

Summer 2008

Network

NTU alumni... you're part of it

Shooting to the top:
NTU is 'best new university'



Sir Michael Parkinson:
our first Chancellor

Olympic hopefuls
go for gold

Your new online
community

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**The Good University Guide 2008*

Images clockwise from top left:
State of the art Psychology labs
A new heart, currently in development for the the City site
New buildings at Clifton campus

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Welcome to Network



Welcome to the new-look issue of *Network*, your alumni magazine.

In a recent online survey you told us what you wanted to see in your

magazine and chose this new design from a selection of options. We have listened closely to your views and hope you will be happy with the way the magazine is shaping up. Going forward, you will find a mix of inspiring stories about the university and your fellow alumni as well as more news on developments in Nottingham itself.

In this issue we preview the forthcoming Olympics and Paralympics and highlight some of the alumni preparing to play a vital role at the Games, either as competitors or behind the scenes. This summer in Beijing will act as an exciting prelude for when we welcome the Games to the UK in four years'

time. On page 18 Chris Townsend, Commercial Director for London 2012, tells us how plans are coming together.

And it's not just *Network* that's being revamped - we also have a new online community. If you log in before July 31 2008, you will be entered into a prize draw for a weekend break at Nottingham's Lace Market Hotel. See page 06 to find out how you can register. To help you, we have issued you with a personalised **venture** card detailing your unique alumni ID number.

Thanks to those of you who gave us your thoughts on the Alumni Association in general. Many were unaware of the various benefits you are entitled to as NTU alumni - on page 12 we give you a reminder.

We hope you enjoy reading your new *Network*. Please let us know what you think, and continue to share your stories with us. We always love to hear from you.

Clare Oswin
Alumni Officer

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Message from the Vice-Chancellor



As we prepare for an action-packed summer of sport, I am particularly pleased to see this issue of *Network* celebrating the exceptional achievements

of alumni who have gone on to great things in the world of sport.

Their endeavours, whether as winning athletes or as key players behind-the-scenes, reflect the determination, energy and will to succeed which we hope all our graduates take with them once they leave university.

While nurturing a winning mentality among its students, the university has also been establishing its own reputation as a league leader. On page 05 you can read how NTU has secured the top ranking for

new universities in the *Good University Guide*. As alumni, this achievement reflects well on you too and I hope you share in our pride at what is a significant accolade.

An equally important announcement relates to the appointment of NTU's very first Chancellor. We are delighted that such a distinguished figure as Sir Michael Parkinson has accepted this key position.

The university is increasingly raising its profile on the global stage as well. As the world prepares for the Beijing Olympics, it is timely that *Network* should highlight the way we are opening the doors for even more Chinese students to benefit from our distinctive approach to education.

Within these pages you'll also discover how you can help the university and ensure an inspirational learning experience for the students following in your footsteps. Your support will keep NTU ahead of the game.

Professor Neil Gorman
Vice-Chancellor

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Front cover: Basketball - a sport for which NTU is in the Olympic spotlight. See page 19.

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Read on...

Network is changing - thanks to you! Your views have been invaluable in helping us to improve and develop the magazine, starting with the new design unveiled in this edition.

Thanks to all those of you who took time out to complete our online survey about *Network* magazine and the services you receive from your Alumni Association. We've listened very closely to all your opinions and suggestions.

Appealing alumni services

More than 550 of you responded to the online survey advertised via our winter e-Newsletter. The Alumni Association services which you said you value most are opportunities to maintain links with your former university department or School; *Network* magazine; information about postgraduate study options; and advice from the Careers Service.

Your comments underlined the wide range of expectations you have of the Association - from "a friendly lifelong link with the university that I love and miss" to "the ability to use university resources although I graduated long ago." Some of you wanted more details about the benefits on offer to alumni - see page 12 for a few examples and www.ntualumni.org.uk for a full list.

A new chapter for *Network*

Subjects you most want to read about in *Network* are NTU developments; career profiles and news of other alumni; the 'Past and Present' section; and projects supported via the Alumni Fund. We'll aim to ensure you find all of those - and more - in every *Network* from now on.

One of the most popular ideas for additional coverage was the changing face of Nottingham itself. We'll make that a regular feature too.

When we offered a sneak preview of the new magazine designs, the response was very positive. The new cover was regarded as modern, clear and informal while the layout of the inner pages was praised for its contemporary look and use of colour.

Aim even higher

Some 58 per cent of people who responded to the survey are interested in studying for a postgraduate qualification at NTU. Many of you will discover that the range of courses has expanded dramatically since you left university. Find full details at www.ntu.ac.uk where you can order a postgraduate prospectus and register an interest in attending a postgraduate open day.

Sharon's our winner

The winner of the prize draw for those who responded to our online survey was Sharon Lunney (Design for Television 2004). She has received £200 worth of Amazon vouchers.

Sharon has already spent a portion of the money on new items for her PC, an icing set and treats for her daughter, Aoife. She said: "I responded to the survey because I like to voice an opinion, particularly if I feel it can help make a difference. The prize was a bonus!"

After graduating, Sharon worked for a warehouse and logistics software company, becoming an implementation consultant before leaving to have her baby in 2006. She recently returned to work as a legal secretary and is planning to train to become a legal executive.

Final-year students have a say

Of course we wanted to seek the views of our future alumni too. We held focus groups with current final-year students to gauge their views on what they expect from the Alumni Association once they graduate. Services they felt were of most use were discounted Student Union membership, free legal advice, sports membership deals and reunions.

The majority liked the new *Network* designs and said they would prefer to receive a hard copy of the magazine rather than an electronic version.

Prize weekend

A weekend of sheer luxury was in store for Janet Young (Environmental Health 2007) as the lucky winner of our latest 'Update Your Details' promotion.

She won a two-night stay at Nottingham's highly acclaimed Lace Market Hotel (pictured below) and brought along her friend Nick Howard, a fellow graduate from the course, to enjoy a leisurely time back in the city where they studied together.

Janet hailed the weekend a great success - from the cocktails and canapés when they arrived to the leisurely Sunday breakfast before checking out. They took in the French and Saunders show at the theatre as well as visiting a few upmarket bars.

"My only regret was that the stay was not for longer," said Janet. "I have highly recommended the city and the Lace Market Hotel to friends and colleagues. The hotel room was incredible, the meals were a gastronomic delight and the staff were absolutely attentive to the end. The hotel and restaurant certainly deserve their excellent reputation."

Janet is now an Environmental Health Officer with Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council. Following professional exams, she has just gained her Environmental Health Registration Board certification.



Fancy a chance to experience the heights of luxury yourself? If you log into our new online community - www.ntualumni.org.uk - before July 31 2008, you will automatically be entered into a prize draw for a weekend break at the Lace Market Hotel too. See page 06 for more details.



NTU in top spot

It's official - NTU is leading the way for new universities in one of the latest league tables.

Your university rose through the rankings in this year's *Good University Guide* to become the highest placed post-1992 institution.

Published in association with *The Independent*, the guide judges universities on nine measures including student satisfaction, research quality, job prospects and spending on facilities.

Nottingham Trent University's excellent employability record - which is among the best in the UK - has been a key factor in its success story.

First Chancellor

One of the most highly-respected and best-loved TV personalities in the world is set to play a key role in the life of Nottingham Trent University.

Sir Michael Parkinson CBE has been appointed Chancellor of NTU in what is a historic first for the institution. He will represent the university on special occasions and confer degrees at graduation ceremonies.

Starting out as a journalist for local Yorkshire newspapers, Sir Michael then worked for the *Manchester Guardian* and later the *Daily Express* before moving into television in the 1960s. He is best known for his hugely successful talk show, *Parkinson*, which ran from 1971 to 1982 and again from 1998 to December last year. He was awarded his knighthood in the 2008 New Year's Honours List for services to broadcasting.

Sir Michael has never attended university but is a strong advocate of the way higher education identifies and develops young talent.

He commented: "I am honoured to be offered the Chancellorship. In television I have always worked with young, ambitious people and I am keen to be involved in this university which

helps to realise the aspirations of the young. It will also give me an opportunity to see what I missed!"

Vice-Chancellor Professor Neil Gorman said: "We are absolutely thrilled that Sir Michael has accepted this position. This is our first Chancellor appointment and it was crucial that we were able to match the role with someone who shares our ambitions.

"If we are to compete in a global market, it is important that we inspire and motivate people to aim higher. NTU has an excellent track record in doing just that and we look forward to working with Sir Michael to spread the message about the benefits of university education, particularly at this university!"

Sir Michael's official installation as Chancellor will take place at a special ceremony on November 11 at the Royal Concert Hall, Nottingham, when he will confer honorary degrees on several outstanding individuals. Full details of the event programme will be announced to alumni in the near future.

“ To be recognised as the top new university is a great achievement ”

Vice-Chancellor Professor Neil Gorman said: "To be recognised as the top new university is a great achievement, highlighting the talent and determination of all our staff in ensuring that our students leave equipped with the right skills for success.

"We will continue our drive to improve the student experience so that we can maintain our position as the UK's leading new university."

Overall, NTU rose from 56th to 52nd place in the *Good University Guide* out of a total of 113 higher education UK institutions.

Coming to a screen near you

Many of you have enjoyed using the current NTU alumni online community for the past couple of years - but now a new and improved one is here! Just turn your browser to www.ntualumni.org.uk to see how it clicks for you.



Our new alumni online community will allow you to search for friends, take part in discussions, add photos, become involved in professional networking groups and maintain your personal profile, privacy and communication preferences.

We provide all of this in a secure password-protected environment exclusive to NTU alumni.

Here are just some of the benefits you can enjoy using the new online community:

Email forwarding

In an exciting new addition, an email forwarding service has now been developed which will allow you to use a personal Nottingham Trent alumni email address.*

NTU alumni email addresses take the form of yourname@ntualumni.org.uk and will prove useful on social networking sites as well as reinforcing your professional affiliation with NTU.

When you apply for a job or send off your CV, you will be able to show that you belong to the Nottingham Trent alumni network by proudly displaying your ntualumni.org.uk email address.

* Please note this is an email forwarding service and does not provide an email account or storage space. You must have an existing email account for the service to work.

Find your friends

One of the most popular aspects of our online community is the way it can help you renew old friendships. You can search for someone by name or look up a whole class list at www.ntualumni.org.uk

Your personal information is secure and no other users of the site can view your contact details until you give permission.

For example, if you want your friends to be able to contact you directly, you can choose to display selected information such as your email address or telephone number. You can even add some personal notes to tell your friends what you are doing now.

Remember, the Alumni Association also provides a message-forwarding service. So, if you are trying to make contact with somebody who has not published their details, then please send us your message and we will pass it on for you.



Photo galleries

We are sure you will enjoy another addition to the online community - photos from yesteryear! Don't be shy and share a few snaps like the ones above. We're always delighted to see photos from your student days, so keep sending them in! We promise to return your originals.

How to log in and register

You will find full instructions on the site. New members should simply go to www.ntualumni.org.uk and register as a new user. Select "Log in/Register" and click on the link to "Register as a New User." Complete the form, remembering to enter your unique Alumni ID number which you can find on your new **venture** card.

If you registered with the previous online community, your membership has been transferred to the new system, and we will have emailed your new log-in details to the address you registered with us. You simply need to log in using those details. Go to www.ntualumni.org.uk and select "Log in/Register." We recommend that you reset your user name and password on first use of the site. If you haven't received the log-in details, or can't remember if you previously registered, follow the steps to register as a new user and we will match up your records.

Please enjoy exploring our new online community and let us know your thoughts.

Win a weekend break for two in Nottingham

Log in to the new online community before 31 July 2008 and you could win a weekend for two at Nottingham's Lace Market Hotel.

Triumph of determination

Distance learning may have its challenges - but just try studying in one of the world's most remote and perilous places! *Network* meets an alumnus who is achieving his study ambitions against all the odds in war-torn Darfur.



Above: Erasmus (in dark blue) meets with victims and witnesses in the aftermath of an attack in Darfur

Serious security threats, health problems and communication difficulties are a daily reality for Erasmus Ndemole Migyikra as he balances his NTU studies with his work for the United Nations in Darfur, South Sudan.

A UN peace and human rights officer, Erasmus is witness to the violence, horror and suffering that afflict a region where more than 2 million displaced people are living in refugee camps. Twenty three years of war have left a legacy not only of landmines but also of significant human rights problems.

Studying at Nottingham Law School via distance learning offers Erasmus respite from a bitter conflict regarded as the worst humanitarian disaster of modern times.

"Southern Sudan and Darfur are probably among the most dangerous places to be at present, so I've been very lucky to be able to manage my studies despite such incredibly difficult conditions," he says. "When you sit down with your books, you can forget what has been happening around you and it's a relief."

Erasmus has not been deterred from his

learning despite bouts of malaria, dysentery and painful reactions to the heat, not to mention working in communities without access to social amenities, phones or email.

“...Southern Sudan and Darfur are among the most dangerous places to be at present...”

He has also sacrificed a lot for his studies, especially missing out on valuable time with his daughter, Sena, who lives in his home country of Ghana. Even when he has leave from work, he often has to attend weekend schools in Nottingham.

Last year Erasmus was “overjoyed” to

reach the first of his study milestones by passing the Graduate Diploma in Law. Now he is now working towards the LLB distance learning top-up degree, with his sights set on the Bar Vocational Course. His ultimate ambition is to be called to the Bar in Ghana.

In his role for the UN, he promotes greater awareness of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. He has previously studied extensively in Ghana, Austria and Italy, gaining qualifications in fields including peace and conflict resolution, human rights and social administration. Before joining the UN Mission in Sudan in early 2005, he was an investigator with Ghana's Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice.

"Having worked with lawyers at the UN and the Human Rights Commission, I can see how they are respected and how much they can achieve. I may be studying the hard way, but I'm determined to achieve my dream of becoming a lawyer," he says. "I'm already very proud to have joined the ranks of NTU alumni, especially having studied at such a prestigious law school."

City riding high

Nottingham is being transformed as part of one of the UK's most far-reaching and substantial development programmes.

Wheel of fortune

Thousands of enthusiasts took the chance to view the city from a dizzying new perspective - from the top of the 'Nottingham Eye'. The big wheel, installed in the Old Market Square for almost two months this spring, promoted Nottingham as a leading European cultural city and encouraged families and people of all ages to visit the city-centre in the evenings.

As tall as Nelson's Column at nearly 60 metres, the Eye featured 40 enclosed lit gondolas. On clear days, passengers going for the 15-minute 'spin' could see tens of miles beyond the city centre.



More than £3.5 billion is being invested in and around the city, creating innovative business spaces, exciting shopping and cultural attractions, and stylish, contemporary homes.

New retail experience in store

Right on the doorstep of the university's city campus, Nottingham's largest city-centre retail development for more than 30 years is coming to fruition. Trinity Square, lying between the Victoria Centre and the Cornerhouse, will boast stores such as TK Maxx, Borders and Dixons.

A new piazza will offer al fresco dining and will be overlooked by double-height restaurants - adding to the vibrant leisure culture which has sprung up in this area of the city. The development will also feature a 460-space shoppers' car park.

Trinity Square is ideally placed to attract attention in a city seen as one of the UK's top five shopping destinations.

The nearby junction at Clumber Street and the Victoria Centre is the city's busiest location, with footfall reaching the 100,000 people a day mark.

Eco-friendly riverside living

A prestige scheme to develop a luxury apartment complex on the banks of the Trent is taking shape under the direction of alumnus John Rhodes (Building 1966).

Valued at almost £50 million, the River Crescent development will create 146 waterside apartments, offering five-star living in a relaxed, spacious setting next to Colwick Country Park.

It will also represent a fresh concept in eco-friendly living, boasting a range of renewable energy initiatives.

John, Director of Trent Park Developments, said: "River Crescent is not only a great thing for Nottingham, but will also show the way forward for the whole country, demonstrating how lifestyle changes can reduce energy costs and secure the future sustainability of both the environment and our economy."

“More than £3.5 billion is being invested in and around the city”

The scheme incorporates high levels of sound and thermal insulation, energy efficient lighting and appliances, and state-of-the-art geothermal heat pumps. The pumps and a series of wind turbines will be used to heat and light shared areas of the development.

Already the project has won enthusiastic feedback from NTU Architecture students who had the opportunity to visit the site.

John added: "I'm happy to host further student visits so they can see at first hand how renewable energy can be incorporated into modern buildings. It's one way of repaying the university for the invaluable education I received."

River Crescent is part of the Nottingham Waterside regeneration plan to breathe new life into an area stretching from Colwick Park to Trent Bridge.

Squaring up to awards

The newly revamped Old Market Square has scooped three Civic Trust Awards for environmental improvements.

One of the UK's oldest and largest public squares, it has been transformed with a stunning water feature and seating terraces as well as improved accessibility. It now has the potential to stage large-scale events - something not previously possible.

Still a great student city...

As our alumni will testify, Nottingham is a first-rate student destination. The message is obviously spreading: applications to study on our undergraduate courses increased by more than any other UK university this year.

The university's overall applications have risen by 10.3%, in comparison with a drop of 7.3% across the sector.

At the same time, NTU hit the top spot for post-'92 universities in the latest rankings in the *Good University Guide*.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Neil Gorman, said: "This news supports the fact that students continue to be attracted to NTU's excellent employability record - which is one of the best in the UK - and its significant links to business."

Next year NTU's appeal as an outstanding learning environment will grow even stronger, with the completion of its own major regeneration project: the £70m transformation of the Newton and Arkwright buildings.

Pictured clockwise from the top: the River Crescent development now taking shape; fountain fun in the award-winning Market Square; Trinity Square will light up the Nottingham shopping experience.



Above: Chris (left) and Dave, whose educational software has made the grade in schools

Top marks for book

Nothing strikes fear into the heart of the overworked, undervalued schoolteacher like the prospect of inspection ...

But help is at hand courtesy of two experienced secondary school teachers who have been studying towards an MA in NTU's School of Education.

Isabella Wallace and Leah Kirkman set out to reveal some of the secrets of producing lessons which will impress even the most hardened Ofsted observer or the most demanding headteacher.

Their new book - *Pimp Your Lesson!* - is a treasure trove of hints, checklists, case studies and practical ideas to help teachers tick all the boxes for inspectors.

Isabella and Leah met while teaching and found themselves discussing the perils of the inspection system and how to achieve the holy grail of an Ofsted 'outstanding' ranking. Their answer was to 'pimp' - prepare, innovate, motivate and perfect - so that lessons are finessed in much the same way that vehicles are revamped in MTV's *Pimp My Ride* show.

"We realised there was a need for a book that would give busy teachers a helping hand in attaining that 'superteacher' status that all good perfectionists aspire to," said Isabella.



They interviewed teachers, collecting horror stories about the observation and inspection process while collating tried and tested strategies.

Their book is written in a lively and entertaining way. Said Leah: "Teachers have to read enough dreary government directives - not to mention homework - so we maintained a chatty tone to avoid it reading like a theory or text book. 21st century teachers are not unimaginative fuddy-duddies - they are often the most fun-loving, daring people you'll meet."

A class act

An acclaimed business aims to help teachers concentrate on what they do best - teaching!

Prime Principle - a business set up by two NTU alumni - has made its mark by helping harassed teachers get through the demands of their working day.

In five years Chris Scarth (European Business 2002) and Dave Francis (Software Engineering 2002, Industrial Computing Systems 2004) have seen their innovative teacher-friendly software solutions snapped up by almost 1,000 schools countrywide.

Their product, Classroom Monitor, eases the pressure on teachers battling with assessment and report-writing workloads. It reduces the time they need to spend on admin tasks and helps them concentrate on teaching.

Classroom Monitor comprises an interactive markbook enabling teachers to track, analyse and write reports on pupils. It has won rave reviews for providing a consistent approach to assessment, making record-keeping more manageable and providing the backbone for end-of-year report writing.

The project began life as academic research at NTU - and Chris and Dave turned to The Hive, the university's enterprise development centre, to translate their business idea into reality.

While building up their company, they have attracted a string of prizes. Last year they took the Nottinghamshire Small Business of the Year title; gained an 'Anubis' award for technical innovation; and reached the finals of Britain's Digital Elite competition.

Chris said: "When so many new businesses don't make it past the first couple of years - and never make a profit - to still be surviving is all we could have hoped for at this stage. To think that we now run a company with ten staff plus freelancers, helpdesk staff and software developers in India is still surreal!"

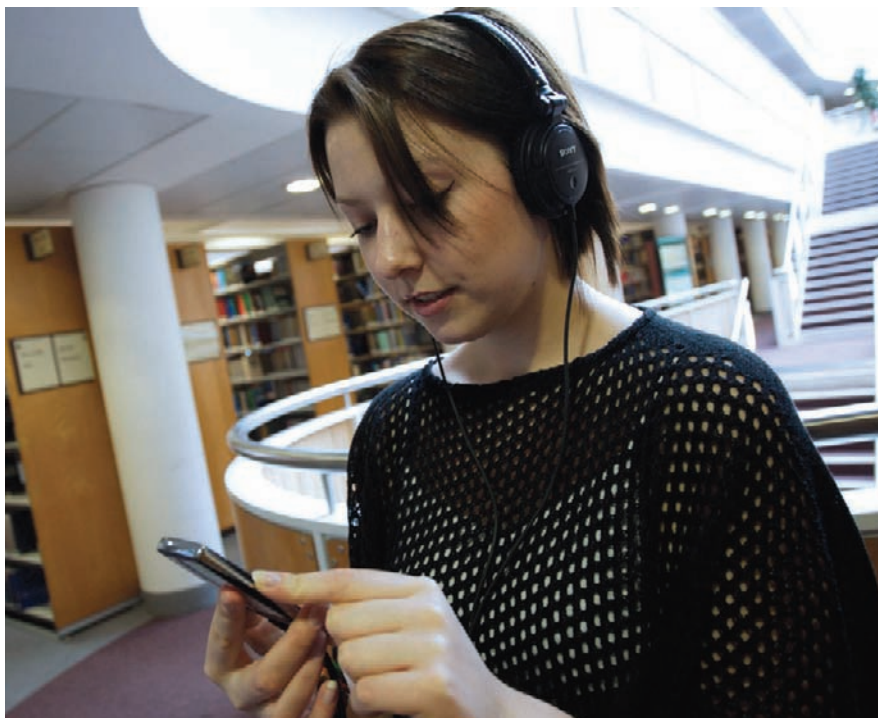
Not that they are resting on their laurels. Having expanded to new premises, they are set to launch a web-based version of Classroom Monitor.

Chris praises NTU's role in the success story. Keen to give something back, he has joined the Alumni Advisory Board. "NTU helped me so much that I'm happy to contribute to its future plans. I also hope more alumni become aware of opportunities available via The Hive."

Find out more about The Hive at:
www.ntu.ac.uk/businesshive

Your help counts

The Alumni Fund makes a real difference to the student experience at NTU. Money you donate helps improve resources and facilities across the university. Here we focus on a few of the projects made possible this year.



Banging the drum

Donations to the Alumni Fund were music to the ears of our teacher training students. The PGCE Music team bought a complete samba band kit which has struck a chord with students and schoolchildren alike.

The kit was given one of its first outings when a group of 30 secondary music teacher trainees showed their talent for Latin American music during a special day of activities culminating in a performance at Farnborough School.

Tony Harris, Senior Lecturer in Music Education, said: "Our trainees were thrown in at the deep end. Only a couple of weeks into the programme, they had to plan and deliver a practical workshop to a group of Year 7s with wide-ranging abilities. The performance was amazing and involved the children in a giant samba band."

A sporting chance

Funds were given to the School of Science and Technology for the development of practical consultation videos for students on the BSc (Hons) Sport and Exercise Science

and the BSc (Hons) Sport Science and Management. The videos are a unique, engaging resource which supplements the learning experience in the classroom and laboratory. Toni Minniti, Principal Lecturer in Sport Science, said: "The videos are a great learning tool and feature a number of consultation scenarios, giving students a vision of how things operate in practice."

Resource makes an impression

The Alumni Fund has helped improve the print finishing area in Bonington basement - a store providing photographic equipment and technical advice to Photography, Graphic Design and Fine Art students.

Photography lecturer Cary Welling said: "The store, dark rooms and studios are used by hundreds of people each week and the area was really ready for a revamp. I'd like to thank alumni for helping us to make this happen. I'm sure the thousands of graduates who used this space in the past will be glad to see we're still looking after it."

The resource is now included in guided tours for budding Art and Design students.

Library tours speak volumes

A new chapter has opened for students using NTU's libraries and IT resource rooms. Thanks to the Alumni Fund, the university is trialling the use of MP4 players for self-directed video induction tours of the facilities.

Sandra Price, from the Library and Learning Resources team, said: "This request came about through direct feedback from our customers, course committees and customer value research. The MP4 players allow students to personalise their induction or have refreshers at time-critical moments throughout their period of study."

Zoe Smart, a third year Criminology student, added: "They are very easy to use and I think new students will find them really valuable as they learn how to make the most of all the resources in the library."

Making a donation

For information on how to make a contribution to the Alumni Fund, including how to give shares, please contact us on 0115 848 8775 or email: alumni@ntu.ac.uk

Remember, you can make even more of a difference if you Gift Aid it! If you are a UK tax-payer and you agree to Gift Aid your donation, it will be worth almost 30% extra to the university.

Find out more about the Alumni Fund at www.ntualumni.org.uk

How donations can add up

- £5,000 = five new student scholarships
- £500 = a new short-term loan collection for the library
- £100 = funding for projects that give students additional industrial experience
- £50 = an extra copy of that crucial text on the reading list

Above: Zoe Smart tuning into the new video induction tour of the library

Benefits for you

Don't forget - membership of the NTU Alumni Association is your passport to some great discounts, offers and special deals. Take a closer look at just a few examples of how you can benefit...



Food for thought

The Gourmet Society is serving up a special treat for NTU alumni with real taste! Discounted membership is on the menu for alumni who would like to join the UK's fastest growing restaurant dining scheme. Via the Gourmet Society's '2 meals for the price of 1' promotion, members can dine in style for half price throughout the Midlands and the North East of England.

To whet your appetite, take a look at the Gourmet Society website, where you'll find something to cater for all tastes and budgets. There are now almost 1,000 restaurants taking part in the initiative - stretching from Birmingham to Derby and from Nottingham to Newcastle. They range from Michelin-listed independent establishments to national chains.

As alumni of Nottingham Trent University, the Gourmet Society is offering you a 14-month membership for just £25 (normally £53 for 12 months) when you join quoting promotional code NTU. To find out more, visit: www.thegourmetsociety.co.uk

Turn over a new leaf - online!

An exciting new electronic resource is delivering an added bonus for alumni members of NTU's library. Emerald Management Xtra gives you access to 160 full text journals and reviews from the top 300 management journals. It represents the largest, most comprehensive collection of peer reviewed management journals.

To obtain alumni readership - which also allows you to borrow up to four books at a time - you can sign up with Libraries and Learning Resources (LLR) for an annual discounted subscription of £25. For further information and an application form, just call the Alumni Office on +44 (0)115 848 8777 or email: alumni@ntu.ac.uk

Enjoy the sporting life

Want to get more active? Planning to take up a new sport? If you're still within travelling distance of Nottingham, then you could be making the most of discounted Sport and Fitness Membership at NTU.

Membership includes unlimited access to the two well-equipped NTU fitness suites, O2 and O2 Max; free exercise classes; and use of sports facilities at Byron and Clifton - for activities such as squash, badminton and football - for no additional fee.

This offer is available if you join NTU's Student Union as an Associate Member (£10 annual fee). You will then be eligible for Sport and Fitness Membership for less than half price for the academic year.

For an application form to join the Students' Union, please email your name and address to alumni@ntu.ac.uk For full information about NTU sports membership and clubs, visit: www.ntu.ac.uk/sport

Clinic lays down the law

Free legal advice is on offer to NTU alumni - courtesy of a reliable and high-quality clinic run by law students.

The Legal Advice Clinic was established by Nottingham Law School as part of its pro bono programme, through which budding lawyers work for free for the public good.

The clinic provides initial legal advice and a referral service to the community, NTU staff, students and alumni while offering practical experience for law students. It can make a real difference to clients who may not otherwise be able to afford legal assistance.

Last year 72 student 'advisers' trained to work on the project under the supervision of academic staff and the clinic solicitor. The problems they tackled centred mainly on employment and housing/property matters but they also gave advice on issues ranging

from debt to business development, neighbour disputes to data protection.

In a client survey, all respondents said they would recommend the clinic to others. One added: "I was very impressed with the students' professionalism, the fact they kept to their deadlines, and their enthusiasm. I found their recommendations very useful."

To contact the clinic, ring +44 (0)115 848 4262, email: NLS.lawclinic@ntu.ac.uk or log on to www.ntu.ac.uk/nlslawclinic

Plan that dream holiday

As thoughts turn to summer, here's a timely reminder that you can enjoy an exclusive 10 per cent discount on holidays booked through Cottages4You. Many NTU alumni have benefited from this deal, whether for short breaks or longer getaways.

The discount applies to enchanting properties - from castles and villas to farmhouses and gites - throughout the UK, Ireland, France, Spain, Portugal and Italy.

Visit the Cottages4You website at www.chooseacottage.co.uk/partners/NOT to view availability and to claim your discount. The website also features a range of other exciting holiday offers, with a choice of destinations in more than 100 countries. Alternatively call Cottages4You on 0870 191 7829 and quote NOT10.



For a full run-down of the many exciting benefits available to our alumni, visit www.ntualumni.org.uk



Let the Games begin

Introducing our eight-page Olympics special, we speak to an alumnus who is ensuring that Beijing's new national stadium presents just the right image...

Gang Zhao (MA Photography 2003) is proud to be Photo Manager for the iconic 'Bird's Nest' venue which has become a stunning symbol for the aspirations of the forthcoming Olympics in China.

It is his job to provide high-quality facilities and services for the photographers determined to bring the highs and lows of the Games into sharp focus.

"More than 1,500 accredited photographers will cover the Beijing Games, the largest number in Olympics history," explained Gang. "Like the athletes, these photographers are the best of the best. Our aim is to give them all the support they need as they strive to capture those moments of excellence, triumph or despair and represent the very spirit of the Games."

His complex role entails planning everything from photo positions, lighting and photographers' freedom of movement to state-of-the-art technical support and photo work rooms which meet the demands of the fast-paced media industry. He liaises with news agencies and media organisations worldwide as well as the International Olympic Committee.

Events in the 100,000-seat 'Bird's Nest' are certainly set to be a major draw for photographers. With its twig-like bands of steel and bowl-shaped roof, the stadium is the outstanding main venue for the Games.

Not that Gang has much chance to

appreciate it through his camera lens. "It is a photographer's dream to work in the 'Bird's Nest'. The stadium looks so unique: it is really lovely for pictures. Sadly, though, it's fantastic for a photographer, not for a busy photo manager whose role involves up to five meetings a day! I must admit that at times of stress I want to pick up my camera and just enjoy being a photographer in this setting," he says.

Gang knows all about the thrills of covering the Olympics, having spent ten years as a photojournalist, including working at the Sydney Games. After completing his Masters at NTU, he returned to China and became Head of Photography at the 1m circulation *Qianjiang Evening News*. He joined the Beijing Organising Committee for the Games in January 2007.

After this summer, he hopes to stage his own solo exhibition, *Visual Daily of Beijing 2008*, in both China and London, then continue with his research into documentary photography.

He would also like to revisit old haunts in Nottingham. "I really miss the days I spent in the library and the colour darkroom. I must also say thanks to my tutor, Hugh Hamilton, who gave me so much help and built my confidence. I benefited a lot from my time at NTU: people tend to respect your opinion more when they know you have an MA from the UK," he explains.



The will to win

The road to the Paralympic Games has been strewn with gold for British Cycling's disability squad.



"In my line of work, it's not enough to be good at your job. You have to strive to be the best person in the world at what you do. After all, that's what you're expecting your athletes to do."

So says Chris Furber (Sport Administration and Science 1999) as he faces up to his most momentous challenge yet as national coach for British Cycling's disability squad.

He does, however, feel quietly confident that his team's target - of achieving five gold medals at the Paralympics - is within reach. There is no doubt that he is working with a supremely talented team of athletes, a group whose exceptional feats can astound the general public and outclass the attainments of able-bodied athletes.

At the last Paralympic Games in Athens, the GB team returned with three gold, one silver and two bronze medals. At the 2006 Para-cycling World Championships in

Switzerland - Chris's first major event in his capacity as national coach - his squad won nine gold medals and broke four world records to finish top track nation. Last year the honours continued at the World Disability Championships, where the team topped the medals table with 13 golds.

"From a squad of 12 riders, 11 are world champions and the other has two world records to his name," explained Chris. "Our selection process for the Paralympics is therefore especially tough - but I guess that's a nice problem to have. We certainly feel we're in a very strong position to do really well in Beijing."

"Our outstanding success so far does bring other challenges - you have to keep pushing the boundaries of the sport to guard against complacency. As soon as you stop moving forward, there is someone waiting to overtake you. Everyone in the world raises their game against you and wants to knock you off the top spot."

With such fierce competition, Paralympic cycling is a sport where victory can rest on a time difference of a thousandth of a second. There are three classes of disability - blind or visually impaired, cerebral palsy and locomotive disabilities such as amputations and spinal injuries. The blind or visually impaired athletes compete on tandems and have a sighted pilot.

The riders are now taking part in monthly training camps before leaving for the athletes' village in Beijing on August 30. Chris has already been to China twice to see how preparations are shaping up and to gain some idea of how issues such as heat, humidity, pollution, long-haul flights and time zone shifts might affect his squad. He hails Beijing facilities like the Velodrome as

"nothing short of spectacular."

While studying at NTU, Chris never imagined that he would one day be coaching a team with the aim of taking them all the way to the top of the Paralympic podium. Looking back, however, he sees how the skills he acquired on his degree, his final-year dissertation on disability sports and his stint as President of the NTU Cycling Club certainly prepared the ground for his career.

Having joined British Cycling as a competition administrator, he took his first full-time coaching role two years later, becoming a Regional Talent Coach working with the most gifted 14 to 17-year-olds in the country. At 24, he was the youngest full-time coach working for British Cycling. He was also building his reputation as a commentator on the mountain bike circuit.

Since he took up his current role in 2006, he has been responsible for the day-to-day running of the disability squad - developing the overall plan for the season, writing individual training programmes, co-ordinating support services for the athletes and liaising with a wide range of partner organisations. He is assisted by two specialist part-time coaches.

Chris feels very lucky to work closely with all the other coaches in the British Cycling family. He can tap into new ideas and his team shares track time and resources with able-bodied riders - an enormous bonus.

He admits that one drawback of his role is the lack of job security. "There's a lot at stake - if your athletes don't get results, you stand to lose essential funding and your job could go," he explained. "So there's all the more reason for rising to the challenge in Beijing!"



Chris Furber (left) with Darren Kenny, a double Paralympic Champion from Athens 2004 and a double World Champion



Above: Crista Cullen in action. Photograph courtesy of Grant Treeby

Hockey hopefuls

One Olympic sport will take on an extra-special significance for Nottingham Trent University this summer.

Elite hockey player Crista Cullen (Business Studies: Strategy and Entrepreneurship 2007) is in no doubt that her Great Britain team can return in triumph from Beijing.

"I sincerely believe that we can win a medal," she confided. "It's one of those sports where there is very little to choose between the high-ranking teams. A small mistake or a decision in your favour can make all the difference - so much depends on who happens to play well on the day. It's this sheer unpredictability that makes hockey so exciting."

Crista is all too familiar with the narrow margin between success and failure. Four years ago she was in the side that agonisingly missed out on qualification for the Athens Olympics when it lost a play-off against Korea.

But those painful memories were erased when she scored twice as England beat Spain 3-2 in the third place play-off at the EuroHockey Nations Championships in Manchester last year - the decisive match in which the team booked its place on the plane to Beijing.

"It still doesn't seem quite real - especially as it was snatched from our grasp for Athens - but I'm not daunted by the prospect of the Olympics," she said. "I've just been incredibly lucky to find a sport which really clicks with me."

Her confidence is running strong. "We're not going to Beijing just to take part - we are there to win something.

Even when we've faced the world's number 1 team, Holland, we've only lost by a goal."

The Olympic squad will not be finalised until June but Crista has high hopes. In 2006, the year she won a Commonwealth Games bronze medal with England, she was named Great Britain Hockey Athlete of the Year. For the last two years she has featured in the Women's WorldHockey All Star Team.

Following the euphoria of Olympics qualification, the emphasis is now on intense training as well as preparatory matches against some of the world's top teams. A training camp in Australia provided vital experience of playing in extreme heat against a team ranked second in the world and in front of a passionate home crowd.

Despite her action-packed sporting schedule, Crista is keen to use her NTU studies to kickstart a business career too. She has been working part-time as a Business Development Assistant for the Kennel Club in London. The variety in her life really hit home when she was at a Great Britain Training Camp one day - and Crufts the next!

"It's a real juggling act but I was used to that while I was a student," she said. "I do miss the university. Even though it was a struggle at times and I didn't have the typical student lifestyle, I really benefited from the experience and I gained an invaluable qualification."

Tackling the challenge

Groundbreaking sports science research at NTU is helping England's women hockey players to ensure they are in peak condition for Beijing.

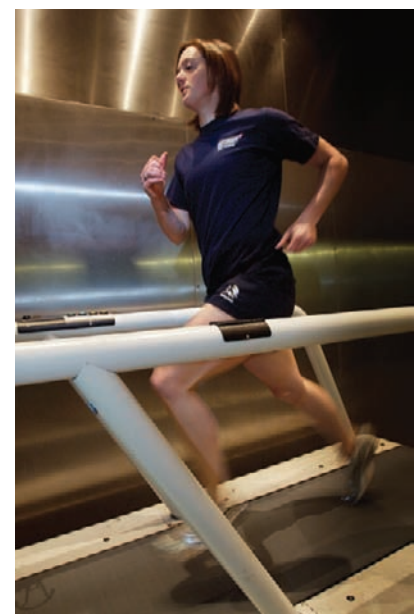
PhD student Hannah MacLeod, a member of the bronze medal winning team at last year's EuroHockey Nations Championships, has devised vital strategies for players to cope with China's challenging conditions.

For her research, Hannah has harnessed the state-of-the-art facilities of NTU's environmental chamber, which can simulate climates anywhere in the world from Everest to Egypt. She devised a treadmill protocol representing the different movements in a field hockey match - like walking, jogging, standing, cruising, sprinting and lunging, with a change of speed every nine seconds.

This protocol formed the basis for assessing how conditions such as heat and hydration influence each individual's performance. Seven international players took part in the trials, with the chamber set to replicate the heat and humidity of Beijing.

Said Hannah: "All the players are now very aware of the impact dehydration has on their cognitive performance - and were all given advice tailored to meet their specific needs. There is no doubt these players will have an advantage over their team-mates."

Hannah (pictured below in the chamber) is one of five athletes 'in reserve' for Beijing but she has her sights firmly fixed on London 2012.



Getting the picture

As eye-catching images capturing the defining moments of the Olympics fill our newspapers this summer, there's every chance that some of them will be the work of an NTU alumnus.

Award-winning sport photographer Julian Finney (Photography 2004) will be jetting off to Beijing to cover the world's greatest sporting event for the internationally-renowned photo agency Getty Images.

Although he's unsure which sports he will be assigned to, Julian is greatly looking forward to the opportunity. "The Olympics are the best spectacle any sport photographer can dream of covering - especially as they involve events that are not normally photographed," he said.

"Olympic Gold is what every athlete wants and they put their all into it. There's big emotion and huge success. For a photographer it's an exciting chance to capture that and create something different from, say, the usual football picture."

The Games represent another key landmark for Julian who - since joining Getty Images in 2004 - has seen his portfolio of work expanding to include World Cup Rugby, Grand Slam tennis and a variety of news and entertainment shots.

Before the Olympics, Julian is set to cover



Above: A man paints his house as the peloton make their way through the village of Sheriffhales on stage 4 of the Tour of Britain from Wolverhampton to Birmingham in September 2006. The distinctive image is probably Julian's favourite in his career so far.

the French Open and Wimbledon - a real labour of love as his favourite sport is tennis and he used to play himself, including during his time at NTU. "It is played in good weather so working in the sun is always a bonus - and it offers great opportunities for real action shots and celebrations. You have good access at a tennis event and you can move about a lot to try different angles," he explained.

“The Olympics are the best spectacle any sport photographer can dream of covering”

One of his most memorable assignments came when he was called in to cover the Rugby World Cup in France at the last minute. He followed the tournament to the very end in Paris, when England made it through to the final. "It was very exciting and nerve-wracking at the same time," said Julian. "It was the first major sporting final I had covered and the fact that it was England made it even bigger for me. The game didn't go our way unfortunately but I managed to keep my nerve and did OK."

Julian started taking photographs as a teenager, spending his weekends capturing the trials and tribulations of his local football team. It triggered his passion for both photography and sport - and a desire to combine the two in his career.

When he joined NTU, he found the support and advice he was looking for. "I was allowed to concentrate on my sport photography in the final year and the university really assisted in finding the right market for each student's work. My tutor Cary Welling was a big help, pointing me in the right direction, and my fellow student



Above: Maria Mutola of Mozambique celebrates winning gold in the 1500m final during the 11th IAAF World Indoor Championship, at the Olimpiyskiy Stadium in Moscow

Andy Boyers was also a sport photography enthusiast so we helped each other along."

Saturdays were spent "learning the trade" armed with a photo pass for Notts County FC matches. It was, however, a stunning competition success which gave Julian his real career break. In his final year he won the 'Young Sport Photographer of the Year' title in a challenge run by Sports Aid. Judge Clive Mason of Getty Images asked to see his portfolio - and the result was the offer of a technician's job with the firm which creates and distributes what is arguably the world's best image collection.

The technician role involved assisting photographers and distributing pictures to newspapers. Before long, he started taking pictures himself and became a full-time snapper, covering events from the Asian Games to Champions' League football.

He has also won the respect of his peers. In 2007 he was named the City of London Young Photographer of the Year in the

Picture Editors' Awards, having been nominated twice previously. He also picked up the Young Sports Photographer of the Year prize in the Sports Journalists' Association Awards, having been highly commended in 2006. His images made the final cut in the Press Photographers' Yearbook for the last two years too.

For other budding sports photographers, Julian has straightforward advice: "Try your photography at small events and build up a portfolio of a variety of sports. Researching different sports and having a genuine interest will give you a better understanding of how to capture the best shots."

"Always think about the background - go for something clean or dark which means your subject stands out much more. And consider the composition as the subject needs to be in the right position and make an interesting shape. Sometimes it just means being very, very patient waiting for the right moment to arrive."



Above (l to r): NTU alumnus Nick Easter (Mathematics in Science 1999) wins a line out during the Guinness Premiership match between Harlequins and Newcastle Falcons; The Queen looks out of her Land Rover as she follows the Duke of Edinburgh competing in the Driving Grand Prix during the Royal Windsor Horse Show; Rafael Nadal of Spain celebrates at match point in the French Open final in 2005. All photographs by Julian Finney/Getty Images.

London calling...

The London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games may still be more than four years away, but plans for delivering what are being billed as 'Everyone's Games' are already at full speed.



A key member of the team setting the pace for London 2012 is Chris Townsend (Marketing Management 1997) who is responsible for all forms of revenue generation as the UK prepares to host the world's most prestigious sporting event.

Chris became Commercial Director for the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (LOCOG) in July 2006. With LOCOG entirely reliant on private funding, his target is to raise some £2 billion through domestic sponsorship, ticket marketing, merchandising and agreeing the share of worldwide broadcast rights and international sponsorship programmes.

In true Olympic style, Chris and his team have already set a record of their own. "We have started at an incredibly fast pace and have achieved signing of commercial deals which puts us two years ahead of any previous Summer Games in terms of raising domestic sponsorship," he explains.

"There is significant pressure on the commercial team, with clear targets to

meet. Everyone is working flat out and we aim to keep that momentum and motivation going all the way to 2012. Our success so far has been down to genuine team effort right across the business."

Domestic sponsorship will account for about a third of the revenue and already the team is almost halfway towards its goal. Five 'tier one' partners have been signed up - Lloyds TSB, EDF Energy, adidas, British Airways and BT - while Deloitte is the first 'tier two' supporter.

Chris is not surprised by the enthusiastic response. He says: "When you combine the world's most creative city with the world's biggest sporting and cultural event and the largest regeneration project in Europe for decades, you have a sponsorship opportunity that is second to none."

A ticketing strategy is now being developed which will deliver a further 20 per cent of the revenue and see some 9.3 million tickets sold on a global scale. The rest of the £2 billion target will be met through broadcasting deals, global sponsors signed up via the International Olympic Committee and sources like merchandising.

Work is also underway on strategies for marketing, advertising, promotion, public relations and digital communications, with an initial focus on the Olympic Games handover ceremony on August 24.

Already the London 2012 logo has made its mark. The launch of any logo - especially for the Olympic Games - can bring the odd critical headline and this was no exception. However, Chris points out: "It will probably go down in marketing history for the fastest growth in awareness of a new logo."

Research showed that, within five days, there was between 70 and 80 per cent

awareness of the logo in the UK. In the first month, awareness had also been established in more than 200 countries.

"Having developed that awareness in a much shorter time than anticipated, we are now creating an understanding of the brand vision and values. We have to cram into five years what many organisations spend up to 20 years achieving," he says.

Chris firmly believes that London 2012 will be distinctive from other Games, going far beyond simply showcasing a city or country to the outside world. "Our vision is that these will be Everyone's Games, not just throughout the UK but throughout the world. We also plan to harness the power of the Games to inspire change and to inspire the youth of today."

Sustainability will be a cornerstone of the approach and the organisers are making strenuous efforts - alongside partners such as EDF Energy - to keep environmental protection high on the agenda. These will also be the first truly digital Games, exploiting the full range of digital media opportunities to engage the public, especially young people.

Chris was the ideal candidate for the role of Commercial Director. He had handled substantial commercial deals while working for both Telewest Broadband and BSkyB before becoming Group Marketing Director for Transport for London (TfL) in 2003. While at TfL, he played a key role in the 'Back the Bid' campaign to maximise public support for London to host the games.

He says that his 18 months studying with NTU proved incredibly useful in his career. "The course stretched me and I've been putting elements of what I learned into practice ever since."

Sporting chance

The world-class sporting facilities at Nottingham Trent University could be playing host to visiting teams of international athletes in the run-up to the 2012 Olympics.

The university has been listed for its badminton, basketball, fencing and equestrian facilities in a pre-Games Training Camp Guide ahead of the London tournament.

London 2012 organisers have compiled the guide to promote the very best venues for the training and preparation of visiting Olympic teams. It will be published in Beijing later this year before being circulated to Olympic committees worldwide. Teams will then use it to decide where to base themselves during the Games and where to send individual athletes for training.

The accolade builds on NTU's reputation for offering excellent support services for elite-level athletes to assist their performance, training and personal development.

The badminton, basketball and fencing facilities featured in the guide are housed at Clifton campus, which boasts a state-of-the-art sports hall, sports injury clinic and sports science support. The outstanding equestrian facilities are based at the Brackenhurst campus.

The university's Director of Sport and Lifestyle, James Hayter, said: "I am very excited about the prospect of hosting these international teams in the run-up to the 2012 Games.

"I hope it will enable us to develop lasting links with national sports organisations from across the world, which could lead to exciting learning opportunities for our students in the future. This really is a massive boost for sport at Nottingham Trent University."



Photo courtesy of Peter Spurrier

Golden memory

'Dare to dream' is the advice which Steve Trapmore gives to all athletes heading for Beijing this summer. He should know: eight years ago he stepped up to the podium in Sydney as an Olympic gold medallist himself!

Network caught up with Steve (Electronics and Computing 1997) to find out what he's been up to since that glorious moment when he was part of the men's eight which rowed to victory and set the whole nation cheering.

As it turns out, he's very much part of the Olympic movement still. In February he was appointed Head of Rowing and Olympic Ambassador at Imperial College in London, where he is fostering the talent of athletes ranging from complete novices to national level rowers.

Having devoted recent years to setting up his own IT business, he said: "Getting back into sport has been great fun. I've had a couple of athletes attending Olympic trials so I am well in the thick of it again!"

Acting as Imperial's Olympic Ambassador, Steve is working with the London 2012 organisers and other agencies in the run-up to the UK games. He and his fellow champion rowers, all of whom were awarded the MBE following their Sydney success, gave strong support to the London bid.

Steve is also closely involved with the British Olympic Association and Sports Aid and even finds time to deliver what he calls a "mean after-dinner keynote."

He concluded: "The fact that we won in Sydney still seems amazing and I cherish the positive effect our success had on the nation. I'm hoping that many other members of Team GB will enjoy that same experience - this summer and in 2012."



New frontiers for education

As the worldwide spotlight shines on Beijing in the run-up to this summer's Olympics, hundreds of prospective students from China are turning their eyes towards Nottingham Trent University.

The last few years have seen an upsurge in the number of Chinese young people keen to experience a high-quality UK education - and NTU welcomes them with open arms.

Our dynamic International Development Office spearheads student recruitment drives in China and alumna Rachel Bilson (English 1999) is part of the team helping to spread the word.

An International Recruitment Officer,

Rachel says: "The really enjoyable part of the job is meeting lots of bright students and seeing how our alumni are contributing to the rapid changes that have transformed China."

She has just returned from a trip taking in Shanghai, Hangzhou, Nanjing, Beijing and Chongqing, including a journey on the world's fastest train. She attended the International Education Exhibition Tour with Education UK; gave a presentation at Zhejiang University of Technology; visited NTU representatives in China; and interviewed prospective students.

As the Chinese government increasingly looks towards the West, Rachel and her NTU colleagues have witnessed a growth in the popularity of subjects like Management,

Marketing, Journalism, Fashion Marketing & Communication, and Economics & Finance.

While Chinese students have traditionally come to Nottingham to study at postgraduate level, the number of undergraduate applicants for subjects such as Business and Art & Design is rising too.

Rachel draws on her own NTU experiences - plus extensive knowledge of the course options available - to answer

questions from potential students as well as parents and even grandparents. "They always seem genuinely excited about the opportunities their children have - opportunities that they almost certainly didn't have themselves."

Rachel, a member of the Alumni Advisory

Board, adds: "Prospective students from China have become very sophisticated very quickly. As well as questions about fees, accommodation and course content, they want to know exactly how much value an NTU degree will add to their career. Of course, we have lots of really impressive alumni profiles, as well as close links with our graduates, so it is relatively easy for us to answer these questions."

"...our alumni are contributing to the rapid changes that have transformed China..."

Above: Rachel takes time out from her busy schedule in China to visit one of the world's most dramatic attractions, the Great Wall.

A lasting legacy

Network speaks to one of the growing number of alumni choosing to give what is arguably the greatest gift of all - the gift of education.

Louise Garland has never forgotten the defining educational experience which launched her on the path to a fulfilling career in the arts world. With no fewer than three Nottingham Trent qualifications under her belt, she now enjoys a rewarding job inspiring the budding artists of the future.

"I gained so much from my education," said Louise, a Fine Art lecturer at New College Nottingham. "In fact, after receiving my BA (Hons) Creative Arts in 1982, then my MA Fine Art in 1986 and finally a PGCE in 1991, I must have Nottingham Trent stamped across my forehead! Now, I take my own students to the university's Bonington Gallery as part of their course, so things have really come full circle."

Her strong sense of allegiance to the university does not end there, however. Louise is one of the growing number of alumni who are choosing to leave a legacy to help future generations of Nottingham Trent University students.

"As it came to a point in my life when I had to make a Will, I knew that I wanted to include my university. I decided that I could help a Fine Art student with limited finances to have the same opportunities as me," she explained.

Her decision was prompted by fond memories of her time as a student and of some truly inspiring tutors. "Professor John

Newling, in particular, was a huge influence on my art education. He cared not only about me as a student but also saw me through to the next stage in helping me to find a local studio as a graduate. It is something I have never forgotten."

Another factor was the financial pressures faced by students today. When Louise (*pictured right in her student days*) joined Trent Polytechnic in the late 1970s, she was dependent on a full student grant and a modest bursary from her local church to provide the financial helping hand she needed to fulfil her ambitions.

"Often, making a decision to study a subject like Fine Art is quite hard and increasingly so with the costs of education today. I was lucky that my mother, despite financial circumstances, was very supportive of my chosen subject but I would imagine that money worries today might narrow the choice of university course for some students.

"I'd therefore like to help encourage those who have the talent and desire to study in this area. Art graduates are highly creative people, good lateral thinkers with a broad range of talents and skills to bring to business and society."

She concluded: "I hope that leaving a gift in my Will can make a difference one day in the future... but not for a long time yet! I still have lots of budding artists to inspire first!"



Leaving a legacy

If you are thinking of helping future generations of students by leaving a legacy to Nottingham Trent University, feel free to contact us to talk through your plans. Call 0115 848 8809 or email alumni@ntu.ac.uk

Making a Will

One of the services available through the Alumni Association is a professional discounted Will-writing service. Irwin Mitchell is the biggest Will-writing company in the UK, processing in excess of 60,000 Wills per year. For more information, please visit: www.extranet.irwinmitchell.com/willsandtrusts/nottingham_trent_university

In April the Government announced details of a programme that is set to help raise millions of pounds for universities. With effect from August 1st and for an initial three-year period, your gifts to Nottingham Trent University will be matched at £1 for each £3 you donate.

And what's even better is that Gift Aid will be matched too. This means that someone making a gift of £30 a month will now see the value of that gift to the university rise to more than £50 once Gift Aid and the matched funding elements are added in.

It's a great way to be able to help your university - and to choose where some of the income tax you have paid ends up!



Great news for giving back

Translate your skills

Did you study a language at university? Are you using languages in your career? Then the organisers of an exciting new project would love to hear from you.

The Routes Into Languages initiative aims to increase the take-up of languages from school into university - and NTU is leading the East Midlands strand of the programme.

Projects cover everything from a languages roadshow targeting rural areas to a special summer school, from a series of family language suppers to a range of web-based resources.

"We hope to encourage more young people to study languages - and our alumni can play a vital role," said NTU's project manager Mirella Santamaria.

"We are keen to establish links with alumni - especially those who studied languages - who could attend events, speak about their studies, give careers advice and explain the importance of languages in the world of work."

A three-year £8 million programme, Routes into Languages was established nationally in the wake of growing concerns about the decline in language take-up at GCSE and beyond.

In the East Midlands, a consortium led by NTU and involving three other universities will run projects covering languages such as German, French, Spanish, Italian and Portuguese. In addition, the focus is on languages spoken by minority groups in the UK, including Polish, Urdu and Arabic, as well as Mandarin, which is increasingly important in the global business world.

As part of the project, a team of language student ambassadors is being trained to assist with activities.

If you could contribute, contact the Alumni Office on +44 (0)115 848 8777 or email alumni@ntu.ac.uk



An ambassador training session in action



Above: Professor Robert Rees, Director of Research for the new centre

Research boost

A major new donation to Nottingham Trent University is helping advance studies into a disease which affects one in three people at some stage in their lives.

A massive funding injection has sealed Nottingham Trent University's global reputation for groundbreaking research in the battle against cancer.

The £7.65 million donation from the John and Lucille van Geest Foundation will significantly advance endeavours in the field of cancer diagnosis and therapy.

The funding is thought to be the largest donation ever given to a post-'92 university. It represents a key milestone in the highly successful nine-year relationship between NTU and the Foundation - a partnership which has already resulted in new cancer detection technologies and patents.

Nearly £3 million of the donation has been earmarked to expand facilities at the Clifton campus with the creation of a new, dedicated research centre. The rest, which will be spread over five years, will be used to recruit more specialist staff and to support further research in cancer diagnosis.

The university has long been regarded as a world leader in the field of cancer biomarkers and immunotherapy. The funding boost will ensure it can engage in even more international

collaborations to share knowledge and take forward the development of cancer vaccines.

Professor Robert Rees, Dean of the School of Science and Technology and Director of Research for the new John van Geest Cancer Research Centre, is leading the initiative. He said: "This is a fantastic donation that will keep our university - and the city of Nottingham - at the forefront of cancer research globally. We are very grateful for the generous support that the Foundation has given to our efforts."

Brenda Ruysen, from the John and Lucille van Geest Foundation, added: "NTU has a rich heritage in cancer research and we are very happy to be part of a programme with the potential to transform many lives and which will significantly advance cancer detection worldwide."

Tim Cobb, Head of Development and Alumni Relations for NTU, added: "Our team was delighted to support Professor Rees and his colleagues in bringing this tremendous donation to the university. It is a richly deserved transformational gift, creating an important platform for research addressing one of society's most pressing needs."



Blazing a trail

An NTU research team has hit the headlines for turning the spotlight onto some of the psychological problems faced by emergency service workers in the UK.

Firefighters often encounter a shocking range of verbal and physical abuse as they go about their work, according to award-winning research from NTU.

A pioneering study undertaken by psychologists unearthed disturbing accounts of stone-throwing, air rifle shots and even stabbings at the scenes of emergencies. It also highlighted how incidents of violence have become so regular that they often go unreported and are treated as part of everyday life in the fire and rescue service.

The investigation is one of several projects bringing international acclaim to the Emergency Services Research Unit (ESRU): a dynamic team with three NTU alumni at its core. Head of ESRU, Viv Brunsden, was in the first cohort of Psychology graduates in 1998; Rowena Hill received her MSc in Research Methods in 2004; and Jeff Goatcher is a Social Sciences graduate who gained his PhD from the university in 2004.

Part of the School of Social Sciences, they regularly draw on the wide-ranging expertise and support of university colleagues: five other members of staff are currently working or have recently worked on diverse ESRU projects.

The unit not only undertakes groundbreaking research but also offers teaching, training and consultancy for fire and rescue services. It aims to shed new light on often overlooked psychological and sociological issues affecting emergency workers.

The study into violence against firefighters was, for instance, the first of

its kind. Such was its impact that lead researcher Viv won the GORE/FIRE Virtual Research Institute Award.

A key focus was on how firefighters come to terms with the attacks. Viv said: "In other professions, being sworn at and verbally harassed - let alone being spat at or stoned - would never be acceptable. However, for firefighters these attacks perhaps seem trivial in comparison with some aspects of their occupation, such as walking into a fire."

Firefighters often viewed the incidents as simply "an attack on the uniform" or as symptoms of economic deprivation and poor parenting. As some culprits are as young as five, Viv now hopes to conduct research with children and teenagers to understand why they carry out such attacks.

Rowena, meanwhile, is looking at a different type of occupational hazard. She is exploring how the families of fire and rescue personnel deal with the stresses associated with the job - from the pressure of unpredictable hours to the strain of seeing a loved-one coping with the aftermath of a tough day. Rowena explained: "The effects on relatives can be profound and wide-ranging - and the firefighters themselves are often unaware of them."

ESRU has also won government praise for a substantial report on how well the nation is prepared to deliver humanitarian assistance after a major disaster. The study was led by Dr Anne Eyre of Trauma Training Ltd, supported by Viv and NTU lecturer Jamie Murphy.

Making a world of difference

Life-changing experiences could be on the horizon for adventure-seekers and sports enthusiasts - thanks to a travel company with a special mission.



Pictured from the top:

Rugby is just one of the many sports coaching experiences on offer.

James (left) assisting with a care work project in Ghana.

Youngsters celebrate a successful hockey result.

Pictured right: One of the GAP SPORTS coaches takes a break to survey the view from Table Mountain in Cape Town.

GAP SPORTS caters for people who want to escape the rat race, take a career break or enjoy a gap year while helping communities in the developing world.

The company, set up by James Burton (Photography 2002), offers a range of international placements where volunteers can help coach youth sports - from boxing in Ghana to football in Latin America. While sports-themed breaks are its main focus, it also provides opportunities for broader volunteering projects and internships.

Participants have, for instance, contributed to work with orphans, built much-needed homes or helped with the conservation of turtles.

For James, developing GAP SPORTS over the last five years has been a journey of

discovery in itself. "It's been hard and challenging work but thoroughly enjoyable," he commented. "I have been able to combine my interests of travel,

photography, sport and charitable work all into one business idea.

"My aim is to encourage people to try something different in some of the world's most amazing destinations - to help them choose something that could change their life forever!

"At the same time, for every traveller I take away - regardless of where they go and what they do - a percentage of

the money is ploughed back into providing children in Africa and Latin America with the chance to play sport."

The idea for the business emerged in James' second year at university when a

“I want to help people try something different - a new concept in the career break industry”



photo-documentary project took him to Ghana to chart a friend's efforts to establish a football academy there. He explained: "There was no sustainable structure in place for this academy so - over a few drinks and a brain storming session - GAP SPORTS was conceived. I would recruit volunteers back in the UK to help with coaching young footballers in Ghana and my friend would accommodate them and give them a real experience of Africa."

By the time he graduated with first class honours, James had put together a fully-fledged business plan. He worked part-time as a photographer doing a combination of corporate jobs, weddings and exhibitions to raise the capital to build his website and promote GAP SPORTS.

"It was a whole new concept in the gap year and career break industry as no other organisation offered the chance to work on sports projects in the developing world. I had identified a huge opportunity and it felt great to pioneer an idea that so many

people would benefit from," he commented.

Since then the business has grown steadily and more than 1,500 people have thrilled to the GAP SPORTS experience. The company typically caters for people aged between 18 and 35 but is increasingly attracting older travellers who want to take time out and recharge their batteries.

GAP SPORTS now offers travel to numerous destinations, with an ever-increasing portfolio of activities and trips which can last for anything between a week and a year. Rugby, cricket and netball projects in South Africa remain a big draw while the fast-emerging sport of kite surfing is now on offer in various locations. One of the most unusual attractions is a boxing placement in Ghana - a combined coaching and training experience where you can truly get fit in the African heat!

As well as contributing to community projects, travellers can opt to develop their sporting skills abroad and gain qualifications in everything from ski and

snowboard instruction to scuba diving.

Of course running a travel company has given James ample opportunity to spread his own wings. "I always get a buzz thinking of the friendships I have made along the way and the experiences I have had. I have completed all sections of my Duke of Edinburgh Award in the process and have shaken hands with royalty, come face-to-face with wild animals in Africa and scored winning goals in football matches, not to mention snowboarding in some of the best ski resorts in the world."

He would advise anyone thinking of setting up a business in future to: "Just do it and believe that your ideas can become something. Good instinct, vision, planning and belief in yourself are the keys. Get the right people on board to enjoy the ride with you and - during tough times - remember why you wanted to do it in the first place."

For further information about GAP SPORTS, see www.gapsports.com or call 0871 221 2929

Getting mobile

Two new media artists have walked away with a top international award for devising a game which truly gets to the heart of matters...

Rachel Jacobs and Matt Watkins (Creative Arts 1994) scooped the NOKIA Ubimedia MindTrek Award for their work on *Heartlands* - a mobile phone game which is controlled by the players' heart rate as they walk.

As well as offering an intriguing combination of art and technology, *Heartlands* aims to tackle the growing obesity problem by encouraging people to get moving and take the right steps to become fitter.

Harnessing global positioning technology and a heart rate monitor, the game challenges players to keep their heart rate healthy while exploring a virtual map. That map is recreated live on the mobile phone as the journey takes place.

The game was designed to encourage people of all ages to walk to work and school and to consider making other everyday journeys by foot rather than jumping in the car. It also demonstrates how computer games - so

often criticised for encouraging sedentary lifestyles - can actually be used to help promote exercise.

Heartlands was developed under the auspices of 'Active Ingredient', the successful Nottingham-based company which Rachel and Matt established in 1996 with Gareth Howell (Creative Arts 1993) and Zini Pandya (Business Studies 1995). They specialise in the field of

interactive media and have won international attention for a range of unusual artworks and projects. They first presented the game at Nottingham's very own Radiator Festival of New Technology

Art in 2005, a festival with close links to the university's School of Art and Design. Since then it has been showcased at events as far afield as Singapore, Berlin, San Francisco, Tokyo and Sao Paulo in Brazil.

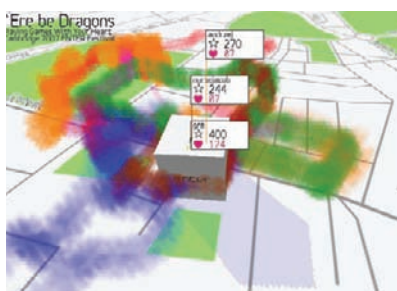
The highlight, however, came with the MindTrek accolade - a unique worldwide award celebrating technology which intelligently adapts to human activities. Of *Heartlands*, the judges said: "Art and technology are very rarely found to be bound to reality this tightly - making an ordinary activity like running an exciting task."

Rachel enthused: "We're thrilled at how well the game has been received - and triumphing over more than 140 international submissions to win the MindTrek Award was another cause for celebration."

Active Ingredient are now busy extending the multiplayer version of the game, enabling people to connect online to play against friends, as well as store and share the journeys they have made.

Rachel and Matt have attracted research grants and funding from a variety of sources to turn their ideas into reality. They also teamed up with the University of Nottingham's 'Mixed Reality Lab' to develop their concepts.

“We're thrilled at how well the game has been received”



Zoe votes for journalism

As the race to become the next US President heats up, one alumna is better placed than most to give an insight into the battle for the White House.

Furthering her ambitions to become a political journalist, Zoe Curtis (Broadcast Journalism 2007) spent eight weeks in Washington DC reporting on the build-up to one of the most intriguing and intense electoral contests in US history.

She researched whether female and black candidates help reduce youth apathy towards the campaigns - a vital theme with Hilary Clinton and Barack Obama going head-to-head to clinch the Democratic nomination.

Zoe seized the chance to work in the world's political epicentre after winning a place on a top academic and internship programme. The placement, usually only awarded to the best US journalism students, came courtesy of the Institute on Political Journalism.

Working at WAMU 88.5 News Radio, Washington's only non-commercial news station, Zoe documented the attitudes of socially excluded and disadvantaged young people for a series on youth voting.

Even closer to the ultimate corridors of power, she also spent time at Capitol News Connection, which provides news from the White House and Capitol Hill to the nation's public radio stations.

Although she has been travelling in Africa and South America before pursuing her career, Zoe has remained in touch with the US campaigns. She said: "The elections have created a wave of interest from young Americans who say they are tired of feeling neglected by a government which ignores their anti-war stance and pleas for environment friendly laws. True excitement seems to have been prompted by Barack Obama, whom many feel can reinvent America."

She added: "The whole Washington experience gave me a real insight into political journalism."

Our honours list

The names of two distinguished personalities were added to NTU's special roll call of honour at the autumn graduation ceremonies.



Our latest honorary graduates - fashion supremo Hilary Alexander and acclaimed sportsman Lee Westwood - joined in the celebrations with more than 1,000 former students who collected their own awards on the day.

Fashion Director of *The Daily Telegraph* and a leading authority on style issues, Hilary received the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Design in recognition of her outstanding support for students, graduates and aspiring new designers.

Hilary has a particularly high profile among fashion students because of the expert advice and invaluable encouragement she gives to budding designers. She plays a pivotal role during Graduate Fashion Week and other major

competitions where she acts as a judge.

Twice winner of the British Fashion Journalist of the Year title, she has extensive broadcasting experience, including three years on BBC2's *Style Challenge* and regular appearances on shows such as *GMTV*, *Lorraine Kelly* and *BBC Breakfast*.

In addition, she was the featured stylist in the Living TV series *Britain's Next Top Model* and has appeared in various documentaries worldwide.

Lee Westwood received the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science for his major contribution to golf, both as a highly successful international player and as an ambassador for the sport.

Nottinghamshire-born Lee took up golf at the age of 13, turning professional when

he was 20. He announced his arrival on the world stage in 1996 with his maiden victory on the European Tour at the Volvo Scandinavian Masters.

In 2000, his most successful year to date, he won no fewer than seven tournaments worldwide and was ranked first in the Volvo Order of Merit. Lee has also represented Europe in a series of Ryder Cup events.

Last year saw him return to international prominence, notching up impressive results in tournaments in Andalucia and Shanghai. Just a few weeks before receiving his honorary degree, he also won the Quinn Direct British Masters at the Belfry following what was one of the most gripping final rounds in the event's history.

Warm tributes paid

Two well-known members of staff have bid a fond farewell to the university.

Retiring after almost 20 years' service, Professor David Webb - Pro Vice-Chancellor and Head of the College of Business, Law and Social Sciences - was thanked for his 'outstanding contribution' to the university.

David (pictured top with his wife, Anne) originally joined the Department of Social Studies at Trent Polytechnic in 1988. He became Professor of Sociology two years later and in 1995 took up the role of Associate Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences at what was by then Nottingham Trent University.

Within two years he had become Dean and - after the university was restructured in 2004 - was appointed Head of the College of Business, Law and Social Sciences.

Colleagues attended a farewell reception where various speakers praised Professor Webb for his vision, dedication and achievements which have contributed so much to the success of NTU today.

Meanwhile, tributes were also paid to Dr Roger Sexton - Lecturer in Academic Legal Studies within Nottingham Law School - who bowed out after 37 years' service.

Dr Sexton is well known to alumni not only for his law teaching but also for his enduring passion for transport issues. Over the decades, he has been involved in a wide range of campaigns to protect and improve public transport provision. He is regularly sought out to provide expert opinion and his views have had a national impact, for instance influencing decisions taken by the Commons Transport Committee.



Reunions

Can it really be **that** many years since you left university? Maybe it's time to rekindle old friendships and get back together again - just like some of the alumni featured here.

Fresh fields for BOSA tour

As part of the BOSA 50th anniversary reunion tour, 29 former Brackenhurst students went on a special journey together to Western Canada.

They flew to Vancouver in June 2007 and began their trip with a sightseeing tour of the city and visits to a cranberry growing concern, dairy farm and fruit-growing farm.

They then joined the Gold Leaf Rocky Mountaineer for an interesting journey through the magnificent scenery of the Canadian Rockies taking in Salmon Arm, the Kootenay Central Mountain Range - including dinner at the Eagle's Eye, North America's highest restaurant - and Banff National Park.

Visits during the tour included Pincher Creek, a trout hatchery that bred pedigree mosquitoes as well as trout, a beef ranch and the historic Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump. They also visited local family farms before heading to Calgary where they watched the Stampede.

Rosalyn Sneath (Rural Economy 1957) said: "It was a memorable tour and enjoyed by all - we missed all the wet weather back home in England too!"



Above: All aboard the Rocky Mountaineer - the group set off on their reunion journey. Top: The way we were at Brackenhurst.

Gifted way to celebrate

Unable to get together in time for Christmas, NTU Alumni China decided to hold a party to celebrate the start of 2008 instead!

Eight members of the group met up at an Italian restaurant in Beijing where they exchanged gifts and enjoyed champagne and great food.

Alumni Ambassador for China, Xie Fang (Newspaper Journalism 2004) said: "We had a great time and had real fun exchanging our gifts. I contributed an NTU teddy bear which the other members of the group loved!"

If you are based in China, and would like to join the alumni group there, do let us know by emailing alumni@ntu.ac.uk. If you are interested in creating an alumni group in your own country, please also get in touch.

Designs on getting together

This year sees the final cohort graduating from the Design, Development and Regeneration course.

Alumnus Rupert Hilton is hoping to organise a reunion for past students of this course in the summer.

If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Rupert via the Alumni Association on +44 (0)115 848 8777 or at alumni@ntu.ac.uk

Were you an LPC pioneer?

Rob Bratby and Gail Warrander are planning a reunion for the first-ever intake of the LPC course (1993-1994).

If you are interested in finding out more about the reunion, please contact Rob and Gail via the Alumni Association on +44 (0)115 848 8777 or at alumni@ntu.ac.uk

Planning a reunion in 2008?

Don't forget to ask for a Reunion Pack. Put together in association with Experience Nottinghamshire, it contains tips on arranging your reunion and how the Alumni Association can help you get in touch with your "old" friends. It also gives information on venues and hotels in Nottingham.

Packs are free - all we ask is that you let us know about your reunion (and maybe share some photographs).

Of course, you don't have to be arranging a reunion to make contact with your friends. We can help you get back in touch with lost friends through our email and letter-forwarding service. Do let us know if you are trying to trace a university friend. If we are in contact with them, we will email or write to them and request that they contact you. You can also post your contact details at www.ntualumni.org.uk

To find a friend or obtain a Reunion Pack, please contact us at alumni@ntu.ac.uk or call +44 (0)115 848 8777



Wedding news

Holly Straker | Modern European Studies 1997

Got married to Benjamin Hamps in August 2007. The wedding took place at St Mary's Church in Reigate in glorious sunshine followed by a marquee reception at the family home. Other alumni at the wedding were Tim and Louise Barley (née Lupton) and Louise James (née Abblitt). The couple honeymooned in Sardinia.

Robert Merrett | Graphic Communication Management 2004 **Nisha Patel | European Business 2004**

Married in October 2007 at Krishna Temple, Bolton. The wedding was attended by over 1,000 people and was followed by a reception at the Egerton House Hotel. Other alumni attending were best man Peter Crellen, James Holt, Karen Hutchinson, Vic Tyler, Daniel Siviter, Oliver Sorby, Caroline Antoinette, Helen Stephens and Victoria Blewitt. The couple's honeymoon took them to the Costa de la Luz.

Mark Reynolds | European Business 2001

Got married in October 2007 at St Lawrence's Church, Stanmore, followed by a reception at the Corus Hotel Elstree. Other alumni who attended were James Filmer and George Battye. The couple had a week-long honeymoon in the New Forest which was really relaxing.

Jonathan Heath | Computer Studies 2001

Met wife Anna in 2004 when they were working at Connexions Nottinghamshire. Jonathan proposed on her birthday in New York and they tied the knot in September 2007 at St Mary's Church, Arnold, Nottingham. The honeymoon was in Las Vegas, Cancun and New York. The couple now live in Mansfield, Nottinghamshire.

Shilpa Devani | Law 2002

Got married to Sanjay Shanbhag whom she met in 2005 when he came to visit the UK from Toronto, Canada. The civil wedding ceremony took place in December 2006 in Toronto and they continued to live in separate countries until the Hindu wedding in June 2007 in London. The couple then flew to the French Polynesian Islands for a honeymoon and returned to live in Canada. Other alumni attending the wedding were Emma Wilkinson and Catherine Delamore.

Catherine Wilson | MA Contemporary Arts 2001

Married Younes Eddamri in November 2007. The ceremony took place at his home in Marrakech. Catherine, who met Younes on holiday, is now studying for a PhD at Nottingham University.

Gareth Jenkins | Business Information Systems 2001

Louise Fielding | Primary Education 2006

Got married in July 2007 at St John the Baptist Church in Leicester followed by a reception at the Grand Hotel. The couple met at the Horn in Hand pub on Goldsmith Street. Other alumni attending were: Harshed Patel, Alesh Tailor, Bhavin Patani, Bhavesh Tailor, chief bridesmaid Karen Bateman, Adam O'Brien, Lauren Clements, Alex Dawson, Shelley Rose and Angela Rudkin. The couple honeymooned in Italy.

Kristina Lloyd | PG Dip Personnel Management 2006

Got married to Graham Fisher in July 2007 at The Trent Building, Nottingham University. The couple met in 2002 whilst working at the same company. They are planning a rather belated honeymoon in July 2008 to San Tropez.

Claire Smith | Business Studies 2000

Married Peter Hall in September 2007 at St John the Evangelist Church, Manthorpe, Lincolnshire. The reception was at Belton Park Golf Club. The couple spent their honeymoon in Mexico and are now living in Grantham.

Victoria Mould | Politics 2002

Samuel Lever | Electrical and Electronic Engineering 2003

Got married in November 2007 at Bruisyard Hall, Suffolk. The couple met in Norton Court halls of residence during their first year at NTU. Other alumni at the wedding were: Andrew Gray, Antony Roberts, bridesmaid Krysia Januszewski, Kate Bishop, Rachael Walsh, Karl Swift, Sonia Cupit, Amy Sykes, Hannah Houston, Jenny Stafford and Gina Head. The couple are now living in a village on the outskirts of Cambridge.

Gary Jones | Real Estate Management 2003

Married Julie Laughton in December 2007. The wedding took place at St John's Anglican Church in Melbourne, Australia, followed by a champagne cocktail reception on the 35th floor of the Sofitel Melbourne. Alumnus Mark Diaper attended as best man. Gary and Julie enjoyed a honeymoon in the Whitsunday Islands in Queensland, prior to returning to Melbourne for Christmas and home to Beijing for the New Year.

Pictured from top left: Robert and Nisha; Gareth and Louise; Kristina and Graham; Jonathan and Anna

Past and Present

Fifties, sixties and seventies

Ian Campbell | Education 1967

Just completing a 37 foot steel sailboat for a South Pacific voyage.

John Morris | Textile Technology 1971

Awarded gold medal by the Society of Dyers and Colourists for services to the Textile Industry and Standardisation.

John Poynter | Chemistry 1972, Education 1992 and MEd Education 1993

Most of my career has involved lecturing in Further Education - initially in Chemistry, then in Computer Science and more recently in English as a Foreign Language. Since 1995 I have been living in Estonia and now lecture for Tartu University at the Narva College site.

Anthony Fisher | Photography 1977

Exhibiting all over. My daughter Amy is now studying Fine Art at NTU and we hope to do a joint show next year!

Eighties

Timothy Halstead | Business Studies 1980

Last summer I did a 250-mile bike ride in four days from London to Rheims in aid of the British Heart Foundation.

Elisabeth Evans | 3D Design (Theatre) 1987

I have designed sets and costumes for over 70 shows, the most recent being *The Tempest* for Northern Broadsides which is touring the UK and China. I have three daughters, an architect husband and an organic vegetable plot.

Nineties

Richard Green | Combined Studies in Sciences 1990

Currently an inspector with North Wales Police in charge of a unit responsible for performance and the supervision of investigations. Married for 16 years with a teenage son and daughter. Regrettably I have not kept in contact with any of my former classmates.

Julie Coulson (née Thornton) | PGCE Primary Education 1991

I took up a post with the NHS in 1992, remarried in 1993 and had my third child in 1994 (a daughter after two sons). I still work with the NHS in Nottingham and am now on a secondment as Commissioning Manager. In 1996 I discovered a passion for dancing - starting with line dancing and now modern jive.

Nigel Fletcher | Urban Estate Surveying 1991

Established my own chartered surveyors practice last September in the historic cathedral town of Southwell. Carrying out the full range of professional property and valuation services.

David Gallagher | Accounting and Finance 1992

Last summer I spent six weeks on a sponsored cycle ride around Britain visiting Samaritans branches (I've been a volunteer at the Leicester branch for six years). See: www.samaritour.com

Phillip Jordan | Quantity Surveying 1993, PG Diploma Law 1997 and Legal Practice Course 1998

After completing the LPC, I trained as a solicitor at Walker Morris in Leeds. Upon qualification I joined Addleshaw Booth & Co as a corporate finance solicitor and then worked for Eversheds. In 2006 I joined Fabricom Contracting Limited as their in-house counsel. I travel to many overseas locations to pursue my hobby of fishing.

Peter Shore | Engineering 1993 and Electrical and Electronic Engineering 1996

Still active in the process control engineering industry where I have been proprietor of my own business for over six years. I hope all staff in the former EEE department are well and would like to say hello to all my fellow students from the 1996 graduation year.

Kevin Mitchem | Sport (Administration and Science) 1994

I have managed sports venues and gyms, and have coached various sports. I now teach kitesurfing and run kitesurfing holidays to Tarifa, Spain. See: www.HighFlyersTarifa.com. NTU alumni most welcome!

Patrick Lorkin | Business Studies 1995

Working hard on a start-up venture. Backed by Wikalo and Virgin, I plan to make PC games on demand (in minutes) a reality. Think of us as an 'iTunes' for PC games. Find us at www.Awomo.com

Kara Townsend | Graphic Design 1995

I backpacked around Australia and Canada, then returned to my birth town of Bristol and completed a postgrad course in Art Education at Bath Spa University. Worked for a year as an art teacher before emigrating to Perth. Would love to hear from old pals!

Deborah Cutts (née Hunt) | International Hospitality Management 1996

After six years in conference and banqueting sales in London, I took a year out to travel around Australia where I met my husband. I returned home and started training young people completing NVQs in Hospitality. Got married in 2005 and moved to Australia in 2006. I work in the Graduate Careers Office at the University of Ballarat.

Ann Marshall (née Bradley) | Humanities 1996

Co-writing a book for *Which?* magazine in their *Essential Guides* series. I've also written a series of area guides for a relocation agent, and sold two short stories to national magazines. Exciting times!

Martin Bibb | Civil Engineering 1997 and 2000

After five years working for MJ Gleeson in the UK, fancied a change of scenery and took up an opportunity to work in Australia. Now with Leighton Contractors in Sydney. Married, no kids and having a ball!

Lydia Bourne | Photography 1998

Moved to Sark in the Channel Islands in 2006. Opening a small photography shop selling images taken locally. Sark is such a beautiful island - with 600 habitants, no cars, no street lamps and no tarmac roads. A very peaceful place to bring up a one-year-old.

Diana Bathgate | Psychology and Environment 1999

I work with Yorkshire and South Humberside Prison Service and have achieved my MSc in Applied Forensic Psychology.

Noughties

Elizabeth Clark | Science (Applied Food Studies) 2000

Loving retirement after seven hectic years teaching Food Technology. I'm able to develop my skills now - rag rugs, knitting, rambling, family research and helping on the farm where I live.

Martyn Blundell | MA Fine Art 2001

Opening a small art school in Competa, Spain. Will run short courses for postgrad students and professionals in drawing, creative writing, video making and digital imaging.

Matthew Cole | Broadcast Journalism 2001

Freelancing in London for Setanta Sports News and Sky Sports News.

Gregory Mahoney | Computer Studies 2001

Spent over two years working in financial information analysis and management roles for major blue chip companies. In 2003 was introduced to the front office environment studying for professional exams in Investment Management for Securities, working in London, then Frankfurt and Zurich, and now back in London.

Tara Birkett (née Grimes) | Graphic Design 2002

Worked as graphic designer for TV channels *attheraces* and *Racing UK*, then at IMG Media. Worked a season in a hotel in Les Deux Alpes. Moved to London and got married to Jon in Norfolk last year.

Rachel Watson | Psychology 2002

Held a successful art exhibition, started a band and travelled to India. Currently studying hypnotherapy and non-violent communication.

Stuart Clifford | MA Total Quality Management 2003

My wife and I left Nottingham for a 'life in the country' in the Scottish Highlands where I am a furniture maker/restorer and carpenter while my wife Chris runs our bed and breakfast (I help too).

Tarah Coonan | Communication Studies 2004

Aiming to get into photojournalism. Going travelling around South East Asia with my camera and will then do a Masters in Photography.

Nick Cowell | Business Studies 2005

Regularly meet course friends and former members of NTU Rowing Club. Now manage activation of Etihad Airways sponsorship within Harlequins RFC and Chelsea FC as well as their involvement in F1.

Steven Grainger | Theatre Design 2005

I've worked on TV dramas as Art Department Assistant and Assistant Art Director as well as costume dresser on *In the Night Garden* produced by Ragdoll Ltd. I now have a contract on *Deal or No Deal*.

Jason Green | Modern Languages 2006

Married Cristina Salmeron Fernandez last May. We live in Spain along with two rescued kittens and are about to buy a third property.

Yvonne Jones | Wildlife Conservation 2006 and Animal Science 2007

Now working as a conservation advisor for Natural England and looking forward to continuing studies at Brackenhurst via a PhD.

Leah McLaren | Photography 2007

Now a photographer at the *Derby Evening Telegraph* where the work experiences are priceless. Also had pictures published in *The Sun* and *The Daily Mirror* - hopefully the makings of a long, successful career.

Dal Darroch | Business Studies 2006

I am travelling across the jungles of Borneo, Malaysia, to raise money for young disadvantaged people for the Prince's Trust - walking, hiking, biking and kayaking across over 300km of rough terrain. Please support me at: www.justgiving.com/BorneoChallenge08

Obituaries

Sydney Alexander (Agriculture 1948)

Much loved husband of Olive, Syd died in November 2007. Syd joined Brackenhurst in 1949 as Animal Husbandry Lecturer, later helping organise the apprenticeship scheme in the county. He left in 1968 to become National Training Advisor with the Agricultural Training Board in Kent - a post he held until 1982. He was then appointed to the Youth Training Scheme in Maidstone where he stayed until retiring in 1989. Syd was Vice President of Brackenhurst Old Students Association and enjoyed several trips abroad with members. In his home community of Harrietsham, he served on the Parish Council for eight years and co-ordinated schemes to enhance the village's appearance. He was a highly principled, well respected member of his church and will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

Osmond Brown (Combined Studies in Sciences 1994)

Osmond died very suddenly in April 2007 after suffering a blood clot following a flight back from a family holiday. Osmond met his wife, Ruth, at university where they studied the same course. They married in August 2005 and had two children - Ellie and Louis. He was a wonderful husband, father, son, brother and a fabulous friend. He was much loved by all and highly regarded in his profession as a Computer Analyst Manager at Barclays Capital in London. He will be sadly missed.

Malvin Carte (Occupational Health and Safety Management 1999)

Much loved husband of Lorie and father of Joel, Malvin passed away in October 2007. Malvin thoroughly enjoyed his time at university and hoped to return to education at some point. After university he worked for LPMS Croner Consulting, then at Tranfield Group as a Health, Safety and Environmental Advisor. In his spare time he enjoyed reading and touring England and Europe in a caravan. He enjoyed the freedom a caravan allowed - although, following a wonderful holiday in the Caribbean, he joked that he would become a beach bum after he retired!

Marguerite Howard (Humanities 1997, PGCE Further Education 1999)

Much loved wife of Peter and mother to David and Paul, Marguerite passed away in November 2007. Over the years she did a lot for others and was responsible for starting the Asthma Campaign's Nottingham branch - raising money to buy nebulisers, especially for children. She undertook voluntary work in schools, helped asylum seekers and refugees, and worked for Inter Faith Co-operation. Her funeral was attended by around 350 people. Her ashes are buried at St Mary's, Attenborough.

David Lenan (Quantity Surveying 1974)

Dear husband to Esther and father to Katherine and Oliver. David passed away suddenly in February 2008, aged 56. He had lived in Hong Kong since 1986, after working in Kuwait, Indonesia, Amsterdam, Dubai, Nottingham, Peterborough and Malaysia. His last project was with ARUP on Stone Cutters Bridge. He played amateur rugby in his youth and coached children's rugby. His holidays often combined golfing and deep sea fishing. Faith was central to his life. Studying a lay theology course, he planned to volunteer as an assistant leader, was a Church Warden at Emmanuel Church, Pokfulam and served on the St John's Cathedral Council. These offices came from a genuine desire to serve others and support their journey of faith.

Clare Smith (Education 1962)

A dear friend to all who knew her, Clare passed away in October 2007, aged 82. A teacher for many years, she gave talks about her life experiences to church groups and the WI. She enjoyed reading, crosswords and many European holidays with her close friend Pat Beardsley. Clare's ashes were to be buried in the grounds of Gleneagles Hotel, along with her beloved cat Sammy. Clare loved Gleneagles and held her 80th birthday party there. She is sadly missed.



Who will be our Alumnus of the Year 2008?

**The search is on...
and you can help!**

Do you know someone who studied at NTU - or any of its predecessor institutions* - who deserves recognition for their achievements? It could be a friend, relative, employee, manager or colleague...

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?

This is your chance to put them forward for our special award. For more information - and for details on how to nominate - visit the alumni website at www.ntualumni.org.uk

The deadline for nominations is
Friday 18 July 2008

NOTTINGHAM
TRENT UNIVERSITY 

*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.