

Dunelm

The Magazine For Alumni and
Friends of Durham University

30 Years of
Women at
Hatfield College

Memories
From Our 50th
Anniversary
Graduates

Alumna Sue
Photographing
the Antarctic

Issue 05 2019

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Print

Statex statex.co.uk

Cover image

Sue Flood's wildlife photography - see p24

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CUR/06/19/086



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How your support has made a difference

Dear Friends

This has been another outstanding year for Durham University and our global community.

We are coming together to achieve successes in every aspect of University life. Without the support and encouragement of our alumni these successes would be hollow and in some cases frankly impossible. Thank you all for your continuing affection and support for Durham.

In the rankings, both domestically and around the world, the University retains top tier positions due to our excellence in teaching, research and student experience. We have a Gold award for our teaching in the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF), a record 18 Durham subjects are in the World Top 100 of the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2019, with 10 in the Top 50 and 3 in the Top 10. In addition, for the fifth year in a row, we are the leading team sports university in the BUCS league. These are all fantastic achievements of which we can be immensely proud.

As we move forward with our 2017-2027 Strategy you will see amazing things happening here on campus. We are, as throughout our shared history, continuing to develop both the University and our community. We have begun work on our new building for Mathematics and

Computer Science (page 8), which will be home to a new enterprise zone and our AMI Women in Tech scholarships programme, both enabled through the generosity of alumni and friends. Our £35M refurbishment of the Maiden Castle Sports and Wellbeing Park will be complete by Winter 2019, with a major public launch planned for next year (pages 38-9). This will ensure that all members of our community – and not just our elite athletes – have fantastic facilities in which to challenge and develop themselves, including the dozens of regional and local organisations who will be welcomed into this stunning new Park and building. In addition, and crucially, we will be opening our state of the art Centre for Teaching and Learning on South Road in September 2019. Do look out for our posts on that building over the coming months.

Our Colleges remain ever vital to academic, personal, and professional development at Durham. The Colleges continue to be places in which our students can access opportunities and experiences which they will cherish and through which they will develop crucial leadership skills. Our Colleges also provide an unparalleled community of first-line support in terms of mental health awareness, mentoring and career opportunities, and an environment in which trying something new is enabled and encouraged. Two new Colleges will open in 2020: one a new home for John

Snow and the other our seventeenth College: South college as it is called for now. New traditions and models of community will quickly emerge, as we all know. This is Durham, after all.

We believe that inspiring our people to do outstanding things at Durham enables Durham people to do extraordinary things in the world. We find it easy to be deeply proud of the wonderful people we have at Durham and in our global community. You can read about a cross-section of them in this magazine.

Moving forward, we hope to work ever more closely with our global alumni. Our values are demonstrated by your hard-won achievements while at University and beyond: they live on in the friendships and connections that began here and continue to endure, making you part of a lifelong community of extraordinary achievement. While your time with us set you on the road to success, we're here to support you in continuous learning and development, success and wellbeing, and continued engagement with Durham.

Thank you again for all you are doing to be excellent ambassadors for our cause. I hope you see every story within this magazine as a call to action to be, and stay, involved with Durham.

Professor Stuart Corbridge
Vice-Chancellor and Warden

Climbing Up World University Rankings



Durham University has climbed to 74th in the world in the latest global university rankings. We moved up four places overall from 78th last year in the QS World University Rankings 2019. The increase puts Durham in the top eight per cent of 1,011 global higher education institutions ranked, according to the QS rankings.

Record Number of Subjects in World Top 100

We have recorded our highest ever number of subjects in the top 100 of a major international league table. Eighteen of our subjects are now ranked among the very best globally in the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2019, up from 16 in the top 100 last year. Ten subjects feature in the world top 50, up from nine last year.

Durham Ranked Sixth in the UK

We are proud to be known globally as a centre of teaching and research excellence. Now, our University has once again been ranked sixth in the Complete University Guide (2020), maintaining our position from last year and achieving our 12th consecutive year in the top 10 of this prestigious guide.

The latest edition of the Complete University Guide recognises our challenging, creative and cutting-edge teaching and research, with 90 per cent of our subjects ranked in the UK top 10 and two subjects ranked number one – English and Music.

Gold Award to Mark Excellence in Teaching

We have been awarded the highest possible accolade in the Teaching Excellence and Student Outcomes Framework (TEF). This comes as we continue to strive to deliver world-class teaching, with significant investment in new facilities and innovative teaching practices.

In particular, the TEF Panel praised the University for the excellent rates of progression to highly skilled employment or further study for full-time students, and our research-led education, which provides students with the skills that are most valued by employers. The institutional culture at Durham, that rigorously monitors and rewards excellence in teaching, was also highly commended by the Panel.

World Top Six Ranking for Space Science

Our astrophysicists have been ranked joint sixth in the world for the quality and influence of their research in space science. The Clarivate Analytics Highly Cited Researchers 2018 list also places our astronomers and cosmologists first in the UK and second in Europe for the strength of their research.

The list reflects the broad range and high quality of space science research that we conduct, investigating galaxy formation, black holes, dark matter and dark energy. With access to supercomputer technology and the world's most powerful ground and space-based telescopes, Durham's astronomers and cosmologists are searching for the answers to some of the biggest questions in physics today.





Researching Health Hazards of Volcanic Emissions

There are 1,500 active volcanoes worldwide and Kīlauea volcano in Hawaii is one of the most active. In 2018, eruptions from Kīlauea intensified significantly.

Dr Claire Horwell, in our Department of Earth Sciences, has been providing public information on the health impacts of eruptions, including the smog from Kīlauea, known as “vog”, in collaboration with the United States Geological Survey Hawaiian Volcano Observatory. Read more about it in her own words: bit.ly/volemis

Durham's Department of Engineering Partners With The Institution of Engineering and Technology

This formal partnership will enable students to access a professional community of engineers and build stronger relationships with industry. Durham is recognised as being one of the leading centres of research in engineering in the world. Engineering students, at both undergraduate and postgraduate level, work on interdisciplinary research challenges, with the aim of generating new insights into global challenges.

Law School Dean's Inaugural Award

Minister of State at the Ministry of Justice Robert Buckland QC MP (*Law, Hatfield, 1987-91*) received the Award from Professor Thom Brooks, Dean of Durham Law School, on a visit to Durham, during which he also spoke to staff and students about his work at the inaugural Law School Annual Lecture.

Opportunity for 100 Women to Retrain in Tech

One hundred women across the North and the Midlands will have the chance to retrain in the digital sector, thanks to a new online programme. Together with a group of 16 industry partners, we have received over £500,000 from the Institute of Coding to launch a new programme to retrain women in technology. TechUP is led by Durham in partnership with Edge Hill, Nottingham and York universities. It is open to women with degrees in any subject. Find out more at bit.ly/DUretrain

Launch of New Department of Sport and Exercise Sciences

In August 2018, we officially launched the Department of Sport and Exercise Sciences. The academic team brings together psychologists, physiologists, nutritionists, sociologists and political scientists. The multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary nature of the team will enable us to continue to build on our research and teaching strengths in prominent issues relating to sport and exercise.



Sue Black

Sue Black Joins Vibrant Computer Science Department

The Computer Science Department is seeking to inspire a new generation of computer scientists with the recruitment of Professor Sue Black (pictured above), computer scientist and social entrepreneur.

As the University expands, a large number of new faces have been appointed across all departments, bringing in diverse, international research and teaching talent. See them at: bit.ly/DUnewfaces



Rupert Hoogewerf with Vice-Chancellor, Professor Stuart Corbridge

Rupert Hoogewerf — Professor in Practice

Durham University Business School has appointed Rupert Hoogewerf (*Chinese with Japanese, St Cuthbert's Society, 1983–93*) to its academic staff as part of its new Professors in Practice initiative.

After spending seven years as a qualified chartered accountant at Arthur Andersen in London and Shanghai, Rupert founded the Hurun Research Institute – a household brand across China and the world's largest Rich List provider, ranking over 5,000 individuals annually. Now in its 20th year, Hurun Report Inc. has grown into a leading research platform, responsible for creating and delivering over 100 business-focused events each year in China, including industry-respected awards.

As Chairman and Chief Researcher of the Hurun Report Inc., Rupert works with financial institutions (PingAn, Bank of China, Taikang Life, Minsheng, Citic), local government (Shanghai, Changbaishan) and Global 500 multinationals (Marriott, Country Garden, Agile, Audi, Volvo).

The Professors in Practice initiative recognises the expertise and experiences of senior business professionals across a wide variety of disciplines and sectors, by enabling such individuals to share their skills directly with students, bringing public distinction and practical insights to the classroom. The initiative will also provide new connections for Durham University's faculty, enabling them to engage directly with public policy and business practice through their research.

The Future of Oil Spill Clean-Ups

Oil spills happen frequently, ranging from large ones like the 2010 Deepwater Horizon disaster to smaller ones on industrial sites. All have a damaging impact on the environment and wildlife. The clean-up is by no means simple and there is a clear need for new easy, quick ways to separate oil from water.

Surface scientists in our Department of Chemistry have now developed a coated mesh, which could be a faster and more eco-friendly way to clean up oil.

The stainless steel mesh, similar to what you might find in screen doors to keep flies out, not only separates oil from water, but also kills water-borne bacteria very successfully. Tests have so far shown that the mesh separates oil from water with 100% efficiency and kills at least 99.9% of *E. coli* and *Staphylococcus* bacteria in the water.

The coating is easily applied to the mesh, by simply dipping or spraying in a matter of seconds and can then be re-used multiple times. It works for different types of oil, including engine oil and olive oil, for example. As well as oil spills in the ocean, other potential applications include food processing and chemical industrial plants.

Current methods used often soak up a lot of water too, and need extra steps to remove the oil from the 'sponges' that are



commonly used. This makes them less efficient as well as more costly and time-consuming to use on a ship.

The team from our Chemistry Department have invented a smart coating that loves water (known as hydrophilic) and one that rejects oil (known as oleophobic). When the oil-water mixture is poured onto a coated mesh, the water drips through but the oil stays on top of the mesh.

Current studies are testing the patent-pending coated meshes for real-world applications.

Watch the oil-water separation mesh in action: bit.ly/oilmeshvid

£2.4 Million Redevelopment of Historic Durham Theatre

A £2.4 million redevelopment of one of the City's historic and much-loved theatres – The Assembly Rooms – is underway. The renovation comes as part of the University's Estates Masterplan, and the curtain is due to rise again this October.

Outside term-time, the theatre accommodates professional touring companies as well as a number of stand-up and sketch comedy groups that perform throughout the year. For the rest of the year, the venue is home to Durham Student Theatre, which includes 26 different theatre companies, producing and performing nearly 100 shows each year – making Durham one of the largest student theatre scenes in the country.



Artist's sketch of projected development.

Ancient Royal Charter Discovered in Durham

Dr Benjamin Pohl (pictured) was recently in Durham on a visiting fellowship and came across a rare, original royal charter by chance, while studying medieval manuscripts held at Ushaw College Library, and working with our archivist Dr Jonathan Bush.

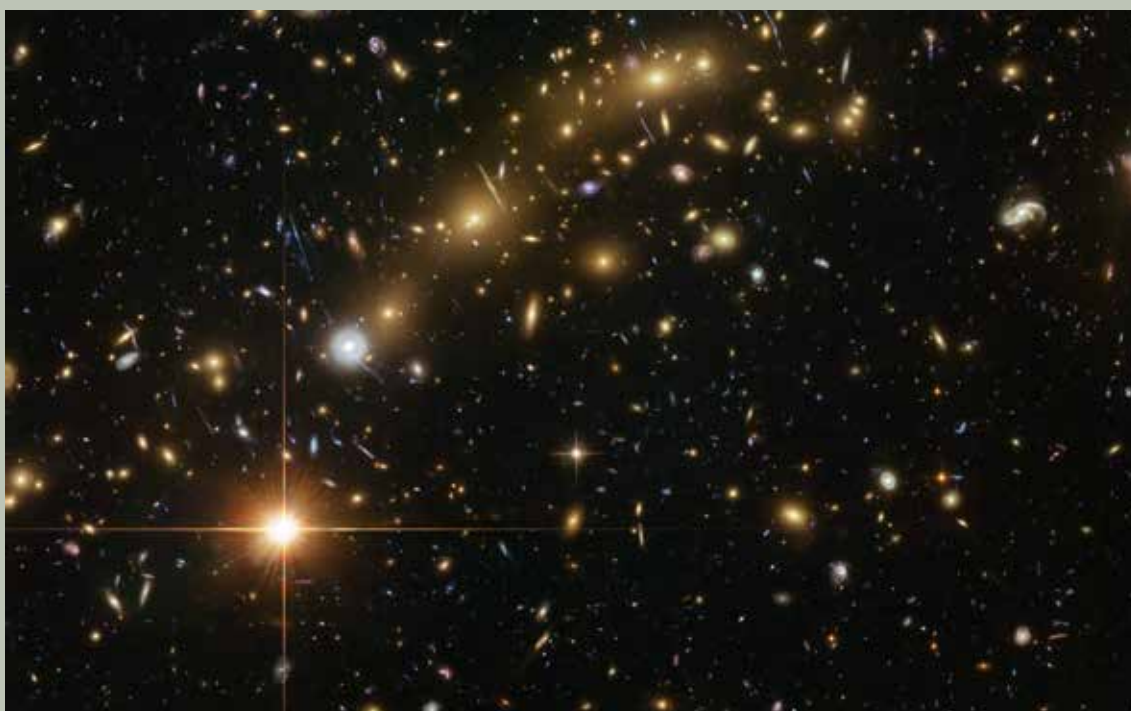
Dr Pohl with the royal charter and an earlier charter by Bishop Hugh de Puiset from before 1183. Both documents are held in the archives of Ushaw College Library – just two of the many treasures to be found in our collections.

Star Award for Dark Matter Research

Durham astrophysicist Dr Mathilde Jauzac has been named as a rising star of research and innovation for her work in the Department of Physics on the mysterious substance that makes up a large part of the universe. She was appointed as a Future Leader Fellow by UK Research and Innovation for her research into dark matter.

Fellowships recognise up-and-coming researchers, providing them with funding to tackle big challenges. Dr Jauzac's award will allow her to make full use of her observation time on the Hubble Space Telescope, to look at distant galaxy clusters to understand more about what dark matter is.

Dark matter makes up about 27 percent of the universe, but it's invisible. Scientists only know it's there because of its gravitational effects on galaxies and galaxy clusters.



New Mathematical Sciences and Computer Science Building

Within the Durham University Strategy 2017–2027 both Mathematical Sciences and Computer Science were identified for significant growth.



To facilitate this, a brand new building is now being constructed to house the departments, on the University campus site at Upper Mountjoy. Planning permission was granted for the project in September 2018, following a public consultation in April 2018.

Construction began in November 2018. The new building will be ready for use in the academic year 2020–21.

The £40 million project will provide state-of-the-art learning, teaching and study spaces. The departments plan to double their undergraduate student numbers by 2026–27 and increase their numbers of postgraduate researchers, as well as academic and support staff.

The building has been designed to facilitate greater integration of students and staff, and to further develop synergies between Mathematical Sciences and Computer Science. The scheme also includes an enterprise hub – to support student-led innovation – another key focus of the University Strategy.

Visit our website durham.ac.uk/estates-developments to see a fly-through of the building.

For up-to-the-minute news and to see videos of the

New Home for Durham University Business School



Durham University is planning to relocate its triple-accredited Top 50 European Business School from Mill Hill Lane, to the heart of Durham City on Elvet Waterside.

This is part of the Durham University Strategy 2017–2027 to deliver a student experience to rival anywhere in the world.

The project is part of the Estates Masterplan and completion would follow delivery of the Infrastructure Project, which aims to develop infrastructure to support the safe movement of pedestrians and road users around the University estate.

- It will ensure that the community and visitors have an enhanced experience and increased accessibility to the riverside. This will include an onsite coffee shop that will be all open year round and available to all. It will also create a public record of site archaeology and heritage.
- Sustainability will be a main focus of the development and will improve the riverside location, while also complementing the site's historic features and natural surroundings.

- It will create a world-class learning experience for students, facilitate the delivery of cutting-edge research and enable the staging of business events and conferences that would further raise the profile of the University, School, City and region around the world. This international profile-raising will enhance the School's competitive position, supporting the attraction of diverse high-calibre students, academics and staff, as well as increasing business connectivity and collaboration globally.

Visit our website durham.ac.uk/estates-developments for the latest developments and to see the plans.

developments visit durham.ac.uk/estates-developments

'All One Hatfield'

*Marking 30 years of women
at Hatfield College*

The academic year 2018–19 marks 30 years since Hatfield first admitted female students, in 1988.



Authors: Sabbatical Development Officer Rebecca Staats and Assistant Senior Tutor Ellen Crabtree

We have chosen the theme 'All One Hatfield' to mark this milestone, which incorporates an exciting programme of events to celebrate and reflect upon our College community. Events and initiatives have brought together members of all three common rooms along with our alumni.

Celebrating Hatfield women

Our anniversary year was launched with a weekend of events in October 2018, including a celebratory formal dinner (what else?!) in Durham for current students, alumni and friends of the College.

The evening included inspirational speeches by the first Hatfield women: Yolande Wright (née Stowell), the first female JCR Senior Man (President); the first woman MCR President Karen Cowart-Smith; the first female Master, Professor Ann MacLarnon; and Helen Hopkins (née Look), the first Hatfield woman to be awarded a first-class degree.

It was wonderful to have so many recent Hatfield alumni back for the occasion, as well as women and men who matriculated in 1988. The weekend was an opportunity for alumni to participate in student-led events – including rounders, a boat outing, a choir rehearsal and a service of thanksgiving in the College chapel – and to laugh, reminisce and reflect upon wider changes at College and societal levels.

'All Male No More!'

Curated by Hatfield staff and students, the Hatfield College exhibition 'All Male No More!' explores and charts the change from Hatfield as an all-male institution to an 'All One' college.

The exhibition shares, for the first time, stories and memories from the first Hatfield Women alongside records from the College archives and material culture of the period, including the 'All Male' and 'First Baps – they're out and about' t-shirts. The exhibition gives an insight into the opposition that the first women faced, and their resilience in setting up women's sports teams and participating in College life to the full.

"We are proud to now be an inclusive and diverse college community, where students of all backgrounds call Hatfield home"

The exhibition also includes a student-led photography project, which explores how current Hatfield Freshers feel about issues around equality, college identity and student protest. In line with the sartorial history of protest t-shirts, we're selling our own 'All One Hatfield' t-shirts, to raise money for the Lioness Fund (see below).

The exhibition opened in February in the College dining hall – a significant space, as the centre of College life and one dominated by the male portraits on the walls – before moving to the chapel for a month. The opportunity for exhibition visitors to provide feedback has yielded responses ranging from the importance of College traditions



(such as 'spooning'!) to hopes for even greater diversity in the next 30 years.

The process of looking back at our past has enabled reflection on how far the College has come in the past three decades. We are proud to now be an inclusive and diverse college community, where students of all backgrounds call Hatfield home.

The Lioness Fund

Looking to the future, and in honour of this anniversary year, Hatfield has established the Lioness Fund, to support two new initiatives.

First, we have commissioned a female sculptor from the North East to create a lioness sculpture, to be erected in the grounds of the College, complementing Timba, the proud lion sculpture in our dining hall and visibly marking the inclusivity of the Hatfield community.

Second, we have launched the Lioness Scholarship, a one-year scholarship for a female postgraduate student from a developing country where access to higher education for women is limited. We are very excited to be receiving applications for our first Lioness Scholar, who will join us for the 2019–20 academic year.

We are enormously grateful to all alumni who have supported our programme of events this year, not least those who have generously donated to the Lioness Fund and kindly loaned items for display in the exhibition.

Here's to the next 30 years!



Page 10, clockwise from top left:

Alumni and current students at our 'Celebrating 30 Years of Hatfield Women' dinner, October 2018

At the exhibition launch, 19 February 2019

First or among the first: (L-R) Yolande Wright, Professor Ann MacLarnon and Karen Cowart-Smith, October 2018

Some of the class of '88 at our 'Celebrating 30 Years of Hatfield Women' dinner, October 2018

Right: (L-R): Hatfield Master Professor Ann MacLarnon with Hatfield tutor Pauline Wetton, who opened the exhibition

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We have recently welcomed Tristan Alltimes to the Development and Alumni Relations Office as Deputy Director, Alumni Engagement and Annual Giving. Here he introduces himself and some of his plans for how he would like to work with you, our alumni community.



Tristan Alltimes

Deputy Director
Alumni Engagement
and Annual Giving

What are the three things you would like to do in your first year in the role?

There are so many things I want to do in my first year and beyond, and I am committed to seeing real improvement with our community engagement efforts, both internally and externally. However, three key things stand out to me.

#1 – Learn – It is important in my view to fully assess and learn the landscape in which you find yourself, before you make any major changes to programming or approach. In my career to date, I have often observed that some advancement professionals make major changes very early on in their first year, only to realise there was a completely rational reason for that activity or process to exist in the first place and they then have to undo their amends, usually at a cost to alumni relationships! At an institution like Durham, where it has been actively running alumni organisations, societies and programmes for decades, it is wise to learn all about the history of involvement and the key supporters, so that you can work collaboratively to achieve the collective goals of the University and the community at large.

Which leads me to ...

#2 – Listen – What benefits, services and resources does the Durham alumni and supporter community want, and, perhaps more importantly, need? In the University's strategic plan 2017–2027 it has been clearly articulated in its 'Cultures of Affection' that we are to build an offer for our alumni

members that will match the top performers in the UK, while also learning from the US and around the world.

But what does this mean? We believe that there is huge scope for developing our services and resources to offer our community improved access to the intellectual, cultural and employment-related resources of Durham University as well as bespoke products and opportunities for networking, but what do you think? What are the key benefits, services and resources you believe we could build, which will add value for you in your lives and careers?

We are here to listen. I want to have a continual dialogue of feedback and improvements, leading us to excellence in everything we do in alumni engagement. To this end, please reach out to me or the team at any time with any feedback about your alumni experiences of engaging with us, in any capacity.

#3 – Connect – Finally, alumni engagement is all about meaningful relationships. You can't build those from behind a desk every day, although with the advent of new technology that is made a lot easier! However, I am really keen to get on the road and meet with key alumni both here in the UK and across the world to pay heed to point 2 especially, but also to build key relationships for both our alumni community and the University. We have much to do to support our agendas in: Research and Engagement; Education; The Wider Student Experience; Global Relations; Accommodation and Estates; and in Funding our Future. These relationships will be key to supporting the progression within all these vitally important areas.

What is your long-term vision for Durham's worldwide alumni community?

From a University point of view, I would like to see record numbers of Durham University alumni members engaging with the University and making Durham University their primary cause to support.

Of course, philanthropy is of incredible importance to the future of the institution, but I am also keen to see past generations of alumni supporting future generations of students and alumni by giving their time,

involvement and support through our vast suite of volunteering opportunities.

And in remaining aspirational, I would like to see Durham University recognised as one of the UK's (and, dare I say it, Europe's and the world's) leading alumni engagement programmes. It's a position I believe Durham in some ways already holds, but I am focused on bringing that to life in a more visible way in the future.

Finally, from an alumni community point of view, I would like to see Durham University offering the intellectual, cultural and employment-related resources as mentioned in its strategic plan – and perhaps most importantly, that the alumni community respond positively to it, regularly engaging and utilising it for the benefit of their careers, lives and society at large.

And now, a bit about you – what do you like to do outside work?

Having now moved house six times in the last five years, two of which were for international moves, I am now more than happy to settle back into life in the North East, enjoying more calm family life with my daughter and wife. I love family days out and thoroughly enjoy visiting National Trust properties now that I have re-instated my annual membership back in the UK.

I am particularly looking forward to my 40th and my daughter's 5th impending birthday celebrations in Florida soon: two whole weeks of Orlando Disney themed fun, Miami city and Florida Keys relaxation. I am confident that it's going to be a lifetime memory for the family.

What would you like to hear and learn about from the alumni community? And how can people get in touch?

If I can refer to point number 2 again in the top three things I would like to do in my first year: LISTEN. Now is an excellent time for you to tell us what we should be offering in terms of benefits, services and resources. We want you to engage and gain value from that engagement.

If you can spare time to pass on your feedback through email, a survey, a future focus group or a telephone call, I will always appreciate it. Feedback is a gift and one which I intend to open with vigour and anticipation every day in this role – after all, it will be through continual feedback and improvement that we will change the game here at Durham.

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Alumni

Together We Are Stronger

*Durham alumni ambassador
pays a visit to Durham*



We caught up with one of Durham University's most dedicated alumni ambassadors, Ocean (Xun) Wang (MBA in Business Administration, Ustinov College, 2008-09), during his recent visit to Durham from China.

Ocean Wang (left) joined Durham in 2008, following in the footsteps of his grandmother and of his great-aunt and her husband, who actually met at the University – something we see so often at Durham.

During his time as a Ustinov College student, while balancing the importance of studying and getting a good degree, Ocean got involved with the Ustinov Boat Team, regularly travelled to London to watch West End musicals, and was a keen member of the Durham ballroom dancing team. As a Chinese national, he was very keen to develop his English language skills. Joining the ballroom dancing team gave him an opportunity not only to challenge himself physically, but also to practise his English, by “sharing gossip” with his British dance partner. Underpinning all of these activities is Ocean's drive to be the best version of himself.

Global business networks

Following graduation, Ocean recognised that the Durham alumni service would be a useful connection to help him in his career as Senior Principal at global organisational consulting firm Korn Ferry in Shanghai.

When Ocean returned to China after his studies, he began helping local alumni with career advice, by checking their CVs and meeting with them in person. He was able to track the positive change he was making to people's lives through a social media and messaging app in China, WeChat.

Ocean is now well connected across the business community in China and Japan, particularly for companies with links to the USA and Europe. Maintaining contact with the University through volunteering his time not only develops his English communication skills, but also keeps him in touch with senior University staff to promote Durham University collectively and globally.

Ocean Wang receiving his Dunelmensis Award in 2016 from Professor Stuart Corbridge, Vice-Chancellor and Warden of Durham University

Chinese alumni chapters

As the demand for Ocean's time began increasing rapidly, he needed to identify more alumni in China to support him in his efforts. As a result, the Chinese Chapter model was established, which Ocean continues to lead today.

There are now active international alumni chapters, run by a core group of 22 Durham alumni volunteers, in Shanghai, Beijing, Shenzhen and Chengdu, with new, emerging chapters in Hangzhou and Nanjing.

Alumni chapters offer career support to alumni and current students, as well as organising regular social events in the area. Ocean and the chapter volunteers play an instrumental role in connecting the University with our Chinese alumni, who are our largest alumni population outside the UK.

**“If you love Durham,
love it seriously.
Contribute more locally,
wherever you are on
this planet. Together we
are stronger”**

An invaluable contribution

In 2013, Ocean became a member of the Durham University Business School Advisory Board. A year later, he was appointed Chairman of Durham University Business School International Committee for China.

As well as all this, Ocean delivers regular guest lectures to Durham students in person, as well as remotely.

In 2016, at the Vice-Chancellor's Reception in Beijing, Ocean became the youngest alumnus – and the first Durham University Business School graduate – to be presented with a Dunelmensis Award, in recognition of the invaluable contributions he has made both to the University and also to our global alumni community.

When we asked Ocean what he would like to say to Durham alumni around the world, his response was: “If you love Durham, love it seriously. Contribute more locally, wherever you are on this planet. Together we are stronger.”





Smiti Kumar (*MSc Management Studies, 1980–81*) on Palace Green earlier this year

5 Minutes with

Smiti Kumar On Her Latest Trip to Durham

Can you give us a quick overview of who you are and what your current role is with Durham?

I am involved with the University in two ways. I am President of the North American Foundation for the University of Durham (NAFUD), also known as DunelmUSA, which is a philanthropic organisation that has three objectives:

- creating a supportive alumni community
- raising financial contributions to Durham-related projects
- increasing public awareness of the University, especially among potential new students

I am also a member of the Business School Advisory Board, which serves to advise the dean on matters relating to raising the department's profile, shaping programmes and maintaining excellence.

What was the purpose of your latest trip to Durham?

I came to Durham to attend a meeting of the Business School Advisory Board. I decided to make use of my time here, by hosting a reception for American students at the University and getting some of my DUBS classmates together for a mini-reunion.

Did you achieve what you wanted with the trip? Any particular highlights?

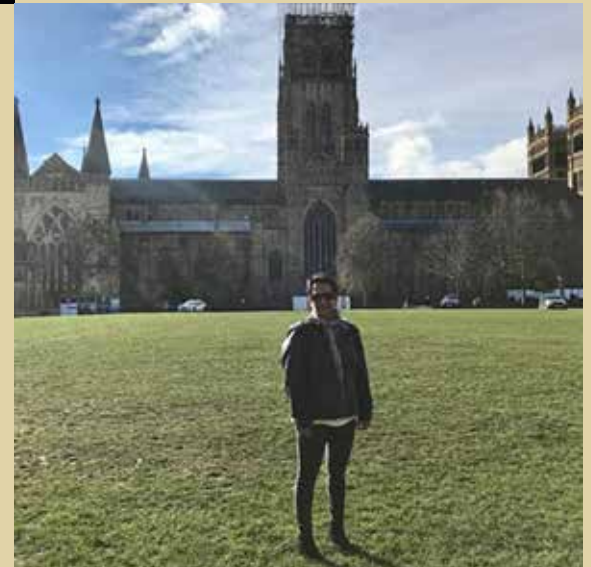
Yes! The Advisory Board meetings were productive, and I enjoyed reconnecting with some American students whom I'd met before and meeting some new students. And the weekend reunion rediscovering Durham sights (and pubs) was a lot of fun.

What do you enjoy most about coming back to Durham?

I love the spirit of Durham, both in the people and the places. Although it's changed, in terms of the actual shops, pubs, etc., the spirit remains vibrant.

How did you get involved in volunteering to support Durham?

Alumni activity – involvement, engagement and fundraising – are all common things for US Universities, maybe not as common for UK Universities. I started getting involved



with NAFUD/DunelmUSA when I lived in Washington, DC. At that time, there were not very many Durham alumni in the US, so the focus was on finding them. Since then, the alumni population has grown, as has the NAFUD/DunelmUSA Board. I am now based in New York City and there are board members across the country. We work closely with the Durham Alumni Relations Office to identify alumni, engage them through events and raise funds for the University. For most people, their time at a University is a significant transition, a period of academic and personal growth. It certainly was for me, so I want to stay connected to that time and give back to the University that gave me so much.

What's next?

As I begin my third year as president of NAFUD/DunelmUSA, my goal is to expand the number of alumni we reach across the US and increase the funds we raise for the University. Additionally, I would like to help to increase the number of student applications the University receives from the US. For any US alumni who would like to get involved, I would ask that they check out our website and contact me: nafud.org

“I love the spirit of Durham, both in the people and the places. Although it's changed, in terms of the actual shops, pubs, etc., the spirit remains vibrant”

The MGM Experience

Alumnus Ed Bowers (*Spanish, Collingwood College, 1984–88*), the Executive Vice President of Global Gaming Development at MGM Resorts International, offered a 10-week internship for a Collingwood student in Las Vegas, organised through the College. Hugo Fry was lucky enough to be chosen.

The aim of the programme was for the student to gain a deep understanding of the processes involved in casino business development in multiple jurisdictions and to complete a report that would contribute to the company's development efforts in Japan.

After multiple rounds of a competitive interview process, Hugo Fry was selected. Here, Hugo reports on his time with the company and on what he got out of the MGM experience.

A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity

"The Global Gaming Development team is responsible for identifying business opportunities in a number of different jurisdictions and winning casino licences," says Hugo. "The team evaluates the political, regulatory and financial feasibility of development opportunities globally, and then secures gaming licences, often in competitive bid situations. This involves initial evaluation of political, regulatory and geographic risks, and geographic and other strategic objectives established by MGM resorts, to help identify and assess other profitable growth opportunities for MGM.

"I learnt about the company's role in expanding global markets. I saw the specific process that the company uses to identify and assess business development opportunities within the United States and internationally, while also gaining understanding of the different roles of other MGM departments in the development process. This was crucial; the Global Gaming Development team often works in theoretical scenarios involving future investment, so without an understanding of the day-to-day running of a casino in MGM's portfolio, it would have been hard to make any meaningful contribution to the team.

"The internship was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity... The skills I have learnt will be invaluable to my future career"

"As a result, I shadowed staff, key individuals from certain corporate strategy departments, and observed interrelationships and strategic management practices related to the company's Global Developmental group. I rotated through a number of operational



Hugo and Ed

departments, including Food and Beverage, and Hotel Strategy, which gave me a more refined understanding of the hotel side of the business from design and construction, hotel and restaurant operations. I also spent a day with the General Manager of the newly renovated and rebranded Park MGM, which allowed me to see at first hand what it takes to service a 2,700-room hotel.

"My final rotation within the company was with Government and Industry Affairs. This was incredibly interesting, because of the environment and the scrutiny that the casino industry attracts. Further, since the

horrific mass shooting on 1 October 2017 in Las Vegas, MGM has been under further evaluation by the media. This rotation was incredibly insightful, and this is an area I plan to explore further as a career.

"The Global Gaming Development team spends the majority of its time in Japan, MGM's major focus in terms of global development. The Japanese government has recently legalised casino gambling and has therefore allowed the opening of three integrated resorts, subject to a competitive bidding process and then the awarding of three licences, subject to government regulation.

"I travelled with the team to Japan for two weeks, to experience the effort involved in winning a casino licence. This was a truly unique experience that allowed me to see the workings of Japanese business and also gave me the chance to see Tokyo, Osaka and Kyoto. Japan was also the main focus of my industry report. The 75-page report looked at the *pachinko* and *pachislot* industry in Japan, and the quasi-gaming nature of the game.

"The final element of my internship at MGM was to work with the Senior Vice President of Global Development. His main focus is the East Coast of America, specifically Connecticut and Massachusetts. I was very fortunate to be taken to the opening of MGM Springfield, Massachusetts. This was a special, incredibly rare experience. There are ever fewer feasible opportunities to open casinos, especially since the financial crisis of 2008, and the cost of opening is so vast that the return on investments is often not worth the company's time.

"The internship was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, which opened my eyes to the huge development opportunities to be had in the gaming industry and the wider hospitality and entertainment sectors. The skills I have learnt will be invaluable to my future career, and I cannot thank Mr Bowers and Collingwood enough for giving me this chance for personal development and life experience."



Hugo on his visit to Las Vegas

Ed Bowers said:

"It was my – and MGM's – great pleasure to host Hugo for his internship. I am personally extremely grateful to Collingwood for bringing me such a great opportunity to give something back to the institution that set me up for my career, which so far has been the right combination of interesting, challenging, enjoyable and rewarding."



Fo Guang Shan Buddha Museum
- Taiwan

A Durham University team co-curated an exhibition – ‘Walking with the Buddha: discovering the natal landscape of the Buddha’ – at the Fo Guang Shan Buddha Museum in Taiwan. It was visited by one million people from 25 different countries in 2018.

The exhibition, based on Durham University research and featuring objects from Durham’s Oriental Museum, explored the life of the Buddha, and was centred around the results of archaeological excavations at Lumbini in Nepal, the birthplace of the Buddha.

Professor Robin Coningham, our UNESCO Chair in Archaeological Ethics and Practice in Cultural Heritage (Department of Archaeology), led the Lumbini excavation with Nepali archaeologist Kosh Prasad Acharya.

Elements of their research, including 3D printed reconstructions of the earliest temples at Lumbini, along with items from the Oriental Museum’s early Buddhist art collection, were displayed at the museum in Taiwan.

Exciting archaeological discoveries

In 2013, archaeologists led by Professor Coningham uncovered evidence of a structure at the birthplace of the Buddha dating to the sixth century BC. This was the first archaeological material linking the life of the Buddha – and thus the first flowering of Buddhism – to a specific century.

Watch Professor Coningham discuss the discovery on location in Nepal at bit.ly/ProfConingham

In addition to identifying evidence of the earliest Buddhist shrine in South Asia, the research contributed to the revision of plans to develop the site, which could otherwise have damaged some of the early archaeological sequences.

The long-term management and conservation of the natal landscape of the Buddha remains a concern for UNESCO and the Government of Nepal. This is the focus of the third phase of the Japanese Funds-in-Trust for UNESCO project, announced in April 2018.



Professor Robin Coningham,
UNESCO Chair in Archaeological
Ethics and Practice in Cultural
Heritage (Department of Archaeology)

Walking With the Buddha

Durham artefacts in international exhibition

Showcasing Durham’s world-class treasures

Durham’s Oriental Museum is fortunate to be home to a significant collection of early Buddhist art. More than 30 pieces from the collection travelled to Taiwan for the exhibition.

Dr Craig Barclay, Curator of University Museums at Durham, worked with staff from the Fo Guang Shan Buddha Museum to identify ancient Buddhist sculptures and historic photographs from our collections that helped to tell the story of the Buddha’s birth.

The Fo Guang Shan Buddha Museum attracts up to 10 million visitors a year. This was a wonderful opportunity to showcase some of Durham University’s world-class hidden treasures to a huge international audience, and to combine the museum’s important historic artefacts with the latest research.

This was a wonderful opportunity to showcase some of Durham University’s world-class hidden treasures to a huge international audience



Events



St Cuthbert's Society Alumni Weekend

Friday 12 – Sunday 14 July

St Mary's College Society Alumni Weekend

Friday 30 August – Sunday 1 September

Durham Alumni in Government, Law & Politics: Career Networking in Washington DC

Thursday 12 September

St John's College Five-Year Reunion

Friday 13 – Sunday 15 September

St John's College All Years Reunion

Friday 20 – Sunday 22 September

Annual Beijing Mid-Autumn Festival Reception

Friday 20 September

Hatfield Association Reunion

Friday 20 – Sunday 22 September

St John's College All Years Reunion

Friday 20 – Sunday 22 September

Afternoon Tea in Shanghai

Sunday 22 September

St Chad's 1904 Society Gathering

Thursday 17 October

Convocation and Dunelm Society Annual Dinner

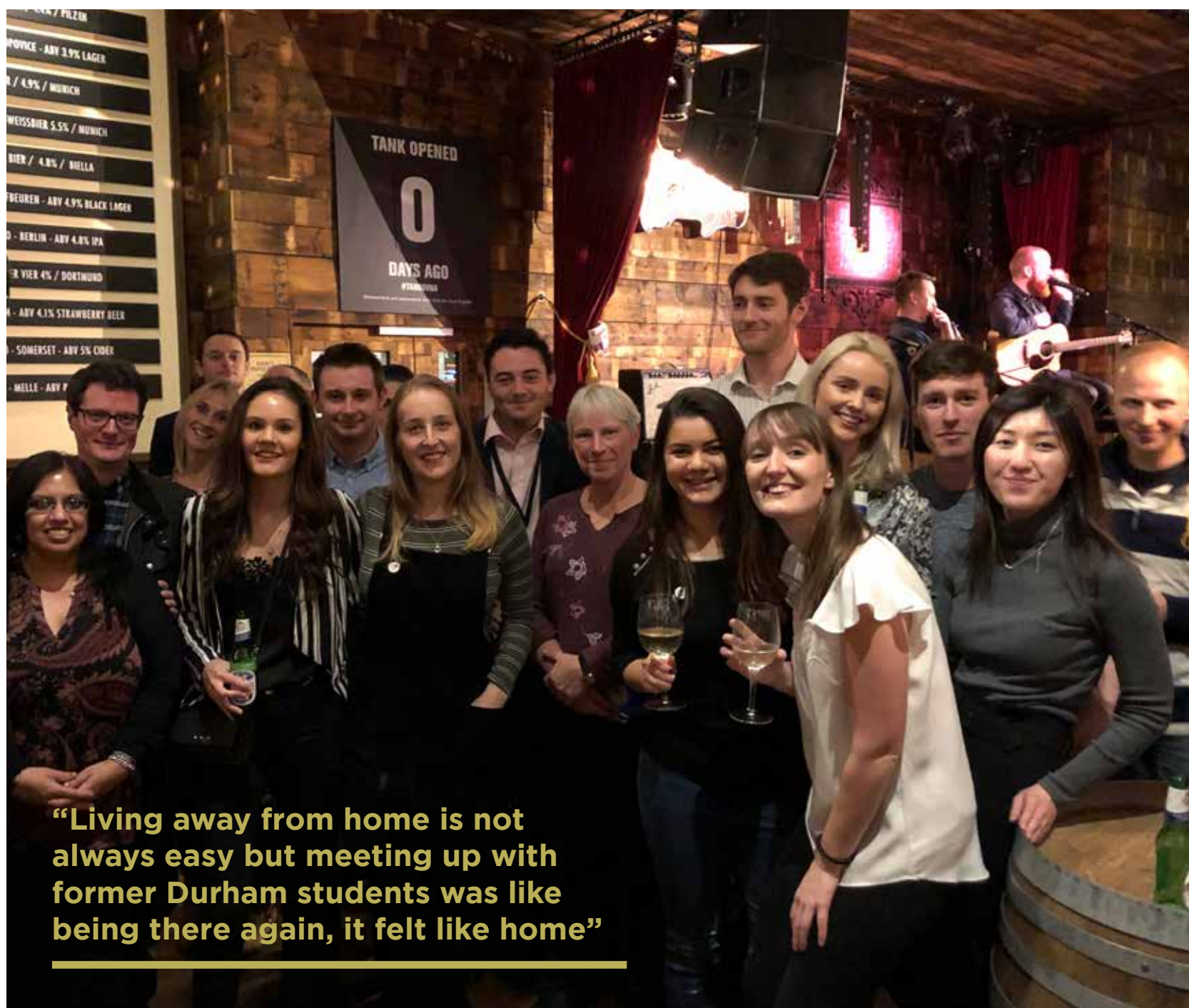
Tuesday 19 November

For the latest events, visit dunelm.org.uk/events



Celebrate Five Years of 'Dunelm Days' With Us

2019 is a special year for us, as it marks the fifth anniversary of bringing Durham University's global alumni community together, through a series of fun social events called Dunelm Days.





We're on a mission, with your support, to make this year's Dunelm Days the biggest global alumni celebration to date. Dunelm Days events will be held around the world throughout November 2019.

Last November, we had over 400 alumni and friends join us in 19 countries to celebrate their pride in being Durham graduates. Events ranged from tours of distilleries and scenic walks to food and drinks in vibrant settings; from gatherings at the British Embassy Prague and the British Deputy High Commission Karachi to the Scandinavian eco-friendly craze of 'plogging' in Shanghai.

All Dunelm Days are organised and hosted by friendly Durham alumni throughout November, with the support of the Alumni Office. Events can be big or small, as long as they are held in November. They are a fantastic opportunity to meet new people in your local area, catch up with old friends, and reminisce about time spent at Durham.

Whether you've celebrated with us in the past or you're reading about Dunelm Days for the first time, get on board to have some Durham fun, just like in the good old days!

In the meantime, make sure that your alumni record is up to date with your current location and email address, so that we can invite you to Dunelm Days in your area.



Get in touch:

We'd love to hear from you, if you would like to get involved with Dunelm Days as either a guest or a host.

Email us at
alumni.volunteer@durham.ac.uk

or call us on
+44 (0)191 334 6309

#DunelmDays19

“Opportunity to meet graduates, see the variety of careers being undertaken, have stimulating conversations and recognise the benefits of Durham.”



Research

Malaria- Detecting Sniffer Dogs

*The Medical Detection Dogs
providing a rapid and
non-invasive test for malaria*



Freya, the malaria-detecting
Springer Spaniel



Durham University has been working with the charity Medical Detection Dogs (MDD) and other partners on new research that has found that dogs could be trained to sniff out malaria in people and could help to prevent the spread of the deadly disease.

Researchers found that dogs could scent malaria in samples of socks worn by infected children. They say their findings could potentially lead to the first rapid and non-invasive test for malaria. Although the research is in its early stages, the scientists hope that trained sniffer dogs could help to stop malaria spreading between countries and could lead to infected people being spotted earlier and treated quickly.

Principal Investigator Professor Steve Lindsay, from the Department of Biosciences at Durham, said: "While our findings are at an early stage, in principle we have shown that dogs could be trained to detect malaria-infected people by their odour with a credible degree of accuracy.

"This could provide a non-invasive way of screening for the disease at ports of entry in a similar way to how sniffer dogs are routinely used to detect fruit and vegetables or drugs at airports.

"This could help prevent the spread of malaria to countries that have been declared malaria-free and also ensure that people, many of whom might be unaware that they are infected with the malaria parasite,

receive antimalarial drug treatment for the disease."

Identifying people who are infected with the malaria parasite, but not presenting symptoms, is critical, as they can be treated with antimalarial drugs and the spread of the disease can be prevented.

Sniffer dogs could provide a non-invasive, portable and rapid test for identifying malaria carriers and would be particularly useful in settings where there are few individuals with malaria parasites. Confirmation of the disease would then be made by taking a finger-prick sample of blood, using a rapid diagnostic test following World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines.

Study co-author Dr Claire Guest, Chief Executive Officer of MDD, said: "MDD have had positive results training dogs to detect diseases including cancer and diabetes sugar changes by odour. This is the first time we have trained dogs to detect a parasite infection and we are delighted by these early results ... This is a reliable, non-invasive test and is extremely exciting for the future."

Freya, a Springer Spaniel (pictured left), is one of the dogs that has been trained to sniff out the scent of malaria. Freya's highly sensitive nose could help to provide the first non-invasive test for the disease. Sniffer dogs could potentially be deployed at ports of entry, to identify passengers carrying malaria, preventing the spread of the disease across borders and ensuring that people receive timely antimalarial treatment.

Malaria

Malaria is a life-threatening disease caused by parasites transmitted to people through the bites of infected female Anopheles mosquitoes, but it can be prevented and cured. According to the WHO, since 2000 six countries have been certified malaria-free, with another 12 countries reporting that no malaria cases have originated within their borders.

Despite this success, however, progress in global malaria control has stalled. According to the WHO's latest *World Malaria Report*, there were an estimated 216 million cases of malaria in 2016, an increase of five million cases over the previous year; deaths stood at approximately 445,000, a similar number to the previous year.

Our research partners

This research, funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, was carried out by Durham University and the charity Medical Detection Dogs in partnership with:

- London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
- University of Dundee
- Medical Research Council Unit The Gambia at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
- National Malaria Control Programme, The Gambia.



Sue Flood in the
Antarctic



Sue Flood

*Zoology, St Mary's
College, 1986*

What have you been up to since you left Durham?

After graduating with my BSc Honours in Zoology, I pursued my dream of working with David Attenborough and landed the perfect job at the BBC Natural History Unit in Bristol. I spent 11 wonderful years with them, working on series such as *The Blue Planet* and *Planet Earth*, along with the Disney movie *Earth*. I had some incredible adventures, including camping with Inuit hunters in the Canadian high Arctic, photographing polar bears, and swimming with humpback whales in the South Pacific. After having a couple of my photographs make it to the covers of *National Geographic* magazines, I decided to leave the BBC, to try to concentrate on my photography, and have been working as a professional photographer since leaving on a high note after *Planet Earth*. I have specialised in the Polar Regions and have had over 50 trips to the Arctic and Antarctic, but have guided on every continent. I definitely have the best job in the world!

What has been the most interesting or exciting experience in your work?

It was a dream come true to work with Sir David Attenborough for 11 years, though swimming with humpback whales in the South Pacific, or narwhals in the Arctic is a close second!

"I spent 11 wonderful years with the BBC, working on series such as *The Blue Planet* and *Planet Earth*"

What made you choose to come to Durham University to study Zoology?

I knew that Durham's Zoology course had a great reputation and wanted to study Zoology, as I felt it would help me pursue my career as a wildlife filmmaker, which it certainly did. However, of course, lots of people approach the BBC wanting to work with David Attenborough, so I also had to get some other interesting experience on my CV. I applied for a position with Operation Raleigh (Raleigh International, as it's now known) and spent three months volunteering for the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service in Australia, plus eight months volunteering for the marine biologists at the Bermuda Biological Station for Research. I also qualified as a dive instructor, took first aid courses, etc., and this helped me get my foot in the door with the BBC. But it was my Zoology degree from Durham that was the foundation of my wildlife filmmaking and photography career.

What are your fondest memories from St Mary's College?

Funnily enough, one of my fondest memories from St Mary's was actually from a couple of years ago, when I was invited back by Professor Simon Hackett, Associate Provost at Durham University, to speak to the students about my adventures as a wildlife filmmaker and photographer. It was lovely to return to Durham and sit at the SCR table, knowing that I'd finally made it in my chosen field!

What would be your best of advice for current students?

Without a doubt to follow your passion. I have been fortunate to spend my life in a career which has provided numerous 'once in a lifetime' moments. I was asked recently if I was successful and I replied, "Yes, because I'm happy", so I'd say do your best to follow your dreams. I'm lucky to make a living a professional photographer – however, as I always remind people who tell me I'm lucky, the harder I work, the luckier I get!

Who or what has been most inspirational to you in your life?

It has to be Sir David Attenborough. Also, Sir Michael Palin. Both incredibly talented, genuinely modest and lovely folk, who are interested in other people, the world about them and are two of the loveliest people I've had the privilege of spending time with.

My Durham Story

Alumna Pat Morton (*Botany, St Aidan's, 1969–72*), teacher, prison chaplain and mother of three, looks back at her life and her time at Durham.



"I didn't go to Durham until after I was married and had a family. I got married when I was 24 and had three children. Before that, I worked in industry, in a metallurgy laboratory – as an industrial chemist almost, but I didn't have a degree.

"I won a scholarship and went to the grammar school and then my father said no, women do not go to universities. Back then, you did what your parents told you. He wanted me to do something like becoming a personal assistant until I got married. He came from an age where women didn't work after they got married. That's how it was then.

"So I thought to do science. I got my chemistry qualifications by half-day release from the factory and three evenings a week, that's how I did it. This was before I got married.

"Then I got married in 1958. I met my husband while I was working with chemicals and materials at an ordnance factory – his sister also worked at the factory. One day, his sister was ill and I was told to go and see her and take her this piece to analyse. I met him at her house, and that was it.

"Once the youngest of my three children was about four, my husband and I had a discussion about what I was going to do. I couldn't go back to the factory, as there was no childcare or anything, so I said I think I will go into teaching. He thought that was great – a nice little easy teaching job. He didn't know what it was like really. He just thought it was 9am–4pm and that was it – but it isn't.

"I decided I had to find out if I could do the studying, so I did two A-levels in a year: Physics and Biology. I applied for teacher training and one of the interviewers said, why don't you apply for a degree? So I did, and I got a place at St Aidan's – with three kids and a husband! So I did my degree and my PGCE and that was it. I couldn't stay on doing further study, as I had to think about the family.

"I married a fine man, who said 'Go and do what you want', and he really supported me.

So I didn't have a usual university life, really. I couldn't really get involved in the student life, due to having three youngsters."

I just got on with it

"To get chemical qualifications I used to go up to Rutherford College in Newcastle. It was strange, as I just took it for granted that I was learning this and that was it. It never occurred to me that I was the only female. I just got on with it, and the men never treated me any differently.

"In the factory, you used to have to go and get gases from the furnaces to analyse. We used to have to go and collect effluent, so that you didn't put chemicals in the water system and we had to cross a railway line to get this. There was never any health and safety. We just knew when the trains were coming. It was good, I enjoyed it. It was quite different from what most people did, but I don't think I could have progressed there at all in those days.

"It never occurred to me that I was the only female. I just got on with it"

"So after my degree, I went into teaching and taught at St Bede's in Lanchester for 20 years, and I ended up being head of the biology department. My degree was in Botany and it was the biochemistry side of things that I enjoyed.

"I never felt I was a natural teacher. Then, one day recently, I met this man who I had given a reference for when he was 16. He wanted a job in a DIY shop and the owner had come to see me and said: Are you sure about him? I said, 'He will work, he wasn't an academic at all, but he would work'. He ended up buying the shop from the owner and opened another one. So when I saw this man not long ago, he said to me, 'I used to enjoy your lessons'. So I must have made

an impact on him. You don't have to be an academic to do well in life."

Becoming a prison chaplain

"When I was at school, I was asked to become a member of a charity and I am still a member of that charity: St Vincent de Paul Society. It's an international charity, and I went to Canada with them for a week.

Through that, I have ended up being a prison chaplain – and I am still there, over 40 years later, at Franklin Prison. Normally, I am there all day Thursday, but today it was on lockdown. We do all sorts really, teaching the men and basically getting them talking. For some of them I am known as Auntie Pat. I was on the management board of the SVP in Newcastle, after I retired from paid occupation."

Memories of my time at Durham

"One memory I have is going on a field course to Wales. There was a postgraduate student with us called Sue, and we were at this big lake and she sort of shouted out, Gloeotrichia and then fell in the lake. I laughed that much that I then fell in the lake after her. And the final practicals went on all day in a thunderstorm. Those are the two things that really stuck with me.

"We went to Cardiff University for a fieldtrip and we worked from there, and their postgraduate students took all of us out one night to a party. I was enjoying myself, sitting there chatting to somebody, but the others in the group said 'Come on, we're going'. I was dragged away, as they thought I was being chatted up by someone else and that wasn't to be allowed, as I was married with children!

"I found it hard, going away to study and being away from Fred and the children. I had a lovely mother-in-law, and she looked after the family while I was away, but I couldn't go on the long fieldtrips. It wasn't easy bringing up a family while studying for a degree, but it was worth it.

"It's a very ordinary life really, but I've had quite a fulfilled life. I have always had something to do."

Alumni

HOGGS: 50 Years On

*Hatfield friends reunite for
an annual golf tour*



Geoff Martin shares the joy of meeting up annually with fellow Hatfield alumni for a few days of golf and reminiscing – and offers his tips for a successful alumni group.

In June this year, 50 years after graduation, a small group of Hatfield men will be back in County Durham for their now annual four days of golf and nostalgia; and at some point during that visit, we will be back in the College bar.

That group of 1966–69 students is Robin Bostock-Smith, David Bower, Leo Coligan, Simon Fisher, Tom Jameson, Geoff Martin, John Roberts and John Wills. We call ourselves the HOGGS – Hatfield Old Gits Golf Society.

Some of us have loosely kept in touch over the intervening years, despite being scattered around the country and beyond, but we have come back together as the HOGGS rather more recently. A nucleus of the group started meeting up for the first day of the Lord's Test many years ago, and then subsequently added the Edgbaston Test to the schedule. The first HOGGS golf day was at Copt Heath Golf Club prior to a Test Match in Birmingham.

As retirement, and in some cases early retirement, has come about, the group has grown to its current number, and annual get-togethers have been organised in different parts of the country. This is partly based at clubs where we are members and partly in areas not previously visited. To date, we have played in Lancashire and Cheshire, the West Midlands, Sussex and Surrey, Cornwall, Gloucestershire, Hampshire and Dorset, South Wales, Northumberland, Shropshire and Staffordshire. In addition to the longer meetings, we regularly play in Seniors Opens at each other's clubs.

What is it that keeps the HOGGS together? In those distant days of the late 1960s, some of us shared rooms in Hatfield, some of us played for the University hockey club and all of us drank far too much beer. Although one or two of us came from a boarding school background, most of us had not lived away from home before, and the welcoming collegiate structure at Durham helped to draw us together.

The College provided countless opportunities, and encouraged pride but not arrogance, and competitiveness with respect for others. Today, we meet up and conversation flows as if we had been together day in day out, as we were as undergraduates – although the beer consumption is significantly reduced. We like to think we now appreciate a good pint, rather than sinking indeterminate amounts of the dubious quality available 50 years ago. (A notable exception in our day was draft Newcastle Brown in The Big Jug on Claypath.)

There is a fair element of nostalgia. We all see our days in Hatfield as happy and influential to our futures in banking, industry and teaching, and there is also a certain degree of 'grumpy old men syndrome', trying to put the world to rights, even though we are still 21-year-olds at heart.

Golf is, of course, a common interest now, although back in our undergraduate days John Roberts was the only serious – and very good – player of the sport. The rest of us have taken up golf as hockey sticks, cricket bats, tennis rackets, football boots and so on have been discarded – and perhaps our wives have become more tolerant, or even encouraging, of our being out for hours on end, chasing or trying to find the little white ball. The golf handicap system allows us to play and compete together despite our range of skills and ineptitude. The HOGGS Trophy (our 'Major') and other minor prizes have been shared around.

My favourite 'Champagne Moment' award was Simon Fisher's 'Excalibur re-enactment' at Littlehampton Golf Club when, as Simon lost the grip on his club while playing a shot, the club flew into the air and sank into a lake – only to re-emerge dramatically with the grip pointing skywards!

Our golfing is always competitive, but is played to the original Olympian ideal: that the most important thing is not the winning but the taking part – with great friends.

Finally, our tips for a successful alumni group: meet infrequently but always annually; decide things as a group; have a common interest; and, most importantly, don't take each other too seriously!



Above L to R, back: Messrs Coligan, Jameson, Bower, Bostock-Smith, Martin.
Front: Wills, Roberts, Fisher

Gown group L to R: Messrs Martin, Bower, Roberts and Jameson

“The welcoming collegiate structure at Durham helped to draw us together”

Dunelmensis Awards 2019

The Dunelmensis Award is given by the University's Senate to a Durham alumnus or alumna for meritorious and exceptional service in support of the University, particularly for our institutional advancement and for enhancing the University's reputation, nationally and internationally.



Rev. Canon Dr Chuck Robertson (left) and Ian Ellison-Taylor

The 2019 awards will be presented at events later this year to two outstanding alumni.

Ian Ellison-Taylor

Computing, Grey College, 1987–90

Ian Ellison-Taylor is a very generous donor to the Computer Science Department, a fantastic ambassador of the University, and an active volunteer in a number of capacities. Ian consistently gives his time and support freely to Durham, while working in a busy senior role at Microsoft. Durham recognises Ian in this way for his outstanding contributions to the Department and wider University. Ian has been an active member of the Computer Science External Advisory Board since its formation in 2016, contributing significantly to the Department's equality, diversity and inclusion agenda, plans for the new departmental building, and concept for the Student Enterprise Hub. In hosting and speaking at alumni events, Ian has shared his experience as a Durham alumnus and as a Distinguished Engineer at Microsoft, even bringing along a HoloLens to demonstrate

to alumni guests. He regularly shows his support of the Women in Tech initiative at Durham and the creation of the Anne-Marie Imafidon Scholarships for Women in Technology, which were made possible by a kind and generous donation from Ian. He has since been a fantastic ambassador for the programme and the Computer Science Department more broadly, leading a group of his alumni peers in support of the programme, and creating three endowed scholarships to continue in perpetuity.

Rev. Canon Dr Chuck Robertson

Theology, Graduate Society, 1996–99

Rev. Canon Dr Chuck Robertson is a hugely valued volunteer and a positive role model, who cares deeply about every aspect of the University – from our undergraduate recruitment to our research profile. Chuck has enjoyed a long and distinguished career as an active seminary professor, published author and, since 2004 as a senior Episcopal Church administrator and executive.

Since completing his PhD at Durham in 1999, Chuck has been a dedicated advocate for, and promoter of, Durham University, particularly in the USA, where he resides. He is a committed member of the University's North American Development Board, which supports alumni and donor engagement in the USA. Chuck has supported the University in raising over £200,000, including personal and discretionary contributions. He has also used his personal networks to host and support numerous events in the UK and the USA, including providing high-profile speakers and attendees, and to help give the University competitive and strategic advantage with regard to our US activities. Chuck has connected with academics in areas of research interest to support publications and to create new intellectual networks for Durham academics to engage with, especially in theology. He has also introduced a new research and outreach programme to Durham – the Lambeth Mission Fellowship, supported by the Archbishop of Canterbury – which led to global profile-raising activities in various networks around diversity of theological scholarship.

My Durham Story

Alumnus Group Captain Roy J. Springett OBE (*Civil Engineering, King's College, 1959–62*) shares his fond memories of the former King's College at Durham University.

"There may be other graduates like me, who were a bit disappointed when, in 1963, King's College [formerly a Durham college] became the University of Newcastle upon Tyne.

"Of course, it was only a name change. The outstanding Durham quality continued as before, and Newcastle graduates remain among the best in the country. Nonetheless, there is a certain magic about the name Durham, and its place as one of only three collegiate universities in the UK.

"My story began in 1954 when, after leaving grammar school at 16 with no GCEs, I began my working life as an apprentice paper maker. My first lucky break came after six months, when I was transferred to the company's civil engineering drawing office and enrolled at the local technical college to take a Higher National Certificate. Five years later, I had won a state scholarship and a place at Durham to read civil engineering.

"My studies began in October 1959 and, despite my previous experience in industry, I found the course extremely demanding. Professor Cassie was a strict taskmaster, and there was the constant fear of the consequences of failure. If you failed a civil engineering subject, you were excluded for a year. He might let you retake, and if you passed he might let you return. Of the students who began with me, fewer than 20 graduated.

"Professor Cassie had made civil engineering one of the few honours-only courses, because of his high opinion of the profession's position in society. My intake responded to our privileged position, by



"There is a certain magic about the name Durham"

introducing the wearing of gowns to all in-house lectures – a gesture that was warmly welcomed by all the teaching staff. Incidentally, in those days we were expected to wear suits throughout the College.

"Away from the academic scene, I recall fond memories of my first year in Eustace Percy Hall. We had very comfortable single rooms, excellent meals and a formal dinner once a week, when we wore academic dress.

"I was also accepted for the Air Squadron, where I would be paid as an officer cadet and taught to fly by first-class instructors. This amazing experience led me to give up civil engineering and join the RAF as a pilot with a permanent commission.

"On hearing of my change of career, Professor Cassie had nothing further to do with me. This was a bit sad, although I understood fully how he felt.

"One of my fondest memories was of my first day at King's, when I realised, with a measure of disbelief, that I was an undergraduate. I have the Professor to thank for that, and I have always been extremely grateful to him for the life-changing opportunity he gave me."

Our Durham Story

Caroline Fearan (Zoology, College of St Hild & St Bede, 1983–86) and Claire Ingham (Biological Sciences, College of St Hild & St Bede, 1986–89), who are both profoundly deaf, studied in the old Department of Biological Sciences. A recent return visit to the University prompted Claire to write about their Durham experience.

“During our time at Durham, and since leaving, we have experienced rich and interesting career and life pathways. Caroline went into computer programming (this was in the days of punch cards and large tapes on huge machines) and held a variety of posts, finishing as an analyst manager, whereas I went into teaching and am now an advisory teacher for the deaf.

“A couple of years ago, we both found ourselves on a Level 3 (equivalent to A-level) British Sign Language (BSL) course, which has opened more doors to us. Caroline now works for the British Sign Language Broadcasting Trust, which commissions BSL programmes, and I went on to do Level 6 (degree-level) BSL, and have just completed my first BSL tour of an exhibition at the Royal Academy.

“Our time at Durham was interesting for us and, we suspect, for our lecturers too. We are both profoundly deaf and, thanks to Caroline and her lecturers working out what worked best, my time was made considerably easier. This was in the days before deaf students had BSL interpreters and professionally trained note-takers at university, so creativity and a good working relationship were essential in making things work.

“Caroline had a key to the photocopier, so she could copy other students’ notes; in



my time, this had advanced to copious use of carbon-paper. Postgraduate students were employed to convey instructions to us during practical examinations, and we were given the option of one-to-one tutorials, which proved very helpful during the first year and a half, when we were accumulating specific vocabulary and developing our understanding of the subject. During my third year, I asked to join a group tutorial, and the lecturer and other students were good enough to sit in a line facing me, so that I could lip-read them all!”

Mind-blowing research

“Although I qualified as a teacher of English, I continue to enjoy reading about the advances in biology. Caroline is a self-confessed geek and we just had to come back to Durham and take a trip down memory lane.

“We were delighted to be shown round the new Department of Biosciences by the wonderful Dr Campling, who introduced us to several researchers and some undergraduate students working in the labs.

“It was fascinating, hearing about the latest research – biology has come a long way since the 1980s. Caroline and I remember microbial genetics being cutting-edge research at the time, and now it’s taught in school. We gasped at the modern colour electron micrographs – we only ever saw mitochondria as squiggly ovals in black and white.

“The highlight of the visit for both of us was seeing collagen vesicles leaving a skin cell under a laser microscope. Seeing real-time action magnified at the same level as an electron microscope was mind-blowing.

“We would like to thank all those we met that day, and who spoke to us, for making us feel very welcome and enabling us to experience the excitement of cutting-edge research once again.”

A special place

“Afterwards, we met up with two of our lecturers, Dr Rowell and Dr Anstee, at the old University Library by the Cathedral – such a gorgeous setting and made even more stunning by the sun coming out. Both these lecturers were very supportive of us when we studied at the University, and we are indebted to their positivity and willingness to communicate with us clearly to make things work.

“Durham has a special place in our hearts.”



“Durham has a special place in our hearts”

It Was a County Durham Dream Back in 1968

Nigel Holmes (*Geography and Education, College of the Venerable Bede, 1964–68*)

A single was released to mark the opening of BBC Radio Durham, the last and most northerly of the eight experimental local radio stations to be opened in 1967 and 1968 – County Durham Dream. Yet the dream did not last long. Durham was the first BBC Local Radio station to close, just four years after it was launched, the staff moving across the Pennines to open BBC Radio Carlisle (now BBC Radio Cumbria).

Fifteen of us from those days, about half Durham graduates, gathered in the City on Tuesday, 3 July 2018 for an anniversary lunch. At the very time of the event 50 years before, at 3.15pm, a recording was played of the opening ceremony.

A dozen students each year were involved as volunteer reporters and presenters of University Termtime, the first student programme in the country to be broadcast live. It was weekly, open-ended, and usually ran for 40–45 minutes. As a member of the station staff, having been appointed straight from my postgraduate year, I produced the programme. It led to a good number of students securing careers in broadcasting, both in local and network radio and television, the best-known of whom, Gavin Hewitt, became the BBC Europe Editor.

Of those who came back to Durham in 2018, Graham Harwood became an audio supervisor in network radio, Eric Wise the senior producer at BBC Radio Merseyside and Iain Elliott founded Canford Audio, a company making professional audio, video and broadcast equipment employing 130 people in the North East. In addition, Neil Eccles was to direct major television outside broadcasts – the first live coverage from Parliament, elections, party conferences and royal occasions, and in religious radio and television John Forrest produced many strands, including *Songs of Praise*.

The corporate memory was of the remarkable degree of autonomy given to the station managers in those early years and the huge editorial trust they placed in young, junior and inexperienced staff. We even broadcast through the night – the only radio station on the air in Britain after Radio 2 closed down at 2am, with Radio Durham Goes Rag featuring student music as well as a huge range of stunts – and the Rag Queen! All were glad to have enjoyed being pioneers excited by the magic of radio. As I said on BBC Radio Newcastle on the day of the 50th anniversary: “It’s hard to believe now that in those days the BBC had a radio monopoly. There were no commercial stations, just Radios 1, 2, 3 and 4 and in this area BBC Radio Durham ... The BBC would not be in local radio today had it not been for those ... stations, proving listeners wanted to listen to local output rooted in their own communities.”

Past Events

Class of ‘69 Reunion

January 2019

Durham University welcomed back the class of ‘69 for their 50th Anniversary Reunion celebration. They processed in the congregation ceremony, followed by afternoon tea with the Vice-Chancellor, Heads of Houses and Durham friends, sharing happy memories and their pride in being a Durham graduate.

See the Google album for photographs of the event at bit.ly/1969grads

DunelmUSA Annual Gala Dinner

December 2018

We were delighted to welcome so many alumni and friends to the Gala who want to stay connected with Durham and to be an active part of our global family. It was a joy to see so many faces reunited and to share in the celebrations of our Durham experiences and the holiday season.

The Gala was also a huge success, with benefits that will be felt for years to come by students here and, through them, around the wider world. As you know, a Durham education is unlike any other and we are immensely proud of our alumni and everything you achieve – including your support for the next generation.

See the Google album for photographs of the event at bit.ly/2018NYGala

Dunelm Days 2018

November 2018

In total, over 40 Dunelm Day events took place in 19 countries throughout November, with alumni and friends enjoying everything from tours of museums and distilleries to food and drinks in vibrant settings; from gatherings at the British Embassy Prague and the British Deputy High Commission Karachi to the Scandinavian eco-friendly craze of ‘plogging’ in Shanghai.



Durham Law School “In Focus” Networking Event for Commercial Law Alumni

October 2018

Clyde & Co hosted the first of Durham Law School’s “In Focus” professional networking events. It brought together over 40 alumni working in commercial and corporate law, an area of legal research where the Law School is a global leader. It was a fantastic evening of networking, summed up by alumnus Sean Sexton (*Law, St Cuthbert’s Society, 1977–80*), who remarked: “I rarely enjoy networking events. I endure them. Last night was exceptional. I was enthused”. We are very grateful to James Major and his colleagues at Clyde & Co for being such generous hosts.

China Tour – Shenzhen, Hangzhou, Shanghai and Beijing

September 2018

Thank you to those of you who joined us on our China tour in September – from dinner in Shenzhen with Professor Rob Dixon to our evening reception in Beijing with Professor Stuart Corbridge and the team. These were all hugely successful events and it was great to see so many of you turning up, sharing memories, making new friends and catching up on what Durham University has been up to recently.

Government Networking Event in Washington DC

August 2018

Thank you to those of you who joined us at our first official US Careers Networking Forum event for alumni looking to network and advance their career opportunities in the arena of government, law and politics. Our thanks go to Charles Kotuby Jr (*Law, Ustinov, 2000*) for kindly hosting us at the stunning Jones Day offices in Washington DC.

Class of ‘87

We had a nice turnout of the class of 1987 at the Windmill in Mayfair on July 19. A great time was had by all who were able to join.

Attendees included: Carola York, Alex Eccleston, Kamal and Dipika Mistry, Simon Herrick, Richard and Catherine Adams, Helen Williams, Andrea and Adele Ryder (Kitteringham), Jane Owen, Sue Huff, Jerry Rogers, Brenda Pope, Jules Irving (Mark).

Class of ‘87



Clockwise from top L: Townsend wedding; Gill and Alex Clarke; Jim and Shirley Williams; Isabella Dougan (top right of photo).



Class of '69

Memories of Durham from 50 years ago



Richard Townsend

(Mathematics, University College, 1966–69)

Durham holds many fond memories for Richard Townsend and his family. He met his wife Christine, while studying Mathematics, and got married in Durham Castle. His younger daughter also went to Durham as a member of Castle and studied Classics. Richard remembers: "We had to get a special licence from the Archbishop of Canterbury because the Tunstall Chapel was not authorised for weddings. As an impoverished student, I got it at a reduced rate of, I think, £60 instead of £100, bargain!"

Richard graduated in June 1969 and he and Christine married the following September, so this year they are also celebrating a golden wedding anniversary as well as 50 years since graduating from Durham.

Alex Clarke

(German and Russian, Hatfield College, 1964–69)

Gillian Clarke née Cauldwell

(General Arts, College of St Hild & St Bede, 1965–69)

"We met for the first time when we stayed in to do our PGCE for secondary education ... At the end of September 1968, we were placed for three weeks' teaching practice in a primary school. When our names were read out in the Appleby lecture theatre for Langley Park Colliery Primary School, we

both stood up and introduced ourselves to each other – we were engaged the following year and married in March 1970. The photo above shows us at our graduation. Although it may not look like it, we did not know each other – just caught on the same photograph!

"We have been back to Durham several times over the years and particularly recently as we celebrate our 50 years since meeting, visiting various old haunts – and the beautiful Cathedral. Durham University is a wonderful institution and our memories of the collegiate system are very warm. It was clear throughout both our careers that having a degree from Durham was very highly respected."

Isabella Dougan, née McCormack

(Arts Combined, Fourah Bay College in Sierra Leone, 1966–69)

"I earned my BA in English, Philosophy and French from Durham University in 1969. I was among 151 graduates receiving degrees from Durham University that year in a historic ceremony for the last Durham Congregation in Fourah Bay College, after 90 years of affiliation between the two institutions ... For nearly ten years I worked for the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), taking me to environments of conflicts, complex emergencies and natural disasters. I must say that experience has been really valuable and rewarding. This job involved inter-agency co-ordination of international humanitarian operations and

ensuring that effective assistance reached millions of humanitarian beneficiaries. I served as Humanitarian Affairs Officer in OCHA country offices in Sudan, Kenya and Eritrea, as Surge Capacity Desk Officer in Geneva and as OCHA Head-of-Office in Guinea. I enjoyed reporting on humanitarian developments in each country, co-ordinating the production of strategic fundraising documents and monitoring donor contributions ... Travelling abroad is important to me and I've been lucky to visit many countries in Europe, Middle East, Africa, North and South America."

Jim Williams

(Law and Sociology, University College, 1966–69)

Shirley Davison

(Social and Public Administration, Trevelyan College, 1966–69)

"I was raised in Oldham, where there are no trees. There was a magical moment when, visiting Durham for my interview, I saw the Castle and Cathedral in snow and carried my cheap suitcase across Palace Green by lamplight and knew this was where I had to study."

Thank you to all our alumni celebrating the 50th anniversary of their graduation for sharing their memories. Read more memories from the Class of '69 at community.durham.ac.uk/blogs/50th-anniversary-graduates-memories-from-the-class-of-69/

Class Notes

Dr Noha Aboueldahab (Law, Ustinov College, 2013–16) has published *Transitional Justice and the Prosecution of Political Leaders in the Arab Region: A comparative study of Egypt, Libya, Tunisia and Yemen*.

Tess Alps, née Boot (English Literature, St Mary's College, 1972–75) was awarded the Mac Medal by the Advertising Association.

Graham Barker (Law, Van Mildert College, 1977–80) was sworn in as the new High Sheriff of Berkshire in March 2018. Graham was appointed to the role by the Queen during a meeting of the Privy Council at Buckingham Palace. The ceremony at Reading Crown Court was presided over by **Lord Hughes of Ombersley** (Law, Van Mildert, 1966–69).

Joyce Bergvelt (Chinese, St Mary's College, 1984–88) published her first book in English. *Lord of Formosa*, a historical novel closely based on actual events, tells the little-known story of seventeenth-century Taiwan under Dutch rule.

Claire Best (French and Spanish, College of St Hild & St Bede, 1984–88) is part of the team recognised in receipt of the Best Producer Oscar for the film *The Shape of Water*.

Professor Andrew Blowers OBE (Geography, Hatfield College, 1956–62) was selected to receive the Alexander and Ilse Melamid Medal for his “outstanding work on the dynamic relationship between human culture and natural resources”.

Julia Boyd (Law, St Johns College, 2003–06) has joined Reed Smith as a partner with the Global Corporate Group in New York.

Alfred Braimah (Business Administration, 1997–2002) was appointed Auditor General of all Institutions of the Economic Community of West African States.

Jay Burgess (Politics, Van Mildert College, 1966–67) was awarded the Medal of the Order of the Madara Horseman, First Class by Bulgarian President Rumen Radev for Jay's efforts over 40 years in helping develop US – Bulgarian economic and commercial relations.

Her Majesty the Queen has approved the appointment of **Lieutenant General Mark Carleton-Smith CBE** (History/Politics, Hatfield College, 1982–85) to be the new Chief of the General Staff of the British Army.

Dr David A Cross (Psychology, University College, 1970–73) has recently published *Public Sculpture of Lancashire and Cumbria* in the PMSA series with Liverpool University Press.

Gabriel Finn (Music, St John's College, 2013–16) sailed double-handed across the Atlantic in a 32ft classic wooden yacht.

Lisa Firth (English Literature, Collingwood College, 2000–03) has had her fifth novel, *The Perfect Fit*, published under the pen name Mary Jayne Baker.

Sophia Galer (Modern Languages, St Mary's College, 2012–16) won a Best Arts & Culture Social Media Webby award for her work with BBC Culture.

Elisabeth Galvin (Arts Combined, St Aidan's College, 1995–98) released her first biography, *The Extraordinary Life of E Nesbit*.

Vijay Gandhi (Business Administration, 2002–05) was named one of the Top 50 Indian Executives in the Arab World 2018 in Forbes Middle East.

Jacquetta Gomes (Economic History & Sociology, St Aidan's College, 1972–75) has been listed by Women to Work and by Women in the City on their list of Women Firsts.

Suzu Harrison née Witts (Combined Social Sciences, Grey College, 2001–04) has had her documentary film *So, Which Band is Your Boyfriend In?* selected for inclusion in Doc'n Roll festival in London.

The Very Revd Joe Haws (English Language, St Chad's College, 1984–87) has been installed as Dean of St Edmundsbury.

Michelle Hockley (History, St Cuthbert's Society, 1996–99) has written a new novel entitled *Before Spring Came Summer*.

Rosalind Holt (English Literature, Trevelyan College, 1973–76) had her novel *Modern Magic: Stories of the Overbury Shops* published.

Chris Howard (Business Administration, John Snow College, 2008–11) was named in the Top 10 LGBT+ Corporate Rising Stars.

Lily Howkins (English Literature, Josephine Butler College, 2006–09) choreographed a production called 'Soldier On'. It is produced by The Soldiers' Arts Academy. Their sold-out national tour and run in London was transferred to the West End.

Joanne Johnson (Natural Sciences, Collingwood College, 1990–93) was appointed Vice President of Business Development at Adesis.

Malcom King (Geography, Hatfield College, 1965–68) has published two books, *Kingsholm – Castle Grim: The Home of Gloucester Rugby* and *Representative Rugby at Kingsholm: International, County and Invitational Teams*.

Bob Klein (Institute of European Studies, Grey College, 1971–72) is celebrating the worldwide release of his album of original songs, *This Side of the Dirt*.

Emma Laws (English Literature, College of St Hild & St Bede, 1992–95) curated the 2018 exhibition Winnie-the-Pooh: Exploring a Classic at the Victoria and Albert Museum and has co-authored the accompanying book of the same name.

Georgina Layton (English Literature, College of St Hild & St Bede, 2012–15) has developed a blog and Instagram community: Disabled Travel with Georgina.

James Longcroft (Chemistry, Hatfield College, 2011–14) has created a fully biodegradable and sustainable water bottle.

Catherine Makin (Anthropology, Trevelyan College, 2005–08) was awarded a prestigious Winston Churchill Memorial Trust Fellowship in 2017.

Joshua March (Law, University College, Law, 2004–07), Founder & CEO of Conversocial, has released a book: *Message Me: The Future of Customer Service in the Era of Social Messaging and Artificial Intelligence*.

Susan Mathew (Theology, Ustinov College, 2006–10) was inspired by her time studying for a PhD at Durham University to start a pioneering project for special needs children back home in India.

Paul Middleton (Geography, St Bede, 1962–66) has published *Lindsay's War - a personal history Sept 1914 to May 1919*.

The Queen's Birthday Honours 2018

Jeannette NG (*English & History, Grey College, 2004-08*) has been nominated for the Campbell Award – one of the Oscars of SciFi and Fantasy writing.

Michelle Peach (*Arabic with Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, St Cuthbert's Society, 1991-95*) is the author of *Gazelle in the Shadows*, a historical crime thriller set in Syria and largely based on her real-life experiences.

Flo Perry (*Chemistry, Collingwood College, 2010-14*) illustrated the book *The Girls' Guide to Growing Up Great: Changing Bodies, Periods, Relationships, Life Online*.

Professor Michelle Simmons (*Physics and Chemistry of Materials, Trevelyan College, 1985-88 and Physics, St Aidan's College, 1992*) has been elected Fellow of The Royal Society – the highest scientific honour bestowed by the academy.

Robyn Skerratt (*Geography, Van Mildert College, 2005-08*) was awarded a Winston Churchill Memorial Trust Fellowship 2018.

Stephanie Solomonides (*Sociology, Grey College, 2001-04*) became the first Cypriot to reach the South and North Poles.

Rose Staveley-Wadham (*English Literature, St Mary's College 2010-13*) has published her debut novel, *The Red Dress*.

Robert Swan (*General Studies, St Chad's College, 1976-79*) completed an epic South Pole expedition with his son.

Yasmin Waljee OBE (*Economics and Law, Trevelyan College, 1988-93*) has been awarded 2018 Asian Women of Achievement Award for Business.

Charles Wilson (*Geography, Grey College, 1983-86*) was named as Sunday Times Business Person of the Year.

Jock Wishart (*Arts Combined, College of St Hild & St Bede, 1971-4*) and the team won the Commodores Cup – one of sailing's most prestigious trophies.

Mr Iain W Armitage MBE (*Economics, St John's College, 1991-94*) For services to the community and supporting families with life-limiting illnesses

Miss Sarah Bartholomew OBE (*History, Grey College, 2003-06*) For services to British foreign policy and the Commonwealth

Dr Roland A Chadwick MBE (*Geophysics, Graduate Society, 1977-78*) For services to the science of carbon capture and sequestration

Mr Brent Cheshire CBE (*Geology, St Cuthbert's Society, 1973-76*) For services to the renewable energy sector

Mrs Louise M Ellis MBE (*Natural Sciences, St Cuthbert's Society, 1997-2001*) For services to British foreign policy and the Commonwealth

Mr Ian W Jardine OBE (*Biological Sciences, Grey College, 1977-80*) For services to the environment

Mr A Mark Nileswhar OBE (*Engineering, Hatfield College, 1990-93*) For services to military capability

Mr Richard C E Smith OBE (*History, Grey College, 1991-94*) For services to military heritage

Mrs Sally J J Tennant OBE (*Politics, St Mary's College, 1974-77*) For services to research into miscarriages and stillbirths

Mr Huw V Thomas CBE (*History, Van Mildert College, 1967-70*) For services to public audit and accountability in Wales

Miss Jennifer N Willott OBE MP (*Classics, St Mary's College, 1993-96*) For political and public service

The Queen's New Year Honours 2019

Mr Timothy M Dannatt CBE (*Engineering, Collingwood College, 1976-79*) For services to defence acquisition

Mr Robin Hindle Fisher OBE (*Politics, College of St Hild & St Bede, 1979-82*) For services to financial services

Dr Owen C Johnson MBE (*English, St Chad's College, 1985-88*) For services to the environment

Dr Julia R Magill MBE (*Law, Trevelyan College, 1979-82*) For services to education

Mr Ian A McCafferty CBE (*Economics, Van Mildert College, 1975-78*) For services to the economy

Superintendent Richard Mifsud QPM (*Enterprise Management, 2009-10*) The Queen's Police Medal for Distinguished Service

Ms Andrea M Nixon MBE (*English Language, Collingwood College, 1984-87*) For services to the arts

Mrs Susan Pearce MBE (*Counselling, 2000-05*) For services to victims of sexual violence

The Hon James D A Ramsbotham CBE (*Geography, College of St Hild & St Bede, 1978-81*) For services to business and the economy in the North East

Mrs Karen Redhead CBE (*Education, 2004-07*) For services to further education

Dr Alan J Stoyel MBE (*Geology, Hatfield College, 1964-67*) For services to water mill heritage

Honorary Graduates

Alongside our class of 2018 graduates, we awarded a number of honorary degrees at Congregation last year

Summer Congregation 2018

Commander David Childs

Doctor of Letters

David Childs CBE enjoyed a successful 28-year career in the Royal Navy, reaching the rank of Commander. However, it has been in retirement that he has made a significant and innovative contribution to our national cultural heritage, by helping to establish a new, living memorial to British servicemen and women, the National Memorial Arboretum, which opened in 2001. Commander Childs has also served as Development Director of the Mary Rose Trust, and at Durham University he has delivered both student and public lectures.

Professor Veena Das

Doctor of Science

Veena Das is Krieger-Eisenhower Professor of Anthropology at the Johns Hopkins University, USA, having previously taught at the Delhi School of Economics for more than 30 years. She is a highly influential figure in the field of socio-cultural anthropology, with significant achievements and impacts in the areas of the anthropology of violence, public health, ethnography and exploring the relationship between anthropology and philosophy. A Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and of the Academy of Scientists from Developing Countries, Professor Das has a special connection with Durham University, having delivered several workshops and lectures here, and a postgraduate masterclass.

The Rt Hon. Lord Justice Andrew McFarlane

Doctor of Civil Law

Sir Andrew Ewart McFarlane, who became the President of the Family Division in July 2018, was appointed a High Court Judge in 2005 and a Lord Justice of Appeal in 2011. An esteemed lawyer, who was called

to the Bar in 1977 and appointed as a QC in 1998, he has made a significant and long-standing contribution to the family justice system. Sir Andrew studied law at Durham University from 1972 to 1975, was a founder member of Durham Revue and President of Durham Students' Union. He remains an active member of Collingwood College. He is a valued supporter of Durham Law School and Chair of the Durham Law School Advisory Board. In 2012, the Lord Justice McFarlane Prize in Family Law was established, to reward excellence on the Law of Family Relationships undergraduate LLB module.

Professor John Morrill

Doctor of Letters

John Morrill is one of the leading historians of his generation. He is a specialist in the early modern history of Britain and Ireland. He has written and edited 24 books and more than 100 essays and articles. He was the pioneering Editor of the *Bibliography of British and Irish History*, a unique resource containing over 594,000 records. He is a Fellow of the British Academy and an Honorary Member of the Royal Irish Academy. Professor Morrill has been a Visiting Professor in the Durham University History Department for the last few years – offering invaluable support to postgraduate students.

Winter Congregation 2018

Mr Gordon Bacon OBE

Master of Arts

Gordon Bacon OBE spent two decades as a police officer in Durham and seven years investigating corruption in Hong Kong. After leaving the police force, he led a UK-based children's charity, frequently braving the frontlines of war-torn Bosnia and Herzegovina. In 2000, he directed a programme to identify, through DNA, those who had died during the war, including those massacred at Srebrenica. As an

emergency aid worker, he co-ordinated a response in Sri Lanka to the 2004 tsunami, and he established an emergency aid programme following the 2008 cyclone in Myanmar. He was awarded an OBE and was presented with the European Commission Task Force Medal for his work in the Balkans during the wars.

Mr Damon de Laszlo

Master of Science

The long-standing Chairman of Harwin Engineering Plc, which manufactures electronic components, Damon de Laszlo holds a broad array of executive and non-executive positions, both in the UK and the USA. Chairman of the Economic Research Council for nearly 40 years, he is also Patron of the Treloar School and College, for students with physical disabilities, as well as Chairman of the de Laszlo Foundation, which provides bursaries and research grants for science, art and education. He is a Patron of City & Guilds of London Art School and sits on the Advisory Board of the Royal Society of Portrait Painters.

Dr Neil Hunt

Doctor of Science

After graduating from Durham University's Collingwood College with a degree in Computer Science and Electronics in 1983, Neil Hunt went on to become the first Chief Product Officer of Netflix. One of the world's largest and most recognisable streaming platforms, Netflix has over 100 million members across the globe. Outside of his role as the company's Chief Product Officer, from which he stepped down in June 2017, Dr Hunt was also a founding member of Durham's Computer Science Department's External Advisory Board. Here, he helped to create a brand new scholarship for Women in Technology, designed to help attract more talented young women to the Department of Computer Science at the University. He is now serving as CEO of Curai, a health-technology startup in Palo Alto, California, using artificial intelligence and machine learning to scale the world's best healthcare for every human being.

A Thought for the Future...



A legacy is one of the easiest and most flexible ways to support us. Would you give a gift of lasting significance?

Remember Durham in your Will.

To find out more, visit dunelm.org.uk/legacies
or contact our Legacies Officer on +44 (0)191 334 6313

Sheraton Park



Queen's Campus: Transition Completed

Years of hard work and planning have paid off with the successful relocation of departments and colleges from Queen's Campus in Stockton-on-Tees to Durham City.

The decision to repurpose Queen's Campus was taken back in 2016, following input from staff, students and alumni. We wanted to improve our student experience, address imbalances between our two campuses, facilitate improved research performance and enable the establishment of an International Study Centre at Queen's, helping us to attract more international students.

All change

Phase one took place in 2017, when our School of Medicine, Pharmacy and Health was transferred to Newcastle University; Ustinov College relocated to Sheraton Park; and the Durham University International Study Centre (DUISC) opened, offering pathway programmes to prepare international students for entry onto our undergraduate and postgraduate programmes.

Since then, Ustinov has made Sheraton Park its own, and has built strong links with the local community. Tom Pitts, Ustinov GCR President, describes it as "the classic Ustinov atmosphere in a brand new location".

The DUISC has also proved very popular, expanding to 600 students from over 30 countries in its first year. Such pathway programmes have grown quickly in recent years. Around 40% of international students in UK higher education now come through this route, and we plan to enrol up to 1,000 students by 2022.

Our departments and colleges began relocating in 2017, and the moves were completed in summer 2018. All Education, Business School and Psychology programmes are now consolidated in Durham and, following a year of operating across both campuses, John Snow and Stephenson Colleges are also now entirely based in Durham, sharing the Howlands site with Josephine Butler College. The three



Mount Oswald

colleges' JCR executives have been key in making the moves work – from thinking about how they would share Howlands Hall to establishing new traditions, such as a 'Battle of Howlands' varsity match between Josephine Butler and Stephenson.

For John Snow, the moves will continue: to a temporary home at Rushford Court, a purpose-built student accommodation development in the Viaduct area of Durham for the 2019–20 academic year, and then to purpose-built new facilities at Mount Oswald from 2020–21.

Will Lewington, JCR President at John Snow, reflects: "John Snow JCR are now experts in packing! Rushford Court offers lots of fantastic and unique facilities. Its location will really help us connect with the living-out community. Our freshers should also really enjoy living in College with such great facilities, and we're hopeful that this will help us establish a really good returner community."

Our Wolfson Research Institute will remain at Queen's until a suitable home in Durham is found for the longer term.

We're grateful to everyone who contributed to the transition, and we look forward to a bright future for both our Durham and Stockton campuses.

Forward planning

We knew that all this change would need investment in our estate. So to prepare for the transition, we:

- built £1.4 million worth of new student facilities at Howlands
- created more study and catering space at the Bill Bryson Library
- remodelled the Psychology building.

Work is continuing on several larger-scale projects, such as:

- building a Teaching and Learning Centre at Lower Mountjoy
- constructing two new college facilities at Mount Oswald
- carrying out an extensive upgrade of our Maiden Castle sports complex.

Inspiring the Extraordinary Through Sport

*Building new facilities for our
sporting communities*



The Judo club is looking forward to getting a new dojo

Here at Durham, we strive to foster a culture that inspires the extraordinary. This ethos serves as a foundation on which we build traditions, achievements and reputations – in research, education or, in this case, sport.

The successful career of an aspiring athlete – the next Sophie Hosking or Jonathan Edwards, both Durham alumni – can flourish at university. But this takes natural talent, relentless dedication, and access to coaching and support services.

State-of-the-art facilities help, too. Investing in sport means investing in our students – students who, like Hosking or Edwards, go on to become the best they can be. That's why we've put £32 million into a new sports and wellbeing facility at Maiden Castle. It won't be long until it's ready for the next generation of potential sporting legends to grace its pitches, courts and mats.

This will achieve several important goals. First, state-of-the-art facilities are more likely to attract outstanding student athletes, helping to ensure our clubs and programmes remain at the forefront of British University Sport and sustain our

position as Britain's number 1 Team Sport University. Hannah Knowles, captain of the Women's Cricket Club, hopes these new facilities – which include an indoor cricket hall – will allow “the club to maintain their reputation as one of the top cricketing universities in the country”.

Second, centres like Maiden Castle help encourage more people to play sport. In doing so, new friendships are forged, wellbeing is improved, and, sometimes, unique natural talent is revealed. Knowles hopes the facilities “will allow greater flexibility regarding training times, reducing barriers to entry and subsequently increasing the number of people wanting to participate in a new sport whilst at university”.

Third, such facilities provide opportunities for sport and physical activities to act as a leveller – a social glue, even – bringing together people of all backgrounds, jobs,

beliefs and abilities, whether they are students, staff or members of the local community.

Even before the turf was cut last summer, the existing Maiden Castle centre was already popular with the locals. It hosted 15 community clubs and engaged more than 2,000 residents each week. The new facilities will be accessible to the local community every day. Announcing the investment last year, Owen Adams, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Colleges and Student Experience), said he hoped the new development would transform sport in the City and the surrounding area.

Finally, the new facilities will help to spotlight sports and clubs that don't usually get the same attention as, say, rugby or rowing. For Oli Platt, Club Captain of the Judo Team, the prospect of a new dojo at the site “is a huge step towards moving judo in the mainstream, here at the University”. “Durham's judo squad has gone from strength to strength in the last few years,” he says. “I really hope that the new investment helps both us and the community improve the standard of judo and martial arts even further.”

The new facility is expected to be ready in August 2019, at which point the existing Maiden Castle building will be refurbished and ready for use again in winter 2019.

Sport and physical activities act as a great leveller, bringing together people of all backgrounds



Maiden Castle
(artist impression)





over 2,000 audience members saw Durham Student Theatre shows over just five days



Theatre

Latest news from student theatre at Durham

Epiphany Term was fantastic for theatre – over 2,000 audience members saw Durham Student Theatre shows over a period of just five days! Highlights included three productions in the Gala Theatre: Durham Opera Ensemble's *Die Fledermaus*; Durham University Light Opera Group's *Singin' In The Rain*; and The Durham Revue's annual ComedyFest. Students were also involved in the 44th year of

the Durham Drama Festival, a week-long celebration of student writing, amazing workshops and networking opportunities with professionals such as actor Alex Bhat and director Peter Bradley.

Fourth Wall's Theatre's *Killology* was selected for the National Student Drama Festival – the fifth year running that Durham has been represented at this prestigious festival.



Music

Latest news from student music at Durham

As usual, Epiphany Term was a busy one for our ensembles and performers, with over 30 concerts, including weekly lunchtime concerts. The annual Durham Vocal Festival featured a sell-out show in the Gala Theatre from the Northern Lights, a project with Chamber Choir which combined academic research, outreach and a world premiere, and an evensong in Durham Cathedral with the chapel choirs.

Many of our societies and individuals have benefited from professional masterclasses, ranging from opera with Toby Purser, through gospel with Daniel Ludford-Thomas, to orchestral playing and conducting with Peter Stark. Other great successes were the Soloist Competition, the first Intercollegiate Music Showcase, and a Celebration of Women in Music for International Women's Day.





Durham University Gifts

The Durham University Retail Office strives to provide staff, students and alumni with the best possible merchandise, to commemorate their time at Durham.

With stock ranging from stationery and jewellery to clothing and glassware, there is sure to be something that will take your fancy.

Being a Fairtrade-accredited university as well as being eco-friendly means a lot to us. For example, much of our clothing is made from Fairtrade material, and our University Recycled Pencil is made from recycled CD cases.

We work closely with suppliers, to ensure that the best products are available for our customers, at the best possible prices. We offer free, 48-hour delivery to all colleges, departments and visitor attraction outlets, across the University. We also offer first class post and DHL shipments for overseas customers.

We also buy in all of the beautiful stock in the various visitor attractions across the University – the Botanic Garden, the World Heritage Site Visitor Centre, Palace Green Library Shop and the Oriental Museum all stock a wide range of quirky items to suit any occasion.

We have recently introduced an exciting new range across several of our outlets. This image above was designed by artist Julia Gash – you may recognise the design from our popular Durham Cityscape Bag.

The range has now been extended to include postcards, greetings cards, mugs, bookmarks, magnets and coasters – something for everyone.

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On 25 April 2015, an earthquake hit the town of Gorkha in Nepal: 9,000 people died, 22,000 were injured and 2.8 million people were left homeless. It was the worst natural disaster of 2015.

The earthquake highlighted the need for action. At Durham, we launched the Action on Natural Disasters Doctoral Training Initiative, which so many of you generously supported.

As a direct result of our appeal, four doctoral researchers have received scholarships and are now undertaking research as part of this innovative training initiative at the Institute of Hazard, Risk and Resilience (IHRR) at Durham University. The shared theme of the four projects is: earthquake-induced landslide hazards in Nepal. These are projects that will make a real difference.

The experts at the IHRR believe that an interdisciplinary approach is vital to understanding and responding to earthquakes, and this is key to the unique approach taken in this programme.

This interdisciplinary approach is endorsed by Katy Burrows, who received one of the scholarships: "The way in which the programme has brought the four of us together ... has introduced me to new ways of thinking about research and natural hazards, which I am sure will benefit both the work I do now and anything I end up doing in the future."

Find out more about the earthquake-induced landslide hazards theme at: durham.ac.uk/ihrr/graduate-study/natural-disasters/2016-theme

The four scholars' projects will make a real difference to those living with risk in Nepal, as they explain here.

Mapping landslides with satellite radar

Katy Burrows' work aims to use technical advances in satellite radar imagery to map the landslides often triggered by earthquakes. Currently, optical satellite imagery is used, but this is often obscured by cloud. As Katy describes: "the purpose of my PhD project is to develop tools which will allow this radar imagery to be used in emergency response". This will save precious time, by avoiding delays following a disaster.

Find out more about Katy's work by following her on Twitter: @KatyBurrows3

Understanding road construction

Samprada Pradhan is working "to understand the impacts that construction of non-engineered rural roads has on the occurrence of landslides in mountainous areas". This is particularly important, as "haphazard road construction is considered as one of the main reasons behind the increasing number of landslides and landslide fatalities in Nepal".

Communicating risk

Gopi Krishna Basyal's project will make a direct contribution to the improvement of a

future disaster response. He aims to explore community understanding of landslide risk and current methods of communication, in order to improve these in a meaningful way. This has always been a challenge, but it has become more important since the earthquakes in 2015.

Find out more about Gopi's work by following him on Twitter: @gopykrishna

Developing simple safety rules

Communities are also the focus of Sheena Ramkumar's project. Sheena explains that the rules that have been developed elsewhere to improve safety may give the wrong advice to people in Nepal. By "understanding how rural Nepali communities behave during an earthquake and the types of hazard that they face", Sheena will develop new rules, designed for the context of rural Nepal, which are easy for people to remember – even under duress.

Thank you

The scholars' projects will directly contribute, in meaningful ways, to the disaster response. And the positive impact from their work, funded by you, will only be magnified in the course of their careers.

Our academics at the IHRR aim to ensure that the knowledge that they – and our scholars – acquired from the Gorkha earthquake will be used to help prepare other communities at risk.

All of you who gave so generously to the Action on Natural Disasters Appeal have made this possible.

We would all like to say: thank you.

"The Action on Natural Disasters programme has provided us with an exceptional opportunity"

Katy Burrows, scholarship recipient

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