

Winter 2009

Network

NTU alumni... you're part of it

Celebrating Nottingham

Newton and Arkwright:
a new chapter unfolds

Who's our 2009
Alumnus of the Year?

Friendly Fires:
it's hot!

You're invited
to a party or two

NOTTINGHAM
TRENT UNIVERSITY



Welcome to Network

Contents

page 03 Meet our 2009 Alumnus of the year

page 04 Newton Arkwright update



page 07 Friendly Fires interview

page 09 All the fun of the fair



page 10 Innocent memories of Nottingham

page 14 How your support makes a difference

page 17 Fundraising team wins award

page 18 Events



page 19 Keep in touch

Front cover: Nottingham Goose Fair is one of Europe's most famous travelling fairs. See page 09 for a closer look at Nottingham.

© Nottingham Trent University and may not be reproduced or transmitted in any form in whole or in part without the prior written consent of Nottingham Trent University.



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

This is the first issue of *Network* that is online only. As the Alumni Association grows (currently membership stands at 90,000 former students worldwide) this is the most cost effective way for us to distribute news. However, we are planning another print issue which will be mailed in spring 2010, so make sure you continue to keep your details up-to-date with us so that you receive your personal copy.

As always, your magazine is packed with news from your University and your fellow alumni. We know how much you like to hear news about Nottingham too, so we've themed this issue around the city. From news on Goose Fair to alumni expanding their businesses in Nottingham, there's much to read about. Alumnus Innocent Chikezie from Nigeria also tells us how his

love of the city inspires his artwork – see page 10.

There are plenty of opportunities for you to revisit the campus over the coming year. The School of Education and Nottingham Business School both have milestone anniversaries and would like you to join them in their celebrations. And for those of you who didn't study business or education then we'd still like to see you – so how about joining us at a reunion event in the Students' Union in March or to celebrate the reopening of the Newton and Arkwright buildings next summer?

As you can see, there are plenty of reasons for you to keep in touch with us. Update your details online at www.ntualumni.org.uk – and remember to send us your news. We really do enjoy hearing from you!

Clare Oswin and Hannah Marmion
Development and Alumni Relations Office
Tel: +44 (0)115 848 8777
Email: alumni@ntu.ac.uk

Message from the Vice-Chancellor



As we welcome the latest students to NTU, I'm excited for them. They are embarking on the next stage of their academic

lifecycle at a very special time; a year that promises to be full of exciting changes, celebratory events and a look back at some of our greatest achievements to date.

They will be the first students to fully benefit from the new Newton and Arkwright buildings. Work continued at a rapid rate throughout the summer, and we are now entering the exciting final stages of the development.

Nottingham Trent University also has plans for a new world-class research, education and business Centre for the Environment based at our Brackenhurst

campus see page 08. This ambitious initiative is intended to address the global need to ensure a sustainable future for the planet. If we can get the funding then this innovative project will soon be another welcome addition to the NTU family.

I would also like to congratulate Chris Furber who is our Alumnus of the Year. As lead coach for the British Para-Cycling Squad, Chris has shown just how hard work and dedication can achieve great results. You can read more about his recent success on page 03.

With Nottingham Business School ready to celebrate 30 years' success and the School of Education marking their 50th anniversary, there is a whole programme of events that we look forward to seeing you at – I do hope you'll join us.

There's never been a better time to come back to NTU.

Professor Neil T Gorman
Vice-Chancellor



40 gold medals and still counting...

Chris Fuber has led the British Para-Cycling Squad through two World Championships and a Paralympic Games, earning an incredible 40 gold medals along the way.

Pictured from left: Chris with athlete Darren Kenny; A coaching session; Chris takes a break during the Beijing Paralympic Games in 2008.

A worthy winner and great inspiration, *Network* catches up with the 2009 Alumnus of the Year, Chris Fuber who is still going for gold.

During his student years, Chris played an active role as president of Nottingham Trent University's cycling team. He graduated with a degree in Sport Administration and Science in 1999, then began work with British Cycling in 2000, before taking up his first coaching position as Regional Talent Coach in 2002.

Chris was then offered the job as National Coach with the Para-Cycling Squad in 2006. The team went on to secure an incredible 10 gold medals at the World Championships in Switzerland later that year.

The gold medal haul was increased in the World Championships in France in 2007, with 13 gold medals and a ranking as the number one cycling nation. The 2008 Beijing Paralympics produced a record

number of medals for the squad, with 17 golds, three silver and another top ranking for cycling.

After the Athens Paralympics in 2004, the squad received UK Sport investment of £1.76 million for the Beijing cycle.

Having achieved such notable success in the years that followed, squad funding for the London 2012 Paralympics now stands at an incredible £3.85 million.

Chris said: "I'm really very lucky to be working in a job that I love and that I'm very passionate about."

about. My time at Nottingham Trent University set me on a path to playing a part in the success that British Para-Cycling has earned in the past few years. To be recognised for these achievements by the University in this way is a real honour."

Chris received Nottingham Trent University's Alumnus of the Year Award 2009, at a graduation ceremony held on 28 November 2009.

“I’m really very lucky to be working in a job that I love and that I’m very passionate about.”

Who should follow in Chris' footsteps and become our Alumnus of the Year for 2010? It's not too early to make a nomination for next year's award. For details on how to make a nomination visit the alumni website.

The finishing touches

The transformation of two of NTU's historic buildings – Newton and Arkwright are nearing completion.



Over the summer months work on the Newton and Arkwright sites has been progressing at a tremendous rate and we are now entering the exciting, final stages of the development.

The finishing touches are being made to the Newton Tower and the sedum roof has been laid – making it one of the largest in the UK. The new lecture theatres and learning spaces have been designed to create the ultimate inspirational learning and teaching environment. These brand new facilities will be phased into use later this year to ensure a smooth transition to full occupancy.

Over the autumn term different sections of the building will gradually be opened up for student use. The new café, Student Services Centre, IT resource rooms and various student social spaces will all be available from January onwards.

The reopening of the Arkwright building, including more student facilities, will also begin in the winter term.

You'll be officially invited to have a look at the new development in June 2010. See page 05 for more details on how to register your interest.

Clockwise from left: : New lecture theatres create an inspirational learning environment; alumnus Paul Bilham returns to work on the project; main entrance on Goldsmith Street takes shape; new teaching rooms feature state-of-the-art technology; part of the new Nottingham Conference Centre; artist's impression of the Atrium; more lecture theatres will open in Arkwright during the winter term; Newton - ready for business.





Alumnus returns as a Senior Quantity Surveyor on Newton-Arkwright project

Paul Bilham (BSc Hons Quantity Surveying and Construction Cost Management 2001) once sat exams in the very buildings he is now helping to transform. Now a Senior Quantity Surveyor for Bowmer and Kirkland, he is working as part of a nine-person quantity surveying team on the Newton and Arkwright overhaul. He's finding it a unique experience and remembers: "During my five years at NTU I had many a lecture within Arkwright and it is so interesting to see this fantastic building being transformed in front of my very eyes."

Paul has been based on site for 18 months and he anticipates that he will continue his daily commute from Sheffield to work on the project until its completion: "The commute to work is certainly a hard slog but is worth it to work on a project which will transform the way NTU runs."

His on-site tasks include working closely with the junior surveyors (some of whom are current students) and responsibility for work on Arkwright, Newton (Forum and Uppers), the Link building, and Central Court. But in true NTU alumni spirit, Paul is taking it all in his stride: "My degree course set me in good stead to be able to deal with many of my daily tasks as a Senior QS on this and other projects."



A trip down memory lane

As the Newton and Arkwright buildings enter their final stages of transformation a sudden wave of nostalgia washes over us and we asked you to share your memories.

"In the mid-70s the main library was on the top floor of Newton. What a fantastic view of Nottingham!"

Barbara Cross (PhD 2002)

“In the mid-70s the main library was on the top floor of Newton. What a fantastic view of Nottingham!”

"I was a student at NTU from 2002-2006. I had a few lectures located in the Arkwright building. However, one of my favourite memories comes from the summer exam period of my second year where I would frequently head into the Newton building, take the lift to the top floor and help myself to an empty room to study. I remember the large floor to ceiling windows that would provide unrivalled views of the city. It was calm and surprisingly quiet up there, and the views offered some welcome relief from studying!"

Jason Hower (BA Hons Business Studies 2006)



Exclusive event for alumni

The newly refurbished Newton and Arkwright buildings will be opening gradually over the 2009/2010 academic year. Next summer alumni and their guests will be invited to an exclusive event to get a first glimpse of the completed project. Details will be announced soon, but in the meantime you can register your interest to attend by emailing alumni@ntu.ac.uk

Help us realise our vision

Help support the future of education through the Chancellor's Building Futures Appeal. Collectively and individually you can help ensure that a vital source of help, encouragement and inspiration will be easily accessible for NTU students through the new Student Services Centre.

Each gift will be appropriately recognised and celebrated by the University – various spaces around the new development will be dedicated to thanking everyone who contributes to the project.

For more information please contact the Development and Alumni Relations Office on +44 (0)115 848 8809 or visit www.ntu.ac.uk/chancellorsappeal





Student radio star is new voice of BBC Radio 1

Nottingham Trent University's new Students' Union president, David Walker, is the new voice of BBC Radio 1.

David, who graduated from a Multimedia degree, initially entered a competition to be the voice of the Student Radio Awards ceremony and, although he narrowly missed out with second place, he was approached by a judge who works for Radio 1.

David said: "He asked me if I'd like to try out to be the new station voice of Radio 1, so a few months later I had an audition and thankfully was successful. I'm now the male voice-over for all their daytime production so when you hear snippets such as 'This is BBC Radio 1', it's me!"

As manager of Nottingham Trent University's student radio station, Fly FM, which scooped five awards at last year's National Student Radio Awards, David is already very familiar with the broadcast world.

He added: "I would like a career in broadcasting and this is a great start for me. I'm now the Students' Union president for a year - and then who knows what's next?"

On your bike...

Dave Massey's innovative TrailCat bike design has been impressing people at the prestigious *New Designers* show in London. *Network* catches up with him to discover how things are rolling along.

It took Dave (BSc Hons Product Design 2009) 15 months to design and build the pedal-powered 21-gear TrailCat bike. It is rear-wheel drive, has a steel chassis, an ergonomically curved aluminium bucket seat, air-filled shock absorbers and hydraulic disc brakes. It also has a purpose-built differential – meaning the wheels are not connected together on a common axle, allowing them to turn at different speeds and making it easier to go around corners without the bike skidding or dragging.

Originally it was designed specifically to be used by university construction management lecturer Peter Lyons, who wanted to use it as part of a charity cycle ride from Lands End to John O'Groats. Dave made it his final year project and worked closely with Peter to ensure it met all his requirements in terms of size, comfort and durability.

Peter completed the ride in 19 days, which was three days earlier than planned. He rode into John O'Groats at 11.04 am on August 8, after completing a total of 982 miles. The money's still coming in but so far he has raised just over £2,000 for Nottinghamshire

Hospice. He also shed more than ten stone in 18 months while training for the event over the last year.

Peter had planned to use the TrailCat along the 50 mile stretch of road between Ludlow and Whitchurch in Shropshire. Unfortunately due to a slight technical hitch the TrailCat couldn't be used. So it was back to the drawing board for Dave.

"As a designer and experienced engineer I understand the meaning of a prototype and what should be expected from one given the timing and funding of this project. I hope to continue developing the TrailCat over the coming months."

However the TrailCat was very enthusiastically received at the design show and succeeded in generating a lot of interest for the University and Dave.

"Other universities have asked me to go and talk to their students, and we have been invited to other design and cycle shows on the strength of it. I've been offered places and bursaries on MSc courses and even been told that it could be displayed in Coventry Transport Museum."



Dave Massey on TrailCat

Friendly Fires

Network recently caught up with Ed Macfarlane to discover what he's been up to since his band Friendly Fires hit the big time.

Ed Macfarlane (BA Hons Photography 2006) is living proof that Gloria Estefan was right – one day the rhythm is going to get you. As he performed *Skeleton Boy* at this year's *Mercury Music Prize Awards*, lead singer and songwriter Ed, was completely absorbed in letting the music take over and simply 'shaking what his mama gave him'. As famous for his dancing as he is for the quick rise of his band into the world of music, Ed is taking it all in his stride and is finally living the dream.

"I've always been writing music, it's my passion. I was recording music in secondary school but I always thought the music industry was too hard to get into."

Surprisingly Ed never wanted to study music, after receiving a D in A-level music, he decided to study Photography at NTU instead. He thought it would be a practical course and was surprised by how much the course has helped him develop his music:

"My course at NTU was great, there was a lot more theory than I originally thought there would be, but it's helped me no end. We were always encouraged to describe why we'd created something – which I apply to my music all the time. It's really inspired me to question my music and think about the sound or feeling I'm trying to create."



The name Friendly Fires originates from the opening track of the Section 25 LP *Always Now*. Ed enjoys anything with lush, ambiguous, escapist melodies – like the thick patterns of South American music. Inspiration that can be heard in the band's music video *Kiss of life* that was recorded in Ibiza.

"We filmed on a nudist cliff in Ibiza; let's just say there was a lot of sunburn."

We were literally working in glaring sunlight all day and we'd finish filming around 11 pm."

The band has enjoyed a stream of success.

A few weeks after graduation Friendly Fires signed a record deal with XL Recordings and have never looked back.

The album was certified gold in the UK; the band was nominated for a *Best Breakthrough Award* at *The South Bank*

Show Awards and for *Best Dancefloor Filler* at the *NME Awards*. They were also second on the bill on the *NME Awards Tour 2009* and on 21 July 2009, the band was nominated for the *Mercury Music Prize* but sadly lost out to Speech Debelle.

The band played the *dot-to-dot* festival in Nottingham this May at Rock City and it stirred up a few fond memories for Ed:

"I remember the last time I was in Rock City as a student and I saw the *Klaxons* (that also stars alumnus Simon Taylor, BA Hons Fine Art 2004) play, I never thought I would return and be performing."



Ed Macfarlane

Quick fire questions – complete the sentence:

Right now I'm loving...

The woman in black by Susan Hill.

A tearjerker...

Together by Lukas Moodysson.

I wish I'd written...

Heavenly that's what you are by Barry White.

My karaoke song...

Vibe by R. Kelly.

An underrated band...

Wildbeasts (Leeds).

A record by a hero...

Before and after science by Brian Eno.

The first gig I went to was...

Oasis - Knebworth Park (I was given free tickets).

Before I die I'd play...

Just like a baby by Barry White.

If I was invisible for a day...

I'd break into Abbey Road studios and steal all their equipment.

Read the full interview here.

Download their latest tracks and see Ed dance at www.wearefriendlyfires.com



Centre for the Environment

Nottingham Trent University has plans for a new world-class research, education and business Centre for the Environment based at Brackenhurst.

This exciting and ambitious initiative is intended to address the global need to ensure a sustainable future for the planet.

NTU has always been pro-active about the challenges facing the environment and our efforts have finally been recognised. This year we were top of *The Times Higher Education* supplement's *People and Planet Green League* and named the UK's most environmentally friendly university.

Professor Jenny Saint, Dean of the School of Animal, Rural and Environmental Sciences, said: "This Centre is set to become an internationally recognised centre of expertise. As well as tackling some of the most important challenges facing our planet, it will also provide first-class learning and research facilities."

The Centre will specialise in:

- renewable energy technologies linked with food waste management;
- sustaining animal and plant life within a changing environment;
- sustainable food production and processing without compromise to the environment.

Our contribution through the Centre will be to provide an exemplar of sustainable construction technologies. NTU is pursuing opportunities for regional, national and EU funding, plus the support of major donors, to make this innovative project a reality. If you would like to make a contribution please contact the Fundraising Development Team on +44 (0)115 848 8809 or email alumni@ntu.ac.uk

Wots-iz-name?

A debate is brewing over what Brackenhurst's resident peacock is called.

Students past and present are using online social networking sites to share their opinions, memories and experiences of their time at Brackenhurst – home to the School of Animal, Rural and Environmental Sciences. But there's one thing nobody can agree on... just what is the peacock's name?

A current student claims to have won a 'Name the peacock' competition in the campus bar, calling him George – and even has a certificate to prove it. However, older graduates disagree saying his name is Pete. If you know any different join the debate on The Peacock Appreciation Society on Facebook!



All the fun of the fair

With more than 700 years of history, Nottingham Goose Fair is one of Europe's most famous travelling fairs.

It comes to Nottingham's Forest Recreation Ground every year and still delights people of all ages who come to experience the dazzling array of sights and sounds, and tuck into mushy peas and mint sauce!

From the latest white knuckle rides to old family favourites like waltzers, carousels and Hook-a-Duck, there are always hundreds of attractions to please fair-goers.

For more information, and to plan your visit in 2010, go to the Goose Fair website at www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/goosefair





Innocent memories of Nottingham

His novel '*Where is home?*' is due to be published soon and he's well on his way to fulfilling his dream of becoming an internationally recognised artist... introducing Innocent Chikezie (MA Fine Art 2007).

Originally from a small village called Umuzechi in the countryside of Nigeria, Innocent's mother became aware of his creative skills when he was just two years old. He could often be found sitting in the sand and drawing shapes, rather than playing with other children.

After completing his secondary education at Ovungwu Secondary School Umuapu in Abia State, Innocent trained as a professional artist at the Institute of Management and Technology (IMT Enugu) for six years. He graduated as the best student in his class with an HND in painting in 2001.

In 2007, he moved to England to study MA Fine Art at Nottingham Trent University. He thrived at the University and describes his growth fondly:

"Before I came to the University I had no purpose in my art and all my painting and drawing were without context. But today, I have become a different kind of artist I know where I'm going with a painting before I even finish it."

Innocent's style is unique, thought-provoking and touching. His recent work combines Nigerian and English visual ideas and symbols about cultural identity to create innovative artwork. His work takes the audience through the transition and transformations of his journey from his ambitions in Nigeria to study for an MA to his success and achievements. Innocent describes his recent work: "I have embarked on a journey which questions the idea of home, and I hope to use my paintings to explore this concept."

One particular piece of work entitled '*No place like home*' depicts Nigerian and Nottingham images of daily life, harmoniously entwined with each other. But what inspired Innocent to connect such different worlds?

"My inspiration came from my own personal experience. The transition from Nigeria to England and the experience of

Clockwise from left: *No place like home* (oil on canvas), *Mayor* (oil on canvas), *Big Dream* (oil on canvas), *Closer to the City* (oil on canvas).



culture shock actually stimulated me to do the works which I am doing now."

A highlight of Innocent's time at NTU was painting a portrait of the Lord Mayor of Nottingham, Councillor Mohammed Munir. As part of his research into his concept of home, Innocent wrote to the City Council to ask if he could paint the Mayor. The portrait was hung in the National Portrait Gallery in London and Innocent was also invited by the following Lord Mayor,

Councillor Gul Khan, to paint his portrait as well.

After successfully achieving his Masters degree, Innocent started running children's workshops with Richard 'Popx' Baker, a former graffiti artist now working in mainstream arts. Richard produces paintings, film and poetry and has had his work displayed next to Picasso at the German Embassy in London.

In July this year Innocent returned to

Nigeria to pursue his dream of becoming an international artist. His current art exhibition is entitled '*Where is Home?*' and is supported by the National Gallery of Art, Abuja (Nigeria). In between painting and exhibiting, he also hopes to become a tutor in his own art school. As in all that he does, Innocent's message to fellow graduates is inspiring: "Please follow your dreams, if you dream it, you can achieve it."

You can see more of Innocent's work at www.innocentchikezie.com



Life's a beach

The Riviera came to Nottingham this summer!

Three hundred tons of sand transformed the Old Market Square into a seaside playground, complete with large paddling pool, Nottingham rock, beach cafés and fairground rides.

Organised by Nottingham City Council and the Nottingham-based Mellors Group, Nottingham Riviera was the largest city-centre holiday beach in the UK where visitors could relax in the sun on deckchairs and sunloungers.



Accessories, accessories, accessories

Nostalgic local images and Nottingham Lace inspired award-winning designer Debbie Bryan's collection of accessories – now available to buy from her very own shop.

Alumna and winner of the 2007 Nottingham Creative Business Craft Award, Debbie Bryan, creates knitted lambswool scarves, brooches, cufflinks and resin jewellery pieces. Now she has just taken on another role – managing her own shop in the Lace Market.

The idea for her range of resin brooches and buckles came when she was looking for something to complement one of her scarf designs. She couldn't find what she was looking for, so she made her own – it got a great response!

She is now working on a range of jewellery inspired by old photographs of Nottingham and its social history. As a result, Nottingham City Council invited her to join a group of designers they were taking to exhibit at *Designersblock* in London.

Her collaborations in the past have included local burlesque illustrator Charlotte Thompson and more recently fellow graduate Simeon Hartwig (BA Hons Design Studies 2003). Together they created pendants and cufflinks to complement his work for his business Bantum Clothing.

Originally from Morecombe, Debbie (BA Hons Textile Design 2003, MA Fashion and Textiles 2004) was attracted to study in the city because of its lace and fashion industry. After completing her MA she decided to stay in Nottingham and set up her business through The Hive.

Debbie said: "Textiles is my passion, but there have been some hiccups in research and development for my brand. Future Factory (a University initiative that aims to support SMEs in adopting new products and services) is already helping me to create key points of sale and think about how to build and retain customer loyalty."

However, for the time being she continues to work on products for her shop in the lead up to Christmas. For those of you interested in doing some Christmas shopping, Debbie's shop can be found at 18 St Mary's Gate, The Lace Market, Nottingham. Currently it is open Wednesday to Saturday 12 - 6 pm. Alternatively visit her website at www.debbiebryan.co.uk





Put a lid on it

She won £15,500 on *Deal or No Deal* opened her own design agency, and is now the inventor of 'Count On It®'. *Network* sees just how alumna Lyndsey Young is twittering her way to the top.

Since leaving her job of 10 years at East Midlands Electricity in 1992 to travel to Zimbabwe with Operation Raleigh, Lyndsey has had a varied career. She discovered her passion for design while teaching children art in the United States; it encouraged her to return to the UK to study a design course.

Lyndsey (BA Hons Design Studies 1998) came to NTU as a mature student and remembers her time fondly: "I had a great time at NTU. Because I was a mature student I treated the course like a job and pushed myself hard."

After achieving a first-class honours degree and a short spell working for a TV production company, she set up her own company to cater for the growing sandwich market. Unfortunately, due to a serious

spinal injury, she was out of action for six months. She then joined the marketing team of Nottingham City Council where she remained until she had her son.

After winning £15,500 on *Deal or No Deal* she decided to set up her own design agency, Open Design and Communications Ltd, which she is still running. A year later she came up with the concept of Count On It® food freshness labels – scratch-off labels which show at a glance if your food is still fresh and safe to eat.

Following the Government's recent announcement to dispense with best before labels in a bid to reduce the 370,000 tonnes of food thrown away each year, it seems like Lyndsey's idea could be just what the market needs.

"The labels help to reduce food waste – an important issue, with estimates that the average family throws away up to £610 worth of edible food each year."

Lyndsey began working on the idea in January 2008 and had her first batch produced ready for trading on her website in April 2008.

Since then, networking through the Twitter website has helped her business take off. Lyndsey also has support from actress Amanda Holden who has used the labels when preparing meals for her daughter, she says: "I'm beginning to wonder how I ever managed without them". Read more here.

To find out more visit www.count-on-it.co.uk or join Lyndsey on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/mummypreneur>

Food for thought

How winning a £10,000 innovation prize is helping to make Sue Amphlett's and her business partner's dreams a reality.

At this year's innovation EXPO (iEXPO), part of the East Midlands innovation Festival (iFestival) Sue Amphlett (BA Hons Humanities 1995, PGCE Primary Education 1998) and Vonny Shelley won £10,000 worth of innovation support after impressing investors at the event.

Primary school teachers by trade, Sue and Vonny used the Hive@Mansfield HeadStart programme to help develop their business knowledge and understand the elements required to run a successful business, Piccy Products Ltd. They pitched their business idea – a range of children's tableware that encourages healthy eating and won the 'Last Business Standing' competition.

Michael Huxley, project manager at the

Hive@Mansfield HeadStart programme, said: "We're all thrilled for Vonny and Sue. They have a very viable business idea and the drive to succeed."

Since the competition, Vonny and Sue have been taking advantage of the £10,000 worth of innovation support from EMDA and have been busy meeting with advisers to find out the best way to get their products into the marketplace.

With secured ERDF funding, they are working on market research, branding, prototypes and packaging. Following this, the next stage will involve putting together a solid business plan to launch Piccy Products into the market place.

So look out for Piccy Products on shelves near you soon. Read more here.



Vonny and Sue dressed to impress in medieval outfits to pitch Piccy Products Ltd and gained the highest score of the day to take away the prize.

How your support makes a difference



The Alumni Fund makes a real difference to the student experience at Nottingham Trent University. The money you donate helps to improve resources and facilities across the University. Here are just a few of the projects that your support made possible this year.

First on the scene

Forensic Science students participating in Crime Scene Investigation and forensic evidence photography exercises will now get the opportunity to use crime scene equipment which matches that used by UK police forces – thanks to the Alumni Fund.

Principal Lecturer, David Butler said: “Digital photography is now standard practice at crime scenes and when working on forensic evidence. I would like to thank Alumni Fund donors for providing students with access to this specialist equipment. It is important that we can match standard police practice when training our students in order to enhance their employment prospects in the sector.”

Students will get to use the equipment in the Crime Scene Training Facility – a former postgraduate residential property based on the Clifton campus.

Assuming the role of crime scene examiners (pictured above), students use the house to develop their investigation, collection and analysis techniques. The rooms replicate crime scenes, from burglaries and assaults to detailed drugs searches.

The Crime Scene Training Facility house has been so successful that both Nottinghamshire Police and Her Majesty’s Revenue and Customs (HMRC) have used it to develop their own crime scene security and collection and preservation of evidence training programmes.

Makaton resources teach Education students a thing or two

Donations to the Alumni Fund will benefit students across a range of programmes within the School of Education by providing improved Makaton resources.

Makaton is a unique language programme used to teach communication, language and literacy skills through signs, symbols and speech.

Jackie Scruton, lecturer and Makaton trainer, said: “The use of Makaton within schools, colleges and the wider community has proved to have a beneficial effect on children and young people being able to lead independent lives. The development of teaching Makaton within the School of Education is a new and innovative development that will enable our students to be more prepared for the workplace.”

For more information on Makaton visit www.makaton.org



Fax machine for Legal Advice Clinic

The Alumni Fund has purchased a fax machine for Nottingham Law School’s Legal Advice Clinic.

The Legal Advice Clinic was set up to give law students the opportunity to provide legal advice to the local community under the supervision of Law School staff. The Clinic has recently developed links with the London charity Free Representation Unit which means students may be able to provide representation at Employment Tribunals. However, this new service requires a dedicated phone and fax line.

Principal Lecturer, Nick Johnson, said: “This funding is great for our students. It will enable them to participate fully in cases at the Nottingham Employment Tribunal and gain valuable experience in handling live cases.”

Remember, alumni can also use the Legal Advice Clinic. It is open during term time and can offer advice on a range of legal matters including employment, housing, consumer and contract issues. For more information visit

www.ntu.ac.uk/nls/about/law_clinic

If you work in legal practice or are a qualified lawyer and you are interested in providing support to the clinic, then please contact Nick Johnson via the Alumni Association at alumni@ntu.ac.uk to discuss potential involvement.

For more information on the Alumni Fund, including how to give, visit the website www.ntualumni.org.uk

Pulling out all the stops



Last year Jacqui Round, a promising rower, became the first student athlete to receive the Alumni Fund Award for Sport. Here, we catch up with her and discover some amazing news...

In our last interview with Jacqui she had just won the single sculling trial at Caversham by a massive seven seconds, becoming the top under-23 athlete in the competition. It earned her a prestigious invite to a training camp in Italy with the senior athletes where she continued to work on becoming the World Under-23 Rowing Champion.

It certainly looks like all the hard work paid off and that her Alumni Fund award helped as in July, Jacqui won the Under-23 World Championships in women's eight, beating the favourites USA to win the gold!

As a result of her amazing success, Jacqui has also been asked to row in Caversham (Reading) full-time from next year onwards as part of the Senior Team. In order to fulfil her dream to participate in the 2012 Olympics, Jacqui has accepted the offer and will be moving as soon as possible. But she certainly has no intention of forgetting where she's come from:

"I would like to say thank you so much to all of the staff who have supported me over the past year, as well as all those who have donated to the Alumni Fund. It's people

like you who have helped me get where I am today and who have given me the chance to train hard enough to make it to where I want to be."

Jacqui's a great example of how your donations can have such a huge impact on the lives of students at NTU. The £2,000 award package helps talented student athletes get the balance between studies and rigorous training, and in this case it seems to have been worth every penny.

We'll make sure we keep you updated with Jacqui's progress.

Joe takes to the water



This year's Alumni Fund Award for Sport has been given to Joe Seaman. Joe, a second year BSc (Hons) Sport Science and Management student, is a flatwater sprint canoeist. Already in Great Britain's top 15, Joe's ambition is to perform well at the 2012 Olympics. We'll update you on Joe's progress and how he fits in his training with his studies in the next issue of *Network*.

Dark side of the moon

As we see the 40th anniversary of the second moon landing (Apollo 12), NTU's Martyn Bennett suggests that the idea of the Apollo lunar exploration being a series of hoaxes is nonsense.

The NASA programme was a well planned incremental series of landings, each building on the success of the last. The Apollo 12 landing on 19 November 1969 proved that the lunar module crew could undertake pinpoint landings as Pete Conrad and Alan Bean put their craft onto the lunar surface just 200 metres from the unmanned lander Surveyor 3, launched two and half years earlier. Whilst conspiracy theorists point to the lack of live television coverage as part of a cover-up, in actual fact Alan Bean's mishap with the colour-image camera proved that not all astronauts took perfect images all of the time – a criticism levelled at the Apollo 11 images which all looked (suspiciously – according to the same doubters) perfect when released to the waiting world.

Professor Bennett is a member of the British Interplanetary Society and lectures on the history of the space race and hoax theories, most recently at the Space Research Centre at the University of Leicester. He also has a collection of documents, NASA press releases, newspaper clippings and photographs



Martyn Bennett, Professor of Early Modern History.

relating to the series of Apollo moon landings.

Briefly outlining some of the main issues surrounding hoax theories and the evidence to invalidate them, Professor Bennett says: "The secrecy and misunderstandings around the moon race have led to increased speculation. Around the time of the 30th anniversary of the moon landings, 12 million citizens of the USA believed that there had been no manned landing on the moon. A number of reasons have led to the development of these beliefs, including a general distrust of government and a simplistic notion of progress and history, how could we do then what we seem unable to do now?"

"While some of these ideas could be regarded as legitimate questioning of evidence, some are far more fanciful and many of the popular moon landing conspiracy theories are easily explained. The main issues surround the photos taken during the landings. For example, there are no stars in the sky as many expected, but this is merely because of a fast shutter speed due to lunar conditions and over exposure. The stars do not register on a film as they do not under normal photographic images taken on earth.

"These photos have been used in the analysis of the lunar surface and by geologists across the world without question as to their authenticity. Moon rock samples brought back have also been verified. Likewise, ideas about dangerous belts of radiation preventing the landings can be clarified - these are belts not orbs and can be mainly avoided and contact minimised.

"There are many other moon landing hoax theories that can be easily explained. The claims of sceptics are often based on partial use of indirect evidence and far reaching conclusions are drawn from interpretations or limited knowledge, rather than complete analysis."

Letsby Avenue

A group of second-year BA Criminology students have successfully passed their training to become Special Constables.

In a scheme run by Nottinghamshire Police, around 20 Criminology students applied to become Specials after attending an initial information session. The successful students undertook a ten week training course, which included study of the law, practical workshops and physical assessments. They will now help to police Nottingham's streets.

The role of Special Constable provides fantastic experience for the students. They will get a taste of what it is like to work in the police force and develop the skills needed to deal with a diverse range of people and situations.

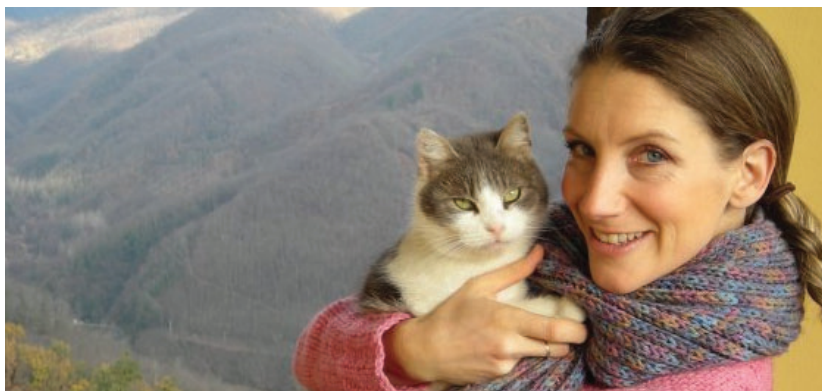
Special Constables are volunteer officers who undertake a variety of tasks such as serving warrants, vehicle checks, town centre patrols and neighbourhood policing.

Lend a helping hand

As well as offering to support your University through the Alumni Fund, you could also offer your time by volunteering to help with student mentoring, giving careers talks, offering placements or attending Open Days. Find out more here.



Our future in their hands



Olivia Masi is studying for a BSc in Wildlife Conservation at Nottingham Trent University. She is a passionate activist for the changes needed to save the environment.

Olivia started studying at Brackenhurst in September 2008. She soon got to meet like-minded students who were also keen to make the campus as green as possible e.g. by getting more green products sold in the campus shop and refectory. Their commitment fuelled an idea to start a student Horticultural Society.

Olivia and two of her fellow students joined a local environmental group and helped to set up 'Southwell Area Transition' (SWAT), in which Olivia has played a leading role.

Before embarking on her degree, Olivia was self-employed for seven years. She chose to study at NTU because she was very impressed by the prospectus and received plenty of friendly advice when she enquired. She also felt that the Brackenhurst campus was the perfect environment to study for her career: "Who wants to study wildlife conservation in a city? Brackenhurst is home to so much wildlife, some rare species too. It's perfect."

The expertise and commitment of people like Olivia will be crucial in the future when further changes are being made to try to save our wildlife and decrease our CO₂ emissions.

How you can help

Help future students like Olivia to get the best quality education in Wildlife Conservation by leaving a legacy to NTU. You can specify what you would like your gift to be spent on, or you can leave it to the University to decide where the money is most needed.

Planning your legacy

Where there's a will there's a way to:

- help future students make a real difference in the world;
- help University departments buy vital resources and equipment;
- remain part of the University;
- make a donation that will help hundreds of students.

Any amount, no matter how small, can help a student or a University department, and is exempt from inheritance tax.

If you would like more information about leaving a legacy please contact the Fundraising Development Team on +44 (0)115 848 8809 or email alumni@ntu.ac.uk

Fundraising Team wins prestigious award

NTU's fundraising team has been recognised in the inaugural *Times Higher Education Leadership and Management Awards*.

The Development and Alumni Relations Office (DARO) has won the award for 'Outstanding university fundraising team' at a ceremony that highlighted some of the sector's top performers.

The past year has been a significant one for fundraising. Nearly £9 million in gifts and pledges has been received, including a single pledge of £7.65 million, believed to be the largest ever gift to a post-92 university. The donation is being used to develop the John van Geest Cancer Research Centre at the University's Clifton campus.

The team covers a wide range of fundraising activities aimed at creating giving opportunities for everyone, regardless of age, wealth or where people live in the world.

Tim Cobb, Head of DARO, said: "It is fantastic to be recognised by our peers for what we do. It is obviously a very challenging environment to be doing what we are doing at the moment, but we have a great team in place and a real long-standing commitment to create and support a sustainable fundraising facility.

"Our job involves setting the right balance between raising money and engaging with friends, especially our alumni, for the future. The processes we have in place are helping us to successfully manage and nurture relationships with major donors and potential major donors, which bodes well for the years ahead!"



The Development and Alumni Relations Office celebrate their success.

A great time for a return visit

Next year we say hello to the newly renovated Newton and Arkwright buildings and goodbye to York House. With two Schools celebrating milestone anniversaries and a reunion night at the Students' Union there are plenty of excuses to return to Nottingham Trent University in 2010.

Fancy a sneaky peek?

After a closure of almost three years the Newton and Arkwright buildings are set to reopen during the 2009/2010 academic year. A great deal of work has gone into refurbishing these buildings which will become the new heart of our city-centre site (see page 04 for the latest update).

To celebrate this special occasion an exclusive event will be held in June 2010 for alumni and their guests to have their first official peek at this magnificent redevelopment. Further details will be released later in the year, but if you would like to register your interest in advance please get in touch using the contact details below.

You're invited to our 30th...

Nottingham Business School invites all former students to join them for an action-packed year of celebrations to mark its 30th anniversary. From thought-provoking guest lectures and roundtable debates to a dinner hosted by the Vice-Chancellor especially for our alumni, there's something to inspire, entertain and engage everyone.

For a full run-down of the events planned visit the website.

Please pass on news of these events to your former classmates, if you are still in touch with them. With people moving around in their personal and professional lives we often lose touch. We want to see as many Nottingham Business School graduates as possible return to the campus during this academic year.

And our 50th...

Next year sees the School of Education's 50th year of teacher training on Clifton campus.

The School is planning a special event on campus on Saturday 23 October 2010 to mark the occasion. More details will become available in the New Year, but it is hoped that this event will reunite old friends and include tours of the campus and a special buffet dinner.

Of course, over the last 50 years we have lost touch with some of our former students. We'd like to invite as many of them as possible to celebrate with us, so if you are still in touch with your classmates then please pass on the news and ask them to get in touch with us.

To ensure you get your invitation, you and your friends can register your interest for this event by contacting us on the number and email address in the panel.



Events

A trip back to the old skool

Do you fancy reliving your old Students' Union night out? We're throwing our first ever reunion party at the Students' Union on Saturday 27 March 2010. Why not get a group of your old university mates together and relive the glory days of 'Trolled' and 'Climax'!

For more information and details of how to book your tickets visit www.ntualumni.org.uk

Say goodbye to York House

After more than 30 years, NTU will be vacating their space in York House in the summer of 2010. A few former students who have fond memories of York House have asked us to mark the occasion with a special, informal reunion event. If you were taught in York House (pictured above) and would be interested in visiting the building one last time to help us bid it farewell then please let us know. If we get enough people come forward we will arrange an event just for you!



For news of other forthcoming events and reunions, and information on how to arrange your own, visit our website.

Remember you are also more than welcome to attend other university events such as distinguished lectures. Attendance is normally free – you just have to book your place. Visit the NTU Distinguished Lectures web page.

For more information on any of the events mentioned above, or to register your interest email alumni@ntu.ac.uk or call +44 (0)115 848 8777.



Above: Go Ape at Sherwood Pines.

Keep in touch

Get connected

Have you joined the Online Community? Since its launch it has really clicked with former students who use it to access a range of benefits and services.

Once logged in you can update your details online – to ensure you receive your spring 2010 issue of *Network* in the mail – and check out the nostalgia photo gallery. We'd love to add more, so keep your photographs coming in (we promise to return your originals).

New members should register at www.ntualumni.org.uk – just select Log in / Register, click on the link to 'Register as a new user' and complete the form.

Remember you can also keep in touch via Facebook and LinkedIn.

Lost – can you help?

You can also search for your friends online. If we are in touch with them we'd be happy to help you re-establish contact. However,

we are still missing details for many former students which means they are missing out on news!

We are especially keen to make contact with former students from Nottingham Business School and the School of Education so that they can join in our celebrations in 2010. If you think you can help us regain contact with some of your friends then visit the lost alumni project section of the Online Community, call +44 (0)115 848 8777 or email alumni@ntu.ac.uk

Don't miss out...

Did you know that as a former student you can enjoy a number of discounts, benefits and services for as long as you keep in touch with us? From holiday cottages to gym and library membership – there are some great deals available to you. And don't forget that you can use your venture card for 20% off some of Nottinghamshire's favourite attractions including the Galleries of Justice,

City of Caves and Go Ape Sherwood (pictured above). Visit the website for more information.

Mr and Mrs...

Many of our students not only get a degree from NTU, but also meet their future husband or wife! Every year we get lots of news about former students who have tied the knot. Check out our wedding news to see if any of your friends have got together. Remember to tell us your wedding news too. Email alumni@ntu.ac.uk to let us know – and remember to send a photograph!

News, news, news

Where are they now? We love to hear your news, but so do your old classmates. Click here to see who's recently sent in their news. Remember you can also visit the Online Community to see if your friends have added any news in their personal notes. For recent obituary notices click here.



Sometimes, to move forward you have to take a step back

Leaving your safe, comfortable job to gain your Masters degree or to further your career may seem a little daunting, especially in this current economic climate. But take comfort in the fact that at NTU you'll be treading on familiar ground. We have a range of innovative postgraduate and professional courses to help you make your next move, and we'll be with you every step of the way.

- Wide range of courses designed in consultation with industry to meet the challenges posed by the current globalised and volatile business environment.
- Flexible study options including CPD, part-time and distance learning.
- Professional accreditation and opportunities for work-based experience.

Take your next step at **www.ntu.ac.uk/nextstep**

NOTTINGHAM
TRENT UNIVERSITY

