

Spring / Summer 2014

Network

NTU alumni... you're part of it

Making a splash

Alumni Fund supports talented athletes



170 years of
Art and Design

Take our survey

Campus developments

John van Geest
Cancer Research Centre

NOTTINGHAM
TRENT UNIVERSITY



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Nottingham Trent University Alumni Association's Mission Statement

To foster lasting relationships with, and between, former students which encourage pride and involvement in our University.

Front cover: Canoe sprinter and current student, Iain Weir (see page 25).



Message from the Vice-Chancellor

It has been a privilege to lead Nottingham Trent University for the past 10 years. I have overseen so many significant changes, including major renovations to our estate (page 8). I am also thrilled to have witnessed some of the inspirational work of our researchers and academics, particularly the lifesaving discoveries being made in the John van Geest Cancer Research Centre (page 17).

We've also strived to ensure the on-going improvement of the student experience at NTU, the success of which has been reflected in our student satisfaction results, where 91 % of students said they would recommend studying at NTU. I also hope that the academic quality and research performance of our students, present and future, continues to ensure that NTU is an inspirational place to learn and visit.

It has also been a privilege to work alongside Sir Michael Parkinson as our Chancellor. Our new Chancellor, Kevin Cahill, will be joined by Professor Edward Peck who will be our new Vice-Chancellor (page 6). I'm sure together they will continue to build on the University's excellent reputation.

As alumni, you are always welcome back to campus, whether it's to attend an event or distinguished lecture, or simply to have a look around. I will certainly keep visiting.

I would like to thank all the staff, students and alumni for helping to build NTU into the highly reputable, forward thinking University it has become today.

Professor Neil T Gorman
Vice-Chancellor



Welcome to the 2014 issue of *Network*, your alumni magazine.

We want to know what you think about the magazine, as well as our eNewsletters, website and social media groups, so please take our survey at www.ntualumni.org.uk/network_2014 with a chance to win £100 in Amazon vouchers.

Well, what a busy year it's been already. If you haven't visited campus yet, where have you been? We've had parties, reunions, exhibitions, lectures, concerts – there's lots going on (page 30).

We really enjoyed the *Since 1843: In The Making* exhibition. Celebrating the start of the School of Art & Design's 170 year anniversary, it was a fantastic collection of the work of almost

100 alumni, and there are other exhibitions and events planned throughout the year (page 04).

Also celebrating an anniversary is Nottingham Law School which is 50 years old. We catch up with alumna, Amerdeep Somal, to find out what she's been up to since graduation (page 13).

There's plenty more news at www.ntualumni.org.uk where you can also update your details. Please do keep in touch!

**Clare, Jacqui, Helen and Anwyn –
your Alumni Relations Team**

Tel: +44 (0)115 848 8777

Email: alumni@ntu.ac.uk

Get involved

Sky News presenter Stephen Dixon (BA Hons Broadcast Journalism 1995) is the President of NTU's Alumni Association. This is a volunteer role that Stephen generously gives his time to, and you will also see him giving guest lectures from time to time or handing out goody bags at our graduation ceremonies.

He said: "NTU has been such a big and significant part of our lives. Don't let NTU just be a part of your past, but also your present and future. Get involved and offer your support through mentoring or offering placements to current students, give a guest lecture, submit a career profile or help out at an open day. I guarantee you'll enjoy it."



Find out more at:
www.ntualumni.org.uk/getting_involved

Keep up-to-date with Stephen's blog at:
www.ntualumni.org.uk/presidents_blog

170 years looks like this...

Art and Design alumni exhibit together for *Since 1843: In The Making*

Celebrating its 170th anniversary, the School of Art & Design recently brought together more than 100 artworks from its alumni to illustrate the impact of the School on the visual arts and creative industries nationally and internationally.

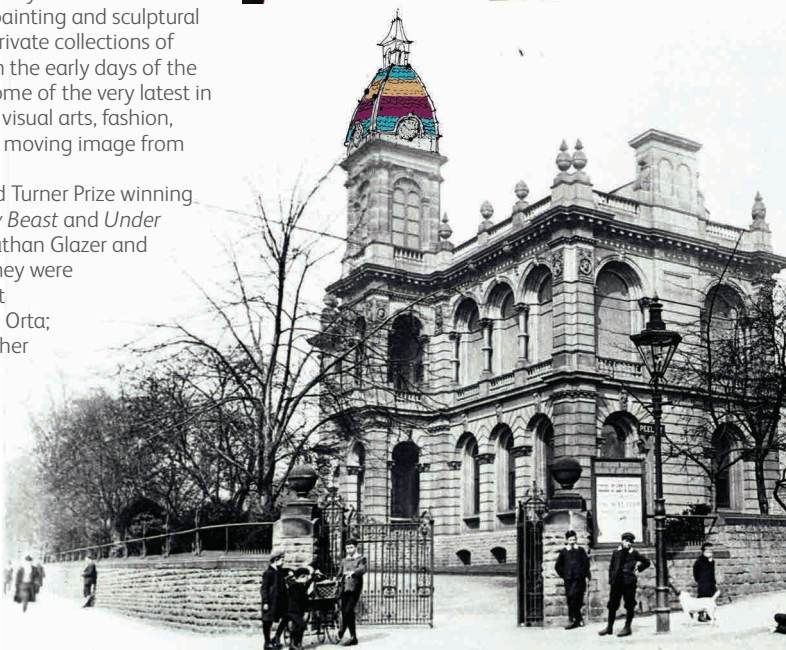
The School of Art & Design started life as the Nottingham Government School of Design in 1843 and was one of several institutions set up by the government to improve the design skills of industrial workers.

The exhibition featured canvasses by one of the School's earliest local students, Dame Laura Knight, who gained a place in 1890 at just 13 and went on to become the first woman to be elected to the Royal Academy.

The historic drawing, painting and sculptural work from archives, and private collections of artists who studied here in the early days of the School, contrasted with some of the very latest in contemporary and digital visual arts, fashion, textiles, photography and moving image from more recent alumni.

Work on show included Turner Prize winning artist Simon Starling, *Sexy Beast* and *Under the Skin* film director Jonathan Glazer and comic actor Paul Kaye. They were joined by artists such as St Pancras *Clouds* artist Lucy Orta; top rock music photographer Andy Earl; British Art duo Noble and Webster; founder of fashion brand *All Saints*, Stuart Trevor; fashion designers Pearce Fionda; artists Mat Collishaw and Rob Ryan to name but a few.

Congratulations to Frances Quinn (BA Hons Textile Design 2006) who won the *Great British Bake Off* in 2013. Here she is showing our Vice-Chancellor, Professor Neil Gorman, her Waverley-inspired chocolate cake which she made especially for the opening of our *Since 1843: In The Making* alumni exhibition.





The opening event of the show on 8 January was attended by almost 800 people, including exhibitors, their friends and families, alumni, regional dignitaries and professional contacts from across the creative industries.

Amongst the attendees were exhibitors Hazel and Keith Albarn, who met at the School in the 1960s, and have both enjoyed creative careers as visual artists and art teachers. They are also the parents of musician, and Blur and Gorillaz vocalist, Damon Albarn, who joined them for the event. Damon said a few impromptu words to the crowd at the end of the formal opening speeches, along with actor and comedian Paul Kaye, who studied Theatre Design in the 1980s.

Damon talked about seeing the college where his parents had met, whilst Paul Kaye admirably described his Theatre Design tutor, the late Malcolm Griffiths, who, he recalled, was a great influence.

Ann Priest, Pro-Vice Chancellor and Head of the College of Art, Design and the Built Environment, said: "This fantastic opening exhibition is an important reminder of the quality and influence of Nottingham's creative output and a testament to the unique nature of our community of artists, practitioners and scholars.

"The exhibition was the first of a year of events celebrating the heritage and history of the School of Art & Design; we are proud that our alumni have contributed significantly here in the UK and internationally. Over the coming months these events will act as a framework to set an agenda for our future."

From top:
Photographer Andy Earl,
Damon Albarn with
parents Hazel and Keith,
actor Paul Kaye.

Find out more about our celebratory events, and send us your memories and photos, at: www.ntu170years.co.uk

New leaders for NTU

NTU are set to welcome a new Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor later this year.



Kevin Cahill CBE

Kevin Cahill CBE – the Chief Executive of Comic Relief – has been appointed as the new Chancellor of NTU. He will take up the post from July this year and will succeed the current Chancellor, Sir Michael Parkinson, who is set to retire from the role.

Mr Cahill has been the Chief Executive of Comic Relief since 1997, during which time the scale and influence of the charity has grown immensely, with Red Nose Day revenues increasing by 370%. Coining the idea for Sport Relief in 2002, Mr Cahill has seen it go from strength to strength to raise more than £195m so far.

Mr Cahill's position at NTU will involve him undertaking a number of duties, including representing the University on special occasions and conferring degrees at graduation ceremonies. He said: "It is an honour to take up this position. The institution is a UK leader in helping people achieve their ambitions and realise their potential, no matter what their background. I hope my role will enable me to play a small part in continuing this work."

Professor Neil Gorman, Vice-Chancellor, said: "We're delighted that Kevin has accepted this position. He will be an excellent role model for our many constituencies, both within the University and externally.

"I would also like to take the opportunity to thank Sir Michael Parkinson for his generosity and input over the past six years."

We are also pleased to confirm the appointment of Professor Edward Peck who will take up the post of Vice-Chancellor from August – succeeding Professor Neil Gorman who is set to retire at the end of the academic year.

Professor Peck, who joins us from the University of Birmingham where he is Pro Vice-Chancellor and Head of the College of Social Sciences, said: "I want NTU to build on its reputation for outstanding scholarship to further enhance the futures of our students, the fortunes of our partners and the fabric of our society. By valuing scholarship in all its forms I believe the University can make a major contribution to higher education in the UK."



Professor Edward Peck

Have your say!

We want to know what you think about your Alumni Association and the communications you receive from us – and you could win a prize for telling us.

From *Network* magazine and eNewsletters, to the alumni website and social media, there are so many ways that we can communicate with you. Now's your chance to help us shape the way in which we inform you of news and events, what we tell you, and how we tell you.

Take part in our online survey at www.ntualumni.org.uk/network_2014 and you will be in with a chance of winning £100 of Amazon vouchers. The survey will close on 31 August 2014, so there's plenty of time for you to read *Network*, take a good look around the website and the online community at www.ntualumni.org.uk, and join us on LinkedIn, Facebook and Twitter.

Take our survey and be in with a chance to win £100 of Amazon vouchers at www.ntualumni.org.uk/network_2014



Be social

Last September the Alumni Relations Team was joined by Anwyn Williams (BA Hons Media with Popular Culture 2013) who has helped develop the Alumni Association's presence on social media.

Our Nottingham Trent University Alumni Association group on LinkedIn continues to thrive with over 8,600 members – a tremendously valuable networking group for you to join at www.ntualumni.org.uk/linkedin if you haven't already.

Our popularity on Twitter is also increasing thanks to the introduction of mini competitions, such as our own version of the *Great British Bake Off* in honour of winner Frances Quinn (BA Hons Textile Design 2006). Follow @NTUAlumni on Twitter – www.twitter.com/NTUAlumni – to keep up with the latest news, events and competitions.

You can also join us on Facebook – www.facebook.com/NTUAlumni – where we regularly post news and photos.

And don't forget to venture into your online community at www.ntualumni.org.uk to access a range of benefits and services, update your details, view the jobs board, see nostalgic photo galleries, add class notes and find friends.



All eyes on Clifton

Following the opening of our brand new Students' Union building by Lord Coe, and improvements within our City and Brackenhurst libraries, now it's Clifton's turn for a dramatic transformation.

Transforming the heart of Clifton campus

Ambitious plans to transform the heart of Clifton campus have been unveiled.

The redevelopment will include the construction of a modern pavilion and a new teaching suite as well as the upgrade of the existing refectory and library.

Stephen Jackson, Chief Financial and Operations Officer at NTU, said: "As with all our previous regeneration projects, the student experience has been put at the very heart of the proposals and we're determined to raise the bar once again and create an environment which is both inspiring and sustainable."

The Pavilion, replacing parts of the George Eliot building, will feature a tall glazed façade with a covered raised terrace to enhance the campus identity and provide a sense of arrival and gravitas.

Designed by Evans Vettori Architects Ltd, it will include a new reception, a suite of flexible training rooms, round the clock study support, IT-rich social and exhibition spaces.

The new teaching suite will accommodate more than 800 students in three lecture theatres and six flexible rooms configured for modern teaching methods.

The project is expected to be completed during 2016.

The Clifton campus has also recently benefited from the construction of the new Rosalind Franklin building, a high-specification science facility, and the Lee Westwood Sports Centre.



Library refurbishment underway

The library on Clifton campus will also undergo an internal upgrade and be given a new front entrance.

The Boots Library on the City site is already in the process of a £4.2m refurbishment creating a better place for students to learn, with more study spaces, more computers and better group study provision.

These improvements will provide a learning and study environment that will be sector leading.

Meanwhile at Brackenhurst campus work has now finished on a new eco-friendly library.

Incorporating the latest technology, this single-storey building has large open spaces as well as smaller study areas.

It has been awarded the second highest BREEAM rating – the world's foremost environmental assessment method for buildings – and the highest possible Energy Performance Certificate.

Lord Coe opens impressive new Students' Union

A new Students' Union building has also recently been opened by Olympic legacy ambassador Sebastian Coe.

Including the construction of the adjacent Gill Street accommodation, the development totals approximately £60m and has created an additional 911 high quality student residences.

A joint venture with University Partnerships Programme (UPP), the new building was designed by Nottingham-based architects Church Lukas and built by Vinci Construction UK.

The building incorporates a 2,400-capacity night venue featuring £1m worth of light and sound equipment. Added to this social mix are two large Wi-Fi lounges complete with café bars and an underground retreat for students to relax in.

The leisure facilities include an impressive sports hall, a 100-station fitness suite, a dance studio and a 30ft climbing wall.



See for yourself

If you are interested in visiting any of our three campuses please let us know. Contact alumni@ntu.ac.uk or call +44 (0)115 848 8777.



get involved at www.ntualumni.org.uk | 09



Smart camera design could save lives

Artificial intelligence safety cameras – which detect dangerous levels of crowding with 100 % accuracy during day or night – have been developed by an NTU research team.

The smart camera system – designed by a research team lead by Dr Amin Al-Habaibeh of the School of Architecture, Design and the Built Environment – aims to help save lives by improving crowd safety at large open space public gatherings as part of smart cities research work. The system helps decision makers in future cities to plan and manage resources and optimise performance of city management systems.

The technology – which combines an infrared camera and a monochrome visual camera – can measure the real time density of crowds and signals when and where hazardous levels of overcrowding occur in various spots. The technology can also give a strong estimation of crowd numbers, hence help in adaptive management of cities.

The invention was tested on historic data taken in 2006 from the old Jamarat Bridge in Mina, Saudi Arabia, during Hajj, the annual pilgrimage to Mecca which attracts millions of people from around the world.

Tests showed that by combining the two types of cameras, and by linking them up to a computer with temperature and light sensors, the margin of error for detecting different crowd densities was zero per cent when using the artificial intelligence system.

Dr Al-Habaibeh carried out the research in conjunction with the Um Al-Qura University in Mecca, Saudi Arabia. He said: “Large scale public events present huge safety risks and management complexities. It is important that technology helps minimise those risks and this project has many potential applications including sport events and festivals. The system can operate in the dark or smoke which makes it particularly useful for crowd management as well as in emergency situations and will enable those in charge of safety to take swift action before any incident occurs.”

Find out more about this research at
www.ntualumni.org.uk/network_2014

Ministry of Defence order for university spin-out

A ground-breaking system to boost smartphone security has been selected for use by the UK Ministry of Defence.

NTU spin out, Voicekey Limited, has created an artificially intelligent software solution, based on a mathematical model of the human brain, which uses the unique features of an individual's voice to verify an individual's identity. This means that the unique vocal characteristics of a user can be identified through a smartphone or telephone handset, making it possible to quickly verify security clearance and allow access to sensitive military computer systems.

Voicekey has recently received significant funding from the Nottingham Technology Grant Fund (N'Tech), to help market the product. Using this grant, Voicekey aims to significantly grow its turnover in 2014/15 and is looking to create several full-time equivalent jobs in the next few months.

Dr Tony Allen, from the School of Science and Technology, is an expert in artificial intelligence using neural network systems and invented the technology behind Voicekey.

He said: "Voicekey works by adding a third level of security to the two levels which already exist on smartphones – those based around

something you have and something you know – basically, your unique phone ID and your unique password. The new development is based on something you are – your unique voice characteristics."

"The Voicekey system uses neural connections similar to those used in the human brain, but where the human brain has billions of neurons, Voicekey uses only hundreds. It's a unique system and nothing like it has been developed anywhere else in the world."

In addition to the MoD project, Voicekey has recently won a substantial Technical Strategy Board contract to support its mobile commerce developments. The Voicekey software would benefit shops, supermarkets and call centres. The company is also in talks on a multilingual voice biometric for an online gaming project in Japan.

Find out more at
www.ntualumni.org.uk/network_2014

Voicekey's Dr Tony Allen with Jeremy Hague, Head of Business Development at NTU





Celebrating 50 years of Law

This year Nottingham Law School celebrates 50 years in legal education. Here we take a look back at some of the changes since 1964, and look forward to the future.

Nottingham Law School began life in the early 1960s as Nottingham and District Technical College, delivering the postgraduate Law Society solicitors' final examinations, as well as undergraduate Law courses which grew into the BA Legal Studies and LLB (Hons) Law course. The first cohort of undergraduate Law students graduated in 1964.

The next 50 years saw Nottingham Law School grow into one of the largest university law schools in the UK, developing a reputation as a centre of excellence in legal education. Today the Law School offers the full range of university legal education, providing a wide range of undergraduate degrees, academic and practitioner taught postgraduate courses and a strong research degree programme.

Nottingham Law School has built a reputation for research in areas including insolvency law, business law, human rights, dispute resolution, sports law, medical law, legal education and criminal justice. Our unique staff base, which has a high level of combined qualified practitioners and academics, enables us to deliver applied and high impact legal education. We have long established links with policy makers, professional bodies and leading law firms, including a growing number of significant international associations.

Since 2006 Nottingham Law School has run a not-for-profit service covering a number of areas of free advice and representation, pro bono work and legal outreach activity. The existing service provides a sound base for current activity, but there is high and increasing demand for the service as government funding is withdrawn from key areas of community legal advice and assistance, and as the number of Law students wishing to be involved in clinic and pro bono activity grows.

Therefore, it is fitting that in celebrating 50 years of legal education at Nottingham Law School, in 2014 a unique and ground-breaking teaching law firm within Nottingham Law School – the Legal Advice Centre – will be opened in June by the Attorney General, Dominic Grieve.

This centre will be the leading university provider of the highest quality equal access legal services to individuals and communities, providing outstanding educational opportunities for our students. Students will work with clients to address real issues in a wide range of areas, in a real professional and business environment, through a number of areas of speciality. In addition the centre will facilitate increased overseas placement / internships and international pro bono opportunities and will develop new international links, particularly in countries with developing economies.

View the timeline of Nottingham Law School's history at www.ntu.ac.uk/50years. If you have any memories of your time at the Law School please share them with us at: nls.enquiries@ntu.ac.uk



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS
of excellence in legal education



Excellence in law

As Nottingham Law School celebrates its 50 year anniversary, we caught up with just one of the many alumni who have studied there over the years.

Amerdeep Somal (LLB Law 1988) is the Independent Assessor to the Board of the Financial Ombudsman Service (FOS).

Amerdeep had her eye on a career in law from an early age. She said: "I used to rush home from school to watch the television series *Crown Court* and I wanted the wig and gown! There were many obstacles but my mother supported my decision. I really credit my background for the focus of my work. It was about ensuring that women have an equal place to men in society. You have to work harder for that in particular societies."

After university Amerdeep worked as a defence and prosecuting lawyer. She moved to the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) for 10 years as a Commissioner where she was responsible for overseeing and taking ultimate responsibility for investigations, casework and the promotion of public confidence in the complaints system and was the Commission lead on gender abuse and domestic violence. Amerdeep also developed board and governance skills to complement her legal background and sat on a number of boards in an advisory capacity to share her knowledge and experience.

Amerdeep has recently changed roles and is now the Independent Assessor for the Financial Ombudsman Service dealing with consumers or financial businesses who are dissatisfied with the service provided.

She said: "I deal with individual complaints and make recommendations to the board to improve handling in the future and can award compensation for distress and inconvenience caused by service failures identified. The Ombudsman Service has dealt with over one million complaints about financial businesses so the volume of work is unprecedented since its PPI court win – let's just say there is always lots to do."

Amerdeep is also on the Board of Nursing and Midwifery which is the largest health regulator in the world and says she will always work to combat domestic violence in whatever she does.

In May 2011, Amerdeep won an Asian Woman of Achievement award for the work she did whilst at the IPCC and standing up for the rights of the people she supported, regardless of the consequences. She has also recently been awarded an Honorary Doctorate by the University of Roehampton for her work at the IPCC in holding the police service to account on domestic violence failures.

You can read Amerdeep's full career profile, and others, at: www.ntualumni.org.uk/graduate_profiles where you can also submit your own.

Scott spreads Coffee Nation across the nation

Next time you get a coffee on the go you may find yourself using a Costa Express self-serve coffee bar – thanks to Scott.



Read the full story at
www.ntualumni.org.uk/network_2014

Alumnus Scott Martin (HND Hotel Catering and Institutional Management 1990) is the Chief Executive of Costa Express / Coffee Nation Ltd, the UK's market leader in self-serve gourmet coffee.

It all started in 1999 when Scott joined forces with Martyn Dawes to create Coffee Nation. He said: "We saw a gap in the market – branded self-serve coffee bars could be placed in thousands of transient locations across the country providing premium gourmet coffee for an ever growing group of coffee addicts! It was either a stroke of genius or a stroke of luck that we started our business when we did, as the branded coffee shops exploded across every high street and urban centre of the UK."

Coffee Nation, financed by Private Equity backers and Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) remained privately owned until it was acquired ultimately by Whitbread, owners of Costa, in 2011. Scott said: "When Coffee Nation achieved their first £1m in turnover we thought we'd conquered the world – now it turns over around double that per week!"

In July 2013 Costa Express launched the first Marlow machine in Dubai Airport after 18 months in development. Scott plans to continue the expansion into other key countries and ultimately hopes to run some pilots in the USA. If successful he says this would be his biggest ever achievement, yet Scott arrived at NTU in the late 1980s still not really sure what he wanted to do, but says that: "University gave me a thirst for learning".

An entrepreneur through and through Scott still remains hands on. He said: "I've never lost a day's sleep over the business. I had utter belief in the product and I can proudly say I've had no regrets. It's only now, with the benefit of hindsight that we can see just how disruptive our business would be to the coffee bar market. I'm proud of our little piece of marketing history!"

COSTA

EXPRESS

New challenge for Chris

With the success of London 2012 under his belt, alumnus Chris Townsend (MSc Marketing Management 1997) has taken on a new challenge.

Chris Townsend, who held commercial roles at Transport for London and BSkyB before joining the London Organising Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Games (Locog), took up the post of CEO at BDUK on 1 April.

In his new role Chris will oversee the distribution of £790m of funding to bring superfast connections to 95% of the United Kingdom by 2017, a further £150m for high-speed broadband for businesses in 22 cities, and £150m to improve mobile phone coverage on motorways and in remote areas.

Chris said: "Ensuring that broadband can reach businesses and consumers across the country is one of the most important policies in government. Faster connections will improve the way people live, work and spend their leisure time."



Local councils are using £1.2bn in central and local government funds to award contracts for building fibre networks in rural areas. Former Culture Secretary Maria Miller announced that £10m will be available for pilot projects which will help the government decide how to spend the final £250m of rural broadband money, which is intended to get connections to the final 5% of the population not reached by the main scheme.

The pilot projects will trial alternatives to the fixed-fibre lines, including 4G mobile signals to deliver home broadband, satellite, and running fibre lines directly to homes.

Chris has a record of raising funds for public projects from the private sector. As commercial director of Locog, he raised £2.4bn from sponsorship, ticket sales and merchandise to fund the Games. At Transport for London in 2006, he secured £1.5bn from Viacom in exchange for control of all poster sites on the tube, increasing revenues from the advertising contract from £30m a year to £100m.

Former Culture Secretary, Maria Miller said: "I am delighted to welcome Chris Townsend to the team and know that his experience from the Olympics will be invaluable. Our nationwide rollout of superfast broadband will benefit everyone from school children to business owners, parents to patients. An estimated 10,000 homes and businesses are gaining access to superfast speeds every week but now we need to focus on the hardest to reach communities."

"Faster connections will improve the way people live, work and spend their leisure time."

10% discount on summer programmes

The summer programme in Art, Design and Architecture has been growing year on year, and as alumni you can enrol on a one, two or three week course with a 10% discount.

Our summer courses represent all the subjects for which NTU has become recognised globally, and combine practical studio sessions, industry insights and the opportunity to meet fellow artists and designers from around the world.

Highlights in 2014 include Fashion Knitwear and Textile Weave summer schools, ideal for designers who want to engage with contemporary approaches to designing and making. There is also City: Country: Castle for people who want to explore the history and heritage of architecture in the UK. The three-week Nottingham Summer School will investigate museums, architecture and visual arts in the city today. And the Product Manufacturing and Engineering Technology course is a great way to experience current approaches to prototyping.

View the full list at

www.ntu.ac.uk/summerschool and visit www.ntu.ac.uk/15-17shortcourses for details of portfolio preparation courses for 15-17 year olds.

On-campus accommodation and homestay options are available.

For more information email creativeshortcourses@ntu.ac.uk or call +44 (0)115 848 2813.



Image by Kai Cem Narin

Degree shows

Alumni are invited to be among the first to see our students' excellent work at the annual degree shows' private view on Thursday 29 May, 5 pm – 9 pm where over 1,200 students from the School of Art & Design and the School of Architecture, Design and the Built Environment will showcase their work. Book your place at www.ntu.ac.uk/degreshows

Cracking the cancer code

John van Geest Cancer Research Centre

Nottingham has been a focus of cancer research for over 40 years and the John van Geest Cancer Research Centre at NTU's Clifton campus cements that legacy. Find out more about their ground-breaking research, and how you can get involved, in this special four page feature.

Lifesaving research

In 2008, the John and Lucille van Geest Foundation endowed Nottingham Trent University with a research grant to establish the dedicated cancer research facility. Last year the Foundation made a further donation to support the centre's crucial work into the early diagnosis and treatment of cancer.

Using state-of-the-art equipment and facilities, the centre's team of scientists continue to work to develop better approaches for identifying the presence, severity and progression of cancer – as well as providing an insight into how patients will respond to certain treatments. A key area of their research is to

develop ways to immunise patients against their cancer, in much the same way that we can be protected against tetanus or flu.

Director of the Centre, Professor Robert Rees, said: "We are a unique, purpose-built scientific facility and our aim is to save lives and speed recovery by improving the early diagnosis and treatment of cancer.

"We have a world-class team of research scientists collaborating across four different disciplines within the centre. They have been chosen for their skills and expertise and will be here for as long it takes us to make a difference."

See it for yourself

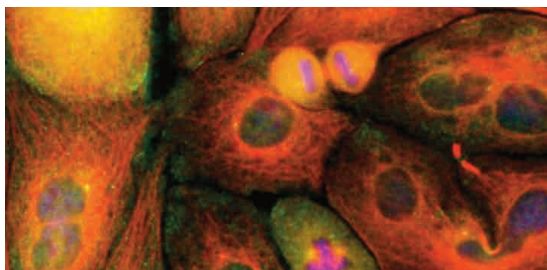
Find out more in these pages and at www.ntu.ac.uk/vangeest.

If you are interested in touring the John van Geest Cancer Research Centre contact the Alumni and Community Giving Officer Stephen Knott on +44 (0)115 848 8807 or at stephen.knott@ntu.ac.uk



Scientists unlock prostate cancer protein

In a study that could pave the way for new and improved vaccines for prostate cancer, scientists have identified how a specific region of a prostate-related protein can be used to trigger the body's immune response against prostate cancer.



The work, carried out at the John van Geest Cancer Research Centre, focused on the prostatic acid phosphatase (PAP) protein, which is present in more than 90 % of prostate tumours. Scientists were able to develop a new prostate cancer vaccination strategy utilising a portion, or 'epitope' of this PAP protein – PAP 114 – which was capable of preventing and reducing tumour growth in pre-clinical trials.

The team believes the study could lead to the development of new vaccines which are able to generate a more specific, more efficient, faster and longer-lasting protective immune response against prostate cancer. It might also mean that vaccines could be developed at a lower cost than currently, and with fewer potential side effects.

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men in the UK – each year more than 10,000 men will die as a result of prostate cancer and more than 40,000 will be diagnosed with the disease. Cases are rising among men over 50 and the average age for men to be diagnosed is between 70 and 74.

Although cancer vaccines can be formulated in a number of different ways, the approach devised by the scientists for this PAP vaccine would involve a series of injections.

Senior Research Fellow and lead on the project Dr Stéphanie McArdle, said: "For most cancers, the specific targets against which vaccination strategies can be based are

sometimes weak and relatively poor at inducing robust, protective anti-tumour immune responses.

"Developing cancer vaccines that can overcome the capacity of tumours to 'evade' the immune system and induce protective anti-tumour immunity is therefore essential for the development of new immunotherapies for aggressive disease.

"Our findings demonstrate that PAP 114 is a promising candidate for further development of PAP-based anti-cancer vaccine strategies. It induces characteristics that are consistent with anti-tumour protection; capable of triggering an immune attack against prostate cancer cells and protecting against established prostate tumours."

The epitopes of the PAP protein were delivered to the immune system using Scancell's proprietary ImmunoBody® technology.



Molecule could be clue to better breast cancer prognosis

Prognoses for women with breast cancer could be better predicted by focusing on a specific molecule in a patient's tumour, according to research by scientists at the John van Geest Cancer Research Centre.

It is hoped that the study could help bring an end to unnecessary and aggressive treatments for women with the disease who already have a good chance of survival.

The work may lead to finding more effective, appropriate and targeted therapeutic treatments for individual women, without the need for intensive radiotherapy or chemotherapy.

The team, which also involved experts from Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust, focused on the DACH1 protein, which is known to repress tumour growth in breast cancer – the most common cancer in females and the third most common cause of cancer-related death in the UK.

The scientists had used an artificial neural network, or computational model, to identify protein biomarkers for breast cancer linked to oestrogen receptor-associated tumours, which account for the largest proportion of women with the disease.

DACH1 was found to have a very strong influence and association with oestrogen receptor cancer biomarkers, making it a prime candidate for investigating its role as a prognostic marker.

The study involved investigating DACH1's significance in predicting breast cancer survival by assessing its levels in breast cancer tissue, and



it was found that those with higher levels of the protein had lower grade tumours, a better chance of cancer-specific survival, longer disease-free intervals and lower rates of tumour reoccurrence in the five years after diagnosis.

The researchers believe the study could have implications for the development of more personal approaches to treating breast cancer and lead to more appropriate treatments for individuals.

Professor Graham Ball, said: "We have found that the molecule DACH1 sits at the centre of a lot of important disease pathways and has been found to be a very good prognostic biomarker and predictor of patient survival. If we can predict that some women would survive for many years based on surgery alone, they would not need to undergo unnecessary and aggressive treatments such as chemotherapy, which are more suited to those with poor prognosis."

The study also involved the Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University in the US and Mansoura University in Egypt.

Jeremy goes the extra mile



Over to you!

Get your family, friends or work mates together to run, walk, kayak, cycle, shave, bake, sing, jump, climb, fly, swim, or anything else, in aid of our vital cancer research.

For ideas and information visit www.justgiving.com/jvgcrc or contact the Alumni and Community Giving Officer Stephen Knott on **+44 (0)115 848 8807** or at stephen.knott@ntu.ac.uk.

And look out for one of our fundraising events held throughout the year like runNTU or the choir concert. Part of the proceeds from this year's Climax Reunited also went towards the centre.

We're always overwhelmed with the generosity of NTU staff, alumni and friends when it comes to raising money for the John van Geest Cancer Research Centre.

For example, not only did our NTU colleague Jeremy Bateman raise money cycling from Land's End to John O'Groats in 2012, but he also ran the London Marathon for the twentieth time in April.

Jeremy said: "The scientists at the John van Geest Cancer Research Centre are doing amazing work. Why not have a go at something you've always wanted to do, have a great time doing it and raise money along the way?"



Anticipation builds for Notts TV

As *Network* went to print Notts TV was preparing for its launch on 27 May.

Notts TV – which comprises Nottingham Trent University, *Nottingham Post*, Confetti Media Group and Inclusive Digital – will deliver news, sport, entertainment, business, politics and more to homes across Nottinghamshire from 4 pm to midnight, seven days a week, on Freeview Channel 8.

The station has an input from NTU's Broadcast Journalism students, journalists at the *Nottingham Post* and students at Confetti Institute of Creative Technologies.

Community groups, local organisations and businesses will contribute to the schedule to ensure it delivers content that is relevant to everyone across Nottinghamshire.

Garry Smith, NTU's Commercial Director, said: "We will be commissioning local companies and people who have ideas for programmes. It could be a documentary, an animation... quite literally any kind of programme that you would now see on TV."



Individual programmes being broadcast include weekly arts programme *Notts On*, weekly sports round up *Notts Sports* and monthly debate programme *Notts Debate*.

There will also be regular documentaries on local issues, programmes on local politics, business, community activities, outdoor interests, science and history, with plans to cover local concerts and other arts events too.

Visit www.nottstv.uk.com for more details.



Alumnus of the Year 2013:
Balls to Poverty founder Joe
Sargison (PGCE 2004).

Who will be the Alumnus of the Year 2014?

Do you know someone who studied at NTU – or any of its predecessor institutions* – who deserves recognition for their achievements?

Have they enjoyed noteworthy success in the arts, science, sport, academic or public life? Have they made a major contribution to the lives of others?

If so, let us know. The deadline for nominations for Alumnus of the Year is 30 June 2014.

Visit www.ntualumni.org.uk/alumnus_of_the_year for more details.

*NTU's predecessor institutions include: Nottingham and District Technical College, Nottingham Regional College of Technology, Nottingham College of Art and Design, Nottingham College of Education, Brackenhurst College, Trent Polytechnic and Nottingham Polytechnic.



Mentoring Programme continues to grow

The Employability Mentoring Programme is designed to improve the employability prospects of current students through the development of a mentoring relationship with an alumnus who is an experienced professional and who works in the student's sector of interest.

Over the last year, the programme has gone from strength to strength with more than 100 mentoring relationships. The success is down to the help of our alumni who have generously imparted their expertise and time to help develop the employability skills of our current students, and new graduates.

Alumnus and mentor Shahban Meherban (BSc Pharmacology and Neuroscience 2008, MRes Applied Biosciences 2009) said: "We have made excellent progress and we have assessed what areas my mentee needs to work on and how we can improve certain aspects of her CV. I strongly feel that by the end of the year she will have made significant progress."

Law student Misbah Ashraf told us about her mentoring experience. She said: "My mentor has opened my eyes to the sort of challenges I will face, how to cope under pressure and what skills I could bring to any firm that I work for."

If you would like to volunteer as an Employability Mentor for next year's programme, email alumni@ntu.ac.uk for more information.

Looking for a new job?

Become a member of Venture, the alumni online community, and gain access to the alumni jobs vacancies board to search for vacancies offered by other members of your alumni community.

Looking to recruit a fellow NTU graduate? You can also post details of current vacancies that you wish to advertise to other NTU alumni by logging in to Venture and adding your advertisement to the job vacancies board. Visit:

www.ntualumni.org.uk/find_a_job

Suzanne Ross, Senior Lecturer in Executive Education and Corporate Relations at Nottingham Business School is currently completing a PhD in Leadership Talent, Success and Derailment.

Suzanne believes that organisations are increasingly focusing attention on talent management practices which include some mechanism for defining and benchmarking talent for recruitment, career development and succession into leadership roles. She feels, however, we can all probably think of people who we would consider very talented but for some reason don't seem to live up to their potential.

Suzanne is researching how highly successful leaders enact their talents into success and why some talented leaders stall, plateau or derail from their career paths; failing to live up to their potential. She said: "I believe the key to success is in developing personal resilience: clarity of personal vision; stress tolerance; "bouncebackability", optimism; flexibility and the ability to adapt and grow."

Read more about Suzanne's research at:
www.ntualumni.org.uk/network_2014



FutureHub online vacancies system

Are you a recent graduate looking for a job? NTU advertises thousands of vacancies on FutureHub, an online vacancies and events system for current students and recent graduates. Register for free at www.ntu.ac.uk/futurehub-graduates

Busy times at The Hive

The Hive, NTU's centre for entrepreneurship and enterprise has been supporting entrepreneurs to launch their own business ventures by providing business support, training, mentoring and advice since 2001.

The majority of Hive supported businesses are founded by NTU alumni. We take a closer look at two of these, both of whom were runners up in *Nottingham Post's* 2013 prestigious Women in Business Awards – Helen Taylor and Rachael Hobbs.



Helen Taylor (FdSc Horticulture 2011 and BA Hons Environment Design and Management 2012)

Hosta Consulting

Helen's passion for the environment and horticulture inspired her to start Hosta Consulting in 2012. The company specialises in creative, commercial landscape design, enriching the built environment through nature.

Since starting her business Helen has won a contract with B&Q PLC, worked on the landscape design for NTU's Clifton campus, and designed and project managed the outside space at The Pod, an award-winning office space in the heart of Nottingham's city centre.

Helen works closely with local businesses and often provides opportunities for students within her projects. She is also starting a community interest company in Nottingham, jointly with Rachel Cameron (pictured above with Helen), called Allium Urban Solutions CIC. This will deliver urban regeneration through landscape design with a community benefit within the city.

Do you have a great business idea?

Find out how The Hive could help you at:
www.ntu.ac.uk/hive



Rachael Hobbs (BA Hons Fashion Design 2009)

Bridge & Stitch

After recognising that many companies in the clothing industry struggled with the manufacturing process, in 2011 Rachael founded Bridge & Stitch. She had a clear vision – to provide a link between factories, suppliers and the customer. She supports clothing companies through the entire manufacturing process.

Committed to supporting the local economy, she only uses factories and suppliers based in the UK, with 80 % based in the East Midlands.

In 2012 Rachael worked with Rugby School to produce a 19th Century replica rugby kit as part of the Olympic celebrations. She is currently working with several reality TV stars such as Lucy from *The Only Way is Essex* helping her to start up a clothing line as well as project managing orders worth £100,000 for established brands such as Beau Loves and Sik Silk.

Rachael recently won the Enterprising New Business Woman of the Year category at the 2014 Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Chamber of Commerce's Enterprising Women Inspire Awards.


Leaving a legacy gift

Leaving a gift to education in your Will is a powerful way of ensuring that your contribution to areas you care most about in life can continue. This may be the arts, science, business, young people's futures, medical advances, sport, music or those facing disadvantage in life.

Generations of Nottingham Trent alumni have gone on to shape the lives of those around them and the societies in which they live and we want to ensure that the NTU experience continues to deliver highly-skilled and well-rounded graduates into the future.

After providing for your family and those close to you, please consider leaving a gift in your Will that will help to shape the future for many students and researchers at NTU in the coming years. We hope that they, in turn, will remember those who follow them.

Visiting Professor Martin Hunter, Nottingham Law School, said: "I chose to include the University in my Will as I greatly admire NTU's learning by doing approach which stems from students engaging with the professional world in parallel with their academic studies. This, in my view, has always been central to the success of its graduates. In the future I hope that my legacy gift, and many others like it, will help to deliver an even richer student experience."



If you are thinking about making or updating your Will and would like more information about leaving a gift to NTU, please contact Fiona Fowkes, Senior Development Officer, for a confidential chat with no obligation on **+44 (0)115 848 8775** or email **alumni@ntu.ac.uk**.

Supporting the future

Thanks to those of you who have donated to the Alumni Fund over the years. Your generosity supports many projects across the University – here are just two of the ways your donations are making a difference.

Specialist equipment resource store

Thanks to the Alumni Fund, students on the BA (Hons) Costume Design and Making and BA (Hons) Theatre Design courses are benefiting from an internal tailoring store which has been created so they can buy stock. Proceeds then help fund future projects.

The fabric store holds examples of tutus, wigs, corsets and hats for the students to reference. There are also sample books showing ranges of busks and bowing used to make corsets, which Senior Lecturers Karen Bartlett and Mary Charlton use to advise students on materials for their projects.

Students can spend up to 15 weeks on a costume, for example third year student, Kitty Hawkins, has been using the store to create the undergarment structure of a cockerel costume from the opera *The Cunning Little Vixen*.

Karen Bartlett said: “The store helps students meet deadlines as they can start making undergarments and build the structure for their costumes using the generic canvas in the store and then order the special top fabric independently, working within the design concept.

“There are 26 third year students due to graduate this year so the store has been invaluable in their progress.”



Alumni Fund takes to the water

Second year construction management student, and canoe sprinter, Iain Weir says he is so grateful for the support of alumni and “can’t wait for the year ahead” after receiving funding which will enable him to combine his sport with his studies.

Iain followed his older brothers into canoe sprint and trains two or three times a day, six days a week – alongside his studies – and admits: “It’s pretty hard fitting everything in!”

Iain took part in the u23 European Championships in Poland last year where he came fifth in the semi-final – a great result for his first singles u23 race – and he took third place over 1,000m at the Olympic hopefuls competition in the Czech Republic.

Iain said: “Travelling around the world and competing for my country are real highlights for me. This year I aim to get to the u23 European and World Championships again and also be selected for the full senior World Cup events leading up to the full senior World Championships. My ambition is to compete in an Olympic Games.”

To find out more, or to make a gift, visit www.ntualumni.org.uk/giving_to_ntu or call +44 (0)115 848 8807.

View a list of current donors at: www.ntualumni.org.uk/giving_to_ntu/recognising_our_donors

Reaching out

Were you part of the Students in Classrooms schemes? Did it have an impact or inform your career choices?



NTU has developed its Students in Classrooms (SinC) initiative over the last 12 years, as part of its work in the local community.

SinC is part of NTU's Schools, Colleges and Community Outreach (SCCO) department and collaborates with the University of Nottingham's Widening Participation team to offer opportunities to students at both universities.

The team coordinates and maintains links with external schools, colleges and academies as part of the University's widening participation and community outreach strategy. Over 500 SinC placements are available to students each year.

SinC are committed to developing students' employability skills and deliver a comprehensive Skills Development Programme. As a result, many of the students participating in the schemes have been able to use the experience and transferable skills to stay in Nottingham and give back to the local community by teaching in local schools.

Alumna Katherine Marshall (BA Hons Business Leisure and Sports Education 2005, PGCE Primary Education 2006) applied for the Teacher Associates Scheme during her studies to gain some primary school experience. She wasn't sure if teaching was really for her. She said: "I was placed in a city primary school which I loved. This made up my mind about wanting to become a primary school teacher and from here I was able to write my dissertation based on research, knowledge and experience gained from my placement."

Katherine completed her PGCE the following year and secured a job at the school where she was placed. She said: "Now, 12 years on, I'm still teaching at the same school. I'm the Students in Classrooms Coordinator and lucky enough to be involved in the design and delivery of the training for current students. I feel I can share my experience with the students and give something back to the scheme that helped me find the right career for me."

We'd love to hear your story, email alumni@ntu.ac.uk

Sharon is the Pride of Britain

Congratulations to Sharon Gray (BEd Hons Education 1991), head teacher at Netherfield Primary School, who was named Teacher of the Year at the 2013 Pride of Britain Awards.

Sharon was praised for her work at the school, including a social enterprise project which provides support for vulnerable children once they have left the school.

Year Five pupil Max Armstrong, 10, said: "Ms Gray has done so much for our school. We're so proud of her!"





Trent to Trenches

A major programme of events and activities, entitled Trent to Trenches, will be taking place in and around Nottingham throughout 2014 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War.

Trent to Trenches is a countywide programme of events and activities developed by hundreds of organisations and volunteers in partnership with Nottingham City Council, Nottinghamshire County Council and Experience Nottinghamshire and is part of the First World War Centenary Partnership, led by the Imperial War Museum.

The Partnership is delivering a programme of events and activities inspiring young and old to connect with the lives, stories and impact of the First World War. Trent to Trenches will highlight how the conflict was a catalyst for huge social and economic change in the communities of Nottinghamshire, and provide a lasting legacy for future generations of this important time in the history of the country.

An open air exhibition, Fields of Battle, will be located in Nottingham city centre, making its first UK public appearance outside London, whilst a living history event at Rufford Abbey Country Park will cover many aspects of both military and civilian life at the time. Featuring song and dance, static displays, vehicles, children's activities and period re-enactments.

A major exhibition at Nottingham Castle will explore the experiences of Nottinghamshire people, at home and in the trenches of the Western Front, through powerful visual images and artefacts.

Leader of Nottinghamshire County Council Alan Rhodes said: "It is important that today's young people understand the sacrifices made by a whole generation during the Great War. I hope the events planned to commemorate the War will both educate and inform people of the terrible losses suffered in Nottinghamshire whilst at the same time pay tribute to the thousands of young men and women who fought for our country's freedom."

Diane Lees, Director-General of the Imperial War Museum says: "The First World War was a turning point in world history. It claimed the lives of over 16 million people across the globe and had an impact on the lives of everyone. The Trent to Trenches programme will enable people across Nottinghamshire to understand the impact of the Great War on society today."

As part of Nottingham's Light Night in February, alumna and eco artist Sarah Turner (BA Hons Furniture and Product Design 2008) created a life-sized WW1 tank in the Castle's grounds, pictured above. It was made from recycled materials with help from school children in Nottingham. As well as plastic milk and drinks bottles, the designer received bags full of used felt-tip pens – and even some police incident tape. Sarah said: "I was pleased and touched by the number of people wanting to help collect things for this piece of work."

For more information visit:
www.experiencenottinghamshire.com/trent-to-trenches

Addressing the brain drain

Researchers at NTU's Division of Psychology have secured €1.1m EU funding for a three-year project on older workers.

The project aims to address a potential brain drain of the UK's older workers as they head towards retirement, by developing ways to help organisations retain and re-motivate the over-50s. Ultimately, the project will help to prevent a loss of crucial skills, knowledge, and experience.

Senior lecturer and researcher, Dr Maria Karanika-Murray said: "We know that older workers may start to lose enthusiasm for their job in their final years of employment and may even bring their retirement plans forward as a result. As part of this project we hope to develop new strategies to help organisations re-engage with their older employees – a move which will hopefully benefit both the business and the individuals."

The EU-funded project, Workage: Active Ageing Through Work Ability, is being carried out jointly with Workplace Innovation Limited and brings together a range of expertise in the areas of work and health. It is the first study of its kind and will involve working with public and private sector organisations to look at workers' attitudes, their levels of engagement and their plans for retirement.



The research team will examine UK organisations' current policies for retaining and engaging older workers to see what is currently in place and what does and doesn't work. A series of new approaches or interventions will then be developed for organisations to trial and their success monitored. As a result of the research a toolkit will be produced and information on good practice will be made available to policymakers and employers throughout Europe.

The project also involves the Age and Employment Network, Employer First, the TUC, the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions, the Department for Work and Pensions, Stoke-on-Trent City Council, the Southern Health and Social Care Trust, and the Royal College of Midwives, as well as experts from Kingston University, Lancaster University, and Tilburg University in the Netherlands.

The project is funded by the European Union's Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity – PROGRESS. For more information, or if your organisation is interested in taking part, please contact Dr Maria Karanika-Murray at maria.karanika-murray@ntu.ac.uk.

Forbidden blog

School of Social Sciences' Professor Mark Griffiths became the resident psychologist on the Discovery Channel's *Forbidden* in 2013. The programme investigates strange and bizarre human behaviour and is a televisual version of Mark's blog which examines addictive, compulsive, obsessive and extreme behaviours. The show has already aired in Australia, New Zealand and parts of South East Asia. Look out for it in the UK and Europe in 2014. Read Mark's blog at: <http://drmarkgriffiths.wordpress.com>



Open up your future with postgraduate study

Postgraduate study at NTU can create many opportunities for your career.

Watch our students talking about their experiences online. Just follow the links below.

Deborah Le Surf

MA Human Security and Environmental Change

"The course is very multi-disciplinary and offers a placement to help you decide how you're going to use your knowledge once you leave."

www.ntu.ac.uk/deborahlesurf



Mridula Arjun

MA Creative Writing

"We get good exposure in classes – we don't just meet authors outside at events, but they actually come and lecture us; it's far better than I imagined it to be!"

www.ntu.ac.uk/mridulaarjun



Lindsay Rubin

MA / PGDip Broadcast Journalism

"NTU was ranked very highly for their broadcasting course... I'm really glad I came here. We're challenged on a daily basis and stretched out of our comfort zones."

www.ntu.ac.uk/lindsayrubin

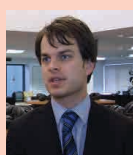


Alexander Britton

MA Newspaper Journalism

"This place has given me a fantastic grounding and through it I've got a job. Who knows where it will lead in the future?"

www.ntu.ac.uk/alexanderbritton



Discover more at: www.ntu.ac.uk/postgraduate

Undergraduate open days

Do you know anyone who may be interested in studying an undergraduate degree at NTU?

This year our open days will take place on Tuesday 2 July, Saturday 14 September, Saturday 12 October, and Saturday 9 November.

For more information and to book a place, visit www.ntu.ac.uk/opendays

Remember to let open day staff know you are alumni and you could receive a free goody bag!

Events at NTU

With so many events throughout the year there's always an opportunity to return to campus. Keep up-to-date with our calendar of events at:

www.ntualumni.org.uk

Inspirational lectures

Delivered by a range of expert guest speakers, the Distinguished Lecture Series covers many exciting subjects and tackles topical and sensitive issues. These free lectures are thought-provoking, raise debate and inform. Previous speakers have included BBC World Affairs Editor John Simpson CBE, botanist David Bellamy, astronomer Lord Rees and Chair of the Youth Sport Trust Baroness Sue Campbell CBE.

As *Network* went to print the 2014/2015 series of lectures was being confirmed. Keep checking **www.ntu.ac.uk/distinguishedlectures** for news.

Networking and business

We regularly hold networking events where alumni can meet staff and chat to each other over drinks. Already this year we have enjoyed drinks in a Nottingham bar, and plan to do the same in London in October along with a special event just for alumni working in the property industry.

If you are interested in the services NTU can offer businesses keep your eye out for a future Commercial Showcase event. Featuring exhibitions, demonstrations and the chance to talk to academic experts, it's a great opportunity to discover the practical ways NTU can make a difference to any organisation. Sign up to the commercial newsletter to be kept updated on this and other events for business at: **business.commes@ntu.ac.uk**



1 John Simpson CBE
2 Professor Sir Albert Aynsley-Green Kt
3 Baroness Sue Campbell CBE
4 Sir Christopher Hum KCMG



Distinguished Lectures at Nottingham Trent University
 Nottingham Trent University **Distinguished Lectures** at Nottingham Trent University
Distinguished Lectures at Nottingham Trent University
 Distinguished Lectures at Nottingham Trent University



CLIMAX
REUNITED



Fun and fundraising

It's not all work, work, work! This year, the brand new Students' Union building was the venue for Climax Reunited. It went down a storm with over 1,800 alumni and friends partying well into the night with proceeds from the event divided equally between the John van Geest Cancer Research Centre and supporting Students' Union activities.

A Night in the West End – a concert which saw the Nottingham Trent University Choir team up with the London Philharmonic Orchestra and West End Star, Kerry Ellis – also supported the work of the John van Geest Cancer Research Centre.

For the more energetic, runNTU at Clifton campus welcomed over 100 alumni, students, staff and friends of the University to raise more funds by running, jogging or walking 5k, or taking part in a family friendly fun run.

Special anniversaries

As you can see on pages 04 and 05 the School of Art & Design kicked off its 170th anniversary celebrations this year and will continue with a calendar of commemorative and future-facing events, right through to January 2015 and finish 150 years to the day that the Waverley building was officially opened. Keep up-to-date with the latest celebratory events at:

www.ntu170years.co.uk

Also celebrating a special birthday is Nottingham Law School which sees its 50th anniversary (see page 12).

Open day goodies

Attending an open day with a family member or friend this year? Tell a member of staff you are alumni and you might get a free goody bag! See this year's dates on page 29 or at:

www.ntu.ac.uk/opendays

Keep up-to-date with all the latest events and reunion news at www.ntualumni.org.uk. See news about recent reunions on page 32.



Class mate catch-ups

Each year we welcome many alumni back to campus for tours and reunions. Here are just a few.

Lyn Grenville-Mathers (Estate Management 1964), his fellow alumni (pictured above) and their partners returned to Nottingham last October to celebrate their 50 year reunion with a game of golf and dinner in the city.

Some took a tour around the University's City site to see their old lecture rooms in the Newton and Arkwright buildings, which have now been refurbished. They also stopped by the new Students' Union building.

Five German alumni from the European Business class of 1986 visited the University last November for a reunion and to celebrate one of

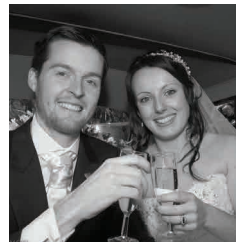
the group's special birthdays. Birthday boy Frank Reuther said: "It was quite emotional to visit again. Those few months in 1986/87 shaped and influenced our lives – not least because of the friendship that still links us."

Meanwhile a group of Art and Design alumni, who have been reuniting regularly over the last 10 years, got together for a camping trip to the Peak District – and coincidentally bumped in to another group of NTU alumni camping nearby who were also on their annual reunion!

Another regular event, now in its thirteenth year, is the Brackenhurst Old Students' Association (BOSA) annual lunch. It's held every March at the Newark and Nottinghamshire Showground and all former Brackenhurst students and their guests are welcome.



Tell us about your reunions and let us know if you'd like a tour of campus or help finding your friends. Email: alumni@ntu.ac.uk



Tying the knot

Congratulations to all our alumni who got married recently...

Pippa Brosgarth (BA Hons Fashion Marketing and Communication 2005) married Nick Frith.

Grant Clifford (BSc Hons Building 1998) married Anne Cheverton.

Tom Coales (BA Hons Communication Studies 2004) married Samantha Satchell (BSc Hons Chemistry 2004).

Louise Berrisford (BSc Hons Equine Sports Science 2003) married Tim Facer.

Clare Warcup (BA Hons Business Leisure and Sports Education 2006) married Alistair (Ally) Leek.

Margaret Barker (BA Hons European Business 1994) married Paul Claridge.

Valerie Marlow (BA Hons English 2006) married Brendan Fisher.

Hannah Cooper (BA Hons Primary Education 2008) married Kelvin Fletcher (BSc Hons Sport and Exercise Science 2007).

Grant Prosser (BSc Hons Building Surveying 2005) married Cara Glover (BSc Psychology with Sports Science 2009).

Kenneth Swift (FdSc Horticulture 2007) married Natalie Vajai (BSc Hons Equine Sports Science 2008).

Marcus Boocock (BA Hons Communication Studies 2004) married Laura Nash.

Verity Nottingham (BSc Hons Real Estate Management 2011) married James Cubitt (BSc Hons Real Estate Management 2001).



Photo by Oehlers Photography

Read more and see photographs at: www.ntualumni.org.uk/weddings

Have you got married recently? Let us know at: alumni@ntu.ac.uk

Fifties and Sixties



Ann Vardy (née Elizabeth Bezear) | Art & Design 1958

I studied dress-making at Nottingham School of Art in the 1950s. I recently visited NTU for the first time since 1958, to look around the recent alumni exhibition and the Waverley building, where I studied. I've had a long career as a lingerie designer and design room manager, and helped my son with his home furnishings business. My grandchildren have all inherited my keen eye for design and are equally creative and love to draw.

Sheila Harvey (née Brown) | Fine Art 1965

Last August I returned to NTU to look around the Waverley building with fellow alumna Mary Christen (née Hartshorne). I felt quite emotional when I stepped back into my old Fine Art teaching room – it brought back a lot of wonderful memories. The building has changed over the years with a theatre costume design studio where the Students' Union refectory and common room used to be, and the Waverley Theatre in place of the old library. Nowadays I enjoy teaching and still exhibit my work – most recently as part of the 170 year anniversary alumni exhibition *Since 1843: In The Making*.

Seventies and Eighties

Iwan Thomas | BSc Hons Applied Chemistry 1975, PhD Applied Chemistry 1978

I have developed a successful second career as a quiz player. Highlights include winning the title *Brain of Britain* on BBC Radio, captaining the team that finished runners up in BBC4's *Only Connect*, and winning the series championship (and £13,000) on *Going for Gold* on Five. I also hold the record for the highest individual general knowledge score in *Mastermind* (23 points).



Jilly Storey (née Bird) | BEd Hons Education 1988

I was based at Clifton Hall, and this photo was taken on a week away in London for the creative studies part of our course. In this photo, Delyth Parry, Meriel Clarke (née Rowe), Pat Lowe, Ellen Yates, Sarah Conaway and myself are on the underground and the train draft has just blown all our hair up!

Nineties

Brett Hardy | BSc Hons Residential Development 1991

In 2012 my company, Brett Hardy Landscapes, won a RHS silver medal at BBC Gardeners World Live for our beautiful small town garden. The design was called *The Water Wise Garden* and was one of only four chosen nationally in the category. I've been designing and building gardens since 1999 after re-training in garden design. My business has grown steadily based on a reputation for quality workmanship, innovative design and our extensive building knowledge. We intend to enter more show gardens in the future so watch this space!



Jane Bartholomew (née Hall) | BA Hons Textiles / Fashion (Textiles) 1990, MA Fashion and Textiles 1992, PGCE (HE) Higher Education 1998

I've lived in Nottingham for 27 years and the friends I made at NTU are still pivotal. The inspirational levels of creativity from fellow students and staff, and the opportunities to work closely with the industry triggered my decision to do an MA, set up my own design business and become a lecturer in Textile Design at NTU. Fond memories include studying in the wonderful Arkwright building, a study trip to Barcelona, exhibiting degree show work at New Designers and nipping to Sandby Hall at lunch to watch *Neighbours*. Recently I've been writing and editing *The Design Student's Handbook*, Bartholomew & Rutherford (Routledge 2013).

Noughties

Verity Mason (née Hill) | BA Hons Fashion Marketing and Communication 2002

My shop, A Vintage Obsession, is now in its third successful year. We have dressed various celebrities including Tulisa when she was an *X-Factor* judge, and have many others who regularly shop with us. We have launched projects with partners such as Lush Cosmetics and have recently expanded and taken on new staff.

Teenies

Joshua Hartle | LLB Hons Law 2011, ProDip Legal Practice Course 2012

I successfully completed the Oxfam charity challenge, Trailtrekker – a 100km walk over the Yorkshire Dales in 2013 alongside fellow NTU alumni Robert Owen (BA Hons Interior Architecture and Design 2011) and Alex Briggs (LLB Hons Law 2011). In September I start my Training Contract in Law with a Birmingham based commercial law firm, after working there since 2012 as a paralegal.



Read more updates at: www.ntualumni.org.uk/network_2014

Obituaries

Imtiaz Ali (MSc Management and Investment Strategy 2011)

Imtiaz Ali was born on 4 February 1986 in Pakistan. He completed his basic education in a local school, then went on to the renowned institute of the Province, the Islamia College Peshawar. In 2009 he completed a degree in Business Administration at the Institute of Management Sciences in Peshawar. After graduation he started his professional career back home by establishing Premium Education Consultants. Unfortunately he, along with other relatives, received serious burns in a fire at his residence at Peshawar on 29 August 2013. He sadly passed away on 6 September 2013.

Richard Hollands (BA Hons Business and Financial Services 2002)

Richard tragically died in a house fire in March 2013, aged 32. Richard was a financial adviser and well respected in his field. Recently he teamed up with a colleague to set up a business in Richmond upon Thames – a project he was very enthusiastic about. Richard's positive approach to life and his support for his family and friends is greatly missed. His family is now working with the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) on a campaign related to the dangers of fire for young people living in flats in London. Their aim is to raise awareness of the need to fit smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors. Find out more and make a donation in Richard's memory at www.rospace.com.

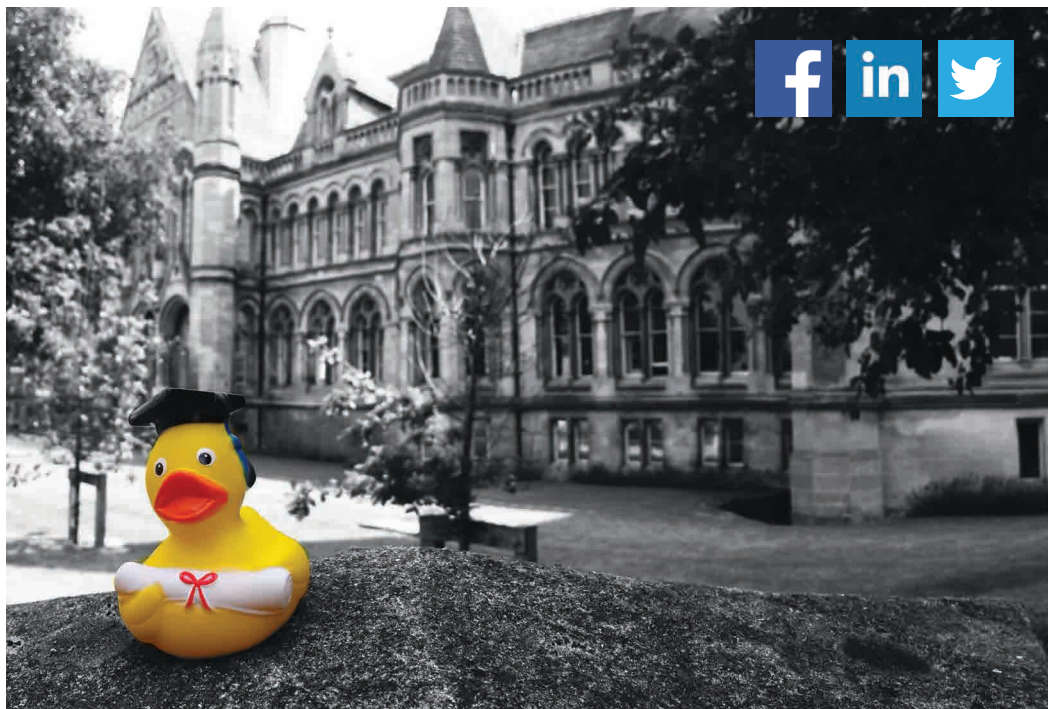
Bruce Porter (BSc Hons Civil Engineering 1981, MBA 2000)

On 7 February 2014 Bruce died in a tragic accident during a diving trip in New Zealand. Bruce Porter emigrated to New Zealand a few years ago with his wife Jill. He also leaves two sons, Luke and Adam, back home in the UK. Fun-loving Bruce will be remembered fondly by all who knew him and a memorial service will be held for him at Kingswood Methodist Church, Wollaton, Nottingham on Saturday 21 June at 2.30 pm.

Noel Wilkie, former technician

Noel Wilkie was a technician for the Cert Ed, BEd and Creative Arts courses in the 1970s and 80s. He passed away on 21 July 2013 at the age of 90. Noel was a well-known and popular figure around Clifton campus, easily distinguished by his shock of grey hair and his ever present pipe. Many students benefited not only from his considerable technical knowledge, but also from his approachable and jocular manner. He will be remembered fondly by all who knew him.

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