began trading on AIM, the London Stock Exchange's international market for growing companies.

Kromek raised £15 million to help fund expansion and future growth in a successful, oversubscribed flotation on 16 October that valued the company at £55 million.

The company was formed in 2003 to exploit technology originally developed in the Department of Physics at Durham University as part of a collaborative project led by the late Professor Andy Brinkman.

Spin-out companies form high-profile vehicles for translating university research into the industrial sector. The University receives shares in a spin-out in exchange for access to intellectual property rights generated by university research.

Kromek Chief Executive and Durham University alumnus Dr Arnab Basu said: "We are delighted with our oversubscribed fundraising. After many years developing the business and our technology, Kromek is ready to begin harvesting value by seizing the opportunities to sell our technology and products into the medical imaging, security screening and nuclear detection markets."

Read more: <http://bit.ly/1xhs7gJ>

Below: Kromek Chief Executive and Durham University alumnus Dr Arnab Basu





DURHAM UNIVERSITY UNVEILS ICONIC NEW BUSINESS SCHOOL

Durham University Business School (DUBS) has a newly refurbished and extended main School building.

The building's interior structure has been re-engineered to allow a greater flow of people between lectures, seminars and office space. New facilities include:

- Harvard-style lecture theatre – the pinnacle of the School's teaching auditoriums, accommodating up to 78 students.
- Large tiered lecture theatre – seating more than 200 people, enabling lecturers to address greater numbers of students.
- Study space and library area – this large area is equipped with modern IT infrastructure, plus ergonomic desks and seating.
- Medium tiered lecture theatre – our new medium-sized theatres host various class sizes, ranging from 20 to 70 students.
- Postgraduate research area – reserved for our doctoral research community, giving them a private space for study.
- Research lounges – providing a quiet, convenient setting for scholarly discussion on a one-to-one basis and within small groups.
- Lounge and outdoor terrace – a versatile space for a variety of purposes including corporate engagements.
- Premium boardroom – our prestigious meeting room reflects the style and quality of a leading multinational company. Here, we carry out our Boardroom Activity, letting executives from industry put our students to the test in mock boardroom situations.
- Wetland conservation area – this beautiful outdoor space is dedicated to preserving the local ecology, reflecting our desire to respect the environment and the site's long-term sustainability.

Discover the opportunities available at DUBS on the website: www.durham.ac.uk/business

UNIVERSITY SPIN-OUT MAKES £11 MILLION DEBUT ON STOCK EXCHANGE



Left to right: Applied Graphene Materials Chief Technical Director Karl Coleman and CEO Jon Mabbitt

Durham University spin-out company Applied Graphene Materials (AGM) has raised £11 million by floating on AIM, the London Stock Exchange's international market for growing companies.

AGM was founded in 2010 by Professor Karl Coleman, of the University's Department of Chemistry, and is based on his research into graphene, a form of carbon that possesses a unique combination of mechanical, thermal and electrical properties.

The company has developed a process for the production of high-purity graphene nanoplatelets for use in polymer composites, paints and coatings, lubricants and electronics.

Jon Mabbitt, CEO of AGM, said: "This funding will allow us to begin the next phase of development and to strengthen relationships with our partners. Applied Graphene Materials is now well positioned to meet the growing global appetite for graphene as a wonder material of the 21st century."



DURHAM STUDENT CROWNED THE UK'S "BEST AND BRIGHTEST" WINS COVETED INDUSTRY PLACEMENT

A Durham University student has won a national competition for a coveted placement with the largest engineering company in Europe.

Holly Anderson, a third-year Economics student, came out top over 6,000 students from 166 universities battling to win a paid internship with the multinational electronics and engineering conglomerate Siemens.

She entered the TARGETjobs National Student

Challenge, which is run in partnership with Siemens. The challenge allows students to develop their employability skills prior to applying for graduate positions.

Holly, a student at St Mary's College, took a lengthy online intelligence test and, as one of the 50 highest scorers, was invited to the final stage of the competition. Here she took part in a variety of practical tests, which included individual and group exercises devised to test her decision-making, creativity and business awareness.

Durham University students are among the most sought after graduates in the world. The University is ranked in the World Top 25 for the employability of its graduates (2014/15 QS World University Rankings).

THE BARKER RESEARCH LIBRARY AT PALACE GREEN

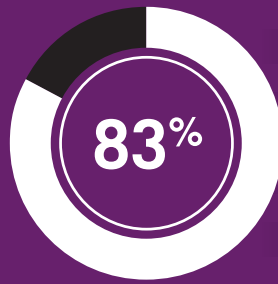
Full reading services have now reopened at Palace Green Library in the splendidly refurbished Barker Research Library. It is located in a stunning extension to Palace Green Library, constructed in 1968 to an acclaimed design by George Pace. Built overlooking the river and on the line of the old castle wall, its latticed western wall floods the library with light, creating a warm and serene atmosphere in which to study. All Special Collections books and archives are available in the Research Library's Search Room, and the Local Studies and History of the Book collections have returned to open access to readers. All this is accessible Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm. (The Search Room at 5 The College has reverted to opening three days per week, Wednesday to Friday from 9am to 1pm and 2pm to 5pm for researchers into the Cathedral's archive only.) Wireless network access is available for those pre-registered on Eduroam, or upon request.

NEWS

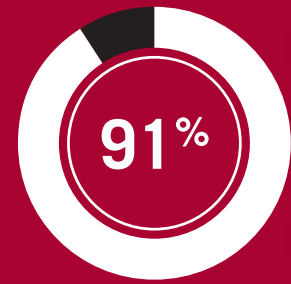
Durham University REF 2014 results



98% of research assessed as international quality (4* + 3* + 2*)



83% of research assessed as "internationally excellent quality" or "world-leading" (3* + 4*)



91% of our research impact case studies were assessed as having "outstanding" or "very considerable" impacts in terms of their reach and significance

The University's research environment was found to be of international quality across the board, and 98 per cent of it was assessed as "internationally excellent" or "world-leading" (3* + 4*). Thank you to all our staff for their hard work on the REF 2014 submission

REF 2014

The Research Excellence Framework (REF 2014) measured the quality and impact of research submitted by UK universities across all disciplines.

Some 83 per cent of Durham's research was assessed as "internationally excellent quality" or "world-leading", that is, either 3* or 4*. Overall, 98 per cent of Durham University research was assessed as international quality, or 4*+3*+2*.

One of the new assessment criteria introduced for REF 2014 was the wider societal impact of university research. Durham submitted 89 'impact case studies', where research had translated into real-life applications with broad benefits to society, the economy, politics and the environment. Over 90 per cent of case studies were graded 3* and 4* - as having "outstanding" or "very considerable" impacts in terms of their reach and significance.

Examples of impact case studies from Durham include the following.

- Millions of mobile devices are protected from water damage by super-repellent nanocoatings invented at Durham University – so they still work after being used in the rain or dropped in a puddle.
- Research at Durham University into the criminal law on extreme pornography played a major part in Scotland's decision to outlaw possession of images of rape and helped influence Prime Minister David Cameron to introduce similar legislation in England and Wales.
- Billions of pounds of funding to raise the educational attainment of children from disadvantaged backgrounds is being targeted more effectively by schools using the Pupil Premium Toolkit developed by Durham University.
- An open access tool used to search databases of classical Latin and Greek texts has offered enthusiasts worldwide unprecedented access to ancient literature.
- Research by Durham University's Parent-Infant Sleep Lab has influenced official advice given to parents about looking after their babies at night, as well as hospital policy and healthcare practice, both within the UK and internationally.
- The Lindisfarne Gospels exhibition in Durham, based on new research into how the role of this iconic book evolved over time, increased public understanding and appreciation of Anglo-Saxon manuscripts and culture. It was visited by almost 100,000 people from many countries, engaged hundreds of schoolchildren through an extensive outreach programme, brought significant economic benefits for regional businesses and inspired further research, notably into the pigments of medieval illuminators.

REF results are one indicator of a university's reputation in the UK and internationally, and around £2 billion of research funding is distributed by the higher education funding councils per year on the basis of these results. Further information: www.durham.ac.uk/ref

776 Staff entered for submission



77.6 % of eligible staff submitted



23 Submissions across 22 Units of Assessment



2787 Outputs included



89 Impact Case Studies



83% of research assessed as "internationally excellent quality" or "world-leading" (3* + 4*)

3* 4*

IMPACT

91% of our research impact case studies were assessed as having "outstanding" or "very considerable" impacts in terms of their reach and significance





DURHAM UNIVERSITY SPIN-OUT IN DEAL TO DEVELOP POTENTIAL PROSTATE CANCER TEST

A Durham University spin-out company has signed a deal to enable the development of technology that could improve the diagnosis of prostate cancer in the future.

FScan Ltd has agreed a worldwide exclusive licensing deal with Glide Pharma, which will see the Oxfordshire-based company exploit its lanthanide technology that uses light energy to measure the level of citrate in seminal fluid samples. The level of citrate can be used to signal the onset and progression of prostate cancer.

The technology was developed by Professor David Parker and Dr Robert Pal working in Durham University's Department of Chemistry, where David has been a Professor since 1992. Dr Pal, a former Durham PhD student and a current Research Associate, began a prestigious Royal Society University Research Fellowship in October 2014.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/1sCndDf>

Left: Dr Robert Pal, Dept of Chemistry, Durham University



Left: Reinnervate founder and Chief Scientific Officer, Professor Stefan Przyborski

LEADING JAPANESE STEM CELL COMPANY INVESTS IN DURHAM TECHNOLOGY

One of the world's leading suppliers of stem cells has joined forces with Durham University to develop technology enabling heart, liver and nerve cells to be cultured into three-dimensional tissue. The Japanese company Reprocell has acquired

Durham spin-out Reinnervate Ltd and agreed to invest in further research in the University's laboratories into scaffolding structures that support 3D cell growth.

Reinnervate was spun out by Durham University in 2002 and markets Alvetex, a highly porous polystyrene material that is an ideal base for growing cells into 3D structures. Laboratory experiments on cells, for example in cancer research and drug testing, often yield more accurate results when the cells are cultured into 3D rather than 2D shapes in flat-bottomed dishes. The agreement between Reprocell and Durham University will see the Reinnervate founder and Chief Scientific Officer, Professor Stefan Przyborski, working with the Japanese company in Durham research labs. Reprocell will also invest in research facilities and new research studentships at the University.

Professor Przyborski, who in addition to his role at Reinnervate is Professor of Cell Technology in the School of Biological and Biomedical Sciences at Durham University, said: "Reprocell's acquisition of Reinnervate and BioServe makes us part of a large

international business at the cutting edge of cell technology and stem cell science and with a global distribution network. This is great news for biomedical research, for Durham University, and for economic development in North East England." Read more: <http://bit.ly/1wWv30G>

DURHAM CEMENTS POSITION AS A WORLD TOP 100 UNIVERSITY

Durham University has been ranked in the world's top 100 universities for reputation, based on the results of the Times Higher Education World Reputation Review rankings 2015.

The accolade reaffirms Durham University's position as one of the world's top universities - Durham is consistently ranked in the top 100 in two influential league tables, the Times Higher Education World University Rankings and the QS World University Rankings.

MOST REVD AND RT HON JUSTIN WELBY, ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY

DOCTOR OF DIVINITY

TAKEN FROM THE ORATION
GIVEN UPON THE AWARDING OF
BISHOP JUSTIN WELBY'S
HONORARY DOCTORATE

Justin Welby has one of the strangest jobs in England. As Archbishop of Canterbury, he is the Church of England's cat-herder in chief, charged with governing the ungovernable, granted immense responsibilities but almost none of the power that one might expect to accompany them. And yet, after two years in post, it is already clear that he is a remarkable man, who has grasped the responsibilities handed to him with striking seriousness and clarity of purpose – and with a deep sense of calling. There is a passage in the Bible that describes the calling of the prophet Isaiah. Isaiah, praying in the temple, has an overwhelming vision of God. He is convinced of his unworthiness, but God proclaims his forgiveness. And when God then asks who will go as witness, to speak God's message to God's people. Isaiah – unworthy but forgiven – responds, "Here am I; send me!" Justin has made a habit of saying, "Here am I; send me!" He was called to become Archbishop when he had only just begun his term as Bishop here in Durham; he had been called to Durham while still immersed in his work as Dean of Liverpool Cathedral. He sought neither call; in each case he was doing good work where he was, and wanted to be allowed to continue – but the unexpected calls came, and he answered. Years earlier, he had heard a call to the priesthood when he was still a successful treasurer in the oil industry – while doing a job he loved, leading a life he loved, pulling in a salary that it would have been churlish not to love. At his selection interview he was asked what he would do if he was turned down. He said he would take his wife out for a meal to celebrate, he so enjoyed what he was already doing. And yet, he said, he "had this overwhelming feeling" that ordination "was the right thing to do – it was a call from God", even though it meant leaving behind his whole lifestyle, and starting

again, as a lowly ordination student, here in Durham, at Cranmer Hall. The pattern for all these responses was, however, set years before that, when he was an undergraduate. One evening, in conversation with a friend, Justin heard the call to become a Christian. Yet he did not hear it as a demand, but as a gift: "I suddenly saw," he says, "the grace, the freedom, the free giving of God, which meant that to follow him would not be constraining but would be the most ultimately liberating thing I could ever do." And that's the secret of his response to all these calls. Like Isaiah in the temple, he has a passionate sense that any call upon him follows a free gift of forgiveness, of reconciliation. It's the constant note in his speeches and sermons: he believes that the deepest call upon him is the call to live as someone forgiven and loved by God. As he said in a recent sermon, God "calls us to believe, to trust, to take this love for us as the most certain thing in our lives. To become those who ... consider it fitting ... not to live life for ourselves, for our own glory, our own power ... But [to] live our lives for others, sacrificing everything." It is from this that his priorities as Archbishop flow.

"He focuses upon reconciliation – because as recipients of an unmerited gift of reconciliation, Christians are called to be reconcilers."

He focuses upon reconciliation – because as recipients of an unmerited gift of reconciliation, Christians are called to be reconcilers. He has no illusions about the difficulty of the task. His work at the International Centre for Reconciliation in Coventry took him into situations of great personal danger, and showed him situations of heart-breaking tragedy. He knows that reconciliation demands hard labour and that it can't be rushed; he knows that the results are fragile – and yet he remains committed to it, trusting to his reconciling God that it remains possible.

He also focuses upon prayer. Prayer is, as he describes it, the core practice by which Christians pay deep attention to God. Prayer can take Christians out of themselves, centring their attention, their focus, upon the reconciling love of God, and its working in the world. Any reconciliation that his work as Archbishop makes possible will, he says, be grounded in a renewal of prayer.

Finally, he focuses upon witness. The central call in his own life, and, he believes, the central call for all Christians, is to be followers of Jesus, and to show others Jesus' reconciling love. It is a call to Christlike action – to serve, to forgive, to reconcile. But Christians' actions are at best a faltering echo of Christ, so they are also called to point away from themselves, to direct others' attention to the love of God in Jesus as the source from which and into which they are imperfectly living. Justin is passionate about such witness, and about its centrality to the life of the church.

And this is the sense he has made of the strange role he has been given. With whatever means it places within his grasp, Justin Welby, a man who has made a habit of responding when called, is seeking to call those in his church and beyond to live lives of witness, prayer, and reconciliation. ■

© Professor Mike Highton, Professor in the Department of Theology and Religion

A CALLING



CLASS NOTES

CLASS NOTES

Mel Ayton, *History*, 1985-87, his latest book, *Hunting the President*, examines plots, threats and assassination attempts against American presidents.

Laura Bailey, *Law*, *St Cuthbert's*, 2005-08, has published *Beneath the Blossom Tree* with royalties earned from the first 5,000 downloads of the book for Kindle being donated to the Brain Tumour Charity.

Michael Bond, *Natural Sciences*, *Hatfield*, 1987-90, is busy with his psychology-based dating project 21 Pictures, seeded while he was at Durham.

To commemorate the bravery of our WW2 veterans and to raise funds for our veterans and their families, **Jon Bridel**, *Business Administration*, *Van Mildert*, 1987-88, attended a military parachuting course and gained his Pathfinder Wings.

David Britton, *Education*, *St John's*, 1965-69, has published *The Utorian Wars Chronicles by David and Ezechi Britton: Book 1: Invasion*.

Matt Brown, *History*, *St Cuthbert's*, 2005-08, has set up on Kickstarter with his new male grooming brand Thomas Clipper.

Wayne Coppins, *Theology and Religion*, *St John's*, 2001-02, has recently published two new books – *Jesus of Nazareth: Jew from Galilee, Savior of the World* and *Israel, Church, and the Gentiles in the Gospel of Matthew*.

Sandy Craig, *English Language & Medieval Literature*, *Trevelyan*, 1966-70, has founded a UK charity and an NGO operating in Ghana. There are opportunities for those who want to work in international development to volunteer as well for those who just want to use their skills and knowledge to support the development of other communities. www.volunteerwestafrica.org

Steve Gregory, *Theology*, *Grey*, 1965-69, won the CASE Volunteer of the Year award for his great work with Grey's Business Angels.

Dr Neil Hunt, *Computing & Engineering*, *Collingwood*, 1980-83, accepted an Emmy for Technical Achievement on behalf of Netflix, where he is Chief Product Officer.

Kendra Leighton, *English*, *St Aidan's*, 2001-04, has had her debut young adult novel, *Glimpse*, inspired by Alfred Noyes' poem 'The Highwayman', published.

Sarah Kerenza Priestley, née Jones, *History*, *Graduate Society*, 1997-98, is Curator of Watford Museum and has co-written a book based on her 12 years of research on the history of Cassiobury with parks historian Paul Rabbitts – *Cassiobury, the Ancient Seat of the Earls of Essex*.

John S. Simelane, *Applied Linguistics*, *Graduate Society*, 1988-89 his new book *Whispers* in the Deep celebrates the legacy of his late wife, Leah Lienkie Simelane.

Oliver Templeman, *Mathematics*, *St Cuthbert's*, 2009-13, is UK Youth Ambassador for the ONE Campaign to end extreme poverty.

Humphrey Wilson, *Theology*, *Hild Bede*, 2001-04, cycled 11,000 miles to Hong Kong and has now set up 'Mad Dogs', which provides the planning and support necessary for people to do amazing long-distance adventure cycling challenges.



Alex Duncan (right), *Zoology*, *St Chad's*, 2003-06, and **Adam Gagen**, *Social Sciences*, *St John's*, 2003-06, took part in the North Korean marathon.

NEW YEAR HONOURS 2014

Dr Arnab Basu MBE *Ustinov College, Physics*, 2003, MBE, for services to Regional Development and International Trade

Mr Richard J Buckley OBE *University College, Archaeology*, 1979, OBE, for services to Archaeology

Lieutenant Colonel Richard J Cantrill OBE MC *College of St Hild & St Bede, Geography*, 1995, OBE, Officer of the Military Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire

Mr David C Chaplin OBE *Hatfield College, English Literature*, 1969, OBE, for services to disadvantaged and vulnerable people in South West Rwanda

Chief Constable Simon R Cole QPM *St Cuthbert's Society, English Literature*, 1988, Queen's Police Medal, for Distinguished Service

Professor David Cracknell OBE *Hatfield College, french*, 1969, OBE, for services to Education

Peter M Davies *Honorary Graduate*, 1994, Member of the Order of the Companions of Honour, for services to Music

Mrs Jacqueline Delaney BEM *Residential Work with Adolescents*, 1998, BEM, for voluntary services to the community in the North East

Mrs Katherine L Garrett-Cox CBE *St Mary's College, History*, 1989, CBE, for services to the Asset Management Industry and charitable service through the Baring Foundation

Mr Edward S C Goodwin OBE *Business Administration*, 1985, OBE, for services to British Education in the Middle East

Mr Stephen A Jack OBE *St Chad's College, History*, 1980, OBE, for services to Disabled People

Captain Gerald W Kears MBE *St Cuthbert's Society, Molecular Biology & Biochemistry*, 2004, MBE, Member of the Military Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire

Mr William J Lonsdale MBE *University College, Geography*, 1978, MBE, for services to Education

Dr Susan C Loughlin MBE *Graduate Society, Geology*, 1996, MBE, for services to Volcanology

Mr Richard Mifsud *Enterprise Management*, 2010, Overseas Territories Police Medal, for Meritorious Service

Rear Admiral Matthew J Parr CB *Hatfield College, Geography*, 1983, CB, Companion of the Military Division of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath

Ms Mary E Pattison CBE *St Aidan's College, Geography*, 1983, CBE, for services to State Pension Reform

Mr Frederick W Peacock BEM *Graduate Society, Education*, 1978, BEM, for services to Church Music in Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne

Assistant Chief Constable Garry S Shewan QPM *Business Administration*, 2000, Queen's Police Medal, for Distinguished Service

HONOURS

Mr D Mark Spofforth OBE FCA *Van Mildert College, Natural Sciences, 1978*, OBE, for services to the Accountancy Profession

Mr Richard A Warner MBE *Grey College, Geology, 1986*, MBE, for services to Energy Efficiency in Norfolk

Mr Thomas S Wright MBE *College of St Hild & St Bede, Archaeology, 2002*, MBE, for services to British diplomacy

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS 2014



Joanna Barker MBE (with Graham Barker) *Collingwood College, French, 1981*, MBE, For services to People with Cancer

Mr Mark A'Bear MBE *Hatfield College, Economic History & Economics, 1980*, MBE, for services to School Governance in Wokingham and Reading

Mr William H R Cayton CBE OBE *Graduate Society, Anthropology, 1973*, CBE, for services to Health Care and Regulatory Reform

Mr Darren Coyle MBE *Van Mildert, Modern Languages, 2002*, MBE, for services to British Educational and Sporting Opportunities for Young People Overseas

Mr Hunter Davies OBE *University College, Economic History, 1957*, OBE, for services to Literature

Sir John E Dunford Kt OBE *Education, 1976*, Knighthood, for services to Education

Mrs Cherry A Edwards OBE *Graduate Society, Education (Adv), 1988*, OBE, for services to Education

Mr Mark P Featherstone-Witty OBE *College of St Hild & St Bede, Arts Combined, 1972*, OBE, for services to Higher Education

Mr Ian Galletley MBE *Education (Special/ Remedial), 1982*, MBE, for voluntary political service

Miss Eleanor L Gingell BEM *St Aidan's College, Environment & Development, 2006*, BEM, for services to the Community and Neighbourhood Planning in Northampton

Dr Paul M Hawkins OBE *Grey College, Natural Sciences, 1996*, OBE, for services to Technology and Sport

Mrs Anne Hornigold MBE *Graduate Society, Business Counselling, 2003*, MBE, for services to Education in the Sea Fishing Industry

Mr Damian P C Johnson MBE *College of St Hild & St Bede, Mathematics, 2000*, MBE, for services to Defence

Mr Paul E Mains BEM *University College, Education, 1973*, BEM, for services to Heritage Education

Mr Paul D K Richardson *Enterprise Management, 2007, Overseas Territories Police and Fire Service Medal*, for Meritorious Service

Dr Charles R C Sheppard OBE *Graduate Society, Botany, 1976*, OBE, for services to Environmental Conservation in the British Indian Ocean Territory

Mr Andrew Spurr OBE *Grey College, Engineering, 1975*, OBE, for services to the Energy Industry and the UK Economy

Mr Michael Spurr CB *St Chad's College, Economic History & Economics, 1983*, CB, for services to Offender Management

Mrs Rachael A Stancliffe-White OBE *St Cuthbert's Society, Sociology & Social Policy, 1993*, OBE, for services to Social Care

Miss Anna K Taylor OBE *St John's College, Geography & Anthropology, 1993*, OBE, for services to Tackling Global Undernutrition

Mr Jonathan P Ullmer MBE *St John's College, English Literature, 1983*, MBE, for services to Education

Ms Margaret D Walls OBE *Graduate Society, Education, 1973*, OBE, for services to Education and to the community in East Ham

Miss Kathryn L H Winskell OBE *Business Administration, 2006*, OBE, for services to Higher Education and the Economy in the North East

Mrs Rosemary G Winter-Scott OBE *Trevelyan College, Geography, 1983*, OBE, for public service to Insolvency Services in Scotland and voluntary service to Education through Jordanhill School, Glasgow

NEW YEAR HONOURS 2015

Roma L Charlton MBE *Counselling, 1996*, MBE, for services to Children and Families

Dame Kathleen M Dethridge DBE *Trevelyan College, Geography, 1984*, DBE, for services to Education

Elizabeth L Duckworth MBE *Trevelyan College, History, 1977*, MBE, for services to Higher Education

Alan J Fearon MBE *St Cuthbert's Society, Music, 1970*, MBE, for services to Music in the North East

Mark G McGreevy OBE *St Cuthbert's Society, Arts Combined, 1987*, OBE, for services to Homeless People in the UK and Abroad

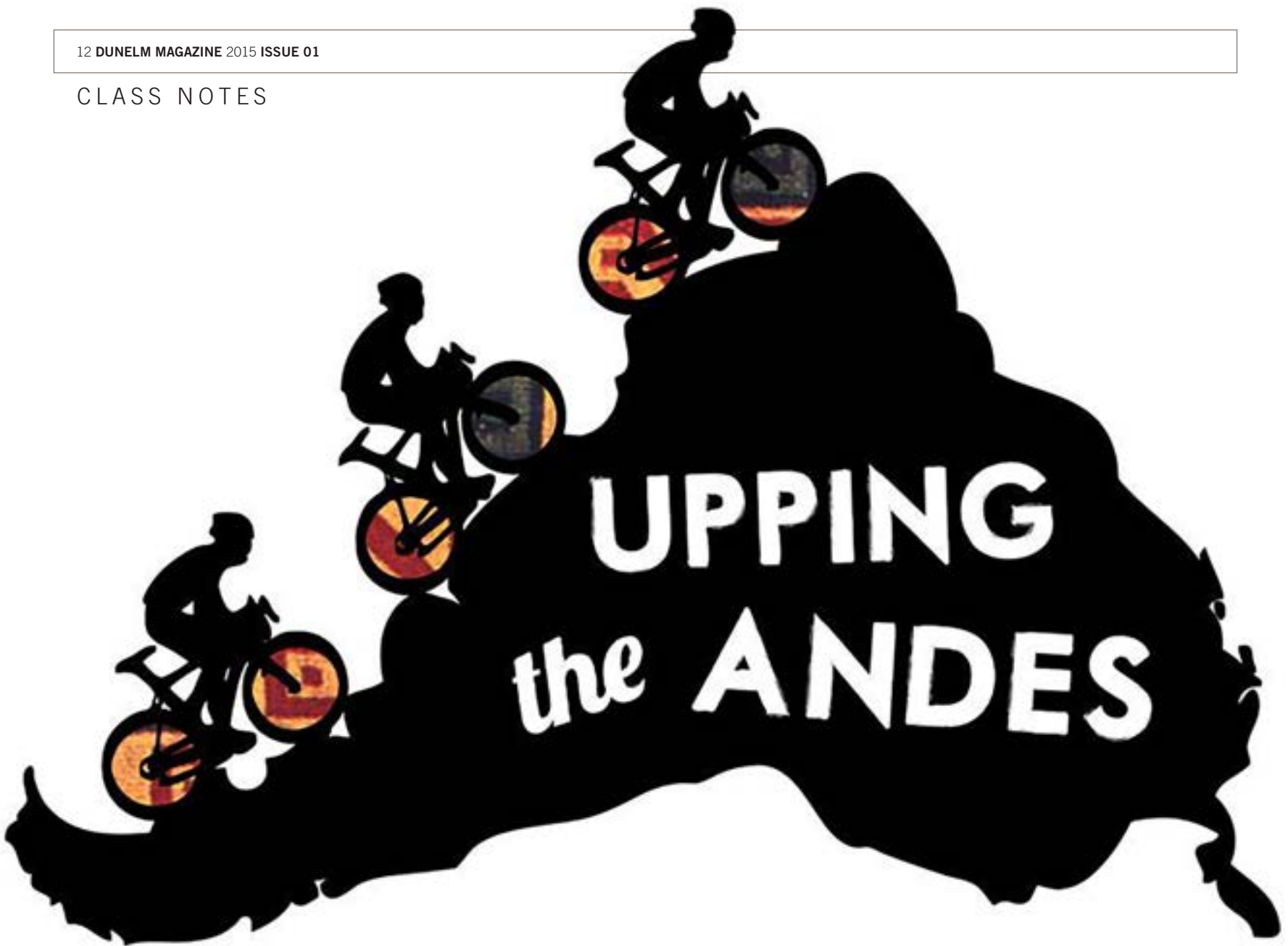
Sir Richard L Paniguan Kt CBE *Hatfield College, Arabic Modern, 1971*, Knighthood for services to the UK Defence Industry

Stephen W Quartermain CBE *St Chad's College, Geography, 1977*, CBE, for services to Planning Infrastructure

Giles T York QPM *Hatfield College, Natural Sciences, 1989*, Queen's Police Medal – Chief Constable, Sussex Police



Mark T Griffin MBE *Hatfield College, Social Sciences Combined, 1997*, MBE, for services to charitable causes and youth development in the USA



8 LEGS
8,000 MILES
£80,000 TO RAISE

FOUR RECENT GRADUATES ARE 'UPPING THE ANDES' FOR CHARITY

FOUR OF OUR ALUMNI ARE IN THE MIDDLE OF AN UNSUPPORTED 8000 MILE CYCLING EXPEDITION COVERING THE ENTIRE LENGTH OF SOUTH AMERICA!



he team is: **Archie Innes**,
History, St Aidan's, 2011-14,
Guthrie Fenton, *Geology,*
Hatfield, 2011-14, **Thomas**
'Lance' Lawson, *Chemistry,*
Hatfield, 2011-14 and **Toby MacKean**, *Geography,*

Hild Bede, 2011-14.

Archie, Guthrie, Lance and Toby come from different colleges and studied different subjects, but met here and struck up friendships. It was at Durham that the idea for their epic journey began. The group all graduated from the University last

summer, but Durham is about far more than academic success, and the diverse collection of talented students and staff pursuing a vast array of interests, often at the highest of levels, provides a memorable atmosphere and vibrancy that remains with its members for the rest of their lives.

You can follow the group's progress at www.uppingtheandes.com, also on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

There is a tracker map on the website and there are some amazing photographs from the journey so far. ■



A POEM

TAKEN FROM *CASTELLUM 1984*
(MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR'S
CASTLE SOCIETY AGM): 8).
THE SECRETARY REPORTED THAT HE
HAD RECEIVED AN ANONYMOUS POEM,
WHICH REFLECTED THE PLIGHT OF A
GRADUATE MOST CONCERNED WITH THE
CONFLICT OF REUNION DATES:

*I am a Mary's woman,
My spouse a Castle man,
We like to come to Durham
As often as we can.
When vital dates don't coincide,
There's never any hassle;
A short debate, an equal vote,
Result - the winner's Castle!
Now Mary's makes me welcome
With breakfast, lunch and tea,
But the hours between seem long sometimes
When there's only me!
Autonomy is excellent,
But is not always very kind,
Let's have individual decisions,
With the same weekend in mind!*

WW1 STORIES UNCOVERED



Jade Dawson, *Psychology, Van Mildert, 2008-11*, is undertaking a World War One project with her mother, after unearthing an old autograph book. They're tracing the stories contained in the book, many in County Durham. See their progress at: www.facebook.com/forgetmenotprojectWW1

DURHAM'S MAGNA CARTA OPERA



2015 sees the 800th anniversary of the signing of Magna Carta. As part of the celebrations, Durham Cathedral has commissioned a new community opera, based on the story of Magna Carta. The composer is alumnus **Tim Harrison**, *Music, Castle, 1980-83*, now Director of Music at Middlesbrough Cathedral and for the Diocese of Middlesbrough; and the librettist is **Paul Hodgson**, *English Literature, Castle, 1980-83*, now running the Everyman Repertory Theatre Company in Maine, USA. The opera will amass local choirs as well as current students and schoolchildren to create a spectacle not to be missed.

The Great Charter is an opera for everyone – adults and children – and will be performed in Durham Cathedral on Saturday 13 June and in Middlesbrough Cathedral on 20 June.

Tim said: "I have had a very long and happy association with Durham, first as a schoolboy then as a Castleman and music student at Durham University, where I met my future wife, Rachel, a Hild-Bede girl; and later as the proud parent of a boy chorister and of a Castlewoman. Durham City and in particular the cathedral, with its great tradition of world-class music-making, have always been very close to my heart. It was therefore a huge privilege for me to be invited to devise the plot and compose the music for this new opera."

WHAT THE COLLEGES MEAN TO ME

CHAIR OF COUNCIL REFLECTS

In the first of a series of interviews with the University's leading alumni volunteers, we talk to **Robert Gillespie**, Chair of University Council, about his responsibilities in the role, the centrality of the colleges to the Durham experience and how he became involved in supporting the University

INTERVIEW:
DAVID WILLIAMS, ALUMNI RELATIONS MANAGER



What is the role of Council?

Council's role is fundamentally to be the ultimate trustee or custodian of the well-being of the University. The Chair's job is not to dominate but to lead Council through decision-making, which is fairly straightforward most of the time. For me, it is a unique privilege to participate in this way and to offer a different perspective that perhaps the University would not have got to on its own. I am not the head of the University, the Vice-Chancellor is. My role is to support, question and occasionally disagree with the Executive. The way I see it is that if you are a student here you have made a big bet on us. You have made a bet that you are going to get the education you want, and you have made a bet that the amount of money you are spending on that education will be worth it, both in terms of immediate value for money and in the long run, so that when somebody picks up your résumé when you are 45 that it will say the same in 25 years as it does today – that you

are special and did really well to get here. Council is not loaded in favour of the student, but I and the other lay members are very aware that Presidents of DSU (who have without exception been wonderful contributors to Council) find themselves on their own with the whole University executive down the other side of the table. Council very much sees itself as a custodian of the rights of our undergraduate, postgraduate and postdoctoral students – the broad base of the academic community. You might be surprised to learn that Council sees a significant part of its job as protecting their interests.

What prompted you to start supporting Durham as a volunteer and donor?

I did lose touch with the University after I left, but my connection was maintained through Eric Halliday, Master of Grey, who had a profound influence on my life. My father died when I was >>

“It is almost impossible to come to Durham and sit in your room and do nothing for three years.”



INTERVIEW

14, and Eric was one of two or three people who took an interest in me and whom I would ask for advice. Eric died in 1997, and when I went to his funeral service and saw how many people had come from London to Hexham to pay their respects, it made me realise it wasn't just to me, but that he had touched many lives. At around the same time, I was invited to join an alumni group that Peter Ogden ran which was built around fundraising, and this in turn led to my participation on the 175th anniversary committee, with Chris Lendrum. Having been a bit of a rower, I realised how hard it is for students to run elite sport for themselves because at 21 you want to be the athlete not the coach. So I re-engaged with the Boat Club in around 2000, and helped them organise the appointment of a professional rowing coach. From this we organised the Friends of Durham Rowing which became a large group of alumni donors, and this then became the model that Dr Peter Warburton used for other sports and which evolved into the organisation the Friends of Durham Sport. In 2006, I was asked by the Vice-Chancellor to be the Chair of University College Council, and afterwards I joined the University Council. So it has been a progressive re-engagement with the University over 15 years.

What did Durham do for you?

I came up from an independent Nottingham grammar school that I would say had gone out of its way to give me the impression that I was one of the students who didn't have the highest of potentials. What Durham did for me is probably two or three things. It took me to two-thirds of the way through to realise that what you get out of your degree is a function of what you put into it. I enjoyed the work and I wanted to do it. So I arrived with the perception that I wasn't a gifted student and left with the perception that a number of people thought I was. As President of Boat Club, I sold every boat we owned and bought a new fleet. When you have run one of the big clubs in Durham and tried to make some changes, you realise that no one is going to stop you doing something, but if you get it wrong, it is going to be your fault and no one else's. So the second thing was that I learned a lot

about the early stages of wider responsibility. The third thing I found was a lot of like-minded people. It was an exceptionally happy period of my life. As I look back on my life to date, it would be one of the parts that I don't have any regrets about (or to put it another way it is not that I don't have regrets, there are a lot of other things I could have done, but I have no regrets about coming to Durham). In later life, when you meet Durham alumni, they are more universally positive about their experience and marked by it than virtually any other university I can think of. It is such a unique privilege to live in a town this beautiful for three years, particularly when you arrive as a big child and leave as a young adult.

What do you think creates the positivity to the Durham student experience?

I think it is the quality of the pastoral care. I lived my student days between college, the Boat Club and the department, and they all got melded together (the College, however, always seemed to be quite well informed about what I was and wasn't doing). It was Eric Halliday in the College and Dennis O'Brien in the Economics Department who both profoundly influenced my life. Many of the good things that have happened to me have happened because these two people significantly influenced my choices. On a personal level, I was close to Eric, while Dennis O'Brien changed my view of me in a positive way more than he ever understood: he pushed me when I needed to be pushed.

I have nothing to compare it to, but I think my sense is that this is a very Durham relationship (and if it happens elsewhere, you will see much more of it here). The people today who choose to be college principals do so because there is something about the head of house job that they really want to do and that has to be the pastoral care of our students. If you want to be a student here and want no pastoral care, I think you could achieve it but you would have to try pretty hard.

Can you name three defining moments in your career?

Durham had convinced me that I was a person that a potential employer was going to take seriously, and that makes a big difference because how well

you perform in interview significantly depends on your attitude going in. So getting my first job was the first defining moment.

But I still didn't know what I really wanted to do and was getting fairly concerned about it. By now I had qualified as an accountant and all I knew was that I didn't want to be an accountant. I saw a job advertised in the Financial Times and it happened to be next door to where I was working, so I banged on the door and said I had come about the advert. I had little idea what the job was. The man took my particulars. Employer? Price Waterhouse. That was OK. University? Durham. He put his pen down and said, 'That won't work; merchant banks are all Oxbridge only.'

I said, 'You can't be serious, so I am not a candidate?'

I walked out, thinking to myself, 'Right I am going to fix you, not just on my behalf but on behalf of everybody who has been, is, or ever will be a student at Durham.'

So I went round everyone I knew and asked about merchant banks, because I didn't really know anything about them and two names kept coming up. I wrote to them both and both replied, and in the end that led to over thirty years of great fun. I guess, if it hadn't been for somebody insulting Durham, I would never have become an investment banker. (I sent the first firm a photocopy of both offer letters, just to show them they were wrong.)

The second big moment in my career as a banker was when I was told to go and work in New York. This was a wonderful learning experience. It didn't seem like it at the time. It actually felt like an irritating upheaval, but that was a moment when my life moved forward.

After that, the next big moment was moving into senior management roles, which came in quick succession after the firm I worked for was sold to another bank. There was lots of upheaval. I actually think some of the things I learned about leadership running the Boat Club here helped me both at this point and when I ran the business in New York. You have to stand up and lead.

My story contains an awful lot of luck, but maybe one of the things I learned here going backwards up the Tyne on a cold day was to try hard and be a player.

"...when you meet Durham alumni, they are more universally positive about their experience and marked by it than virtually any other university I can think of."



There has been a lot of alumni concern recently about changes in the way the colleges operate – how would you respond to this?

A few months ago, we launched a series of adverts for the role of Vice-Chancellor and Warden of the Durham Colleges, and we have no intention of changing that job title. I half understand where this has come from, but I don't think anyone who is involved in Durham would for one second want to weaken what is good about colleges. It would be a lunatic idea and not one that would be taken seriously. It goes without saying, however, that we have to manage every aspect of our affairs in an efficient manner. That doesn't mean doing everything in the cheapest possible way, but it does mean providing value for money to our students. Therefore we have to manage our own affairs tightly, and quite a lot of what has been interpreted as a centralised attack on colleges is just about putting in place proper professional management. The colleges by their architecture and their history are not the same. You couldn't make them the same and no one would want to. It is right that students should have choice and if you had 16 homogeneous colleges, how could that be the case? But it also has to be right that the experience that you get of Durham is not a college-dependent experience. We cannot have the idea that there are good colleges and bad colleges, and have all prospective students searching the internet and

deciding which are the three colleges that they must apply to.

So we have to manage our affairs prudently, but we also have to make sure that after three years in your college, you will love it for the rest of your life and not think it would be better or worse if you had gone to another one.

There has obviously been a lot of noise recently about the colleges. But if you took away the colleges from Durham, you wouldn't be taking away any cost, but you would be taking away an enormous number of choirs, theatre groups, concerts and football teams. Why would anybody do that? No one would do that.

The fact is the colleges that existed in my day were different from the colleges 30 years before and they will be different from the colleges in 30 years' time; like the world, everything evolves. But if anyone thinks that one day the alumni magazine will herald the demise of colleges, I don't expect to live to see it – I am very comfortable saying that in 200 years' time the University will be here and so will the colleges.

I would argue that the role of colleges today is actually more important now that there are 16,000 students than when I was here and there were 4,000. Because there is a finite scale at which point human beings find it difficult to relate, so they create definable communities that you can get your mind around.

I think colleges are a huge competitive advantage to the University and saying they are just halls of residence doesn't stack up to any analysis. Whilst you can make the argument that they don't teach, they are real communities. From the day you arrive here to the day you die, you will be a member of a college and no university has a hall of residence resembling that, so I am very happy to quash the whole idea. We actually need more colleges, not fewer.

What is the role of alumni community?

The key thing to say is that student finance has completely changed. Unless you graduated last year, you would have benefited from state support that is never going to be available again, so when we ask for financial support, this is why we are asking.

But it doesn't have to be just giving money. We have a group of disproportionately successful alumni and there is almost certainly not a single alumnus or alumna who can't support the University in some way.

Every single student needs advice from people who know what it is to have a career; the academics need research partners; anybody who is an alumnus or alumna with contacts knows someone who can help the University. It is almost impossible not to find a way to support the University. ■

LETTERS

Last year we asked the question, 'Why is Trevs hexagonal?' with an article from author Martin Roberts. Here are a selection of the responses we got from you. Check out more online at: <http://bit.ly/trevshexagons>



"The principal, Miss Joan Bernard, gave us a talk about the innovative architecture of the college. She told us that there were two reasons for the 'odd' hexagonal shape and the consequent disadvantage of corridors without any form of natural light.

Apparently the building land allocated to the college turned out, when surveyed, to be a deep bog. At enormous expense, huge piles had to be driven into the bog to support the building and the weight of the building had to be carefully distributed to minimise the cost of this operation. At the same time it was discovered that Van Mildert was slipping into its lake and Aidan's was in danger of slipping down the hill – not designs to be copied. The design for Trevelyan, therefore, had to be light and yet strong and stable. The honeycomb was the architect's solution.

The hexagon blocks also had the advantage that each study bedroom had a decent window letting in lots of light and each landing was a cosy little community in itself. The corridors were dark and awkward as a consequence and were an absolute nightmare when the lights went out during the miners' strike of 1972!"

Margaret Webber (née Geldart)
History, Trevelyan College, 1969-73

"In the mid 1960s two complementary academic traditions were important in landscape design and planning: one was the interest in mathematically efficient use of space, developed from the Christaller hexagons promulgated in Germany, and refined by August Lösch, the other a growing concern that new building should reflect the natural landscape in which it was sited. These economic/ecological models influenced landscape architects significantly and were rapidly entering the geographical curriculum (the main source of urban planning training in that decade) at universities in Europe, North America and Japan. I suggest that Trevs' layout which combined strong

elements of community design within a hierarchical framework is the outcome of this burgeoning academic trend."

Dr Michael Hopkinson
Geography, Castle, 1963-68

"It was common knowledge in my day 70-73 that Trevs and the Psychology dept were built at the same time and that a model of a rat maze got mistaken for the plans of Trevs ... simple!!"

Sir Aubrey Brocklebank Bt
Psychology, Castle, 1970-73

"I seem to remember that it was said that it was 'inspired by the Giant's Causeway' in Antrim. The site of the large, naturally occurring hexagonal basalt pillars was of some importance to early pre-Christian (pagan) Celts. I would say that the architecture celebrates (an allegory of) the triumph of Christianity over paganism through the evangelism of the Irish monks at the time of St Cuthbert."

John Foulkes
Chemistry & Geology, Van Mildert, 1971-74

"While a student at Trevs I had the great pleasure of working the bar during the summer vacation for tourists from around the world.

In an attempt to gain as many tips as possible I did quite some research so I could confidently answer questions like: Who is Sir James Knott? What does Trevelyan mean? And which way is K-block, I am lost again?

As well as books and news articles I spoke at length to some local people, including one lady who had been connected to the Trevelyan Project through a personal rather than professional relationship.

I wish I could remember more but she explained to me that someone (I can't remember who I'm afraid) was determined that the students should be able to live and work in a building where no room

had only 4 walls. She explained that 4 walls were prison like and restricted creativity and productivity and could lead to depression while having more than 4 angles in a room (I think she said no more than 1 right angle per room) would be particularly helpful to the female mind to develop and reach their potential academically and at the same time reduce stress and prevent the feeling of being enclosed."

Bruce Debell
Chemistry, Trevelyan, 1993-97

"I was in digs with the university furnishings officer in 1966-7 and he had clear views about it. He said that it was all very well for architects to design rooms which were irregular in shape, but he could only buy rectangular furniture within budget, and it made things very difficult. He also had complaints about the difficulty of changing light bulbs in Dunelm House, and the general pattern of architects designing buildings and awarding one another medals for them, regardless of what they were like to furnish and maintain."

Trevor Ogden
Physics, Hatfield, 1961-67

"I graduated in Architecture from King's college in 1960 and went to work with a major firm of architects in London.

A major challenge within architecture at that time was the process of industrialisation. The macro-economic argument was that a craft based building and construction industry used much labour that could be more productively employed in manufacturing industry. The result of this was an interest in dimensional/modular coordination and their associated grid systems (see Le Corbusier's Modulor and all the prefabricated/industrialised systems that were developed at that time). There was also a big push for 'efficiency' and doing more with less (Buckminster Fuller advocating geodesic domes with maximum enclosure for minimum use of material.)

In this context it was logical to explore hexagonal patterns for design so it should be no surprise that John Eastwick-Field was thinking this way. This was firmly within the array of ideas of the time. I for, my part, designed a church complex for Glenrothes in 1964, completed in 1970, on a hexagonal grid.

This does not answer the question but may help in understanding the context within which the design emerged."

Allan Rodger
Architecture, King's College, 1957-60

We love to hear from you.
Do get in touch with us:
durham.editor@durham.ac.uk



STOP PRESS:

DURHAM UNIVERSITY APPOINTS NEW VICE-CHANCELLOR AND WARDEN

Above: Professor Stuart Corbridge

As we go to print, Durham University has appointed its new Vice-Chancellor and Warden following an extensive appointment process.

Professor Stuart Corbridge, currently Deputy Director and Provost at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) will be Durham University's 24th Vice-Chancellor. He will take up his position on 1 September 2015. Commenting on his appointment Professor Corbridge said: "Durham is a very special university. Its colleges, history, stunning buildings and excellence on two sites make it a wonderful place to study and work. The University also contributes very significantly to the life of north east England. It will be a pleasure and an honour to work with colleagues to move the University forwards."

Professor Corbridge has an impressive personal research record and extensive experience in a

range of leadership positions. He has overseen LSE's research portfolio and led the School's outstanding Research Excellence Framework (REF 2014) submission. He has also driven transformation in both the academic career structure and the student experience through the development of innovative new courses.

A Fellow of both the Royal Geographical Society and of the Royal Society of Arts, Professor Corbridge has previously held roles at a number of universities, both nationally and internationally, including the University of Cambridge and the Maxwell School of Public Affairs at Syracuse University.

His major research interests include geopolitics, governance and public service delivery in India, forest politics and forest protection in India and the history of development thought. Interim leadership will continue to be provided by Professor Ray Hudson, Acting Vice-Chancellor and Warden.

VAN MILDERT COLLEGE 50TH ANNIVERSARY

SCR Lectures

11 May 2015, 2 November 2015

VMA Reunion Weekend

10-12 July 2015

Opera by the Lake

11 July 2015

www.durham.ac.uk/van-mildert.college/destination-2015/

ENGINEERING 50TH ANNIVERSARY

An event is being held on 19 September at the School of Engineering and Computing Sciences. Includes tours, lectures and a dinner in the castle. This is also a great opportunity to find out about the Solar Car Challenge that students are taking part in.

GRADUATE SOCIETY 50TH ANNIVERSARY

In June 2015, we will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Graduate Society, now Ustinov College.

Ustinov will be celebrating this significant milestone with a fortnight of activities and events, including academic seminars, a 50th Anniversary Formal Dinner and the GCR Summer BBQ. We would be delighted to welcome current students, alumni, SCR and all other friends of the College - more information will follow on how to book for the different events, in due course. We hope to see you here in June!

SOCIOLOGY 50TH ANNIVERSARY

In the academic year 2014/15 Durham's School of Applied Social Sciences is celebrating 50 years of Sociology and Social Policy at Durham.

We would really like to involve you in our celebrations and keep in touch with you going forward.

To receive updates, follow us on Twitter @DurhamSASS or register your interest at sass.enquiries@durham.ac.uk

AND COMING UP IN 2016

College of St Hild and St Bede

17TH/2016

Josephine Butler College

10TH/2016

Department of Anthropology

50TH/2016

Trevelyan College

50TH/2016

LUMIERE



IF YOU ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO COMING TO LUMIERE 2015, HERE'S WHAT HAPPENED LAST TIME



“Strolling after dark along Durham’s ancient streets you will encounter the subtle and the spectacular, the serious and the funny, the home-grown and the exotic.”

**THE METRO
ON LUMIERE DURHAM 2013**

Lumiere light festival returned to Durham in 2013 with a spectacular raft of installations and projections illuminating Durham’s buildings, streets and public spaces. Some 175,000 people enjoyed a spectacular programme of 27 installations. Lumiere weaved a nocturnal art trail through the city, engaging with its architecture, inviting the audience to explore urban landscapes, and challenging how people think about and use public spaces. From the simplest intervention to the latest technology, Lumiere celebrated the myriad ways that local, British and international artists and designers, emerging or experienced, use light to make art.

A miracle of art and technology, Lumiere is indeed a perfect means to bridge art and science. With Lumiere Durham 2013 came the opportunity for Durham University and creative events producer Artichoke to cement their relationship as they joined forces to nurture interdisciplinary collaborations between academics and artists to develop pioneering projects, extend audiences and further their skills. The University contributed research and development resources as well as lending its facilities.

Durham County Council has agreed to match the amount of £500,000 offered by Arts Council England, together with £100,000 of in-kind support towards Lumiere 2015. Alongside the council, Artichoke is continuing its fundraising efforts to secure the total budget necessary to deliver the festival on 12-15 November 2015.

As the UK’s leading creative producer of events taking place in the public domain, Artichoke works all over the UK and beyond, but its most significant long-term commitment is to Durham and the people who live, work and visit here. ■

Lumiere is back for 2015! Check out the back cover.

EXTRACT

THREE SIMPLE STEPS

AN EXTRACT FROM TREVOR BLAKE'S \$100 MILLION STORY

In 2003, Durham University Business School alumnus Trevor Blake (MBA, 1993) met George Rathmann, founder and CEO of Amgen and ICOS, in the lobby of the Woodmark Hotel on Lake Washington, east of Seattle. Trevor wanted to discuss a unique business plan for the world's first fully virtual pharmaceutical company. Rathmann's sage-like advice was "You don't know what business you are in until you get into the business. Just start and work it out from there." It was the best piece of business advice Trevor ever received, and since then he has taken it to heart by starting, building and selling two unique companies, each for over \$100 million.

Trevor credits his entrepreneurial spirit and success to three things he learned as a teenager in a hardscrabble life in Liverpool and North Wales. He drew inspiration from his mother's long-term battle with cancer, a story described in his New York Times bestseller, *Three Simple Steps: A Map to Success in Business and Life*. He says: "That was the first time I saw what unshakeable belief looked like, and now whenever someone tells me my business ideas are crazy and impossible, I conjure up the image of her steely gaze. Then I take Rathmann's advice and just start it anyway."

Like Conrad Hilton's *Be my Guest*, written in 1957, Trevor's book stands out from the multitude of self-help and entrepreneurship books because he is writing from his own experience. His intrinsic motivation took him first to Royal Naval College (where he was one of only six recruits from 200 who graduated) and then to Durham to complete an MBA while working as a sales manager. He credits his MBA for giving him a broader understanding of how different functions of a company have to integrate for success. "So many startups run into early cash flow issues because they hire functional leaders too soon. Having a broader understanding of functions gives the entrepreneur confidence to lead several or all functions in the early phase of growth. About a quarter of the MBA students at Durham were entrepreneurs with their own businesses. I learned a lot from talking to them and used it to develop a virtual business model for my first company which went on to become the top grossing non-employer business in the US."

The MBA enabled Trevor to fulfil his ambition to move to the USA, where he founded QOL Medical LLC, a company focused on solutions for rare diseases. He went on to found ANU, a joint venture with a Chinese company, which develops low side-effect cancer drugs, including the leading cancer compound AD1, named after his mother, Audrey Dawick. In 2011 he co-founded Kalvi Medical.

In an exclusive extract from *Three Simple Steps* for Dunelm Magazine readers, Trevor recounts how he got together the capital for his first business. The book is available to buy from Amazon. All proceeds from *Three Simple Steps* go to cancer research. ■

EXTRACT

THREE SIMPLE STEPS

The first two years of business were bumpy and managing cash flow was as tricky as I'd foretold. The virtual model proved to be a savior. One partner sold out quickly. He made a decent profit on his investment. The other partner and I formed an indomitable team. Our investors proved to be very patient and supportive. By setting up a virtual structure that consisted of experienced and successful vendors, we created an extension of the mastermind principle that I had read about in many of the biographies. Although I was expert in none of the functions, each vendor was an expert in a specific field or service. They also had connections to other more experienced and successful clients from whom we could learn.

One of the most important lessons I picked up from all those biographies is that it is better to have a small share of a large pie than 100 percent of nothing. It is hard for many potential entrepreneurs to accept that they must exchange percentages of ownership for expert contribution or funding, but I never have an issue with that. The goal is to achieve a balanced team with everyone contributing and aiming for a common Intention. In this case, our Intention was to build a profitable company that made a positive difference in the lives and health of everyone it served. That became everyone's mantra, and the company mission, vision, values statement read: Make a positive difference in the lives of people suffering from rare diseases, have fun while doing it, and share in the material rewards of a successful venture.

The letters we received from patients and doctors, who were ecstatic finally to have a solution for their problem, were worth all the effort and kept us all motivated. In a touch of irony, one of the letters received that second year captured what I believe the industry should be more about.

'Wow! Thank you so much for your medicine and service. It has changed all our lives, not only Becky's. You guys better be careful or people might start thinking pharmaceutical companies are really nice guys! I can't tell you how much I appreciate what you have done for us.'

By the end of 2004, the virtual business model was a proven success. The investors were happy, and everyone who worked around the company began to enjoy the material rewards of their contribution to our success. By the end of 2005, we had expanded to provide five pharmaceutical products for different diseases and conditions.

Read the full extract at: <http://bit.ly/trevorblake>



ELECTION 2015

With the 2015 General Election approaching, the website electionforecast.co.uk is providing daily updated predictions of national and constituency-level election results. Durham political scientist **Nick Vivyan** is one third of the team behind the website, alongside **Chris Hanretty** (UEA) and **Ben Lauderdale** (LSE). Here, the team explain their model and provide some preliminary predictions

UK general election outcomes are difficult to forecast. Even setting aside the 18 seats in Northern Ireland and the entirely different party system that exists there, in England, Scotland and Wales there are seven parties that compete either regionally or nationally with a reasonable chance of winning seats in May 2015. From a peak of over 96 per cent of the national vote in 1951, the total vote share for the Conservatives and Labour combined has declined to 65 per cent in 2010. Thus, more than ever, understanding what is happening to support for the Liberal Democrats, Scottish National Party, Plaid Cymru, Greens and UKIP is important to understanding the outcome of the 2015 election, even if these parties collectively win relatively few seats.

We have been working for many months on a methodology for summarising what we can expect to happen in the upcoming election, given what we know from history, geography, demography and polling data. This involves providing predictions about vote share in every seat outside of Northern Ireland, and also providing uncertainty estimates that characterise what ranges of outcomes are most likely. Characterising uncertainty is important because it allows us to put probability statements on the chances of everything from a Labour plurality (as of late 2014, 48 per cent) to whether the Conservatives retain their seat in Amber Valley (38 per cent). Since September 2014, we have been posting daily updates of our national and seat-level forecast to electionforecast.co.uk. The success of a forecast depends critically on the information that goes into it and on the assumptions that relate that information to the quantities of interest: election-day outcomes. The information we use includes past national and constituency-level election results, constituency demographics and geography, plus current national and constituency-level polling. We will sketch some of the most important assumptions here, as they

are important to understanding why we think we can generate a reasonable forecast.

The national vote shares for each party, while not actually the key outcome of the election, are the quantities for which we have the most historical evidence to utilise. Not only do we have the outcomes of elections going back further than we need, but UK Polling Report hosts a record of polling in the lead-up to every election going back to February 1974. This is useful because it makes it possible not merely to consider a “snapshot” of what would happen in an election held today, but instead to estimate how predictive polls were in past elections at different distances from election day.

One of the striking patterns in these data is that the major parties tend to drift back towards their result at the previous election, and so a weighted average of the polls and the last election is a better prediction of the upcoming election than the polls alone. As the election approaches, the weight on the polls increases, but even the polls just before election day tend to systematically overstate change from the last election. We are not the first to observe this fact, but it is important for understanding why we might have Labour up in the current polls, but expect the Conservatives to edge them in vote share by about 1 per cent on election day.

How do we translate UK vote share into expected local outcomes at the seat level? The traditional solution is Uniform National Swing: if the Conservatives lose 3 percentage points across the entire UK, UNS assumes they lose 3 percentage points in each constituency. Historically this is not a bad model, at least for the major parties, but it does not work for smaller parties. Instead, we model how support for each party varies across different kinds of constituencies.

This modelling depends on having polling data at the constituency level, which includes the Ashcroft constituency polls as well as YouGov polling data broken down to the constituency level. We combine

this constituency polling information with data on party support in each constituency at the last election, information about constituency characteristics from the UK census, and historical data on relative turnout. Right now, this yields a forecast that the Conservatives win 286 seats and Labour 284. But as with the vote shares, there is still a great deal of uncertainty this far from the election: this is just the best guess, given what we know now.

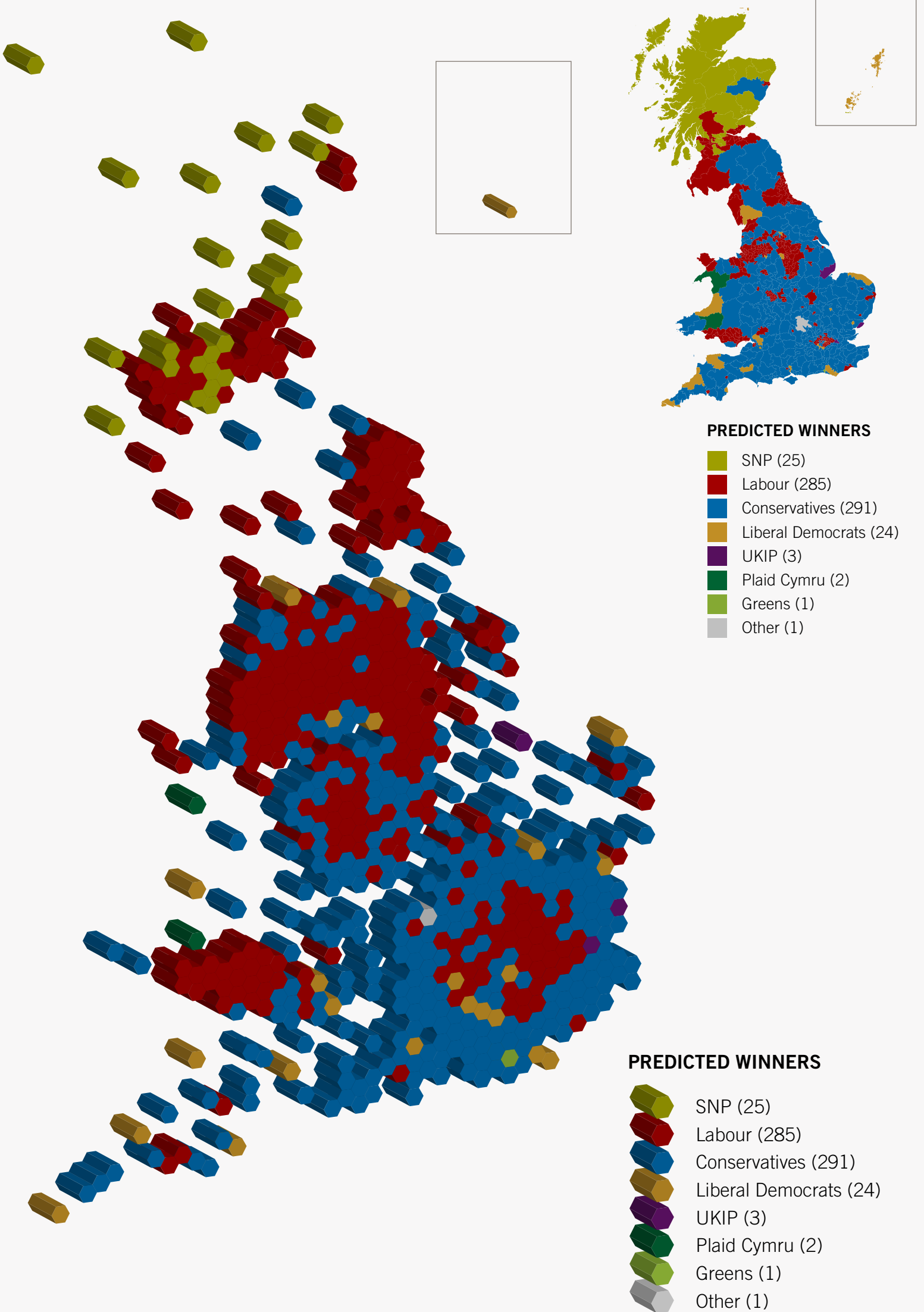
There are many, many details not described in the above paragraphs, a lot of which are covered in the FAQ on our website. One indication that we are not going too far astray is that our model would have worked well if we had used it in advance of the 2010 election. When we “retrocast” 2010, using the polling data published before the election, our model performs better than any of the forecasts published before the election. But of course we could look at the 2010 outcome when designing our model, so the real test will be in May!

Turning to 2015, at the time of writing (November 2014) we predict that another hung parliament is highly likely (89 per cent), while there is roughly the same chance of a Labour or a Conservative majority (6 per cent each, respectively).

We also currently predict that the Liberal Democrats may well be overtaken as the third-largest party in the Commons by the Scottish National Party. For UKIP our prediction is that they will win between 1 and 8 seats, but that could easily change as the political situation develops and more polls are reported.

In sum, the 2015 election is shaping up to be a very close election, and one with a large number of interesting stories at the constituency and regional levels. We think that our model provides a useful way to distil much of the information that is being made available, even if it cannot incorporate everything. We will have much more to say about the forecasts over the coming weeks, which we will be posting on electionforecast.co.uk and tweeting from @Election4castUK. ■

ELECTION 2015



THE FIRST WOMAN BISHOP IN THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

A DURHAM ALUMNA

THE REVD LIBBY LANE,
ST JOHN'S, 1991-93, IS THE FIRST
FEMALE BISHOP IN THE CHURCH OF
ENGLAND – AND YOU WON'T BELIEVE
HOW MUCH SHE LOVES DURHAM

INTERVIEW:
DAVID WILLIAMS, ALUMNI RELATIONS MANAGER



“They both remember George signing up to a Cranmer vs John’s rugby match with an enthusiasm for, but none of the necessary experience of rugby – an act that nearly killed him.”

In January this year, at York Minster, during her consecration ceremony, the first female bishop in the Church of England all but disappeared under a tide of male colleagues. They had surged around to lay their hands on her and on each other as a “sign and an enactment of the physical links that run back through the centuries to the disciples whom Jesus first touched” (*The Guardian*). Some commentators saw in this tableau a symbol of the weight of expectation surrounding this first lone woman and a representation of how far the church still needed to come.

But for the new Bishop Libby, the ceremony and the laying on of hands was much more personal, for it brought together a group of people whom she had met at Durham and who have been with her for much of her spiritual and personal journey to this moment. There in support and communion were the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Reverend Justin Welby, *Theology, St John's, 1989-92*, whose time at Durham had overlapped with hers (see also pages 8-9). There was the Venerable Sarah Bullock, *St John's, 1992-93*, the Archdeacon of York, who had trained at Durham with her and who preached at the ceremony. Also in attendance were Reverend Canon Peter Moger, *St John's, 1989-93*, the Precentor of York Minster, who had organised the ceremony. The Venerable Jan McFarlane, *St John's, 1990-92*, the Archdeacon of Norwich, and of course Bishop Libby’s husband, the Reverend George Lane, *St John's, 1991-93*. The couple’s joint claim to fame is that they were almost certainly the first married couple to be ordained together. And Bishop Libby was conscious also that rejoicing alongside them in spirit was the late Michael Vasey, who had been her liturgy tutor and her personal tutor at St John’s. The final hymn in the ceremony was by Christopher Jones, who had been Chaplain of St John’s while she was there and whose widow Jenny also attended her installation.

“Having those connections there on that day was very special,” she says as she reflects back on the moment. ‘Durham and the people I knew there were such a crucial part of the formation of my identity and my understanding of the challenge of ministry, and they have been a huge part of my life ever since. Their being there for my appointment

and consecration demonstrated the sense of ownership we all share over my appointment.’ ‘We loved Durham, and we continue to love Durham and the North East,’ she said. ‘It is extraordinarily beautiful. I have profound memories of the astonishing building that is the Cathedral and the exceptional musical events that were held there – an Arvo Pärt concert and a Duke Ellington mass particularly.

‘We arrived in 1992, we were in our mid-twenties, we didn’t have children yet, we were training together so we didn’t have the commitments to a spouse who was working elsewhere. It was such a wonderful, fortunate time.’

The couple met while studying theology at Oxford, but they had chosen Durham for their joint ordination training both for the academic rigour of an internationally renowned theology department and because of Cranmer Hall’s commitment to what she terms the full breadth of what the Church of England was and what the Church of England could be, Cranmer having for example long trained men and women together.

REACTIONS

Very Revd Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury: ‘Her Christ-centred life, calmness and clear determination to serve the church and the community make her a wonderful choice. She will be bishop in a diocese that has been outstanding in its development of people, and she will make a major contribution. She and her family will be in my prayers during the initial excitement, and the pressures of moving.’

The Archbishop of York, the Most Revd Dr John Sentamu: ‘Libby brings a wealth of experience in parish ministry, in hospital and FE chaplaincy, in vocations work and the nurture of ordinands. I am delighted that she will exercise her episcopal ministry with joy, prayerfulness, and trust in God.’

Archbishop Desmond Tutu: ‘Wonderful that you over there will soon have women bishops. Yippee! I know you have pushed for this for a long time. Yippee again!’

‘Cranmer has a commitment to equipping its ordinands to serve the whole range of the country’s communities,’ she explains, ‘for example it had a commitment to residential training and placements around the North East. So it wasn’t simply about what could be perceived as a protected environment of academics, the training was rooted in the full breadth of people’s lives and that was what appealed to us.’

Already having parish experience, Libby did a year at Durham County Psychiatric Hospital and a year at Barnardo’s Family Centre in Gateshead, both of which were formative to her



Above: Bishop Libby Lane's consecration ceremony in York Minster

understanding of what Christian ministry is about. 'It made me put myself in places where I was vulnerable and that were beyond my previous experience,' she says. 'I was learning from people whom I was in theory there to work for, yet who actually needed to resource me so that I could work alongside them. This experience was very formative for me in my realisation that we have more to learn from the people who are rooted in the places that we are called to serve, that our privilege is to be alongside them while they do their own growing and discovering.'

When not on residential placement, they lived just off Holgarth Street, their house butting on to the prison wall (there were two escape alarms in the time they were there). They seem to have lived life to the full. They were both in John's college choir. They both rowed, and they both remember George signing up to a Cranmer vs John's rugby match with an enthusiasm for, but without the necessary experience of rugby – an act that nearly killed him. 'We also developed what we understood to be a vital ministry in the college,' she says, 'that of providing tea and cake, baked or bought, nearly every afternoon in the common room, and just to be present for the rest of the college community when they were coming by. It doesn't seem like it is work or training for the ministry but it did develop us.'

Although she has been back to Durham a number of times, one homecoming particularly stands out. Three years ago, she was unwell and due to have emergency surgery, but having already committed herself to undertake a pilgrimage from Melrose to Lindisfarne, she did it anyway. The pilgrim route was along the modern footpath, St Cuthbert's Way, which retraces some of the journey the Saint would have made and that his fellow monks made carrying his coffin on their way to its enshrinement in Durham Cathedral. Despite her illness, and with the support and encouragement of the party, she made it to Lindisfarne and then travelled on to Durham.

'It was very, very moving,' she says, 'that sense of reconnections with Durham's spiritual heritage through St Cuthbert and the early saints who shaped and formed our country's Christian identity. Seeing that wonderful new Fenwick Lawson sculpture in the square, of the monks carrying the coffin up the hill, gave me a sense of being part of a continuing history that stretches back beyond imagination and which stretches into the future beyond the imagination. It encompasses eternity and that reflection gave me great comfort.' Cuthbert, almost certainly unfairly, was labelled a misogynist by the Norman inheritors of his cult and there is still a line on the floor of the Cathedral nave that marks the point where female pilgrims and worshippers were once prevented from going beyond. It is an ironic quirk of history therefore that the first female bishop of the Church of England came from a Christian community in direct descent from St Cuthbert.

'The early saints would have been shaped by their own context just as we all are,' she reflects, 'and there was no sense of my having to rail or push against their heritage while I was in Durham. Indeed, because the connection with the founding saints is so bound up with the lived experience of being in the City, it was almost as if those saints were a very reassuring and challenging presence within the living community, rather than figures from the past.'

Instead of any pride at her considerable individual achievement, it is her deeply held sense of both being part of and a representative of the broadest possible community that seems to define Bishop Libby. At her installation, she spoke about Christians sharing in the confidence in Christ, that their sense of identity and purpose isn't rooted in anything that they have personally achieved but is a gift from God. And it is this reflection that comes back to her when she talks about Durham.

'I can trace much of my approach to the experience I had of and in Durham,' she says. 'It comes from being within a space that, through

its heritage and potential, makes us aware of that which is beyond ourselves and which gives us hope.

'I think Durham is illustrative of that Christian good news that we are part of something that is far beyond our human limitations and that that is to be embraced joyfully as a gift. I rejoice that Durham has been part of my story and I hope that it can be that blessing to other alumni and to those who are students now as it was for me.' ■

BIOGRAPHY

Libby Lane has been the Vicar of St Peter's Hale and St Elizabeth's Ashley, in the Diocese of Chester, since April 2007, and from January 2010 has also been Dean of Women in Ministry for the Diocese. After school in Manchester and University at Oxford, she trained for ministry at Cranmer Hall, St John's College, Durham University. She was ordained a deacon in 1993 and a priest in 1994, serving her curacy in Blackburn, Lancashire. Prior to moving to Hale, Libby was Team Vicar in the Stockport South West Team, and Assistant Diocesan Director of Ordinands in the Diocese of Chester, advising and supporting those considering a vocation to ministry in the church. She continues to be a Bishop's Selection Advisor.

Libby has served in the Diocese of York, as Chaplain in hospital and further education, and as Family Life Officer for the Committee for Social Responsibility in the Diocese of Chester.

She is one of eight clergymen from the Church of England elected as Participant Observers in the House of Bishops, as the representative from the dioceses of the North West.

TALL TALES



AS THEY SPREAD, FOLKTALES EVOLVE LIKE BIOLOGICAL SPECIES

JAMIE TEHRANI, DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY



We all know the story: Once upon a time there was a young girl who took a walk through the woods to visit her grandmother, carrying a basket of goodies. When she arrived, she found her granny ill in bed. But something else was wrong. Why did Granny's eyes look so big?! And her ears?! And her teeth?! By the time the girl finally realised that "Granny" was, in fact, a wolf in disguise, it was too late – she was gobbled up in an instant. And that was the end of Little Red Riding Hood. Or was it? Maybe the story you know has the little girl rescued by a passing huntsman, who cuts her out of the wolf's belly and kills the beast. Or perhaps her father stormed in with a shotgun, and blew the wolf's head off just as he was about to devour her. In French and Italian oral tradition, the girl doesn't need any man to rescue her – she uses her own wits to escape from the wolf. (Interestingly, this more empowered heroine has been reincarnated in some modern versions of the tale, such as Angela Carter's *Company of Wolves*, David Slade's superb Hitchcockian fairy-tale movie *Hard Candy* and the recent Hollywood flop *Red Riding Hood*).

Chinese whispers

Like all folktales, there is no single "correct" version of Little Red Riding Hood. Although the basic structure of the story remains recognisable, many of the details of the plot and characters have been modified as they get passed on from person to person. We can think of it as being like a game of "Chinese Whispers" (or, as Americans call it, "Broken Telephone"), whereby as people learn and re-tell the tale, they omit some elements, while adding and distorting others.

In folklore, this game is not only played vertically across generations, but horizontally across space

as tales spread from society to society, with some – like Little Red Riding Hood – spreading globally. Over time, these so-called "international tale types" evolve into locally distinctive forms (known as "oikotypes") as they adapt to different cultural and ecological contexts. This process is directly analogous to the emergence of new species in biological evolution and, I argue, can be studied using the same kinds of tools.

The idea is to use a biologist's tool, like phylogenetic analysis which looks at genetic relationships among species, to investigate the evolution of folktales. This is because folktales not only evolve through similar processes as biological species (variation, selection and inheritance), but the problems of reconstructing them are also comparable. Just as the fossil record bears witness to a tiny proportion of extinct ancestral species, the literary record provides scarce textual evidence about early forms of folktales because they have been mainly transmitted through oral means.

Phylogenetics can fill these gaps by using

information about the past that has been preserved through the mechanism of inheritance.

Just like genes

Take the example of the long-running debate about the relationship between Little Red Riding Hood and similar tales from other regions of the world.

These include East Asian tales, in which a group of sisters are home alone when they hear a knock at the door. It is a tiger (or leopard, or some other predator) disguised as their grandmother. Despite her suspicious appearance ("Granny, why are your eyes so big?!") they let her in. That night they share a bed, and the tiger eats the youngest girl to the horror of her sisters, who manage to escape.

Another tale, from central and southern Africa, involves a young girl who is tricked by an ogre pretending to be her brother. When her brother finds out, he tracks down the ogre, kills him and cuts her out of the villain's belly. Both these tales bear a clear resemblance to Little Red Riding Hood. But they are also similar to another well-known international type tale: "The Wolf and the Kids", in which a group of goat kids are devoured by a wolf who gets into their house by impersonating their mother.

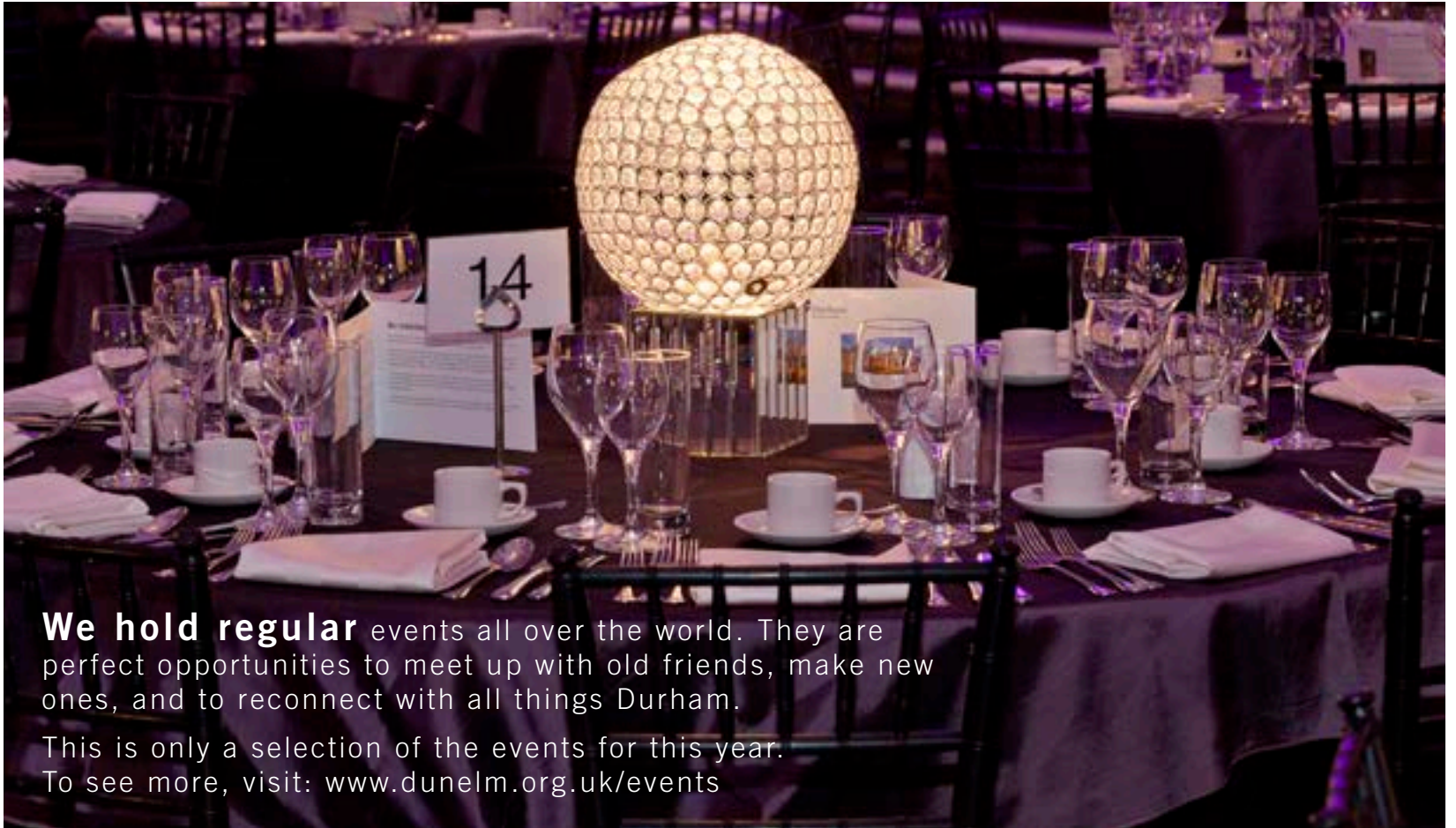
By analysing variables in the plots and characters of 58 folktales using three methods of phylogenetic analysis, I was able to establish, in a paper just published in PLOS ONE, that the African tales are clearly more closely related to The Wolf and the Kids than they are to Little Red Riding Hood. The East Asian tales evolved by blending together elements from both these tales and from local folktales.

Previous writers have suggested, based on resemblances, that the East Asian tales were the source of the Western tales. My findings turn that theory on its head, suggesting that the Asian tales are in fact derived from a Western source, not vice versa. The kind of approach I have used promises new insights into the origins and relationships among story-telling traditions from different countries around the world. But ultimately I believe it can deliver more than that.

Folktales, more than any other type of story, embody our shared fantasies, fears and experiences. Understanding which elements of them remain stable and which ones change as they get transmitted across generations and societies can therefore provide a unique window into universal and variable aspects of the human condition. As such, they represent a potentially rich point of contact between anthropologists, folklorists, literary scholars, biologists and cognitive scientists. ■

"We can think of it as being like a game of "Chinese Whispers" (or, as Americans call it, "Broken Telephone"), whereby as people learn and re-tell the tale, they omit some elements, while adding and distorting others."

EVENTS



We hold regular events all over the world. They are perfect opportunities to meet up with old friends, make new ones, and to reconnect with all things Durham.

This is only a selection of the events for this year. To see more, visit: www.dunelm.org.uk/events

APRIL 2015

Saturday 11

Durham University Business School 50th Anniversary Celebrations weekend – Durham

Tuesday 28

Military Scholarships Launch at Cavalry and Guards Club, Piccadilly, London

Tuesday 28

Inaugural lecture, Philip Gaskell

MAY 2015

Tuesday 12

Inaugural lecture, Georgios Theodoropoulos

Sunday 31–Friday 5 June

Dunelm Days

JUNE 2015

Monday 8

Inaugural lecture, Robert Song

Friday 12

Ustinov College 50th anniversary formal dinner

Saturday 20–Sunday 21

Trevelyan College recent graduates reunion weekend (5 years) – Trevelyan College, Durham

Friday 26–Sunday 28

Hatfield College reunion weekend – Hatfield College, Durham

JULY 2015

Friday 10–Sunday 12

Van Mildert Reunion weekend – Van Mildert College, Durham

Saturday 11

Opera by the Lake – Van Mildert College, Durham



SEPTEMBER 2015

Friday 11–Sunday 13

St Chad's decades reunion weekend (leavers 4, 5 & 6) – St Chad's College, Durham

Friday 18–Saturday 19

College of St Hild & St Bede alumni association reunion weekend – Hild & Bede College

Saturday 19

1904 Society dinner, 7.30pm in College for all former JCR and MCR Exec members

Saturday 19

Horsfall Society Lunch, 12.30pm in College for those who have left a legacy to St Chad's

NOVEMBER 2015

Tuesday 17

Convocation and the Dunelm Society Annual Dinner – Museum of St John and Jerusalem in Clerkenwell, London

JULY 2016

Saturday 2

Lion in Summer Ball – Hatfield College, Durham

Look out online for more events near you and see photographs of previous events on Flickr: <http://bit.ly/DunelmFlickr>



Get Involved

Your relationship with Durham doesn't end at Congregation

There are many ways for you to get involved with the University in the years after you leave, depending on the time you have available and your interests.

Some of the opportunities available are:

- organising events in your area
- acting as local contact (to support University staff when travelling and similar)
- career support via your college or Careers Employment and Enterprise Centre.

To find out more, visit: www.dunelm.org.uk/get-involved

In 2014, our alumni volunteers and event organisers organised 23 events, across 5 continents and 16 countries, welcoming over 270 guests to a wide range of events, from a family day out in Holland Park to a Chinese Dim Sum Lunch at the prestigious Aberdeen Marina Club in Hong Kong; from a river cruise on the Norfolk Broads to a gathering at a traditional Viennese Summer Ball.

DUNELM
Durham University Alumni Community

DUNELM DAYS

DUNELM DAYS IS BACK!

"We were by far the oldest people present but we had a great time chatting about all sorts of stuff – especially recounting what Durham University was like back in the sixties - all the recent graduates were very interested in our historical view of Durham and Durham University and we were fascinated by their recent experiences and perceptions of 'Durham today'."

SUNDAY 31 MAY –
SATURDAY 6 JUNE

WWW.DUNELM.ORG.UK/DUNELMDAYS

DAVID THACKWRAY
VAN MILDERT, 1967-70, YORK



DUNELM DAYS IN LONDON

A day out at Holland Park



DUNELM DAYS IN CAMBRIDGE

'Old World vs. New World' wine
tasting session at Cambridge
Wine Merchants



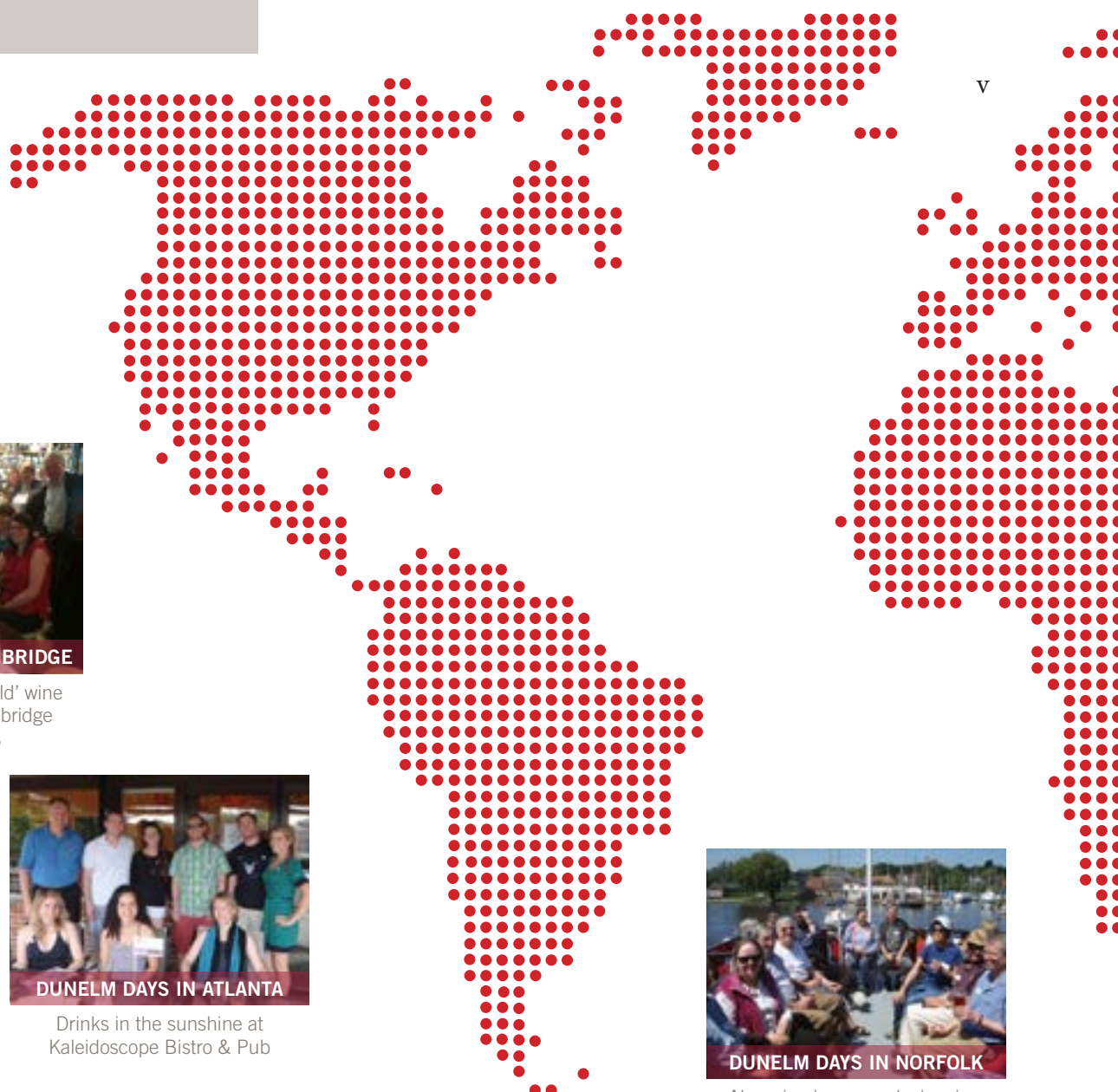
DUNELM DAYS IN ATLANTA

Drinks in the sunshine at
Kaleidoscope Bistro & Pub



DUNELM DAYS IN NORFOLK

Alumni enjoy an exclusive river
cruise on the Norfolk Broads



ARE YOU ORGANISING A REUNION?

If you are thinking of planning a reunion or an alumni gathering, we can help!

Your Alumni Relations Team can offer a range of advice, from booking a venue, catering, invitations and publicity. Throughout the year we help a number of event volunteers organise their own gatherings.

We can also assist you in locating the relevant alumni for your event.

If you need any further information on any of our events, have any suggestions for future events, or would like to recommend a venue, please get in touch at alumni.volunteer@durham.ac.uk

DUNELM DAYS

In 2014, Durham alumni from around the world took part in Dunelm Days – worldwide celebrations of what it means to be a graduate of Durham University, the importance of university connections and maintaining them, while also providing an opportunity to catch up with old friends, make new friends and build the Durham alumni network. In 2015, our alumni volunteers and event organisers will again be organising a myriad of events, across five continents. Last year activities ranged from a family day out in Holland Park to a Chinese Dim Sum Lunch at the prestigious Aberdeen Marina Club in Hong Kong to a river cruise on the Norfolk Broads and a gathering at a traditional Viennese Summer Ball. Dunelm Days 2014 officially began on Saturday 31 May, the anniversary of the formation of the first

Durham alumni group, Durham University Society, in 1866. The celebration arrived early in Mexico City with an informal gathering hosted by Prof Dave Petley, Dean of Research and Global Engagement, Prof Andrea Noble, Arts and Humanities, and alumni volunteer for Mexico, Jack Little, *Collingwood, Politics, 2006-09*. In Brussels, alumni gathered at Epaulé Jete for an informal event hosted by Director of Development and Alumni Relations Bruno van Dyk.

This year Dunelm Days are back, by popular demand. The groundswell of activity is now building to the 150th anniversary of the first ever Durham alumni group in 2016!

The alumni office would like to thank all volunteers and event organisers for their continued support and would like to encourage anyone with ideas for an event in their city or region to email alumni.volunteer@durham.ac.uk

“The idea of Dunelm Days across the globe was a wonderful way of sharing what we all seem to have in common - happy memories and good friendships from our time at Durham.”

FIONA TURTON

GEOGRAPHY, ST AIDAN'S, 1975-78, NORFOLK



DUNELM DAYS IN BEIJING

Drinks at No.12 Flagship Brewpub



DUNELM DAYS IN TOKYO

After Hours at Meguro Tavern



DUNELM DAYS IN HONG KONG

Chinese Dim Sum Lunch at the exclusive Aberdeen Marina Club



DUNELM DAYS IN MELBOURNE

After Hours at Transit Rooftop bar

“Thanks very much for organising the first Brussels event, it was a pleasure to meet fellow alumni living and working in Brussels. Would certainly support similar events in the future.”

REBECCA SHORROCK

MODERN LANGUAGES, TREVELYAN, 2001-05, BRUSSELS

“I am always grateful for my experience at Durham, even though I was not the best of students. I did get involved in sport and drama and student politics but my attendance at lectures etc suffered. Going to alumni events assuages my guilt!”

BEN CARDWELL

ECONOMICS AND LAW, ST CUTHBERT'S, 1961-64, NORFOLK

THE  TIMES
THE SUNDAY TIMES

SPORTS UNIVERSITY OF THE YEAR 2015

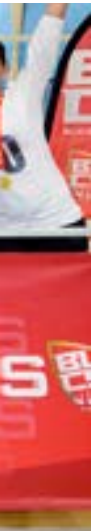
Awarded for success in sport education, research, achievement, participation and outreach.

The academic year began with our students and staff being recognised for their outstanding achievements in 2013/14 by the Times and Sunday Times who selected Durham as their Sports University of the Year. The award, which recognises excellence in sport education, performance, participation and community engagement, was a just reward for a 12-month period where sport at Durham continued to develop in the most positive way.

Yet more records tumbled as we recorded our most impressive year to date in terms of British University Sport, while our College programme continued to grow and the number of students volunteering to support our overall programme soared yet again.



Clockwise from top left: BUCS Finals; College Football; Charity Cricket; College Festival Athletics; Holiday Camps; Team Durham Rugby; College Festival Netball



SECOND IN THE OVERALL BUCS TABLE

In student performance terms one of our key objectives is to be Britain's number one team sport university. Loughborough maintained the overall championship for the 35th year in succession, but for the first time in that period they did not win all three categories, with the Palatinates leading the league sport table.

Going into the summer we were also leading the cup knockout category. We may not be in a position to go head to head with Loughborough across the multitude of individual disciplines, but our objective must be to try and win two of the categories this academic year – it's an ambitious target but, as we know, Durham students never lack ambition and the determination to be successful.

STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

At the heart of a truly meaningful student experience has to be the provision of opportunities for student development – be that leadership, teamwork, financial and time management, communication or the ability to deal with adversity. The jewel in our crown is, and always will be, our College Sport programme and now with over 7,000 students, spread across more than 550 teams, it is easy to see where such opportunities to gain valuable experience and develop important skills can be found.

Add to that a further 52 University clubs, all of which have large executives, and it is clear that our ever-expanding programme provides distinctive opportunities to so many. While we cannot reach as many students as we would like, the formal launch of our Leadership Academy, designed to support some of our most outstanding captains and

organisers, will take us a step further down the path of providing exceptional opportunities for development that are simply not provided elsewhere.

Our community outreach programme has also continued to expand and, bolstered by the recent receipt of a Sport England Grant to develop and deliver disability sport and physical activity, our students will be provided with further opportunities to be physically active, coach, organise and mentor.

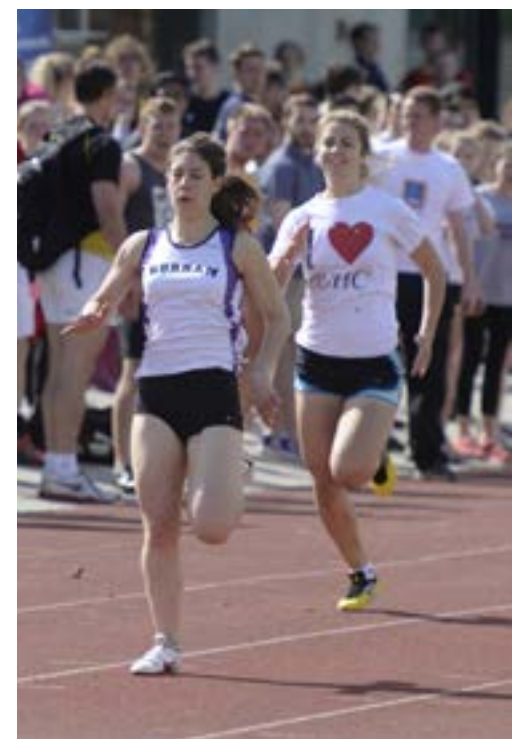
INTERNATIONAL ATHLETES

When reflecting upon our outstanding student intake for the 2014/15 academic year, it is clear that Durham is a very exciting place to be. Over 40 international athletes, across over 20 sports, are now studying at the University. A perfect statistic to emphasise just how important higher education is to the development of sport in this country.

In an era where students have a greater choice in terms of university destination than ever before, it is clearly important for an institution such as Durham to offer so much more than academic excellence.

As we all know, Durham provides a unique and outstanding student experience in many ways, but we would certainly like to feel that sport is playing its part in ensuring that students select Durham over our national and international competitors. We have said on many occasions that one of our long-term objectives is to be seen as the British University where students can combine academic and sporting excellence.

While we are getting closer, we still have some way to go, but we are now very confident that few, if any, British universities combine academic and sporting excellence more seamlessly, successfully and consistently than we do.



EXPERIENCE DURHAM



THEATRE HIGHLIGHTS

The last year has been an exciting one for Durham Student Theatre with our 27 theatre companies producing 65 productions as diverse as Tennessee Williams' semi-autobiographical tragedy, *The Glass Menagerie*, and Oscar Wilde's classic comedy, *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Many of our productions have earned rave reviews with Thrust Stage's imaginative and emotional performance of *Jerusalem* winning best play at the annual DOSCAR ceremony. DULOG's annual Gala show, *Guys and Dolls*, was also highly praised. A number of Durham shows made a very



Clockwise from top left: *Guys and Dolls*; *Last Night of the Proms*; *The Glass Menagerie*

successful transition to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, including an extremely polished and professional production of *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*. Several pieces of original writing were also very well received at the Fringe including, *Babysitters* (winner of best play at the 2013 Durham Drama Festival) by Matt Dann and Lewis Meade, and *The Noctambulist* by Joe Skelton.

Durham Student Theatre has a number of ongoing community outreach projects. In particular, we have strong partnerships with Off The Page Drama, a local children's drama group, and Enter CIC, a youth group based in Ferryhill. Both of these groups have brought shows into the Assembly Rooms and both work in collaboration with Durham students.

This year is already turning into an interesting one. As well as continuing our tradition of facilitating high-quality student drama, DST is helping to organise Durham's first arts festival, which will take place from 30 May–15 June and showcase all the high-quality drama, music, dance and visual arts that Durham has to offer.

To open the arts festival will be 'Music from the films' – a really exciting evening displaying some of the most talented musicians in Durham performing film music in Durham Cathedral.

To conclude, our Chancellor Sir Thomas Allen will perform in the Cathedral with the University Chamber Orchestra in a world premier of a commission from composer and alumnus John Casken, *Music, 1987-90*. Certainly two events not to be missed, and everything in between.

MUSIC HIGHLIGHTS

Music continues to grow significantly in the University with a number of master classes for singers, orchestras, jazz musicians, composers, conductors and opera singers being crucial in these advances. These master classes have enabled students to receive teaching from expert musicians in their respective fields, gain valuable insights into the world of professional music and establish professional contacts.

There have also been a number of successful concerts this year, notably last March at London's St John's Smith Square. This was a hugely prestigious event for forty singers working with the London Chorus and New London Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Ronald Corp. It was fantastic to sing with our esteemed Chancellor Sir Thomas Allen and it was an extremely successful concert reconnecting with alumni both as soloists and audience members.

The highlight was undoubtedly the final concert of the year, an enormous event in Durham Cathedral with over 200 students from a wide variety of ensembles – the Big Band, Chamber Choir, Opera ensemble, Brass Band, Symphony Orchestra and DUMS Chorus all performing in the 'Last Night of the Proms'.



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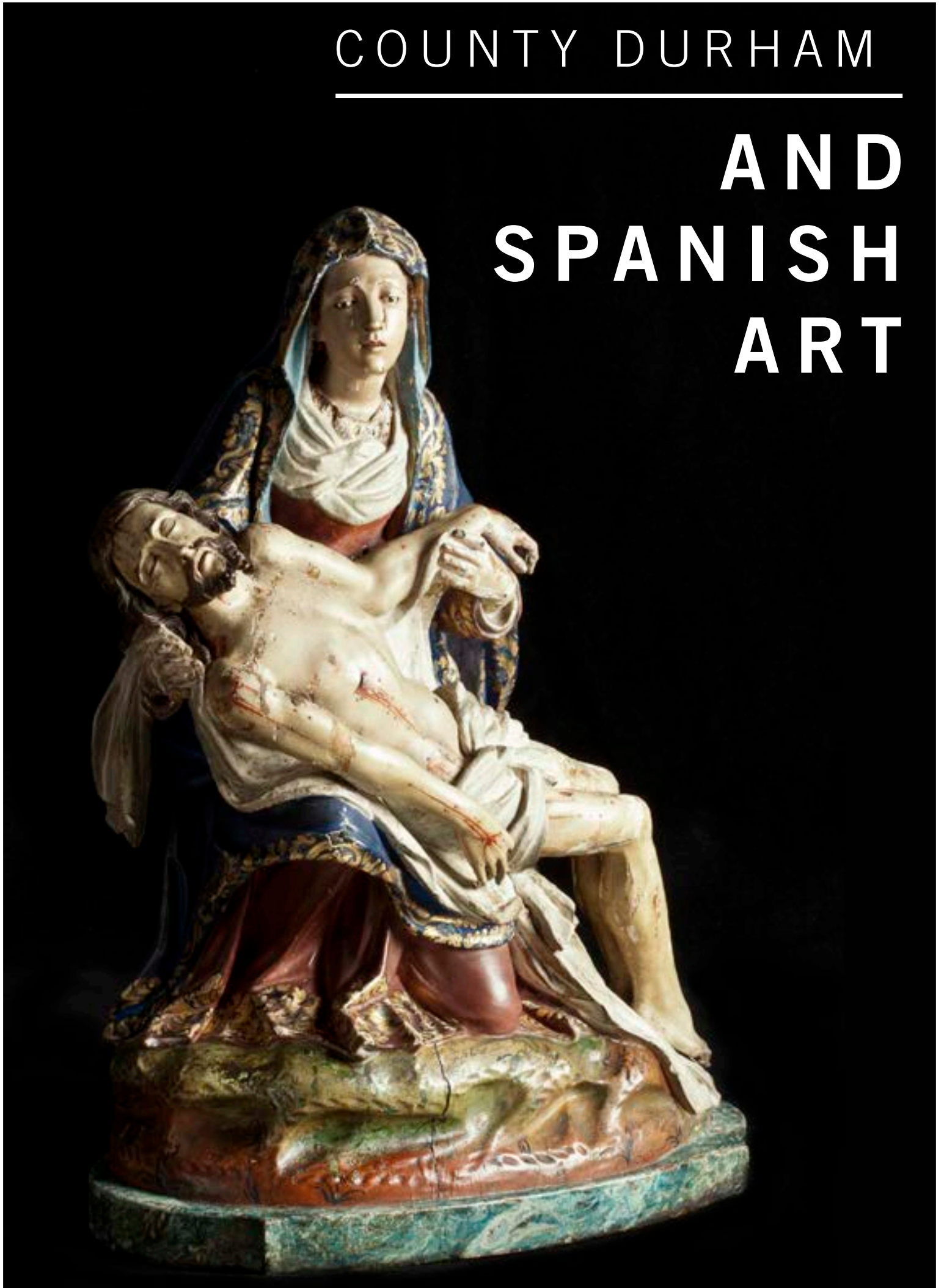
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COUNTY DURHAM

AND
SPANISH
ART



A new initiative aims to establish County Durham as an important international academic and tourist destination for the appreciation of Spanish art, focused around the region's rich collections of Spanish paintings dating from the sixteenth to the eighteenth centuries.

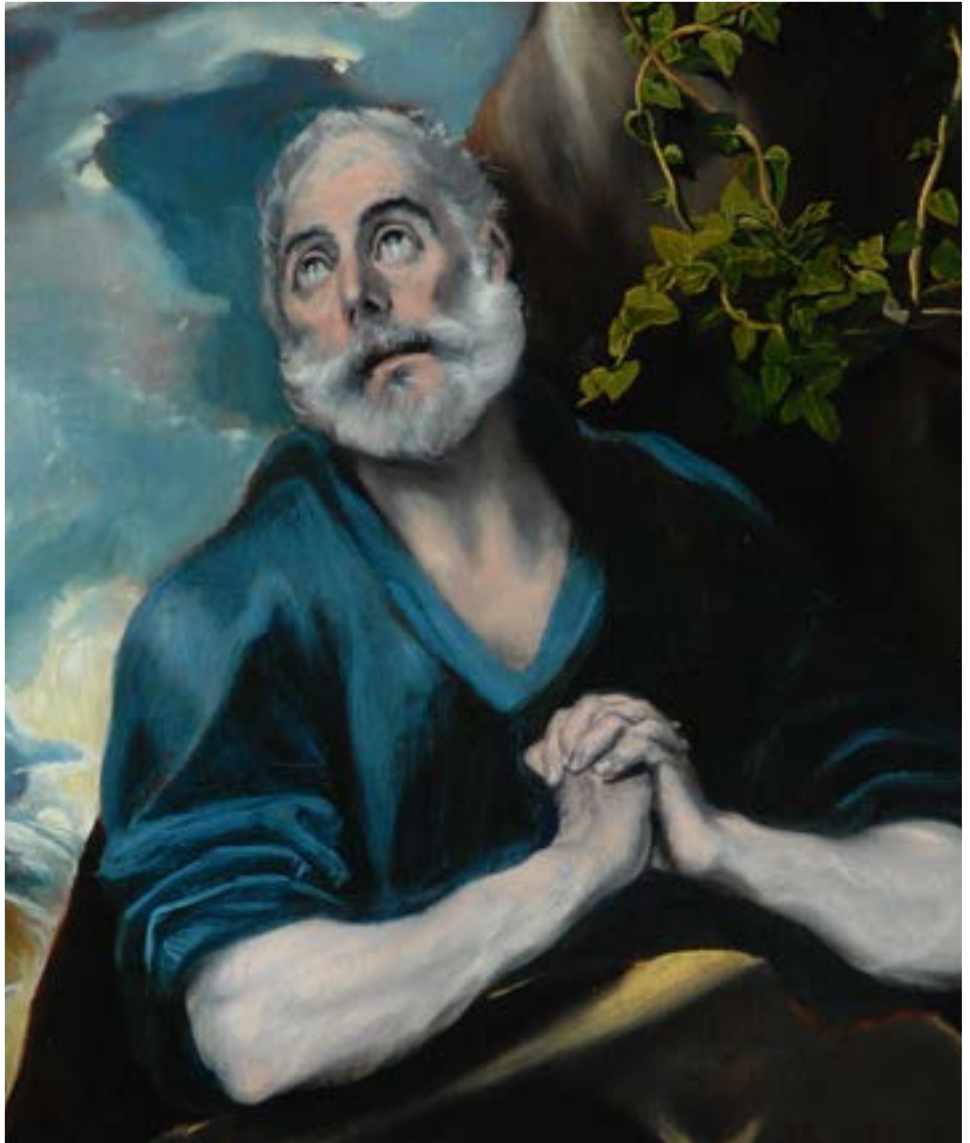
Why County Durham became a focus for the collection of Spanish art is something of a mystery, but in the Bowes Museum, Auckland Castle, Durham University, the Cathedral and Ushaw College, the region now has the largest British accumulation of Golden Age Spanish Art outside London.

Interest in these collections has now been renewed, as Durham University, Auckland Castle and the Bowes Museum have drawn together in developing a vision of how better understanding of the collections will generate increased academic and tourist appreciation of their riches.

A three-day conference in association with the Museo del Prado in Madrid and the National Gallery in London has already brought many of the leading international experts on this period in Spanish art to the region, linked to exhibitions at the Bowes Museum and Auckland Castle. Further exhibitions are being planned.

Durham University's coordinator of Spanish art research, Dr Andy Beresford, said: "The developing partnership with Auckland Castle and the Bowes Museum has provided members of Durham University's Centre for Visual Arts and Culture with an exciting and novel opportunity for interdisciplinary engagement, the development of a range of collaborative research synergies, and the potential to raise the profile of Spanish art in County Durham and of the cultural richness of the North East more broadly.

We are very much looking forward to a long and fruitful relationship and to establishing an internationally renowned focus for the study of Spanish art in Britain." ■



Clockwise from left: Unknown artist, **Pietà**, 17th century, painted wood, gilding and glass. ©Trustees of Ushaw College/ Durham University • Domenikos Theotokopoulos, called el Greco (1541-1614), **The Tears of St Peter**, Spanish, signed, 1580s. Oil on canvas, 108 x 89.6cm. *Painted in the 1580s, this is the first of several versions of the subject by El Greco. It came from the collection of the Conde di Quinto and was purchased, reluctantly, by John Bowes, Founder of the Bowes Museum, in 1862 for 200 francs. El Greco's work was little appreciated at the time.* ©The Bowes Museum, Barnard Castle, County Durham • Unknown artist (active in Seville), **Christ the Saviour**, 17th century, oil on canvas. ©Reproduced with the kind permission of the Lord Barnard T.D., Raby Castle • Francisco Jose de Goya (1746-1828), **Prison Scene**, Spanish, 1793-94. Oil on tin, 42.9 x 31.7cm. Purchased by John Bowes in 1862. Image ©The Bowes Museum, Barnard Castle, County Durham • Francisco de Zurbarán (1598-1664), **Jacob**, c.1640-45, oil on canvas. ©Auckland Castle Trust.



LOOSE TALK

Joe Elliott, Professor of Education and Principal of Collingwood College, talks about his rollercoaster media journey following publication of his controversial book on dyslexia

The recent publication of my book, *The Dyslexia Debate*, has attracted much public attention. Following great work by the University's media team, I was interviewed on various national and international TV and radio stations, in the national and international press and the research was featured on popular websites such as Mumsnet and The Daily Beast. None of this was of any great interest to Collingwood students, although my subsequent appearance on *Loose Women* seemed to impress them greatly. Several approached me afterwards and exclaimed "Legend!", a greeting which I took to represent some form of approbation. I must confess that I knew little about this programme, but dark warnings that the *Loose Women* were fierce, and inclined to engage in acts of merciless intimidation, were not realised. Several of those who saw the programme commented that everyone in the studio audience seemed to be agreeing with my position. Little did they realise that, during the adverts, I had briefed everyone around me to nod vigorously whenever I was making anything that seemed like a key point.

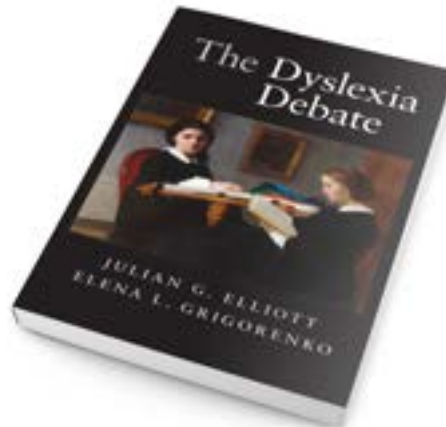
A tricky element of dealing with the media is that it can be very difficult to keep control over the story, especially when it involves an area which is as emotive and complex as dyslexia.

Whilst the majority of the coverage was very well informed and represented the complexities of our research and its conclusions, some newspaper headlines misrepresented the book's contents, such as 'Dyslexia is a meaningless label used by middle-class parents who fear their children are being branded stupid, professor claims'.

The fact that we had categorically stated in the book and the press release that reading disability is a very real phenomenon with a biological basis and that this had nothing to do with intelligence, seemed not to have been picked up in these cases. However, we had anticipated this with our planning for the story, and with coverage that went beyond media stories, it meant that, on the whole, we were able to convey our core messages.

Essentially, our argument is that 'dyslexia' is a term that is understood in so many different ways that it has very little clinical or educational value. We show how advances in genetics, neuroscience, psychology and education do not support the widespread belief that those with dyslexia represent a meaningful subgroup of poor readers. For this reason, we call for a discontinuation of the use of this label, and instead want to see intervention with all children who struggle to read from an early age. However, it is not merely a case of misleading headlines, as outraged responses from the public

FROM RADIO 4 TO LOOSE WOMEN



"...all children who struggle with literacy should have their needs identified and subsequently benefit from scientifically supported interventions. Surely, there should be no debate about that?"



to more reliable reports of my work in this area are commonplace. Clearly, there are powerful psychological forces at work. I believe this comes with the territory of doing this type of research... Over the years, I have received messages from irate parents accusing me of claiming their child is not dyslexic but stupid. Yet I have always been at pains to state that intelligence and decoding ability have nothing to do with each other, so why this misinterpretation of the message?

In my opinion, this phenomenon reflects a form of projection whereby past humiliations caused by the insensitive comments and behaviour of others are reignited and grafted onto the current debate. In essence, the angry parent is fighting all those who threaten their cherished belief that the label will sustain the well-being of their child. The perceived opposition, i.e. someone like me who is questioning the label, is seen to share common perspectives, all of which are insensitive to the needs of those who suffer from dyslexia.

Although the reality is very different, it is easier to discount scientific research findings such as those reported in the book when these are blended with other, less tenable, assertions.

Despite some of the inaccurate headlines, emotive responses and *ad hominem* criticism (including my very own Twitter troll for a while), crucially, the rollercoaster media journey has certainly given me the opportunity to enter a debate with a wide range of people from many countries. However, the point of all this activity is to ensure that all children who struggle with literacy have their needs identified and subsequently benefit from scientifically supported interventions. Surely, there should be no debate about that? ■

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BETTER BUSINESS THINKING

COSMOLOGY

Durham scientist collects prestigious astronomy prize for detection of cosmic ruler to measure expansion of the Universe

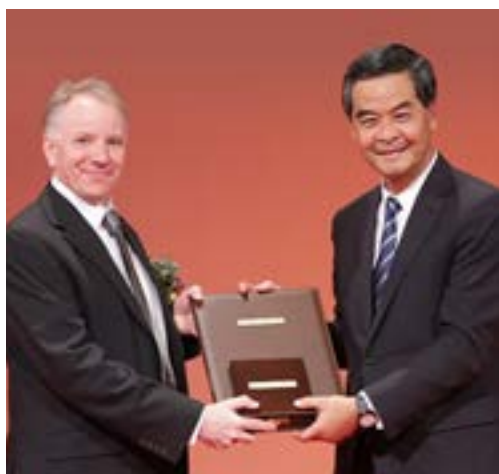
A now commonly used technique to measure the expansion of the Universe has earned a Durham University scientist a prestigious international prize.

Professor Shaun Cole, Deputy Director of Durham's Institute for Computational Cosmology, collected The Shaw Prize in Astronomy at a ceremony in Hong Kong in September.

The award, shared with two other scientists, was made in recognition of Professor Cole's work on the 2dF Galaxy Redshift Survey (2dFGRS), which conducted a study of 250,000 galaxies using the Anglo-Australian Telescope.

Reporting their findings in 2005, Professor Cole and his colleagues showed that baryon acoustic oscillations – soundwaves that spread during the first 400,000 years after the Big Bang – could be used to measure distances in the Universe and the rate at which it is expanding.

Professor Cole, who is also a member of the Department of Physics, will share the \$1million



Professor Shaun Cole (left), Deputy Director of Durham's Institute for Computational Cosmology, collects The Shaw Prize in Astronomy at a ceremony in Hong Kong in September

prize with colleague Professor John Peacock (University of Edinburgh) and Professor Daniel Eisenstein (Harvard University), both of whose work on the Sloan Digital Sky Survey was published at the same time as the 2dFGRS findings and came to the same conclusion.

All three scientists presented a description of their work at a public lecture at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. Professor Cole and fellow 2dFGRS team member, Professor Peacock, said the prize was a "wonderful recognition of the team effort that made the 2dF Galaxy Redshift Survey such a great success". Professor Cole said: "The theory of baryon acoustic oscillations had already been predicted, but the work we did on 2dFGRS, and the work of our colleagues on the Sloan survey, confirmed that these soundwaves could be used as a yardstick to measure the expansion of the Universe.

"This was an important discovery in furthering our understanding of the standard cosmological model of the Universe and the theory that dark energy could be driving its growth. "[The] award is a wonderful honour and has come as a tremendous surprise. I am delighted to share it with my colleagues and I'm pleased that the work we have carried out continues to inform the work of scientists today in furthering our knowledge of the cosmos."

The Shaw Prize is an international award to honour individuals who are currently active in their respective fields and who have recently achieved distinguished and significant advances, who have made outstanding contributions in academic and scientific research or applications, or who in other domains have achieved excellence. The award is dedicated to furthering societal progress, enhancing quality of life and enriching humanity's spiritual civiliszzation.

A computer simulation showing the voyage through the distribution of 220,000 galaxies is available here: <http://bit.ly/1wsnvp>

The 2dF Galaxy Redshift Survey has mapped out the distribution of 220,000 galaxies in two large cone-shaped volumes of space centred on the Milky Way galaxy. This movie takes you on a high-speed voyage through this galaxy distribution. Towards the end, as the camera pulls away, one can see the large-scale cosmic web of clusters and filaments traced out by the galaxy distribution within these two cones. The movie uses the actual positions of galaxies in the 2dF survey and genuine galaxy images, but for artistic effect the galaxy sizes have been greatly exaggerated compared to their separations.

Follow the Institute for Computational Cosmology, Durham University @DarkerMatters. ■

The Shaw Prize in Astronomy is one of a number of honours collected by Durham's world-renowned cosmologists and astronomers in the last year.

Professor Carlos Frenk, Director of the Institute for Computational Cosmology, received the Royal Astronomical Society's highest honour, the Gold Medal for Astronomy, joining a long list of prestigious recipients including Charles Babbage, Edwin Hubble and Albert Einstein.

And last June, Durham was named as Europe's leading university for highly-cited researchers in astronomy and cosmology in the Thomson-Reuters list of the "World's most influential scientific minds 2014".

The Thomson-Reuters list saw Durham ranked sixth in the world for the influence of its space science researchers, the only UK university to feature in the World Top 10, ranking above prestigious institutions including NASA, the Max Planck Institute for Astrophysics in Germany, and the Harvard Smithsonian Centre for Astrophysics in the USA.

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