

Spring 2009

Network

NTU alumni... you're part of it

Alumni giving hits a high note

Chancellor's Appeal:
support the future

Meet alumni who
make a difference

City aims to be
Capital of Design

Venture out with
our latest offers

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Our 2008 winner, Louise Holland of Cancer Research UK - the motivating force behind the 'Race for Life' fundraising series - received her award from Chancellor Sir Michael Parkinson CBE at our November graduation ceremony. Help us find the alumnus who will follow in her footsteps this year.

Who will be our Alumnus of the Year 2009?

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 26 June 2009**

*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.

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Welcome to Network



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

As usual, the magazine is packed with

news from Nottingham, your University and your fellow alumni. This issue highlights how alumni are making a difference around the world - from equine welfare groups in South Africa to refugee projects in Syria.

You don't have to go that far, however, to make a lasting contribution. Read on to find out how alumni can give something back to the University by supporting the Chancellor's Building Futures Appeal, by giving guest lectures or by acting as an online mentor to current students.

Donations to our Alumni Fund also continue to play a vital role in enhancing the NTU learning experience: as you'll see from the front page, we are delighted to announce our first special awards for music.

In return for your support, we are able to

offer you an exciting range of exclusive benefits. Did you know that your venture card now gets you 20% discount at Go Ape! Sherwood Forest, Nottingham's Galleries of Justice and the City of Caves? And we're still offering you 10% discount on holiday cottages throughout Europe.

Following the success of last year's event at the House of Commons, we'd also like to invite you to a special alumni reception at Drapers' Hall in London hosted by our Chancellor, Sir Michael Parkinson. Here you will be able to meet NTU staff and fellow alumni and hear more about what's happening at your University. See page 07 to find out how to book your place.

We are always happy to hear from you, so please keep sending in your updates, news and stories - and don't forget to put in your nomination for the recipient of the 2009 Alumnus of the Year Award.

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Message from the Vice-Chancellor



It's an exciting time to be part of the Nottingham Trent University community.

We are currently celebrating the outcome of the latest Research

Assessment Exercise, which underlines our reputation for world-class research.

We also took pride in the results of the annual *Times Higher Education* Student Experience Survey. As alumni, you'll already know all about the exceptional student experience on offer at NTU - and it was reinforced in this survey where we achieved a top ten ranking for post-'92 universities. We secured particularly high scores for our strong connections with industry, excellent library provision, vibrant campus environment and high-quality facilities.

Later this year we will unveil a project which will make those facilities even more outstanding. The stunning transformation of our Newton and Arkwright buildings is nearing completion. Overleaf you can read more about this landmark scheme, one of the most important in NTU's history.

We are also announcing the Chancellor's Building Futures Appeal - fronted by our first-ever Chancellor Sir Michael Parkinson - to help us complete the state-of-the-art Student Support Centre which will become the heart of the new-look City campus.

I hope you will consider supporting the appeal and enriching the educational experience of future generations of students. You have already been an important part of the Nottingham Trent University success story - now you can write your name into the next chapter.

Professor Neil T Gorman
Vice-Chancellor

Contents

page 06 World-class research



page 07 Meet Sir Michael Parkinson at our special reception

page 08 Swing into action with our latest exclusive benefits



page 10 Alumni hit the headlines

page 12 Social work's vital role

page 14 Refugees take a fresh angle on the power of photography



page 18 News from Nottingham

page 26 Past and Present

Front cover: The generosity of alumni is music to the ears of violinist Ellie Forbes, winner of our first Alumni Fund Award for Music. See page 12.

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Growing inspiration

The Chancellor's Building Futures Appeal invites former students to hand down a timeless gift to their future counterparts.



For some time now, two of Nottingham Trent University's best known landmarks, the iconic Newton and Arkwright buildings, have been undergoing an impressive restoration programme that will transform the University's city campus and secure the future of education for students in Nottingham.

An unrivalled city centre campus

The first phase of the work is already complete and over the coming months the new design will take shape.

Newton is now ready to accommodate ten new lecture theatres and a number of IT rooms; between them providing 25,000m² of first class teaching and learning space. There will also be general purpose teaching rooms, seminar rooms and syndicate rooms within the new flexible environment, with glazed partitions dividing each room from the corridor to maximise natural light and accentuate space. Newton will also become the new home of Nottingham Business School.

In the Arkwright building, so astonishing has been the interior transformation that there are numerous imaginative options for how the building can be optimised to deliver an exceptional education for future generations of students.

The buildings old and new will be balanced by attractive open spaces. The quadrangle, with its pools, plants and



The link building and central court will be at the heart of social and cultural life for students.



seating areas, will be a relaxing focal point, popular on warm days.

Linking past and present

At the heart of the restoration project is the new central court and link building. They unite the two iconic buildings to create a stunning space in which to locate a new main entrance that reflects the history and aspirations of a 21st century centre of academic excellence.

Beneath the glazed atrium will be the beating heart of the University. The new central court and link building will provide social and cultural space, enabling students to meet and share ideas, discuss course work or simply while away some free time with a coffee.

Within the link building itself, a significant space has been dedicated to creating a new and integrated Student Support Centre. That's great news for everyone who remembers trailing around buildings across the city campus just to sort out an issue with finance, accommodation or to replace a lost library card.

Help us realise our vision

The University's first-ever Chancellor's Building Futures Appeal will unite former students across the generations. The recently installed Chancellor, Sir Michael Parkinson, is calling on former students to come together and support one vital aspect of the whole project: **to raise £200,000 to**



A glazed atrium and space for an impressive new front door

fund the final part of the new and integrated Student Support Centre.

Serving 20,000 undergraduates and 5,000 postgraduates, the state-of-the-art centre will provide everything that students need to get the best of everything the University has to offer; from accessing wireless communications, intranets and virtual library resources, to finding accommodation and sorting out finances, student employment and longer-term careers advice.

Future proof

Considerable care, talent and imagination has gone into designing a centre that stays in step with technological, environmental and professional developments, so that future students will find it as welcoming, appropriate and easy to use as students in 2009.

A great start

The University is grateful to a charitable trust for its generous donation of £500,000 to kickstart the creation of the new Student Support Centre.



Behind Arkwright's gothic exterior lies a host of new spaces with wonderful potential for teaching and learning.



X marks the spot: the likely location for the new integrated Student Support Centre

The remaining £200,000 from alumni and friends will complete the centre.

Gifts of any amount can and will make a huge difference to the student experience and the services offered by the centre. From £30 to help provide private consulting rooms where students can receive confidential advice and support to £1,000 to help provide self-serve PCs with state-of-the-art technology, everyone can play their collective part in achieving the £200,000 target.

A warm thank-you

Every gift to the Chancellor's Building Futures Appeal will be appropriately recognised and celebrated by the University. Various spaces around the new development will be dedicated to thanking everyone who contributes to the project.

The greatest thanks of all will come from the tens of thousands of students who will benefit as a result. They will experience the gift of a new and integrated Student Support Centre: a vital source of help, encouragement and inspiration during their time at Nottingham Trent University.

For more information, please call 0115 848 8809 or visit: www.ntu.ac.uk/chancellorsappeal



Preserving the best of the past: the Newton building will offer a truly inspirational learning environment.

Among the latest NTU research projects grabbing the headlines are:



A new study exploring the links between homelessness and other elements of social exclusion. The focus is on single people whose experiences combine homelessness with indicators like unemployment and mental health problems.



Scientific investigations which could lead to a reliable, accurate and simple blood test to diagnose Alzheimer's disease. This important work is being undertaken in association with the University of Nottingham.



The housing of an archive at NTU to feature the correspondence of the pioneering explorer and naturalist Sir Joseph Banks, who sailed with James Cook and arranged William Bligh's infamous voyage on HMS Bounty.



Tests taking place in collaboration with the Universities of Bath and Plymouth to assess the durability of straw bale houses. These houses, which can use bales for both load-bearing walls and infill, are growing popular with self-builders.

First rate research

Nottingham Trent University reinforced its reputation as a leading institution with world-class research - as the results of the latest Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) were unveiled.

The RAE, a vital benchmark of the quality and originality of research across UK universities, brought an outstanding outcome for NTU. Some 74% of the activity submitted by our research teams was rated as achieving international status ... and 8% of the work was classed as world-leading.

A good proportion of NTU's submissions compared favourably with those of the UK's most research-intensive traditional universities.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Neil Gorman said: "This is a great achievement and congratulations must go to all the staff whose excellence and dedication led to such a strong performance.

"The breadth and depth of our research portfolio highlights how important it is to NTU's culture. Research is an essential activity that underpins our learning and teaching and we are committed to encouraging it at all levels."

More than 200 NTU staff - a mix of established and early career researchers

- took part in the latest RAE and entered their work for 16 Units of Assessment covering a variety of academic disciplines.

Each submission was assessed by an independent panel made up of representatives from higher education and the wider research community.

They looked at factors such as the quality of scholarly outputs, the research environment and peer esteem.

The results not only verify the exceptional standard of our work but have also led to a 75% increase in research funding income for NTU from the Higher Education Funding Council for England.

Among the most highly rated of NTU's Units of Assessment - where there were significant levels of research activity rated as world-leading or internationally excellent - were those for Biomedical Sciences (Allied Health Professions and Studies), General Engineering, Social Policy, and Communication, Culture and Media Studies.

“The breadth and depth of our research portfolio highlights how important it is to NTU's culture”

Find out more about how NTU is shaping lives and society - through high-quality social work training - on page 12

Special invitation

You're welcome to join us as the University's Chancellor, Sir Michael Parkinson CBE, hosts a sparkling alumni reception in one of London's most ornate and prestigious settings.

Interested in an evening out at a spectacular historic venue in the company of your fellow alumni as well as NTU's Chancellor Sir Michael Parkinson?

The Alumni Association is delighted to announce that it will be holding a special reception at Drapers' Hall in London on Tuesday 16 June.

The event, which will start at 7 pm, will be our first alumni reception hosted by Sir Michael. It will give you an opportunity to hear about the latest developments at your University and gain an update on the Chancellor's Building Futures Appeal.

It is also a great chance to meet up with other alumni and NTU staff - and to make some new business contacts while enjoying drinks and canapés. It could even provide the ideal occasion for a class, hall or sports society reunion.

Drapers' Hall is a prestigious venue in the City of London, with an outstanding

collection of artworks, artefacts and archives developed down the centuries. Adorned with magnificent ceiling paintings and a fascinating collection of royal portraits, some parts of this impressive livery hall date back to the 1660s.

Alumni Officer Clare Oswin said: "Following on from the huge success of our receptions at the Gherkin and the House of Commons, this is our third major event in London - and Drapers' Hall gives us an equally remarkable setting for a reception.

"It will also be a very special occasion because of the presence of Sir Michael, who is playing such an important role as the figurehead of our University."

Tickets are £30 per person and can be booked online at: www.ntualumni.org.uk or by telephone on 0115 848 8776. Special offers apply for group bookings - just call for details. For more information on Drapers' Hall, see: www.thedrapers.co.uk



Talking points

Three star turns on the lecture circuit are heading for Nottingham Trent University.

Our popular Distinguished Lecture series continues with three high-profile events later this year.

On November 4, we welcome Professor Baroness Susan Greenfield, the distinguished scientist, broadcaster, writer and best-selling author of *The Human Brain: A Guided Tour* and *Brain Story* among other works. Her lectures take the audience through the mysteries of memory, cognition and perception.

Another well-known personality from the world of science, Professor Lord Robert Winston, will join us on December 2. Lord Winston - who has fronted

landmark TV series such as *The Human Body* and *Child of our Time* - believes that public engagement with science is vital and his own research has helped improve reproductive medicines.

On December 9, garden designer, TV personality and NTU honorary graduate Diarmuid Gavin will entertain the audience with his trademark charm and innovative approach to design.

Alumni and their friends are very welcome to join us at the events. The lectures are free to attend but will be ticketed. To book a place, please email: events.team@ntu.ac.uk

Memories are made of this

Did you know that the School of Education celebrates its 50th anniversary next year? The Alumni Association is already putting plans in place for a special event on Clifton campus in autumn 2010 to mark the occasion.

If you are one of our many Education graduates, do remember to keep in touch with us so that you are included on our invitation list next year. Over the decades, we have unfortunately lost touch with some of our former students, so please pass on the news of this special event to your 'old' classmates and ask them to make contact with us.

And if you have any stories, special memories or photographs from your time with the School of Education, please let us know. They may well be featured as part of our celebrations!

Need to escape?

A man with light-colored hair and eyes, wearing a dark beret, a white shirt, a dark tie, and a dark jacket with brass buttons, is looking directly at the camera. He is holding a large, ornate metal key in his right hand. The background is a dark, textured rock wall, possibly inside a tunnel or a prison. The lighting is dramatic, with the man's face and the key being the main points of focus.

It's time to get out!
Grab the keys to an
action-packed
summer with the
help of our special
offers on a range of
top attractions and
holiday adventures.



Treat yourself - and have some fun - with our latest range of benefits and discounts exclusively for NTU alumni.

It would be a crime to miss this!

He may look forbidding but our gaoler friend (*left*) will guide you on a journey into the dark and dramatic history of one of Nottingham's most historic sites.

The Crime and Punishment tour at the award-winning Galleries of Justice - formerly a court and prison - brings the misdeeds, experiences and fates of people who once occupied the buildings vividly to life.

NTU alumni are entitled to a 20% discount when presenting their venture card at the Galleries and its sister attraction, the City of Caves. Plan your exciting visit at: www.galleriesofjustice.org.uk and www.cityofcaves.com - and for full details of this popular alumni benefit, see: www.ntualumni.org.uk

Get into the swing of things

Hit the heights of adventure with a spot of monkeying around at one of Nottinghamshire's best-loved attractions - Go Ape! Climb rope ladders, swing into giant nets, zip wire through trees, crawl through tunnels and inch along high-wire bridges.

This fun day out for budding Tarzans is now available to daring NTU alumni at a 20% discount on the normal entry prices. You will be fitted with a climbing harness and given instruction before heading off on your tree-top escapades high above the forest floor. The Go Ape! experience is open to thrill-seekers over ten years old, although under-18s must be accompanied by a participating adult.

Enjoy your discount by quoting NTU001 when booking and presenting your venture card on arrival at Go Ape! Sherwood Forest. To find out more - including opening times and supervision requirements - and to book, visit: www.goape.co.uk or call 0845 643 9215.

There is no limit on the number of people per booking but please note that the discount is only available Monday to Friday and not at Bank Holidays. The offer applies solely to the course at Sherwood Forest, Sherwood Pines, Nottinghamshire.

Make your holiday cash go far

Worried that the credit crunch might curb your holiday plans this year? Then why not look at the exciting discounts on offer via our partnership with Cottages4You.

You'll find there's 10% off dream holidays in properties across Europe - from captivating villas in Croatia to romantic retreats in Italy. And if you've decided to stay closer to home this year, then a Cottages4You break is the ideal way to rediscover the charms of the UK. Visit: www.cottageselection.co.uk/sites/cottageselection/partners/NOT to plan your dream break and to claim your discount. Alternatively call Cottages4You on 0845 268 1507 and quote NOT10.

Get away from it all

Whether it's for a special occasion or a well-deserved treat, NTU alumni can now gain special discounts on weekend stays at hundreds of hotels around Europe. Our deal with the InterContinental Hotel Group - which includes Crowne Plaza, Holiday Inn and Express by Holiday Inn hotels - gives you endless inspiration for an exciting getaway. To take advantage of the discounts call 0870 400 8135 (UK) or 1-800 553155 (ROI) quoting 'Exclusive Rate'.

Walk this way for a special rate

Enjoy a breath of fresh air with 10% off an original range of walking holidays in Southern France.

Our partnership with The Enlightened Traveller® will put you on the path to some excellent hiking, rambling, trekking and walking tours. Created with both beginners and experienced hikers in mind, tours can be customised to suit most needs.

There's also 5% off the exciting activity breaks run by the company in Southern France on themes such as cookery, painting and pottery.

Plan your scenic journey at: www.enlightened-traveller.co.uk and quote NTUAET0807 to benefit from the discount.

Give a gift to savour

Looking to impress with a truly tasteful gift idea? Our alumni can now get a 10% discount when buying presents - or even treating themselves - at Arena Flowers and Prestat Chocolates.

Arena is the UK's leading online florist, offering high-quality flowers from around the world at excellent prices. Prestat, meanwhile, promise that: "To explore our range of chocolates is to go on an adventure - full of fun, indulgence, surprise and seduction."

See: www.arenaflowers.com and www.prestat.co.uk for more information. To gain your discount when ordering online, enter the promotional code: NTUalumni.

A great-looking deal

Add a little extra finesse to your grooming regime - with our attractive deals on top skincare, haircare, fragrances and other beautifying treats. The Alumni Association has teamed up with Mankind and Beauty Expert to offer exclusive 10% online discounts on everything from organic products to dermatologist-developed treatments.

Check out their websites and remember to quote your voucher codes when making a purchase. For women, see: www.beautyexpert.co.uk and use the code UNIBE7337. For men, visit: www.mankind.co.uk and use the code UNIMK7337.

Do note that these discounts cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer, such as sale items or other promotional savings.

For more exclusive alumni benefits, visit:
www.ntualumni.org.uk

If you need a new venture card, just email: alumni@ntu.ac.uk



Design star Zara

Introducing an illustrator who has transformed winter into a wonderland for fashionable shoppers - with a cult range of limited edition T-shirts featuring her trademark whimsical characters.

Zara Wood's ultra-cute Star Gaze collection, based on wintry themes, has won a dream response since it was unveiled at Topshop in the UK in December. Now her T-shirts are set for similar stardom across the Atlantic when they are launched in the Topshop flagship store in New York this spring.

Immensely popular, the T-shirts are adorned with doe-eyed harlequins and other endearing characters playing keyboard sonatas on Saturn, wishing on stars and flying to the moon.

"Topshop approached me early last year to illustrate a collection for autumn and winter," said Zara, who graduated from NTU's BA (Hons) Fine Art in 2000. "As a

winter baby, I wanted to celebrate the winter season. Instead of dwelling on attributes such as the cold and dark, I decided to draw out positives from them. I focussed on ideas like 'dressing up' rather than just 'wrapping up' - and having time to watch the stars in the clear night skies."

Known as 'Woody', Zara has made her name as a prolific and versatile illustrator producing work for advertising, editorial, publishing and fashion clients in Europe and Australia. She exhibits regularly and has her own range of limited edition art products available from international stockists including the V&A in London and the Museum of Contemporary Art in Sydney.

She says that her NTU studies laid important foundations for her success today. "The Fine Art degree gave me the freedom to experiment with different media," she explained. "I was encouraged to create work using whatever seemed to befit the project."

This year looks set to be equally exciting for Woody. There are talks of another Topshop range and maybe a collection of accessories and apparel. In addition, her work will be showcased at the Show Below exhibition as part of the Brighton Fringe Festival in May - and at her first UK solo show at Brighton's Boxbird Gallery in June. Find out more at: www.zarawood.com



Hetain Patel's striking work earned him the Nottingham Creative Business of the Year title.

A creative force

An amazing six out of ten prizes at the latest Nottingham Creative Business Awards went to gifted NTU graduates.

Underlining the University's reputation as a hotbed of creative talent, the awards tally saw alumni triumph in the visual arts, writing and publishing, fashion and textiles, crafts and product design categories.

The roll call of honour even included the coveted Nottingham Creative Business of the Year accolade - which went to visual artist Hetain Patel (Fine Art 2003). Hetain, whose exhibition, video and live works are based on his endeavours to understand his Indian heritage, won the visual arts category as well as the overall prize.

Also topping their categories were:

- Susi Henson (Fashion Business 2000 and MA Fashion and Textiles 2002), who runs lingerie and bridalwear business Eternal Spirits and also lectures at NTU.

- Laura McCafferty (Decorative Arts 2003) who creates contemporary textile artworks using traditional techniques.

- Lime Studio, an acclaimed furniture design consultancy established by three Product Design graduates Matthew Dabbs, Oscar Tange and Panos Vasilou.

- Nicola Monaghan (MA in Writing 2004) whose debut novel, *The Killing Jar*, won several major awards and was followed up last year by her second book, *Starfishing*.

More than 150 businesses entered the awards, which celebrate the very best creative work taking place in and around the city. Pro Vice-Chancellor and Head of NTU's College of Art & Design and Built Environment, Ann Priest, said: "We are very proud of our graduates and the fact that so many of them stay on in Nottingham to build such successful and spectacular businesses."

Enter-prize!

Two businesses set up by go-getting alumni with the help of NTU's enterprise development centre, The Hive, are celebrating top awards.

Simeon Hartwig (Design Studies 2003), won the first-ever British Council UK Young Fashion Entrepreneur Award for his success with Bantum Clothing, which sells funky T-shirts, sweatshirts, hoodies and dresses.

Simeon started out with a mission to produce street-style clothing for smaller men but demand has seen his business grow to include larger sizes and womenswear.

Planning to spend his £5,000 prize on a collaborative project with the Indian fashion industry, he said: "This award will help take Bantum to the next level. The recognition should be priceless."

It's also been full speed ahead for Kawsar Miah who has earned the title of Midlands Young Entrepreneur of the Year ... within a few months of graduating.

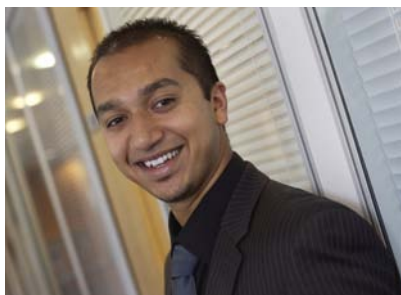
He actually set up his wholesale electronics firm, Digicom Solutions, during his Business Studies degree. It turned over more than £1 million in its first year and now employs eight people.

Kawsar's ambitions were boosted by Student Placements for Entrepreneurs in Education (SPEED), a programme which offered undergraduates with business flair an alternative to the traditional 'year out'. Instead of working for someone else, they worked for themselves - gaining bursaries and training via The Hive to translate their commercial ideas into reality.

Kawsar (*pictured below*) said: "I am very honoured to win this award as it gives recognition to all the hard work that has gone into Digicom Solutions."

The Hive has now helped over 150 businesses to launch. Among the latest graduates benefiting from its services are Martin Hansen (Business Administration 2001) with his web design company WebFertile - see www.webfertile.co.uk - and photographer Andrea Palmer (Photography 2007). They have joined forces to work together regularly.

• See www.ntu.ac.uk/businesshive to find out how The Hive can help you.



Far-sighted idea

A pioneering project is set to make it easier for blind people to get around - thanks to the remarkable determination of one NTU alumnus.

Allan Ridley has won acclaim for his role in designing a 'virtual cane' to help people with visual impairments navigate their way round computer environments.

And the award-winning project, which harnesses Nintendo Wii technology, is all the more impressive because Allan is actually blind himself.

Allan worked on the virtual cane as part of his Master of Research degree in Computer Science. His aim was to enable other people who are visually impaired to build up confidence by practising in the virtual world before they visit places on their own.

Under the system, Wii control devices are used to point and direct motion, so that people can travel

through recreations of real buildings, receiving auditory and vibratory feedback to assist them.

Allan, who collaborated with NTU Software Engineer Steven Battersby to design the interface, said: "There's long been a lack of access to virtual reality for people who are blind. Our idea was to help people learn in a safe environment and improve their self-assurance and skills when tackling mobility training."

"Using Wii technology has many advantages as it is mainstream, easily available and affordable."

Graduating with a distinction last November, Allan was awarded the Research Masters Project Prize for his commitment and excellence. At the ceremony, he and his trusty guide dog, Fisher, were specially introduced to NTU's Chancellor Sir Michael Parkinson.

Allan praised Steven and other members of the Computing and Technology team for supporting him on what was a challenging project. He added: "You have to be stubborn to complete what I have done - it takes me

so much longer to research and compile information. At times my studies were taxing but I never give in without a fight." True to his word, he's now working towards a

PhD with our renowned Interactive Systems Research Group, which specialises in using the potential of videogames, virtual environments and the Internet to address social inclusion.

Allan's research will aim to promote greater accessibility within computing and raise more awareness of how software should be designed to suit all needs from the outset. He concluded: "Disabled people have a huge untapped skills base to offer the world. By using technology in creative ways, we can help them put their skills to good use."

“...disabled people have an untapped skills base...”



A duet of awards for music-lovers Catherine (left) and Ellie

Note perfect

Generous donations to the Alumni Fund have struck a chord with gifted young musicians at the University.

Our first-ever special awards for music have now been announced, with winners Ellie Forbes, Catherine Rich and Duc-Yen Truong being selected for their talent, potential and commitment to the University's musical life.

Ellie, a first year Psychology student, has received the Alumni Fund Award for Music, enabling her to purchase a high-quality violin for use during her time at NTU.

"It's brilliant news," said Ellie, who has previously been playing an instrument which belonged to her great grandfather. "Of course I love my old violin but it will be wonderful to play a new one - I'm looking for something with a deep, gorgeous tone."

"I'm so grateful to all the people who donate to the Alumni Fund because not

everyone has the opportunity to go out and buy a new instrument - it's very exciting."

Ellie, a grade 8 violinist, is a member of NTU's Orchestra, Choir and Chamber Choir. As part of the prize, she will keep the violin throughout the three years of her studies and after that the instrument will remain the property of NTU.

Meanwhile, Catherine is on song as the winner of the Clifford Beck Music Award, an annual scholarship set up in memory of a former lecturer.

A first year Biosciences student, she has been playing the cello for a decade, is grade 8 standard and belongs to the NTU Orchestra. However, she chose to spend her £150 award money on singing tuition,

which will support her work with the NTU Choir and Chamber Choir.

She said: "Continuing with my music at university was essential for me - and to receive this award is amazing. I really wanted lessons but found that I probably wouldn't be able to afford them. I'd like to thank Mr Beck's family for the opportunities this award has given me."

Meanwhile, flautist Duc-Yen Truong - known as Dee - has been awarded £90 to contribute to her music lessons.

The second-year Computer Science student was a runner-up in the auditions for the Alumni Fund award and the standard of her work was so exceptional that she was given this special prize.

Vital role in society



Social workers do an extremely demanding, difficult and emotionally draining job. Whether they are helping mentally ill people to manage their lives, caring for the elderly or protecting

vulnerable children, they often have to sort out problems with no easy answer.

Network spoke to former social worker Deborah Bardouille, a senior lecturer at NTU who trains future social workers, many of whom are mature students with knowledge of the problems social workers encounter.

Deborah says: "I find it extremely rewarding to enable students to develop, especially when they are being trained for such a worthwhile profession. I feel so committed to my job because the world is not fair. We are not all born with an equal chance in life. Some people suffer trauma or difficulties later in life too. Social work is all about the people we are helping."

Many of her students choose to take the course because of their own life experiences and often have great insight and sensitivity. Deborah explains: "I interviewed a potential student who had been in institutions or foster care for almost all her life. She'd had a very hard time. Then she was allocated a wonderful social worker who made a huge difference to her. That experience made her want to join the profession herself."

Deborah explained why social workers need training: "Someone's first emotional response to a situation may not be appropriate. For example, a 'do-gooder' may think poverty is the cause of a family's problems, but there may be other, not so obvious, problems. A social worker must often decide how to balance a family's need for care and support against their need for protection - such as if a parent has a mental health problem. They may feel great compassion for the parent, but what is best for the child? These are the decisions that training equips them to make."

Can you support a social work student who is strongly motivated to help needy children and adults in society, but who is struggling to finance their time at NTU?

You could do this by leaving a gift in your Will. For more information, please call 0115 848 8809 or email: alumni@ntu.ac.uk

Chris brings his skills into play

Children in a remote Tanzanian village are thrilled to be learning and playing in a new-look nursery - thanks in part to an NTU alumnus.

Chris Cockburn (Accounting and Finance 2002) travelled to Mahida in the foothills of Mount Kilimanjaro to revitalise a dilapidated nursery and provide local youngsters with an eagerly-awaited playground and outdoor classroom.

Before the project, more than 70 children and their teacher were crammed into a small room without electricity, equipment and facilities. Now they have a modern, bright, clean and user-friendly facility with a range of stimulating learning materials.

The scheme to give a new lease of life to the nursery was led by Childreach International, which works to alleviate child poverty in developing countries.

Chris joined the ten-day trip to bring a new dimension to the charity work he already undertakes in his home city of Newcastle. "I thought I'd try something a little more adventurous to help people less fortunate than me," he said.

Having raised £2,200 to take part in the Tanzania mission, he flew to Nairobi and then took an exhausting eight-hour bus trip to reach the jungle-fringed community of Mahida.

He and his fellow travellers, who included lawyers, accountants and shopkeepers, slept in tents and worked 11-hour stints to create the new-look nursery. They had the help of local people who were not only immensely thankful for the extra resources and tools but also developed their own skills to use on future projects in the village.

The team faced intense cold at night and 35-40 degree blistering heat during the day, cooked on camp stoves, washed in buckets of water and kept a wary eye out for unfamiliar insects.

Said Chris: "The children had never really met any 'western' people before so we were followed everywhere like movie stars. Gradually they began to help us on the project and we played football and volleyball with them daily.

"The people lived in mud huts with straw roofs and had virtually nothing at all. On the final day, we took all the clothes we didn't need and distributed T-shirts, trousers and even underpants to people. They were most grateful!"

The volunteers will have a lasting legacy beyond the nursery. Having sponsored one daring team-member to have his hair cut by the local barber, they raised around £70 - enough to put up to ten children through school for a year plus pay for their school uniforms.

Said Chris: "This will be something we now keep up each year until they graduate. It just made us realise that - for the price of an average night out - we could dramatically change people's lives and help build a future for them."

Now back in his role as a project accountant in Darlington, Chris added: "I would definitely encourage people to get involved in a Childreach project as it's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

• For more information about Childreach, see www.childreach.org.uk



Positive verdict

Prisoners are being given the key to understanding a crucial legal issue they will encounter on their release from jail - thanks to a prize-winning project led by Alex Simmonds.

The Bar Vocational Course graduate has received a prestigious national volunteering award for his imaginative initiative known as 'Bars in their Eyes'.

The scheme involves students delivering interactive teaching sessions to help inmates get to grips with the laws relating to why, when and how they should disclose their criminal convictions to prospective employers once they leave prison.

Alex explained: "I identified the need for 'Bars in their Eyes' after learning that offenders can lose their jobs or go back to prison - simply because they don't know what information to disclose on job application forms."

He not only designed the project but also recruited and trained a team of student volunteers from Nottingham Law School. They went into prisons to speak to inmates directly, informing them of their legal obligations to disclose criminal convictions, the best way to disclose them, and the consequences of failing to do so under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act.

Alex's work won a positive verdict in the national Higher Education Volunteering Awards. As well as scooping one of the 11 student project prizes, he was one of only two students deemed to be 'Exceptional Winners'.

He said: "I'm so delighted to have won this award and to be declared an Exceptional Winner. I'm really grateful to Nottingham Trent University for its support, and to all the people involved in presenting and developing the project. I am now rolling the idea out to other law schools countrywide so that more prisoners can see the presentation for themselves - and more students can benefit from the experience it brings."



Refugee stories in focus

Two enterprising alumni are using the power of photography as a force for social change - by putting cameras in the hands of young refugees.

They say a picture is worth a thousand words. For scores of refugees in Syria, photographs have become a vital way of documenting the realities of their lives and voicing their rights.

From behind the camera lens, these teenage photographers are capturing - and commenting on - the world around them in a project which aims to build their confidence, self-esteem and hope.

Having escaped the mounting violence in their homeland, they have been given the chance to express themselves through

Refocus, an initiative established by NTU alumni Amy Coppins and Kate Denman.

Set up to improve awareness, acceptance and understanding of minority groups and marginalised people, Refocus runs photography courses with a difference.

The refugees are given digital cameras and taught technical skills in areas like still-life, portraiture and photo-documentation. They then go out and take their own images, exploring the challenges, struggles and achievements of their lives. The discussions that emerge raise key questions about values, human rights and equality.

The work is exhibited in local communities and globally via the Internet. Sale of prints through exhibitions or online orders provides money for the young photographers who took the images.

Amy explained: "Our main hope is that we can empower these young people by encouraging them to use photography to learn how to deal with their situation - and to give them a voice which might otherwise never be heard."

In founding Refocus early last year, Amy and Kate - who both graduated from the BA (Hons) Photography in 2002 - have combined their passions for photography, humanitarian work and travel. Above all, they love hearing people's stories.

Both had developed successful careers in photography and teaching before Kate first visited Syria on a working trip in 2007. Her experiences there inspired the idea of Refocus - and the duo returned together a few months later with a vision to fulfil.

They had originally thought of photo-documenting the lives of refugees themselves but - rather than imposing an outsider's view - they decided they could actually have more impact by turning their subjects into the photographers.

Said Kate: "The participants have total





control over what they want to photograph and exhibit, which allows them to voice their opinions. We hope they will therefore gain a positive self-image while rising above social stigmas."

Refocus has just completed a project for Palestinian adolescents living in three refugee camps in Syria. Housed in basic shelters, some 25 % of people in the camps have less than \$2 per day to survive on. Amy and Kate worked with third generation Palestinian refugees, and the images have been published in a book: *60 Years in Exile*.

Their latest venture involves 40 Iraqi refugees living on the outskirts of Damascus and aims to promote gender respect. Among the Iraqis who fled to Syria, adolescent girls are most at risk of exploitation. They are less likely to receive secondary education than boys, their privacy is restricted and they often have no space to claim as their own.

Over the next six months, Refocus will enable groups of boys and girls to work alongside each other, raising awareness of the inequalities in their lives. The project

will culminate in an exhibition in Damascus which helps highlight women's rights.

Amy said: "Although it can be very challenging to implement these projects - both in terms of finances and in gaining permissions - it is immensely rewarding to work with the refugees, especially to see their pride in the exhibitions."

They hope to establish further projects in Syria, Lebanon and elsewhere. Kate added: "We'd also like to gain a stronger presence in Europe by developing initiatives with marginalised groups of people there."



How you can help

Kate and Amy are urging their fellow NTU alumni to support their project by:

- Donating or sponsoring cameras;
- Buying the Refocus book;
- Buying individual prints;
- Organising an exhibition of the images to help spread the word.

Visit: www.refocusproject.com
or email: refocusproject@gmail.com





Riding to the rescue

The chronic suffering of horses in the townships of South Africa spurred two alumni to go to their aid.

Equine Sports Science graduates Nicky Manning and Charlotte White harnessed the skills they had developed at NTU to work for two leading charities which are striving to promote the well-being and dignity of horses in South Africa.

On graduating last summer, they headed off to work with the Cart Horse Protection Association and the Highveld Horse Care Unit. Both organisations deal with shocking cases of maltreatment and operate in highly dangerous communities.

Nicky and Charlotte spent several months with the charities, helping treat, care for and retrain starving and abused horses which might otherwise have to be put down. Charlotte said: "We set up the placements because we were really keen to do something worthwhile and meaningful during our post-university travels rather than just follow the usual backpacker trails.

"These charities were happy to welcome us as they had never had English volunteers before - and we were totally inspired by what they achieve in difficult conditions."

The Cart Horse Protection Association (CHPA) in Cape Town aims to protect animals from abuse, ignorance and neglect but also supports an industry which is often the only source of income for impoverished families trying to better their lives.

It works in run-down communities on the Cape Flats where scrap metal collectors ply their trade with horses and carts. Its services include clinics and subsidised horse feed and shoes. Most importantly, however, it aims to educate the animals' owners to take greater responsibility and care of them: the key message is that a healthy working horse is good for business.

The CHPA's work is even more urgent in the economic downturn, with declining metal prices resulting in the entire industry

being brought to its knees. But horses still have to be fed, shod and cared for, whether their owners earn a living or not.

Meanwhile, the Highveld Horse Care Unit, the largest equine welfare organisation in the southern hemisphere, works in deprived areas on the outskirts of Johannesburg. It caters for former race horses, township horses and security horses which used to patrol railway lines.

For Nicky and Charlotte, volunteering with these organisations was a real eye-opener - and very distressing at times. They encountered horror stories of horses being thrown off buildings as part of gang initiations or being attacked with pick-axes.

Said Nicky: "Mainly, however, horses are overworked, underfed and have diseases which get ignored. They rarely see any grass and some are so hungry they eat

plastic and carpets. It was so rewarding to see them being restored to health through the efforts of these incredibly committed people - and to do our bit to contribute too."

She added: "Both charities asked if we could spread the word to other NTU students who might be interested in volunteering. They really appreciated our help, especially because of the quality of the training we'd received at Brackenhurst."

In future, Charlotte hopes to become an equine dentist while Nicky aims to do a PhD on links between gastrointestinal parasites and allergies in horses.

- Readers interested in animal welfare can find out more about the exceptional work underway at our Brackenhurst campus, where we have opened a new Veterinary Nursing Centre and Animal Unit. For details, see: www.ntu.ac.uk/ares



Above: What a difference some loving care can make: a donkey named Apple was stabbed 17 times with a garden fork, the victim of gang crime in the townships. She is now happy and healthy - and has become the mascot of the Highveld Horse Care Unit.

Top: Charlotte and Nicky on Odey, who was confiscated from a security company. "Believe it or not, he was really skinny when he was brought in," they say.

New hope for orphans

The plight of children caught up in one of the world's worst humanitarian crises inspired an alumna's mercy mission to Africa.

By 2001, an estimated 890,000 children in Kenya had been orphaned as AIDS and HIV-related diseases took a relentless grip on the country. All too often these innocent victims have been forced to grow up on the streets - poverty-stricken, isolated and prey to abuse.

Reading about their struggles prompted Tanya Houghton (Psychology with Criminology 2007, Professional Diploma Careers Guidance 2008) to head to the slums of Mombasa on a mercy mission to see what she could do to help.

Tanya spent nine weeks working with the New Hope Children's Home and Community School, one of the many rescue centres being established to provide shelter, care, education and a new chance in life to orphans and abandoned children from the streets.

"You can never quite prepare yourself for what you are going to experience there," said Tanya. "The deprivation and hardship still shocks you.

"But those children are full of hope and happiness - I admire them so much. Despite the terrible traumas they have lived through, they have huge aspirations and they see education as the key to success."

Tanya's role involved some teaching and providing language support for the staff as all the subjects are taught in English. It also involved escorting children as they walked the 20 minutes between the orphanage and their school, often carrying essential water supplies with them.

She undertook some cooking and cleaning at the orphanage too but most of all she brought emotional and social support to the children. "The kids are always happy to see a new face - they've missed out on so much love and affection in their lives that you just want to scoop them up and give them hugs," she said.

The experience gave her the determination to raise greater awareness of the desperation and poverty which rehabilitation centres like New Hope are trying to address.

And she and a friend decided to start with the well-heeled tourists who head for Kenya to enjoy the ever-popular safari holidays.



"Just ten minutes down the road from our orphanage there were luxury Western-style hotels with holiday-makers on expensive tours. They don't often venture out to see the 'real' Kenya," explained Tanya.

"We persuaded the staff to let us speak to the tourists and offer them a day out at the orphanage and school. The response was really positive, including from honeymooners who came along to meet

the children, and we raised vital money too. It also meant we could help pay for full regular health checks for the children - they cost the equivalent of just 80 pence."

Now working with Connexions as a guidance counsellor for young people in Staffordshire, Tanya is continuing her fundraising efforts in the UK as well as saving for her own next trip to Kenya.

She remains in touch with the New Hope project founders - and has 37 little penpals!



Above: Tanya teaching at the school and with a Kenyan baby at a Mombasa medical camp
Top: Some of the many friends she made at New Hope Children's Home and Community School



Designs on the future

As Nottingham stakes its claim to become the World Capital of Design, we turn the spotlight on projects which are showcasing the city's renowned creativity and ingenuity.

Nottingham is bidding to become World Design Capital in 2012 - in a major celebration of the city's rich history of creative and industrial design talent.

The title recognises cities for their use of design to further social, economic and cultural development. The accolade would see Nottingham follow the latest World Design Capital, the Italian city of Turin, and the South Korean capital Seoul, which is due to take the crown in 2010.

Led by the City Council, the bid is being backed by public and private sector organisations, including Nottingham Trent University which has helped shape the city's creative industries ever since its School of Art and Design was founded in 1843.

It is based on the strength of Nottingham's design heritage dating back to its renowned lace manufacturing industry. The submission also highlights the city's eclectic mix of new and old architecture; the array of creative facilities and cultural attractions on offer; and the global success of design-based businesses such as Paul Smith and Speedo.

To succeed in its bid, the city has to showcase its strengths in design-related events, design education in schools, colleges and universities, and evidence of high-quality design in the regeneration of the city and its architecture.

A biennial global competition, the World Design Capital project is organised by the International Design Alliance to promote cities which are successfully revitalising and reinventing their urban environment.

Cheers to creative excellence

Revellers are toasting the talents of NTU Interior Design graduates who have been commissioned to revamp two of the best-loved haunts on Nottingham's bar scene.

Leading designers Macaulay Sinclair - run by John Macaulay and Mike Sinclair, who both graduated from NTU in 1995 - have used their expertise to bring a little extra impact and verve to the popular Lace Market venues, the Pitcher & Piano and the Bluu bar brasserie.

Commissioned by Marston's PLC, the projects have involved fundamental architectural changes and thorough re-designs of both destinations.

The project at Nottingham Bluu marks a nostalgic return for Macaulay Sinclair: it was the first operation they worked on and they have subsequently created Bluu sites in London, Manchester and Birmingham.

The design practice is also celebrating two other high-profile commissions further afield - the prestige Urban Reef Restaurant in Boscombe Bay, Dorset, and an ambitious redesign of the Curlew in Bodiam, Sussex.

John said: "All of these projects will test a different part of our creative muscle, but Macaulay Sinclair, like so many Nottingham businesses, thrives on challenges."

During its ten-year history, Macaulay Sinclair has been committed to promoting Nottingham talent, employing six NTU design graduates. It was behind the designs of other city attractions like The Lizard Lounge and Cast at the Playhouse.



Image courtesy of the Nottingham Evening Post



Image courtesy of David Sillitoe



Image courtesy of Martine Hamilton-Knight

Clockwise from top left: Mike Sinclair at the Pitcher & Piano; Godfried Donkor at the Lace and Slavery Exhibition, part of Nottingham Contemporary's *Histories of the Present* event; the city's striking new art gallery which is preparing to open later this year; and James Steward with NTU's newly-installed Cyclepods.

James pedals his great idea

Cyclepods - the award-winning innovation in bike storage - have come full circle. Based on a concept devised by James Steward (Product Design 2004) during his time at NTU, Cyclepods have just been installed outside the Bonington Building.

James, who is Creative Director for the Cyclepods company, said: "The design has changed quite a lot since I graduated but it's fantastic to see Cyclepods in the very place the idea first came about! I hope the installation inspires more students to turn their project concepts into real products in the future."

Stylish, space-saving, flexible and highly secure, Cyclepod systems take up to 50% less space than conventional cycle stands. Their green credentials are strong: as well as promoting cycling to work, they are actually manufactured from sustainable materials.

The products - which earned James the Shell LiveWIRE Young Entrepreneur of the Year title in 2006 - are now in demand across the country and abroad. The company's diverse client list includes well-known names such as the BBC and Marks and Spencer as well as schools, colleges and shopping centres.

New additions to the range include the Minipod, ideal for primary schools where children need to store smaller bikes and scooters, and Spacepods, which offer an even more efficient space-saving option through a panelling system for bikes to be parked in awkward or disused areas.

Devoted to the art of our time

Billed as a place where the world is imagined differently, Nottingham Contemporary - a new international art centre with a strong local sense of purpose - is set to open its doors this autumn.

Based in the historic Lace Market, it will be one of the UK's largest contemporary art centres, with four galleries, an auditorium, an education space, a study centre, a café bar and a shop. Its mission is to showcase how contemporary artists offer extraordinary perspectives on today's society.

Entrance will be free and the centre will stage four or five major exhibitions a year, bringing the work of many of the world's most important and exciting artists to Nottingham. The artistic, social, philosophical and political ideas raised by the exhibitions will also be explored via educational programmes and events.

While contemporary art is its focus, the centre will also stage a wide range of other cultural activities - such as film, performance, dance and music - to attract wider audiences and animate its spaces.

Sir Nicholas Serota, Director of the Tate, has warmly welcomed the advent of this

landmark attraction. He said: "Nottingham Contemporary promises to be one of the most exciting centres for contemporary art anywhere in the country. As a city with a vibrant culture and history, Nottingham has long deserved a great building devoted to the art of our time."

The centre has been developed through a bold partnership initiative which has drawn on NTU's expertise in the cultural and creative sphere.

It represents the next stage in a contemporary arts strategy for Nottingham in which our University played a pioneering role.

While the team behind the project has been waiting for the building to be completed, it has staged *Histories of*

the Present in local landmarks, including Wollaton Hall, Newstead Abbey, Nottingham Castle, the village of Laxton and the Shire Hall. Using Nottingham's rich history to illuminate the present, the exhibitions have involved many partners including NTU.

For more information, see: www.nottinghamcontemporary.org or email: info@nottinghamcontemporary.org with your name, address and telephone number to be kept up-to-date about exhibitions, education and events.

“The new Nottingham Contemporary looks set to lend the city the “destination” status it craves. It would make any city into a destination.”

The Guardian

Building a reputation

Well-known to many alumni, two long-serving figures from NTU's School of Architecture, Design and the Built Environment are celebrating special accolades for their influential work within the property and construction sector.

Associate Dean of the School and Professor of Construction Procurement Roy Morledge was honoured at the Constructing Excellence East Midlands Regional Awards ceremony.

He received the Achiever's Award in recognition of an eminent career which has included leading the East Midlands New Technology Initiative Construction Network.

Professor Morledge, who joined NTU 33 years ago as a senior lecturer in quantity surveying, said: "To get this award from my own industry peer group is overwhelming, I really didn't expect it."

Meanwhile, Peter Ramsay-Dawber has become a Fellow of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS). He was nominated due to his vast knowledge and experience spanning over 30 years.

Peter is, in fact, an alumnus - having studied construction at Trent Polytechnic. He completed a nine-year spell in industry before rejoining us as a lecturer 20 years ago. Now Academic Team Leader for Construction Management, he said: "I'm so honoured to be invited to become a fellow of the RICS, particularly as it is a symbol of peer recognition for what I've achieved in both industry and academia."



Top: Peter Ramsay-Dawber, RICS Fellow
Above: High achiever Professor Roy Morledge



Rose Ward - a source of support and advice



Ruth James - a national profile for training

Honoured friends

NTU was proud to see that the 2009 New Year's Honours lists featured some familiar names...

Rose picked for top honour

Teaching and learning assistant Rose Ward - who has helped countless students in our School of Education over the years - was awarded the MBE for services to Higher Education. The honour comes almost 20 years after she started work with us - as a cleaner!

Rose joined the University in 1987 and spent 15 years in various cleaning roles before being supported to develop her career through a City and Guilds qualification. She went on to become a reception officer and was an instant success thanks to her positive attitude.

In her current role, Rose provides classroom support to teacher training students and plays a key part in events such as open days.

She said: "I'm delighted but I'm also very surprised because I never thought someone in my position would be noticed. It's a pleasure to receive an honour for something I enjoy so much."

Professor Nigel Hastings, Pro Vice-Chancellor at NTU, commented: "For the nearly 10,000 new teachers who have trained in the School of Education since she joined the University, Rose has been an inexhaustible source of support and practical guidance."

Outstanding contribution

Ruth James (MSc Human Resource Development 1997) has been honoured with an OBE for services to skills training and Investors in People. The accolade crowned a distinguished career which saw her rise to become Head of People Development at TNT and gain a national profile in the training world.

"I was delighted and astounded to hear the news," said Ruth, who retired from TNT, the express delivery giant, last April. "I was told in November but you're asked to keep the award totally confidential until the official

announcement is made - and I must admit that was quite difficult!"

A Behavioural Science graduate, Ruth embarked on postgraduate studies in clinical psychology in Canada but didn't complete the course and took a career break while her children were young. On returning to work, she joined the YMCA in a role with a training remit, eventually becoming an Area Training Manager.

Her career progressed with a period as a consultant and a role at Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council as Principal Management Development Officer. While there, she was asked to help judge the National Training Awards - a role which first brought her into contact with TNT.

She joined the company as Group Training and Development Manager in 1998, helping it achieve a string of prestigious HR awards and seeing the training department expand to become a 54-strong team. One of the first organisations to be awarded the IIP kitemark, the company also achieved IIP Champion status.

Ruth came to study at NTU part-time because she wanted the Masters level qualification she had abandoned earlier in her career - and she was attracted by the chance to nurture her creativity on the MSc. She described the course as "fantastic" - and was so impressed that she sought the expertise of Nottingham Business School to help run the Corporate Development Programme at TNT, a link which continues to this day.

Applause for Nikki

Our congratulations also go to one of NTU's honorary graduates, Nikki Milican, who received the OBE for services to performance art. Nikki, who is Artistic Director at New Moves International in Glasgow, has been a major force in live art since the 1970s, especially through her work to champion new artists.

Putting a career on ice!



An alumnus has skated into an exciting new stage in his ice hockey career - by becoming a full-time professional with Nottingham Panthers.

From the start of this year, BSc (Hons) Real Estate Management graduate Matthew Myers has been able to concentrate on his sport, having left his job as a surveyor with King Sturge in Nottingham.

The crunch decision to go full-time was smoothed by the fact that this has been his most productive and consistent season in his five years as a forward with the Panthers.

"I've always known I wanted to start playing more and this seemed like the ideal time," said Matthew, who has also regularly represented Great Britain in what is known as the world's fastest team sport. "I'm sure

it will make a difference to my game."

Ever since his student days, Matthew has faced a real balancing act to achieve his potential in ice hockey. Indeed, when he graduated in 2007, he received the Vice-Chancellor's Award for his impressive performance both in his studies and on work placement while still playing his sport at the highest level.

Matthew, who qualified as a chartered surveyor before leaving King Sturge, said: "I've always had to juggle the demands of my sporting career with either my studies or my work: it's been like having two jobs. I

was very lucky that both the University and King Sturge allowed me some flexibility.

"Now I'm able to concentrate on my training, get to the gym more, enjoy the proper rest and treatment that I've missed, and work on the finer details of my game."

When this season is over, Matthew's attention will switch to the World Championships in Poland where he hopes to be a key member of Team GB. He won't be putting his property and construction expertise entirely on ice though - he intends to work with a friend on building projects occasionally over the summer!

A world stage

Two alumni were among the ice hockey team representing Great Britain at the 2009 Winter World University Games in China.

Colm Cannon (Psychology and Criminology 2007, MSc Management and International Business 2008) and Geoff Woolhouse (Sport and Exercise Science 2008) took to the ice in Harbin. Although the team wasn't among the medal-winners, the performances demonstrated how much Great Britain has improved at the sport over recent years.



Pulling ahead



Promising rower Jacqui Round is doing our alumni community proud as she gears up for a successful sporting season...

Jacqui, the first recipient of our new Alumni Fund sports award, is making good progress towards her ambition of breaking into the GB senior squad.

Her latest big challenge was the single sculling trial at Caversham - where she came from behind to win the event by seven seconds, becoming the top

under-23 athlete there. Jacqui commented: "The senior coaches and selection team were watching and said they were impressed with the maturity of my racing.

"As a result I've been invited to a training camp in Italy with all the senior athletes who have competed in major events like the Olympics. I'm really excited about that!"

As well as enhancing her chances of senior squad stardom, the performance stands her in good stead for the World Under 23 Rowing Championships this year, for which she has set her sights on a gold medal.

Jacqui, who is studying Early Years and Educational Development at NTU, is the first student to benefit from our special award, a £2,000 package to help her balance her studies with the rigours of training. It was provided thanks to the generosity of alumni donors.

Join us online

Have you joined our online community? Since its launch last year, it's really clicked with alumni who use it to access a wide range of benefits and services. The community is growing fast - so keep calling back at: www.ntualumni.org.uk

Wish you were still here?

Log in to check out the photographs in our Nostalgia photo gallery, part of the Events and Reunions section. Take a look at 'Building and Construction classes 1992-1994', explore 'Memories of Brackenhurst College' and smile at fun photos from the 'Trent Poly Years'. We'd love to keep adding to these galleries, so keep your photos coming in. We promise to return your originals.

And we're not just about picturing the past. If you're getting married, remember to send us your wedding photos so that we can include them on the website and in the next magazine.

Now on Facebook

You'll soon be able to link up to the social networking website, Facebook, through our online community. To pave the way for this new feature, we have created our own page - 'Nottingham Trent University Alumni Association'. Join our group at: www.facebook.com for NTU news, details of events and the chance to catch up with 'old' friends.

Find us on the business networking site, LinkedIn, too: www.linkedin.com

Find your friends

Search for someone by name or look up a whole class list. You can display your own contact information so that fellow alumni can get in touch directly - or you can use our message forwarding service to reach your friends.

And you can join our mission to locate missing alumni too - by taking a look through our 'lost' directory.

Join up today!

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

Image courtesy of Microsoft Game Studios



It's a blast for Nick Burton to talk to current NTU students about his stunning video games work.

Got lots to tell?

Want to share your experiences of life at NTU and beyond? Could you give careers advice to students? Or would you like a voice in the future development of your University?

Be our guest

Many alumni have inspirational stories to tell about where life has taken them since leaving NTU. And more and more are choosing to share their experiences with current students by delivering guest lectures and careers talks.

Alumnus Nick Burton (Computing Systems 1994) - who is now a Lead Software Engineer at multi award-winning video game developer Rare Ltd - often pops in for a visit, most recently to deliver a lecture to Computing students during Welcome Week.

He says: "Returning to NTU to deliver guest lectures is one of the most rewarding experiences of my professional life. Meeting up with my former lecturers and being able to share my professional knowledge and expertise is great, but speaking to students is the biggest reward."

"The chance to highlight where university might take them - whilst being reminded of the raw energy and talent many students have - is very grounding. Try it - I guarantee you will enjoy it!"

Some of Nick's latest achievements include being team lead on *Jetpac: Refuelled*, one of his pet projects for Xbox Live Arcade, along with graphical effects for the Avatars inside the new Xbox dashboard. Sadly, though, he can't reveal anything about the ultra-secret project now taking up his time: "Let's just say it's at the bleeding edge of gaming technology development," he confides.

If you're interested in giving a guest

lecture to students, do let us know. Of course, we can't promise there will be space in relevant timetables to accept all offers, but it would be good to hear from you.

Get on Board

Are you based within travelling distance of Nottingham? Can you spare three evenings per academic year to support your University? If so, then you could always consider joining the Alumni Advisory Board.

Set up in 2005, the Board ensures alumni have a voice within NTU and can contribute to the development of the Alumni Association and the University. The focus of the Board is practical: it is not formally constituted within the University's articles of governance.

Meetings are held three times a year at 5.00 pm in Nottingham city centre.

Share your expertise

Enthusiastic alumni volunteers continue to lend a helping hand to current students via our online careers mentoring programme.

This service enables you to offer one-to-one advice, guidance and support on careers.

If you would like to join our growing band of mentors, email us with your name and contact information, together with details of your career and any additional expertise you have to offer. At present, the mentoring programme is available via email contact only.

Interested in mentoring, giving guest lectures or joining our Advisory Board? Email: alumni@ntu.ac.uk



Mark Robinson and Samantha Loftus



Sarah Zipser and Matt King



Ben Wiles and Gemma Wade

Wedding news

Sarah Zipser | Communication Studies 2001

Matt King | Sport Science and Management 2001

Sarah and Matt met in 2000 whilst playing squash for the NTU women's and men's teams and, a few years after graduating, they were reunited on a snowboarding trip to the French Alps. It was on the Swiss mountains in 2007 that Matt proposed to Sarah and the couple married in Rutland at St Andrew's Church, Hambleton, followed by a reception at Barnsdale Lodge on 21 June 2008. More than 100 friends and family attended their special day. Alumni who attended included Richard Bysouth, Francesca Head, Dan Brown, Will Gemmel, Andy Raynsford, James Taylor, Oscar Sangster and Paul Goodey. The couple enjoyed a two-week honeymoon road trip around Western Canada.

Samantha Loftus | Cert Ed Further Education 1999

Married Mark Robinson in July 2008. The wedding took place at Langer Hall in Nottinghamshire and the couple enjoyed a lovely honeymoon at the Hotel Esplendido in the village of Puerto de Sóller, Majorca.

Gemma Wade | Business, Sport and Leisure Education 2004

Ben Wiles | English and Media 2005

The couple met in 2004 whilst playing rugby for NTU women's and men's teams. Ben proposed on a trip back to Nottingham at New Year in 2006. The couple married on 12 July 2008 in Staffordshire. It was a beautiful day celebrated with 110 friends and family. Alumni attending the wedding included Anne Stilton, Emma Rance, Lisa Price, Lindsay Ford, Natalie Charlesworth, Jamie Ainley, Richard Hughes, Catherine Jones, Andrew Church and Naomi James. The couple enjoyed a honeymoon in Mauritius. They now live in Cheshunt and both work in Central London.

Rachel Wakelin | Quantity Surveying 1998

John Whittle | Quantity Surveying 1998

Married in May 2008 at Highcliffe Castle in Dorset. The lunchtime reception was held at the Haven Marina in Lymington. In the evening they had a barbecue and live music to finish off the day. Alumnus Simon Ashdown (Quantity Surveying 1998) attended the wedding and gave a reading at the ceremony. The couple enjoyed a

month-long honeymoon backpacking around Central America.

Toni Lee | Mathematical Methods Information Technology 1998

Married Gareth Maw on 29 November 2008. They met during Toni's year placement in industry and were married at St John's Church, Hazelwood village, Derbyshire. The day was celebrated by family and friends including alumna Wrinder Bhathal, née Mangatt (Mathematical Methods Information Technology 1997). The couple enjoyed a two-week honeymoon in St Maarten in the Caribbean.

Christine Brighthouse | Law 2002

Married David Rawsthorne on 20 September 2008 at St Catherine's Church, Burbage, Leicestershire. The reception was held at Kilworth House Hotel, near Lutterworth. Other alumni who attended the wedding celebration were Jo Kwong, Adam Brodie, Rebecca Harrison, Sarah Boyd, Kelly Boardman and Katie Prout (née Burrows). The couple spent two weeks on honeymoon in the Maldives and a week in their 1974 VW campervan. They now live in South Wales.

Take the next step

There's never been a better time to make the most of the exciting postgraduate study options on offer from YOUR university.

As alumni, you've already benefited from the first-class educational experience we provide at NTU.

So why not consider a postgraduate course to keep your career aspirations on track - and help you progress even higher, even faster.

Offering world-class tuition in an outstanding learning environment, NTU is constantly developing its portfolio of postgraduate and professional courses.

Here *Network* takes a look at the latest opportunities to help you make a valuable investment in your future.

Follow Gareth's route to get on the property career ladder

Even if you don't have a first degree in a related subject, you'll find NTU offers an ideal route into the property and construction industries - thanks to a suite of four postgraduate property conversion courses.

Our School of Architecture, Design and the Built Environment gives graduates from a wide range of backgrounds the chance to complete a conversion course - one year full-time or two years part-time - which is accredited by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS).

In fact, our current students have first degrees in subjects ranging from History and Sports Science to Geography, Business and Law.

Our courses are currently being updated and will be reintroduced in September 2009 as MSc programmes in Building Surveying, Planning and Development, Quantity Surveying and Real Estate.

One of our current MA Property Investment and Management students, Gareth Owen, completed his BA (Hons) in History and Economics last year but didn't know what to do next. He had always had an interest in property but - as his undergraduate degree was in a different area - he wasn't quite sure how to begin his property career. That was until his dad, himself an NTU alumnus, recommended the MA!

Gareth (pictured above) said: "A one-year conversion course was the best way



to get a qualification and show employers I was seriously interested in the property area. My father works in property and he did the equivalent undergraduate degree at NTU, so he suggested the University.

"I would recommend the course to others because it is good value for money and is well respected within the property industry."

For information about our conversion courses - and why they might suit you regardless of your first degree subject - see: www.ntu.ac.uk/adbe where you'll also find details of our postgraduate open evening on Wednesday 13 May.

Social Sciences research wins an outstanding ranking

Our School of Social Sciences has celebrated excellent results in the recently published Research Assessment Exercise (RAE).

Psychology at NTU now enjoys an established global research reputation, with 50% of all our research in this field being classified as international or internationally excellent.

In listings compiled by the *Times Higher Education*, the Division now sits alongside such long-standing units as Leicester, Queen's Belfast, Stirling and Warwick. NTU Psychology is the top performer among the post-1992 universities in the region and is second nationally.

In the 2008 RAE, NTU's social policy research was also highly ranked:

- 60% of our research is either world-leading or internationally excellent.
- 95% of our research is of international standard.
- NTU's social policy research is the strongest in the region.

The exceptional research underway underpins and informs the teaching on all our postgraduate courses. For more news - and details of our courses - see: www.ntu.ac.uk/soc

Convert your ambitions into a rewarding future in Law

Did you know that graduates from any discipline can still study for a career in Law - by taking a conversion course?

Nottingham Law School offers the Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL), which enables non-Law graduates to go on to further training to become a solicitor or barrister within the UK.

With the course covering the seven core foundation subjects in Law - over one year full-time or two years by distance learning - the GDL is the perfect route into the legal profession. The distance learning option in particular allows you to combine your studies with work and other commitments.

Ours is one of the largest full-service university law schools within the UK and we enjoy an international reputation for our teaching excellence and links with the legal profession.

We also have an excellent employment record: 98% of our students who completed their Graduate Diploma in Law and Legal Practice Course or Bar Vocational Course with us in 2007 secured positions as trainee solicitors or barristers for the following year.

If you have any questions about making the transition to a legal career, do not hesitate to contact the Admissions team on 0115 848 4498 or at: nls.enquiries@ntu.ac.uk



It's never too late to make the most of your creativity

Mature student Ann Clay has brought an exciting new dimension to her artistic career - by returning to university.

Ann completed her BA (Hons) Fine Art ten years ago and has been successfully exhibiting since 1985. Although her work is well received, she yearned to develop her techniques and push the boundaries of her creativity.

Highly skilled in traditional painting, Ann decided to complete an MA in Fine Art by Registered Project at NTU. Her aim was to take her creative process further - and face her fear of technology.

She commented: "My project has pushed me as I have had to find a way

to make my paintings more contemporary. Photoshop and the other digital aspects of the course have been a challenge but I feel like I am moving out of my comfort zone and into the area I was previously scared of - technology."

With her new-found skills, Ann has completely turned her creative practice around and developed a process which combines her experience in oil painting with photography and digital media - with beautiful and exciting results like those pictured above.

For information about postgraduate art and design courses and our open evenings, visit: www.ntu.ac.uk/art

Help us celebrate the success of our pioneering science research

Want to find out more about the exciting and groundbreaking research in our School of Science and Technology? There have undoubtedly been major advances since you graduated from NTU - not least the results of the latest Research Assessment Exercise (RAE), a vital benchmark for the quality of university research.

All the research units submitted to the 2008 RAE by the School of Science and Technology were rated as internationally recognised - with many areas considered to be world-leading.

As a celebration of its success in pushing back the boundaries of science,

the School hosts an annual research conference at the Clifton campus. This two-day event showcases our second-year PhD student projects and staff research interests. In addition, guest speakers give lectures on current science and technology developments.

If you are interested in attending this year's event on 12 and 13 May 2009, please visit: www.ntu.ac.uk/satconf

The conference is an excellent opportunity for you to find out more about research opportunities at NTU, to network with research staff, and to meet representatives from local science-focused businesses.



A new school of thought for your career plans

If you are looking for a change of direction, you may want to consider teaching. And where better to take your ambitions forward than our School of Education, which is recognised as a leading provider of teacher training?

Our postgraduate teacher training courses include the Primary PGCE, Secondary PGCE, Graduate Teacher Programme, and PGCE: Lifelong Learning Sector (In-service and Pre-service).

You may even find that funding is available to boost your career plans. Eligible postgraduate trainee teachers are entitled to a tax-free bursary. The value can range from £6,000 to £9,000. For those secondary teaching areas where there is more demand for staff, such as Science, Technology (Food and Design), Engineering and Maths, the funding is greater. The current bursary for Primary PGCE is £4,000. For up-to-date details of the amount you may be entitled to, visit: www.tda.gov.uk

There are opportunities to receive a 'golden hello' to the profession too. When you have successfully completed your Initial Teacher Training course and accepted a newly-qualified teacher position, you may be eligible for a one-off taxable payment of £2,500-£5,000.

To find out more, call 0115 848 8917 or email: edu.admin@ntu.ac.uk

Learn to manage talent - and develop your own!

All organisations are under pressure to improve their performance, service and customer satisfaction, while achieving efficiencies. Talent management is key to meeting these objectives. It entails getting the right people, with the right strengths, skills and attitudes, into the right roles at the right time.

To help meet these challenges, Nottingham Business School has introduced two new courses for 2009:

- The Certificate in Professional Coaching Practice is suitable for people seeking to enhance their roles as line managers through people-management and development skills. It is also ideal for those keen to pursue careers in HR.
- The MSc Human Resource Management is a one-year course balancing conceptual issues and the practical realities of human resourcing within a changing environment.

See www.ntu.ac.uk/nbs to find out how to benefit from studying in a Business School which is an accredited CIPD Centre of Research Excellence.

Find out about all our postgraduate and professional courses at: www.ntu.ac.uk/postgraduate

Past and present

Fifties, sixties and seventies

David Wheatcroft | Landscape Architecture, Cert Agriculture 1951

I still enjoy Brackenhurst Old Students' Association (BOSA) activities. The trips to South Africa, Canada and Sweden were exceptional and the annual dinner at Newark Showground is a great success.

Anthony Walgate | Diploma Textiles 1959

Also known as 'Chub', I played the post horn fanfare from the student common room balcony when Princess Alexandra officially opened the college; she also named our mascot Nobby after the then college president. I enjoyed many good camping and hiking trips with members of the Student Union. In 1963 I emigrated to the USA and have had a very good career in the manufacture of knitted fabrics. Now retired, I enjoy tennis, hiking and gardening.

Andrew Cooper | Law Society Finals 1975/76

I chair the Board of Broadway Cinema and Media Centre, Nottingham. I still work closely with staff and alumni of Nottingham Trent in the Fine Art and Film areas.

Steven Calvert | Diploma Town and Country Planning 1976

I have lived in Nottinghamshire most of the time since graduating in 1976. I married Florrie and have two children - Josie and Edward. I have maintained a professional interest in town and country planning and I am the current Acting Corporate Director (Communities) with Nottinghamshire County Council. Relaxation includes a decent pint of real ale, hill/coast walking, golf and a quarter of an allotment.

Eighties

David Sprunt | HND Civil Engineering 1980

I moved from Norfolk County Council to Essex County Council after nearly 20 years. Norfolk provided me with many opportunities, from delivering major transport infrastructures to managing transportation projects in Norwich. I am now co-ordinating major transportation infrastructure in the western part of Essex.

Andrew D'Agorne | Diploma Careers Guidance 1983

In addition to being Careers Co-ordinator at the prestigious York College, I am a councillor on the local education committee and governor at a primary school.

Nineties

Martin Gibbons | Estate Surveying 1997

I have started an energy services company called Vital Energy. The business specialises in energy management for commercial and public sector buildings. We operate throughout the UK. Vital Energy provides Energy Performance Certificates and helps companies reduce their energy bills and carbon footprint.

Karen Mellor (née Chance) | Public Administration 1997

I moved to Dubai in September 2008 with my husband Andrew (Quantity Surveying 1997) and our three-year-old son Ethan. Our second son, Lucas, was born there in November. After 11 years of local government service, I'm now enjoying being a full-time mum.

David Rosselli | CM Management Studies 1997, DMS Management Studies 1998, MBA 1999

I am looking to expand into working as a management consultant in third world development.

Gerard Jennings | Combined Studies in Sciences 1999

I have started up my own consultant engineering firm. We specialise in transport planning, highway design, town and city master planning and feasibility studies of highway projects. Notable projects include the Newcastle City Centre Masterplan.

Noughties

Trevor Hardy | NVQ 4 Management Studies 1998, Cert Management Match Programme 2000

I have now retired from BMI and I am enjoying retirement after 46 years of work. I completed nearly ten years with the BMI Procurement Department, completing my career as Senior Category Manager thanks to my re-training at the Business School.

David Parsons | Cert Ed Further Education and Training 1998, CPSE Further Education 1999, Education 2000

I now have a wide range of qualifications in music education, having studied further education, peripatetic teaching and now secondary education. I can teach in almost any branch of the profession. Nottingham Trent started me off on the journey from unqualified soldier to Head of Area for Cambridgeshire Music.

Valerie Ross | Human And Education Studies 2000, PGCE Further Education 2001

I have set up my own business, Leading Parent Network, specialising in coaching, training, mentoring and advocacy for parents.

Dominique Stillman | Fashion Marketing and Communication 2001

I have been able to start my own business as an illustrator and designer. I am about to illustrate my first book which is very exciting.

Emma Yeomans | Television Production Design 2001

Although Location Managing is not Production Design, I still work closely with the art department to make the right location work for a film. I have worked on films including *This is England*, *Magicians* and *When Did You Last See Your Father?* I recently finished working on the second series of *Skins*.

Alistair Drummond | International Studies 2002

I fell off a tuk-tuk in Cambodia and had stitches in hospital over there. Then I got MRSA in England getting the stitches taken out! I'm better now.

Jennifer Freer (née Lovell) | Business Studies 2002

I married Stuart Freer in August 2007. I left my job at George to work for Next in 2005, later returning in 2007. I am now running my own department and really enjoying my role.

Rachel Souness | Business Studies 2002

After graduating, I moved back to Cornwall. In 2003 I started work at Worlds Apart, a privately-owned business. I began in the quality assurance department but have moved onto the technical side. Weekends are spent surfing, socialising and enjoying the Cornish environment. I recently decided to join the TA.

Ella Besharati | Primary Education 2005

Due to the excellent Primary Education course, I have now become the youngest assistant head teacher in the country at one of the best schools in the North of England. I had very dedicated lecturers who inspired my confidence and I think they deserve every thanks.

Catherine Didlick | Social Work 2005

I am back at NTU studying for a specialist award for children and families, and have enjoyed catching up with former tutors. I have struggled with cornea dystrophy but am getting better all the time and the cornea transplant has been a success.

Rebecca Heslop | International Business 2005

I moved to Auckland in 2008. I'm working for *Healthy Living* lifestyle food magazine and following All Blacks rugby now I'm a 'Kiwi'!

Anne McDonnell | MA Writing 2005

I have set up as a new publisher - under the name Pewter Rose Press - and have recently published my first book, *Cello and Other Stories*. This is a collection of short stories written by Frances Thimann, another NTU graduate, around the theme of old age.

Sallyanne McCrory | International Fashion Business 2006

In 2008 I went ahead and started my own business customising and making 'one-off' individual hoodies, along with T-shirts and belts. I now have an investor and the business has really taken off.

Jessica Pearce | Media and Cultural Studies 2006

After graduating, I worked temporarily for two regional newspapers as a sales executive, then as a secretary for a recruitment agency. In 2007 I embarked on a seven-month trip to China, Hong Kong, Thailand, Fiji, New Zealand and Australia. Since my return, I've been working as a PR Assistant with clients like Cheltenham Racecourse.

Laura Summers | International Studies 2006, MA Museum and Heritage Management 2008

Since completing my first degree, I went straight on to a Masters in Museum and Heritage Management. It was paid for by Nottingham City Museums and Galleries, my employer. Although it was a two-year contract, they kept me on so I'll continue with them until 2011.

Joanne Want | Decorative Arts 2006

I recently came back from seven months of travel to amazing places, have hit real life with a bump and am now a merchandiser for Boots. Although merchandising was something I wished to pursue originally, my travel bug and artistic streak are pulling me!

Lorraine Bagshaw | Communication Studies 2007

Since leaving University, I have worked as a freelance Assistant Director on films and TV productions such as *Secret Diary of a Call Girl*, *The Inbetweeners* and *Jonathan Creek*. I live in North London, but still regularly return to Nottingham to see family and friends.

Adam Louth | Planning and Property Development 2007

I work for Capitus as a Property Tax Depreciation Consultant. My pay is good, my work is challenging, I visit a lot of places and the free gym and spa membership is a great bonus!

Rabya Mir | Law 2007

I loved every minute of my time at NTU. I met so many people and left with so many more skills and personal attributes than I realised! My integration into work has been smooth and enjoyable - I owe this to the wonderful experience of attending NTU.

Obituaries

John Carter, former lecturer

John Carter, aka 'Chemistry Carter' by his students, died on 10 January 2009, aged 75. John was well known for his untiring support of science education, for encouraging and supporting many science educators, teachers and student teachers - and also for his eccentricities!

Anyone who travelled in his minibus, attended his lectures or worked with him will have a tale to tell. On one student field trip there were problems with his van so - while everybody was asleep - he stripped down the engine, used some 'spare parts' he carried with him and rebuilt it before breakfast.

John always took an active interest in the blossoming careers of his students. He was a very creative and hard-working teacher and teacher trainer, and a well-qualified lecturer in Physical and Analytical Chemistry.

Trevor Bleach, former lecturer

Trevor, who passed away in January, was an engineering lecturer for more than 20 years. He was forced to leave the lecturing career he loved after suffering a heart attack in the early '90s. He then struggled with ill health for many years before finally succumbing to cancer.

During his time at NTU, he introduced a new Industrial Management course, was a member of the orchestra and was warden at Silverdale Hall of Residence in Beeston.

Trevor was a genuine academic eccentric - pedalling around campus on his bike with his violin strapped to his back. He had a great sense of humour and delighted in "reinterpreting" rules as necessary. He is remembered as a talented academic, musician, raconteur and gentle man who will be sadly missed.

How do you remember Newton?

Our landmark building has reached a landmark anniversary! While all eyes are on the exciting transformation of the Newton building to help create the UK's finest city-centre university campus, we're also looking back to an important moment in its history.

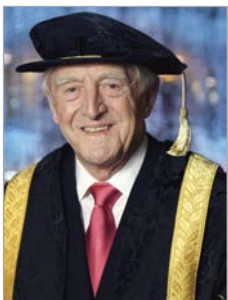
It is 50 years since Newton was officially opened by HRH Princess Alexandra. You can help us celebrate this milestone by sharing your memories of the times you spent in Newton and Arkwright - the lectures you attended, the friends you made and the experiences you enjoyed.

We hope to bring together stories from all graduation years for a special article or event when the building works are complete. And don't forget to send your photos too!

Go online today at www.ntualumni.org.uk and tell your friends what you are doing

Help support the future of education

The Chancellor's Building Futures Appeal



"I am proud to put my name and energy behind the Chancellor's Building Futures Appeal and call on all our alumni to hand down a timeless gift to their future counterparts; the gift of great personal and professional support while receiving a first class education in one of the finest city-centre campuses in the UK."

Sir Michael Parkinson CBE, Chancellor

Hear more from Sir Michael about our exciting plans for the future at a special event in London on Tuesday June 16 2009. (See page 7 for full details.)

www.ntu.ac.uk/chancellorsappeal

NOTTINGHAM
TRENT UNIVERSITY