

Spring / Summer 2015

Network

NTU alumni... you're part of it

Blowing the trumpet

for alumni giving

Five star
teaching

Research
excellence

Alumni
support grows

Discounts on
postgraduate study

NOTTINGHAM
TRENT UNIVERSITY



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Nottingham Trent University Alumni Association's Mission Statement

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

Front cover: Annah Morrish, Alumni Fund Award for Music (see page 12).



Creating the University of the Future

On joining NTU, one of my first priorities was to start the process for articulating a refreshed strategic vision for the University. Now our new Strategic Plan, **Creating the University of the Future**, is almost ready. Information will be shared over the coming months, but already I have received a range of views about the future of the University from the many alumni who I have met over the past months. As alumni of NTU you are important to all of us and we want to ensure that you continue to be involved in the life of the University; please do let me know if you are in Nottingham and would like to meet up to discuss the future of the University and ways in which you could contribute.

Looking forward, the next five years will bring increasing financial challenges and more government imperatives. Students' expectations will understandably rise, in particular for enhanced technology to underpin their studies and for programmes of learning that resonate with their personal and career ambitions. Engagement with employers and our alumni in the design and delivery of programmes that connect requirements for talent with the aspirations of our students will be ever more crucial. This issue of *Network* highlights the Alumni Fellowship programme piloted in Nottingham Business School (page 07) which we will soon be extending across all schools; again, if you want to be involved in this programme, please do get in touch.

Our strategic vision for **Creating the University of the Future – Creating Opportunity, Valuing Ideas, Enriching Society, Connecting Globally and Empowering People** – speaks to those areas where determined activity will transform the University in the service of students and society. I hope that we can encourage you to actively engage with us as we pursue its implementation.

Best wishes

Professor Edward Peck
Vice-Chancellor



Welcome

Welcome to the 2015 issue of *Network*, your alumni magazine.

This issue is all about you! We'd like to thank you for all your support over the years, whether it's been through mentoring, giving guest lectures, providing a career profile for the website, offering placements to students, or by making a gift. We are really grateful.

Not yet involved with your University? Well look through this magazine to find out more about how you could support NTU and our current students.

We also bid farewell to the current President of the Alumni Association, Stephen Dixon (page 27). After four years he has stepped down from this role. We thank Stephen for being so generous with

his time and we know that we'll continue to see him on campus at the University he's so proud of.

If you are craving more news from your Alumni Association, then there's plenty more online at www.ntualumni.org.uk where you can also update your details, and check out the benefits and services available to you as a former student of Nottingham Trent University.

Keep in touch – we really do enjoy receiving your letters, update forms, emails and phone calls.

**Clare, Ruth, Alex and Helen –
your Alumni Relations Team**

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Alumnus of the Year 2015

The 2014 Alumna of the Year Award was presented to solicitor and "leading force for social justice", Amerdeep Somal (LLB Hons Laws 1988), in recognition of her dedication to helping vulnerable people.

Who will it be this year? Could it be you?

Visit www.ntualumni.org.uk/alumnus_of_the_year to find out more about previous recipients and how to nominate.



Outstanding support for students

Nottingham Trent University received a top accolade at the prestigious *Times Higher Education Awards 2014*, when it was named winner of the 'Outstanding Support for Students' category.



The entry was for a new tutor / student dashboard, an innovative piece of software designed to support the student learning experience.

The dashboard brings together a wide range of information about individual students into a single location, such as library use, attendance in academic tutorials and grades, to allow tutors to provide the best possible support to individual students. It was developed, trialled and tested in collaboration with tutors and students before being rolled out across the University.

Mike Day, the Director of Information Systems, said: "This award recognises a collaborative effort between tutors, students and professional services."



University among 'greenest' on the globe

NTU has reaffirmed its position as one of the 'greenest' on the planet following the publication of two major sustainability rankings.

The University came fourth out of more than 151 UK institutions in the People & Planet University Green League 2015 – the UK's only comprehensive and independent green ranking of universities.

The University also came third in the UI GreenMetric World University Ranking out of 360 universities around the globe.

Stephen Jackson, Chief Financial and Operations Officer, who leads the institution's environmental practices, said: "Sustainability is something which we take incredibly seriously and we're very proud to see our efforts reflected in these two important league tables.

"From the start we've been resolute in our pursuit of environmental excellence and have gone to great lengths to cut the carbon footprint of our estates.

"We're determined to continue to improve our campuses even further and introduce yet more measures to help reduce CO2."

In the past ten years the University has spent more than £350 million improving its estates and is set to open its first carbon-neutral building at Clifton campus later this year.

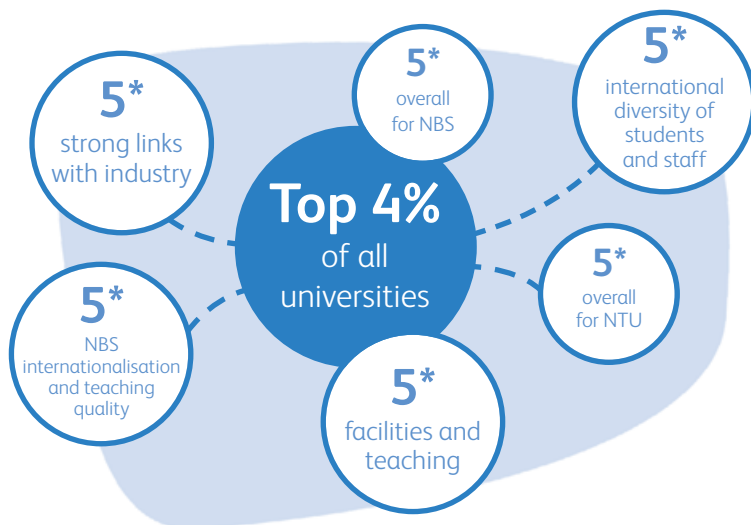
World-class teaching environment given five stars

Nottingham Trent University has been judged as world-class for its quality of teaching, international diversity, links with industry and its commitment to giving students from disadvantaged backgrounds access to higher education.

Following a year-long assessment process, the University received ratings under the QS Star system – the same body which compiles prestigious world university rankings naming 850 of the best 21,000-plus universities across the globe.

The University is already ranked in this list, putting it firmly on the world stage and in the top 4% of all universities, but now the system has gone a stage further – also giving star ratings for various aspects of all universities' work.

Professor Nigel Healey, Pro Vice-Chancellor (International), said: "Those categories which received five stars demonstrate the areas we value most as an institution – quality of teaching; our connectedness to business to ensure graduate employability; our international connectedness, giving students the opportunity to intermingle with students around the world; our world-class facilities and widening participation to ensure the opportunity for all students to succeed, regardless of their background."



Alumni mentor future talent

93% of our graduates employed or engaged in further study six months after leaving.

(DLHE 2012/13)

Our Employability Mentoring Programme matches current students with alumni volunteer mentors. The aim is to improve the employability of our students by tapping into the knowledge and expertise of NTU alumni working within their areas of interest.

96% of postgraduates employed or engaged in further study six months after leaving.

(DLHE 2012/13)

Amy Davies (BSc Hons Biochemistry 2014) is a Senior Relationship Manager Assistant at RBS and was mentored by John Palmer (BA Hons Economics 2011). She said: "Being provided with a connection in the career you wish to pursue is really beneficial and, thanks to John's support, I have been rewarded with a great first job for which I am very grateful. The balance between the workload and mentoring meetings can be daunting, but as a former student, John understood these pressures, so we met when we could both find time."

She added: "I would definitely recommend the programme to students. I have built in confidence and knowledge and I'm already interested in becoming a mentor to help another aspiring graduate."

Mentor John, who is an Assistant Director at the Royal Bank of Scotland, said: "When I received an email from the Alumni Association looking for new mentors I felt that I was in a position to give something back to the University that had given me so much support. At no point did I feel that mentoring was getting in the way of my work or personal life and the amount of time we dedicated centred around Amy's dissertation and final exams."

"I would recommend mentoring to others as it was a great opportunity for self-evaluation and to look back at what you have learnt since university. Alumni have so much to give in experience and support; and it's always nice to be invited back".



Did you know...

Alumni can access the services of the University's Employability Centre for up to three years after graduation and, register to use **FutureHub** (NTU's vacancies portal). You can also use **FutureHub** if you are an employer, looking to recruit a recent graduate.

Fine fellows

The pilot Nottingham Business School (NBS) Alumni Fellowship Programme is now in full swing!

Our 34 appointed NBS Alumni Fellows are currently donating their time through mentoring and employability support, guest lectures, participating on enhancement boards, academic buddying and company visits.

Each Alumni Fellow brings their experience and expertise which has proven to provide a unique learning experience for NBS students. Roger Luxton (MBA 1997), pictured, is a Marketing Solutions Consultant at GB Group plc. He said: "I was keen to give something back as I've always appreciated the support given to me throughout my career and during my studies.

"One of my favourite volunteer roles is mentoring. I've worked with a couple of students, listened to their aspirations, explained potential career options, and helped them tailor their CVs. I also enjoy working with the Employability Team, sharing my career journey and holding mock interviews.

"I would encourage others to get involved. There are loads of areas where you can offer your support, it doesn't take up a huge amount of time and it's so rewarding."

The NBS Alumni Fellowship programme has been a great success and there are plans not only to increase numbers, but also to extend it into other schools.



Visit www.ntualumni.org.uk/nbs_alumni_fellowship to find out more about the programme, activities, benefits and how to get involved in the 2015/16 academic year.



Thrive with The Hive

Many alumni and current students are enjoying business success thanks to The Hive – NTU's purpose-built centre for entrepreneurship and enterprise.

Designs on success

The Hive has provided a solid foundation for two enterprising young alumni.

Award-winning creative agency, Strafe Creative, was founded in 2010 by alumni Ross Davies (BA Hons Produce Design 2009) and Patrick Dolan (BSc Hons Computer Aided Product Design 2009).

Based in Nottingham's Creative Quarter, they serve clients nationally and internationally, offering a full range of creative services from print design through to web and digital media "and everything in between".

Ross said: "We both graduated from NTU, and benefited from The Hive's backing, so it made sense to take advantage of the support offered to us and launch our business in Nottingham. We have also been able to gain access to grant opportunities which allowed us to grow our business and expand our team ahead of schedule."

Patrick added: "Nottingham is a great location for business. We have used our base to reach companies in the East Midlands, but the transport links have also allowed us to reach out nationally too."

Visit www.ntu.ac.uk/hive to find out more.

The Hive's impact on the regional economy (to date)



Thinkubator support for your business



Businesses looking for growth support can benefit from the expertise of more than 1,000 expert academics, research students, business postgraduates and final year undergraduates.

Nottingham Business School's Thinkubator Challenge is the only event of its kind in Europe. Businesses from across the UK, ranging from owner-manager entrepreneurs through to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and multi-nationals, can submit problems on topics such as marketing, human resources and funding, for expert advice.

Students are split into hubs with Nottingham Business School staff facilitating. They then hear presentations from participating businesses before getting to work on their challenge – with just two hours to analyse the issue and finalise their recommendations.

The organisations who submit challenges receive a response the same day which outlines the hub's thinking, recommendations and advice on practical steps to take.

For Thinkubator 2014 alumna Louise Righton (BSc Hons Industrial Studies 1991) presented three challenges she and her business partners are facing with expanding their bicycle repair business, Pukka Pedals.

Louise said: "We are assessing franchising and licencing models, and wanted a fresh perspective on some of the strategies we are looking to employ. The students came up with a range of options and points to consider. It's confirmed our thinking in some cases, but has also given us a few things to think about. I'd definitely recommend Thinkubator as a great way to get a fresh pair of eyes on your business challenge."

Visit www.thinkubatorchallenge.com to find out more.



More than **1,000 staff**
and **students** are involved
in over **60 challenges**

Jonathan's tips for success

Despite having a busy life, the Law Society's President-Elect is looking forward to supporting his University.



In July Jonathan Smithers (BA Hons Law 1983) will take on the role of President of the Law Society of England and Wales, which represents around 160,000 solicitors practising in over 100 jurisdictions around the world.

During his presidency, he will continue to work as a Partner at CooperBurnett in Tunbridge Wells where he has been employed since leaving NTU, and has offered his support to Nottingham Law School through giving a guest lecture, meeting students and networking with fellow alumni.

He said: "I think it is important for law graduates to find a practice area that they find engaging. For me, the law has become an all-consuming career. Being a solicitor is not so much what you do, it becomes who you are. If you are willing to embrace that, then I think it is a truly fulfilling career.

"However, be prepared to have an open mind. It is very competitive so constant hard work is a necessity, and also an acceptance that learning, training and development is ongoing."

Visit www.ntualumni.org.uk/network to find out more about Jonathan Smithers.

Mentee becomes mentor

Alumna Laura Jewels took part in Nottingham Law School's mentoring scheme and is now a student mentor herself.

Laura said: "During my Graduate Diploma in Law it became clear how competitive the profession has become and that I needed to stand out from the crowd. As well as being a brain to pick, my mentor would also review applications for me. Having an extra pair of eyes and a pep talk over coffee was so helpful and gave me the confidence

boost I needed to apply to the big firms in Nottingham.

"As a mentor and former student, I know how stressful the whole process is, and that just having someone to run your ideas past can really help to get you where you want to be."



International inspiration

Nottingham Law School students have experienced tackling death penalty cases and human rights violations on international placements, supported by alumni donations.

Five students joined organisations across the US, and three travelled to Kerala in India to work with human rights Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), Jananeethi.

Ryan Akhurst was one of two students who worked for public defender, Michael Edwards, in Georgia, the US state which still employs the death penalty. He said: "We were given full responsibility to handle cases on our own. On a visit to the jail we saw the inside of prisoners' cells and how little space and privacy each person has. But learning the different schemes set up to help and rehabilitate them was very insightful.

"One of the challenges was interviewing the clients; looking at the evidence and understanding that this was real life and that

someone has been killed, but knowing I have to go open minded and talk to the suspect."

The three students who worked with Jananeethi in India produced a comparative study of the legal aid and alternative dispute resolution systems in Britain and India. They then presented their findings at a conference in the country, attended by a local judge, lawyers and lecturers.

Student Ferial Cole said: "The opportunity to intern at an NGO in India reaffirmed my view that the law is a tool which should be used to help the most vulnerable in society."

These placements are funded by generous alumni donations and NTU bursaries and are part of a range of pro bono opportunities available for Nottingham Law School students.

A legacy gift plays on

A legacy gift which provided three grand pianos continues to benefit students.

Mollie Kingsley, who took up the piano shortly after starting her BA (Hons) Fashion Design course, said: "I already played guitar and sang in a band but I grabbed the opportunity to learn to play the piano. It's lovely to play on a grand piano and wonderful that someone's gift has made this possible for me and many other students."

Three grand pianos were purchased by the University thanks to the generous bequest from former member of academic staff Des Wiltshaw when he passed away in 2006. Des started his career with at Trent Polytechnic in the Town and Country Planning Department, then as a member of NTU's Department of Surveying until his retirement. He specified that his legacy should be used "for the enjoyment of students" and the use of these pianos continues to fulfil his wishes.

Emeritus Professor Roy Morledge, School of Architecture, Design and the Built Environment, remembered Des with affection and commented: "When long standing colleagues retire they always leave a gap which is difficult to fill. This generous gift is a wonderful way to remember him and is a testament to the real legacy he left in the lives and careers of many alumni."



Annah blows the trumpet for Alumni Fund

Talented Furniture and Product Design student, Annah Morrish, is this year's recipient of the Alumni Fund Award for Music and has received a piccolo trumpet for use during her time at NTU.

Annah has played the trumpet for 12 years. She already owns two different types of the instrument, so was keen to try the piccolo trumpet when the opportunity arose.

She said: "I'd like to thank alumni for the support they have provided, not just for me, but also for the Music department in general.

"It's really important that students have the chance to carry on with their music during their studies. I chose to come to NTU because it offered me the opportunity to do the three things that were most important to me – my course, my music and my sport."



Interested in joining NTU Music? Alumni are welcome to join our choir and orchestra. Email music@ntu.ac.uk for information.

Kate is riding high

The Alumni Fund continues to support talented athletes at NTU.

This year's recipient of the Alumni Fund Award for Sport is event rider Kate Bleloch, who is currently studying on the Business Management (In Company) programme.

Kate sat on a horse before she could even walk: "My mum and brother both competed so I have always been around horses. I got my first pony, Skippy, for my fourth birthday".

To prepare for the eventing season, which starts in March, Kate begins work with her horses – nine year old Harry and seven year old Lily – in December. During this time Kate travels home to Warwickshire from Wednesday to Monday to keep her horses fit.

Kate says: "Monday mornings can be especially tiring as I get up to ride the horses before driving back to University. I'll get very accustomed to early starts as the season progresses, when I'm

The Alumni Fund has provided **£16,500** worth of support for **ten** athletes over **eight** years.

competing every weekend."

In 2014 Kate represented Great Britain at the Junior Eventing Europeans. Her aim is to ride at 4* level and represent Great Britain at the Senior European Championships and the Olympics whilst continuing to produce young horses.

When she's not studying, you'll probably find Kate working out in the gym, or making time to enjoy all that university life has to offer.

She said: "I'm so grateful for your help. Eventing is high pressured and time consuming but your support means I can balance my sport with my studies. The gym membership and strength and conditioning enables me to maintain and develop my rider fitness so I can perform at my very best. I am also proud to be able to represent the University at the British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) championships."



Visit www.ntualumni.org.uk/giving_to_ntu or call +44 (0)115 848 8807 to make a gift to the University.

Alumni bring music PGCE to life

Former teacher trainees working on the PGCE music programme are hosting training days in their schools.

Justin Cortazzi (PGCE Secondary Education 2012), Claire Bellamy (PGCE Secondary Education 2012) and Joanna Broughton (PGCE Secondary Education 2006) are also delivering sessions at NTU for current students.

Justin who is Head of Music at The Lancaster School in Leicester, and who is also a recording artist and producer for Mita Records, delivers training in the use and classroom application of music and recording technologies. Claire provides training on effective lesson design and delivery with the trainees at The Brunts Academy in Mansfield, whilst Joanna, from The Bemrose School in Derby delivers lectures and seminars on assessment and monitoring, diversity and inclusion and curriculum design.

Claire said: "As a PGCE trainee, I was given huge amounts of support from both NTU staff and teachers from other schools. Being able to visit schools and take part in workshops outside of NTU was a fantastic opportunity, so when I was asked to be part of this process for this year's PGCE trainees, I jumped at the chance."

Joanna added: "It was a delight to be invited back to share my expertise. I delivered sessions based on the theories and issues typically introduced to teachers throughout their careers. I wanted to give trainees the opportunity to acquire and apply their learning in these areas through a programme of music oriented, practical activities. The aim was to develop their understanding of the diverse factors faced in the music classroom, whilst building a useful repertoire of motivational and behavioural strategies."

Head of Secondary and Continuing Education, Dr Tony Harris, said: "Our alumni and trainees are an important part of the NTU community with a range of expertise that can enhance our courses. It's been a privilege to have former trainees as part of the music delivery team this year. They've each brought their own unique perspective on music education and helped to bring the course to life."



Never too young!

Thanks to the Children's University, young children are being given the opportunity to foster a "love of learning" at NTU.

www.ntu.ac.uk/childrens_university

Once students, forever alumni

Remember you are part of the NTU alumni network for as long as you keep in touch with us, so please let us know when you move on personally or professionally so that we can continue to keep you informed with details of the latest events and news from your University.

There are so many ways to keep in touch. Visit www.ntualumni.org.uk/update to update your details with us and join thousands of other alumni on our LinkedIn, Facebook and Twitter groups. You'll also find several LinkedIn sub-groups dedicated to certain professions or subject areas.

If you're looking for old friends then let us know. We could help you reunite with your class mates and we're happy to organise campus tours – just like we did with the Urban Estates Surveying class of 1974 (pictured).

Email alumni@ntu.ac.uk or visit www.ntualumni.org.uk for information.



Inspire the next generation

With more emphasis than ever on employability, career profiles submitted by alumni show how important university education is in gaining essential skills, finding an ideal job, whilst having a great time in Nottingham!

We already have a diverse and stimulating range of alumni profiles, but we're always looking for more.

Go to www.ntualumni.org.uk/getting_involved/graduate_profiles to view profiles and to submit your own.



On your bike!

The Road Cycling Club and Triathlon Club didn't have any road bikes so not surprisingly they were struggling to recruit new members!

Thanks to the Alumni Fund the purchase of five road bikes has given both clubs an opportunity to increase membership by giving students a short term loan to try out the sport. Some potential members did not own bikes or were discouraged from bringing them due to lack of storage, so funds also helped create new secure storage on campus.

Philippa Shubert, President of the Road Cycling Club, said: "Many student members, who had never used a road bike before, have enjoyed participating in the cycling skills sessions we run. As a result one student is now about to buy his own bike, and another is taking advantage of our new storage facilities to bring her own bike on to campus."

Visit www.ntualumni.org.uk/giving_to_ntu/alumni_fund/alumni_fund_projects to find out about other projects supported.

Join the crowd

You could help students' ideas become reality through our new crowdfunding campaign.

Using crowdfunding, NTU is exploring exciting opportunities to support student activities and projects – from degree shows to sports clubs. The plan is to raise money, awareness and support for their great ideas, and in return supporters will be rewarded.

For example final year Decorative Arts student Meghan Downs, who specialises in ceramics, gave away some of her work in return for pledges to support her degree show.

The funding she received went towards her creative costs, such as ceramic materials, equipment, sketchbooks, and printing. It also helped with producing promotional materials and professional business cards for use at the degree show to increase awareness, and covered some of her show display costs such as creating plinths and securing work.



Head of Development and Alumni Relations Office, Tim Cobb, said: "This is the first time NTU has participated in a crowdfunding campaign. It's great to be able to see our students put forward ideas and watch both them and their projects grow."

Visit ntu.crowdfunder.co.uk for a full list of projects currently needing your support.

Fly FM comes of age

NTU's student radio station, Fly FM, celebrated its 18th birthday recently.

Helping with celebrations were alumni Rob Lilley, Emma Jones, Matt Geer, Tom Watts and Claire Chambers who hosted training sessions and were guest presenters on some of the shows.

Current Fly FM Station Manager, Matt Maddren, said: "In preparation for the celebrations I had to delve back into the station's history and realised just how far we have come.

"We have improved and added more variety to our programming every year and are more open now than ever before. I think that's partly down to becoming a Student Union affiliated society."

The list of former station managers for the award winning Fly FM is impressive and includes former Absolute Radio presenter Mark Crossley,

David Cameron Walker – former President of the Students' Union and now an Assistant Producer at talkSPORT, and Adam Leventhal of *Sky Sports News*.

The anniversary week ended with a special edition of *Trent Talk* featuring former Students' Union President Ben Morrison (BA Hons Contemporary Arts 1995) who started it all off.

Ben took a campus tour with pal Harj Bhachu (BA Business and Quality Management 1996) – pictured below – and said: "My urge to visit was a mixture of personal nostalgia, wanting to see the new Students' Union building and being contacted by Fly FM for its 18th anniversary. They asked me to tell the story of how Kick FM (now Fly FM) was created. I'm so proud that it is still benefiting those listening and those involved all these years later."





Government backing for £10.3m science centre

NTU is to invest £10.3 million to establish further facilities devoted to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines.

A new Interdisciplinary STEM Teaching and Engagement Centre (ISTEC) will contain state-of-the-art teaching laboratories. It will also support the University's Schools, Colleges and Community Outreach activities, while providing important facilities for industry and a platform for wider collaboration.

The centre, sited at the Clifton campus is expected to be completed during the 2016/17 academic year.

The University will receive £5 million – the maximum bid for any university – as part of the Higher Education Funding Council for England's STEM teaching capital funding.

As well as enabling students to work across the range of STEM subjects, ISTEC will allow them to engage in more technical, teamworking and industry-relevant activities, helping to increase their skills and knowledge for industry, creating a seamless transition between university learning and employment.

Guardian University Awards for NTU

NTU has been recognised for its innovative teaching methods and business partnerships with two awards and a runner-up place at the *Guardian* University Awards 2015.

Digital humanities project, *Dawn of the Unread*, which has transformed the students' approach to learning about culture and the arts, took the top spot in the Teaching Excellence category – and the University's SCALE-UP, a project which focuses on learning by doing rather than listening, took a close second.

Nottingham Business School's work with the Nottingham Energy Partnership received the award for Business Partnership. As part of their core curriculum, students act as consultants to local businesses, helping them to reduce



Greenhouse Gas Emissions and achieve environmental accreditations.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Edward Peck, said: "As a 21st-century university we are always looking for ways to energise and transform learning. These projects are perfect examples of how we're using real business engagement, new technologies and methods to engage our students."

Research excellence

Late last year, NTU celebrated the announcement that almost all of its research is of 'world-leading', 'internationally-excellent', or 'internationally-recognised' standard.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Edward Peck, said: "This evaluation exercise demonstrates that NTU is a university that truly values ideas through the quality of its research and enriches society in the ways in which it ensures that it impacts upon the lives of us all.

"It is evidence that world-leading research can flourish in universities that are also teaching intensive; indeed, it is crucial that our students experience teaching that is infused with ideas derived from academics producing research at the leading edge of their disciplines."

90% of research falls within top three categories

55% classed within the top two categories

86% of biomedical sciences and

84% of general engineering submissions classed as world-leading or internationally-excellent

100% of NTU research submitted under biomedical sciences, business and management studies, and psychology was found to have world-leading or internationally-excellent impact.



Check out the next few pages for our latest research stories.

Research excellence

You are what you eat?

Researchers in NTU's School of Social Sciences are examining the impact of omega acid dietary supplements upon the way in which the brain responds to emotions such as anger, fear and sadness.

Participants, who consider themselves to have aggressive personality traits, are currently taking part in a six month study.

Participants will take either an omega-3 or omega-6 supplement, with the researchers examining the brain's electrical activity as they view images intended to illicit different feelings and emotions.

It is hoped that the findings could help to better understand how diet might be used to reduce depression and aggressive behaviours.

Researcher, Dr Alexander Sumich, said: "Studies in people with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) suggest that certain nutrients may well play a role in how we regulate emotions and behaviours, while others have been found to improve our attention and ability to think.

"We anticipate that the omega-3 supplements will alter brain mechanisms associated with impulsivity, depression, aggression and violent behaviour. The findings could help us to shed some light on how diet could help to tackle maladaptive behaviours."

The study is in collaboration with THMC LTD, producers of Crystal Mind, an omega-3 fatty acid supplement with high eicosapentaenoic acid content.



Bolder the better

Foxes, mice and snail personalities have provided an insight into animal reintroductions for one NTU researcher, thanks to equipment purchased by the Alumni Fund.

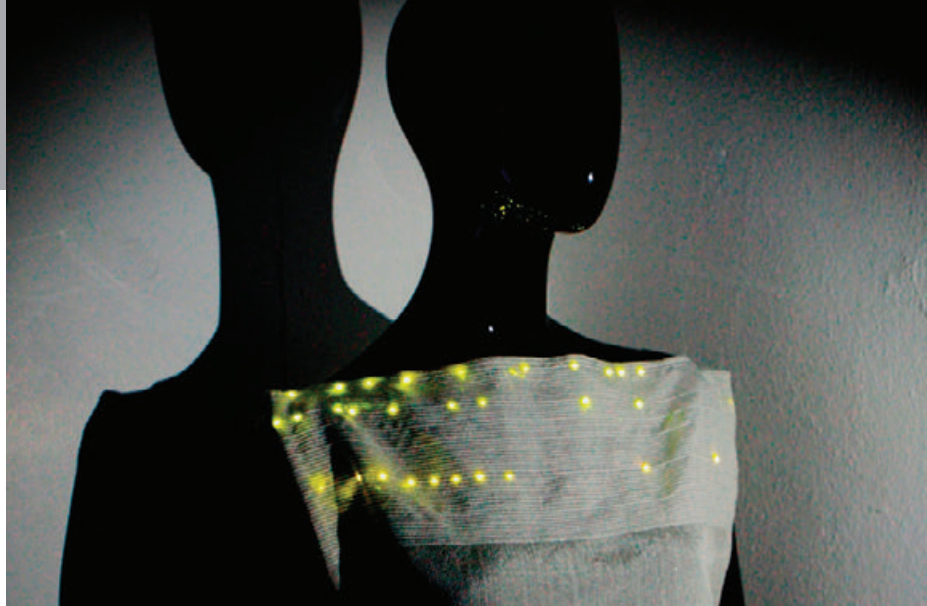
Dr Samantha Bremner-Harrison in the School of Animal, Rural and Environmental Sciences, explained: "Traditionally reintroduction programmes have released large numbers of animals on the basis that a small percentage will survive and reproduce. However, one factor affecting the success of reintroduction is intraspecific behavioural variation, or differences in animal 'personality'. It could be as important as age, sex ratio, genetics and health when



selecting individuals for release.

"We released groups of wood mice into Sherwood Forest and looked at how high levels of behavioural variation could improve the likelihood of a successful reintroduction."

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



Fibre of the future

Nottingham Trent University is to share in £20 million of funding to allow it to begin manufacturing fibre electronics.

Researchers from NTU's Advanced Textiles Research Group (ATRG) will work with Electronics and Computer Science at the University of Southampton on the project, funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, to develop novel manufacturing methods for wearable technology. It is one of ten projects to receive a slice of the £20 million funding pot and £2.8 million has been awarded overall to both universities with the ATRG receiving around £1.2 million.

The project will further ATRG's work on embedding electronics, such as Light-emitting diodes (LEDs), sensors and micro-controllers directly into yarns which can then be made into any number of products, from clothes to car

seats.

The funds will allow the group to improve its product by making the yarns even finer, allowing production of things such as shirts with built-in yet invisible sensors, micro-controllers and communication devices.

The funding for the four-year project will also enable the University to develop the machinery it needs to begin a medium-scale manufacturing unit for the fibre electronics.

Professor Tilak Dias, who heads up the ATRG, said: "I believe that fibre electronics will initiate a second industrial revolution in textiles."

A range of partners have identified the huge potential of the work and are supporting it in kind to the value of a further £430,000.

These include Stretchline, the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory, Speedo, BSN Medical, Royal Centre for Defence Medicine, International Automotive Components, Plessey Semiconductors, Urgo Ltd, the Centre for Process Innovation and MediCity.

These partners are already interested in potential applications of the yarn, for health, performance and commercial purposes.

"I believe that fibre electronics will initiate a second industrial revolution in textiles."

Professor Tilak Dias

Research excellence

Guilty? It's all in the eyes

Suspects of crime could be given away by their eyes, new research suggests.

Psychologists at NTU used eye tracking equipment to monitor the eye movement and gaze of innocent and guilty participants as part of a series of videoed mock scenarios.

During the study 12 participants – the murderers – were given the full details of their crime, while this 'guilty knowledge' was withheld from 12 'innocent' participants.

The researchers found that when watching CCTV footage of the 'incident', innocent parties focused heavily on the knife which had been used as a murder weapon, whereas 'murderers' fixated on it far less, attempting to 'over control' their eye movements to other locations to avoid suspicion.

The study supports previous research which has found that victims and witnesses to real-life crimes will focus most of their attention on the weapon being used, rather than other important details.

The researchers believe that murderers skipped over much of the detail because of their familiarity with the crime and their deliberate attempt not to dwell too long on specific words or phrases which might give them away.

They believe that eye tracking techniques and measuring ocular movements in this way could potentially be used to support other methods of investigation.



Videogame technology to help stroke patients

Videogame technology is being used for the first time to provide stroke patients with interactive rehabilitation from their own homes.

A team led by Philip Breedon, Professor of Smart Technologies at NTU, is using Microsoft Kinect – a gaming device which senses movement and voice commands – to help patients with facial palsy.

The device is used to monitor stroke patients' facial movements during their daily exercise regimes and provide encouragement and recognition for their accomplishments.

Developed in consultation with stroke survivors, the system allows therapists to configure bespoke exercise programmes to meet the individual needs of each patient.



The project funded with a £347,000 National Institute for Health Research Invention for Innovation grant – is in partnership with the University of Nottingham, Nottingham City Care Partnership and Maddison Product Design.

Professor Breedon, from the School of Architecture, Design and the Built Environment, said: "This innovation will allow stroke patients to receive interactive therapy exercises and feedback for facial weakness after a stroke. The exercise regime is interactive, so patients will receive much-needed encouragement and recognition for their accomplishments.

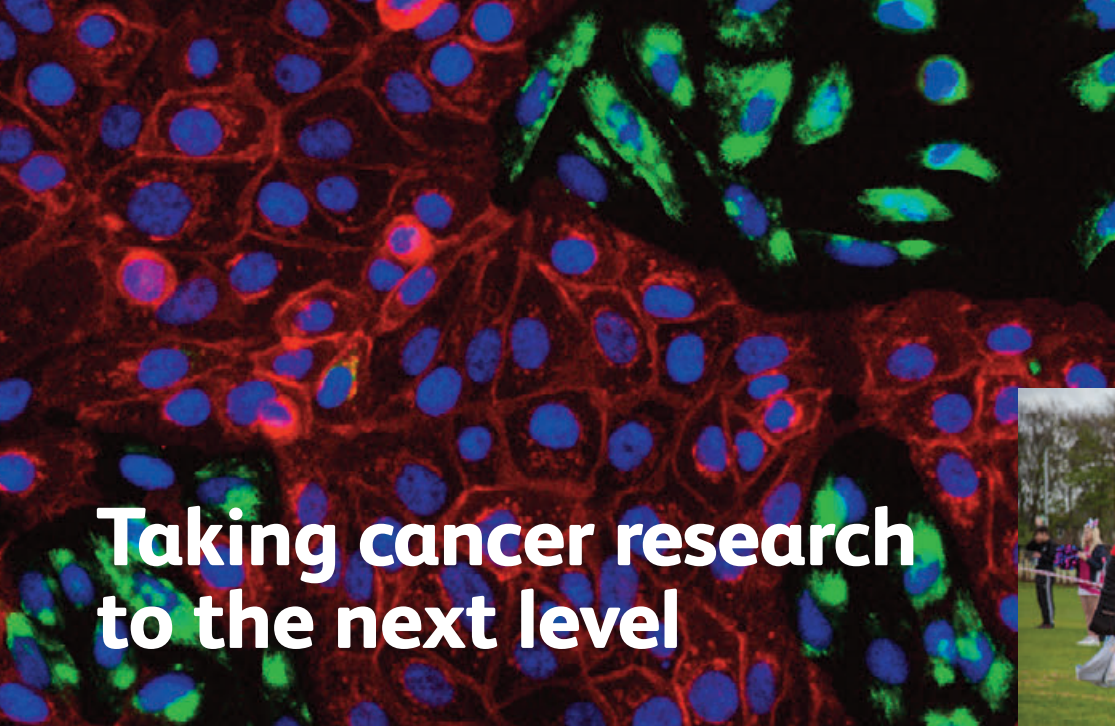
"Feedback has been positive so far and we hope this simple innovation can be used widely in the near future."

Alzheimer's research boost thanks to legacy gift

Alzheimer's research at NTU has received a major boost thanks to a generous legacy bequeathed by the late Mr John Turland, a local Nottingham resident.

Mr Turland wished his gift of £100,000 to be used to fund a PhD in order to advance understanding of the disease.

His donation, together with additional University funding, has enabled the appointment of two PhD researchers in the School of Science and Technology.



Taking cancer research to the next level

The John van Geest Cancer Research Centre is to house a new piece of equipment to identify molecules which will support its work in improving the early diagnosis and treatment of breast and prostate cancers.

The next generation mass spectrometer is only the second in Europe and is used to weigh molecules, enabling scientists to identify proteins, or parts of proteins, which are important to cancer. These 'biomarkers' could then be used to help with early detection of cancer, or be used as potential targets for a new cancer vaccine.

Dr David Boocock, Group Leader of the Clinical Proteomics group in the Centre, said: "This will take our cancer biomarker discovery ability to the next level. We will be able to see each sample in much more detail than was previously possible."

The instrument is worth more than £450,000 and is being funded by the Healthcare and Bioscience iNet – an European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) funded initiative managed by Medilink East Midlands – and the John van Geest Cancer Research Centre.



How can you help?

Recent scientific studies predict that around one in two of us will be diagnosed with cancer at some point in our lives.

With 100% of the money the John van Geest Cancer Research Centre receives being used on lifesaving research, perhaps you might consider helping by undertaking a sponsored event?

You can do anything you want to – perhaps you enjoy climbing mountains, going on runs, swimming, being silent, washing cars? Whoever you are and whatever activities you enjoy, you can do something to make a difference. Maybe you could even involve your workplace?

Visit www.justgiving.com/jvgcrc to set up your page or contact the Alumni and Community Giving Officer Stephen Knott at stephen.knott@ntu.ac.uk or on +44 (0)115 848 8807.



A legacy for all families

After providing for those closest to you, could you consider leaving a gift in your Will to support cancer research at NTU?

By designating a modest sum or a percentage of your estate to cancer research at the John van Geest Cancer Research Centre, you will be playing an important part in helping to save lives and improve outcomes for those with cancer in the future – and 100% of your legacy gift will go directly to fund scientists, equipment and consumables at the centre.

Professor Bob Rees, Director of the centre, said: "The future of our discoveries can only be secured with ongoing philanthropic support. We want to



leave a powerful legacy of cancer research for all families and we hope that others will want to join us in this."

Carol and Adam Johnson said: "We are delighted that the gift we have put in our Will can help with the centre's wonderful work. Our family has been touched by cancer in many forms and, as parents to an adopted daughter, we are conscious of how important the progress of cancer research and treatment is for her generation."

To discuss a legacy gift, please contact Fiona Fowkes, Senior Development Officer (Legacies), email fiona.fowkes@ntu.ac.uk or call +44 (0)115 848 8775.



Air Marshal Baz North

Honour for Baz North

Former Alumnus of the Year, and RAF's Deputy Commander for Capability and Personnel, Air Marshal Baz North (HND Business Studies 1981) received the Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath (KCB) in the 2015 New Year's Honours List.

Air Marshal Sir Baz North said: "It is a rare privilege to be recognised in such a way. Since 1815 there have been only around 1,500 Knight Commanders of the Order of the Bath; to be considered as one of them is an exceptional honour and one that has significant personal meaning.

"In my role I have frequently used skills that are founded upon the comprehensive business education that I received at Nottingham Trent

University and I certainly would not have the understanding of resource programming and commercial processes that form a considerable part of my duty without that foundation."

Head of Development and Alumni Relations, Tim Cobb added: "We are so proud of Baz. He is an inspiration and we are grateful that, despite his busy job, he returns to NTU regularly to show his support."

Stephen steps down

As this issue of *Network* carries the theme “support your university” we would like to say a special thank you to one of our most active volunteers.

After four years, Stephen Dixon (BA Hons Broadcast Journalism 1995) has stepped down from his role as the NTU Alumni Association President. As well as representing you and supporting the University, over the years the busy *Sky News* presenter has also presented at Welcome Week, given guest lectures, mentored current students, given out thousands of graduation goody bags, and wrote a blog for the alumni website.

Stephen said: “The most rewarding thing from the past few years has been my contact with alumni, often newly graduated. I’ve always done my utmost to help them, whether offering advice or setting up meetings, and I take great pride in that.

“I leave this role with a heavy heart, but a proud one, and will watch the University continue to grow with interest and enthusiasm. Through our education we have not only a great heritage, but also a link to an even greater future. Stay proud of your NTU history and your NTU family.”

Alumni Relations Officer, Clare Oswin, said: “We cannot thank Stephen enough for his generosity over the past few years. He really became part of the team, and was always happy to help. He will always be welcome back on campus.”



Keep checking
www.ntualumni.org.uk
for details of the newly
appointed President of
the Alumni Association.

Creating a buzz

A scientist and alumnus from NTU have collaborated to form a major part of this year's prestigious World Expo in Milan.

A giant aluminium lattice sculpture, the Hive, designed by Wolfgang Buttress (BA Hons Fine Art 1987), will be the centrepiece of the UK Pavilion commissioned by UK Trade and Investment.

This installation provides an immersive experience for visitors, drawing upon and showcasing ground-breaking work by NTU scientist Dr Martin Bencsik in monitoring the health of bee colonies. The design aims to highlight the importance of honeybees in food production and prompt the visitor to reflect on sustainability issues.

The Hive, forming the focal point of the UK pavilion site, is a 14-metre cube aluminium lattice structure based on an abstract re-interpretation of honeycomb. Visitors enter into a spherical void, carved from the centre of the sculpture. Lighting and soundscapes within are directly-inspired by Dr Bencsik's research, with sounds and an array of LED lights flickering in response to live-streamed signals from a real bee colony.

The collaboration came about after Wolfgang – who was aware of Dr Bencsik's work – won a much-coveted design competition to find the best team to showcase Britain's distinctive qualities of creativity and enterprise.

Countries from across the globe will be showcasing their creativity and innovation at the World Expo from 1 May to 31 October 2015 and is expected to attract more than 20 million visitors.

Find out more about the exhibition and Dr Bencsik's research:
www.ntualumni.org.uk/network





From rags to works of art

Alumna and artist, Joy is creating artwork from thousands of unwanted clothing labels.

Joy Pitts (BA Fine Art 2004 and MA Fine Art 2005) collects labels from charity shops and clothes that are to be turned into rags and uses them to create beautiful works of art.

Her work caught the eye of designer Paul Smith who commissioned her to do a piece of art for his private collection, after she contacted him to ask for some labels.

Joy said: "I started experimenting with materials when I was at college. The first piece I did was a shopping bag covered in labels and it won an award, then I did something similar and that won another award, as did my third piece."

Joy, who gave up her job as a civil servant to concentrate on her passion, divides her time between gathering used labels and assembling the work. She said: "I usually start a project by visiting the site which helps me to get closer to the subject, and gives the work context. The collection of used labels is ongoing and I usually make visits to charity shops once a week."

As well as her commission by Paul Smith she was selected for The Royal Academy Summer Exhibition in 2014. Her latest project is a portrait of the Queen made up of World War One name tapes which took 110 hours to put together. She is currently trying to find an exhibition place to officially unveil the portrait.



Visit www.joypitts.co.uk to find out more.

Events at NTU

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

www.ntualumni.org.uk

A decade of Distinguished Lectures

Alumni and friends are welcome to attend our Distinguished Lecture Series – now in its tenth year.

The Distinguished Lectures cover a wide variety of exciting and thought provoking subjects, tackling topical and sensitive issues.

Over the years high profile expert guest speakers have included historian and broadcaster Michael Wood, BBC World Affairs Editor John Simpson CBE, botanist David Bellamy, Expert Adviser on Health and Work to the Department of Health Professor Dame Carol Black, award

winning television and radio broadcaster Gavin Esler, and Chair of the Youth Sport Trust Baroness Sue Campbell CBE.

As *Network* went to print the 2015/2016 tenth annual series of Distinguished Lectures was being confirmed. Keep checking **www.ntu.ac.uk/distinguishedlectures** for information.



1. Sir Richard Dearlove KCMG OBE
2. Michael Wood
3. Professor Dame Carol Black
DBE FRCP FMedSci
4. Gavin Esler

Distinguished Lectures at Nottingham Trent University |
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Art and Design Degree Shows 2015

NTU launches its annual creative showcase of final-year student exhibitions, catwalk shows and events in May and June 2015.

Featuring the work of over 1,200 graduating students, the shows offer a unique opportunity to see a wide spectrum of highly innovative exhibitions of work within close proximity of each other, across the flagship buildings of the NTU site.

Subject areas include fine and decorative arts; photography, media and graphics; theatre, costume, film and television design; architecture and interior architecture; product and furniture; fashion, knitwear, accessories and textiles.

Degree Shows Public Opening:

29 May to 6 June

Industry Preview Event:

28 May (booking essential)

Community Activity Day:

30 May (booking essential)

Catwalk Shows and Fashion Exhibition:

20–21 May (ticketed event)

Photography Festival:

26 May to 5 June



Image by Layla Brookes (BA Hons Theatre Design 2014)

Visit www.ntu.ac.uk/degreshows for further information.



Image by Stephen Tinkler (BA Hons Graphic Design 2014)

Climax Reunited 2015

Over 1,000 alumni returned to NTU on Saturday 11 April to relive their student night out and party into early hours of the morning at Climax Reunited.

It was the second Climax Reunited event to be held in the Students' Union building since its refurbishment, giving some alumni the chance to enjoy the new nightclub experience for the very first time.



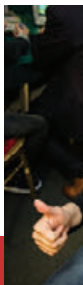
Money raised on the night was split equally between the John van Geest Cancer Research Centre and supporting future Students' Union activities.

This year's Climax Reunited also coincided with the first ever Alumni Sports Day at Clifton campus featuring various past vs present matches.

Update your details at www.ntualumni.org.uk/update to ensure you receive news about forthcoming events.

Nottingham news

This year sees some special anniversaries in Nottingham.





One of Britain's most beautiful Victorian theatres in the heart of Nottingham, the Theatre Royal, is 150 years old this year. This is where the world's longest running play, Agatha Christie's *Mousetrap*, premiered over 60 years ago!

Nottingham Forest Football Club was also conceived 150 years ago in a local pub, and within a year the first official match took place against Notts County Football Club. Nottingham Forest has gone from strength to strength over the years, with Brian Clough leading them to glory during the 1970s and 1980s. A host of celebratory events will be taking place to say "Happy Birthday" to the iconic football club.

Set in Sherwood Forest Country Park, The Robin Hood Festival celebrated its 30th year in 2014, and once again, from 3-9 August 2015 there will be a week of free entertainment in this magnificent setting and a daily programme packed with education and entertainment for all ages.



Visit www.experiencenottinghamshire.com for the very latest details of what's on in Nottingham.



Game on

This year Nottingham also sees the opening of the world's first cultural centre for gaming – the National Videogame Arcade (NVA), bringing hands-on experiences of videogames and videogame culture under one roof in a way that's never been seen before.

The NVA aims to inspire and empower games-makers of all ages and backgrounds and to celebrate the UK's unique heritage as a world-leading innovator in games development.

GameCity10, Europe's biggest and best-loved cultural videogames festival, will take place in various venues across Nottingham from Thursday 22 - Saturday 31 October 2015.





25% OFF

postgraduate courses
for recent alumni.*

Go further for less

Have you graduated from an undergraduate course since 2010? Apply for one of our postgraduate courses and you will get 25% off your fees. Plus you can apply for one of our postgraduate scholarships.

Find out more at www.ntu.ac.uk/progresstopg

*Eligible courses only. Terms and conditions apply.

Students create their own master's courses

Our brand new Multidisciplinary Master's (MDM) lets students create their own postgraduate course.



The new course, launched in September 2014, is one of the first in the UK to offer students the flexibility to combine subjects from across different academic areas. Over 80 students have joined the course which is available full and part-time.

Students choose from over 70 major and minor modules and take part in a consultancy project and three-to-six month industry placement.

www.ntu.ac.uk/mdm

Benefits for you!

To thank you for all the support you have given NTU over the years, we would like to remind you of the benefits on offer to you!

- Access to the University's Employability Centre for up to three years after graduation, as well as access to FutureHub, NTU's vacancies portal.
- Access to an online job board via the Alumni Online Community, where you can also update your details with us online.
- 50% discount on library membership.
- NUS extra card when you join the Students' Union as an Associate Member for £12 per year.
- Discount on NTU Sport Membership.
- Special discounts at leading attractions around the UK, such as Alton Towers, the Dungeons, LEGOLAND® Windsor, Madame Tussauds London, Thorpe Park, Warwick Castle and SEA LIFE.
- 10% discount on holiday cottages throughout Europe with cottages4you.
- Up to 10% discount off parks and lodges with Hoseasons.
- Free use of the Legal Advice Clinic based at Nottingham Law School.

Visit www.ntualumni.org.uk/benefits_and_services to find out more.



And with your alumni venture card...

- **20% off** at Nottingham's Galleries of Justice and City of Caves.
- **10% off** at Blackwell book stores at NTU Chaucer and Clifton campuses.
- **15% off** membership at Broadway, Nottingham.
- **10% off** all food and drinks within the Cafe Bar at Nottingham Contemporary.



Past and present

Fifties and Sixties

Did you graduate in the 1950s or 1960s? We want more news and nostalgia from you! Email alumni@ntu.ac.uk or return your update form.

Seventies

Andrew Finlayson | HND Construction Management 1971

I would welcome any contact from the classmates who attended Trent during 1968-1971.

Richard Bracey | BSc Urban Estate Surveying 1975

The 40th anniversary reunion of starting class was held on 30 September 2011 in Nottingham. We hold regular annual walking weekends.

Eighties

Nicola Davies | BA Hons Modern European Studies 1985

I would love to be in contact with others from the Modern European Studies course who graduated in 1984 and 1985.

Antonio Marcello | BA Hons European Business 1989

Living in the Kingdom of Jordan since 2010, working as the Group Treasurer for Arab Bank. Alumni Fellow at Nottingham Business School.

Nineties

Carolyn Coleby | BA Hons Photography 1993

Working in Montserrat as a freelance photographer and writing articles since 2004. My articles and photos have been used by CBC (Canada), The *Montserrat Reporter* and various British magazines. I am currently setting up Turtle Conservation Volunteer Vacations with John Jeffers, who received an MBE for his 36 years of work in the field.

Visit www.ntualumni.org.uk/network to find out more.



Jenna Frudd | BA Hons Business Studies 1998

I've been working on a 53 house development for the past seven years, including the restoration of a Grade II listed Manor House into apartments. The site used to be the HQ for Nottinghamshire Constabulary at Epperstone Nottinghamshire.

Noughties

Christopher Forster | BA Hons Business and Quality Management 2000

Me and Helen Cardy (BA Hons Humanities 1999) are celebrating ten years of our Nottingham business. I always wanted to run my own business and with Helen found an opportunity to set up and run a chocolate shop, Chocolate Utopia. We hand make chocolates onsite, and sell them along with coffees and hot chocolates. In 2006 Helen and I married and we have two daughters to keep us busy. We really enjoyed our time at NTU and are still close to the friends we made there.

Charlotte Pratley | BA Hons Fine Art 2007, ProCert Heritage Tourism 2011, MA Museum and Heritage Management 2013

I have joined Jessica Tarver (MA Museum and Heritage Management Alumni 2011) as Managing Director of Culture Syndicates. We provide competitively priced consultancy to support Museum and Heritage organisations by training and employing NTU graduates. We have recently taken on five new graduate employees and are being supported in becoming a community internet company by NTU's business support initiative, The Hive.

Helen Sear | BA Hons Broadcast Journalism 2008

Since graduating I have pursued a successful career in TV production, specialising in documentaries. I recently coordinated a series for Channel 5 – *Life on the Yorkshire Buses*. I am currently working on series seven of *24 Hours in A&E* for Channel 4.

Teenies

Sophie Bard | BA Hons Textile Design 2011

My textile designs were featured in a styled Windows 7 advert, published in *Vogue* and *Grazia* in July 2011. I have sold to many international and high profile clients such as Paul Smith, Victoria's Secret, Ted Baker, Topshop and Macy's. I am also a visiting lecturer in the Fashion and Textiles department at NTU, running visual communication and computer aided design workshops.



See www.ntualumni.org.uk/network to read more updates and email alumni@ntu.ac.uk to tell us your news.

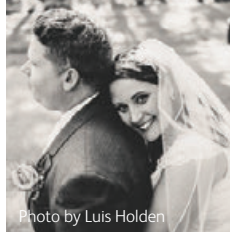
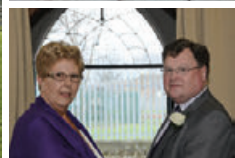


Photo by Luis Holden



Photo by One Love



Tying the knot

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

Chris Laws (BSc Hons Business Information Systems 2007) and Katherine Brice (BA Hons Multimedia 2008)

Sarah Wright (BA Hons Childhood Studies 2010) and Benjamin Gregg (BSc Sports and Exercise Science 2011)

Caris Henry (BA Hons Politics 2005) and Becky Lee Satarupa Ghosh (LLM Law 2012) and Partha Roy

Emma Murfet (BA Hons Childhood Studies 2010) and Sam Devenish (BA Hons Media with Film and Television 2010)

Jo Hayward (BA Hons Design Management for the Creative Industries 2006) and Matt Darvell

Catherine Preece (BA Hons International Fashion Business 2006) and Tim Reed

Sabrina Webb (BA Hons Humanities 2008) and Ian Andrews

Jenna Drury (BA Hons Fashion Knitwear Design and Knitted Textiles 2008) and Remi Libardi

Rev Bob Stephens (BA Hons Human Services 2003) and Sue Burdus

Emma Lomas (BA Hons English 2010) and Kevin Woodward (BSc Hons Digital Media Technology 2010)

Varshaa Sriram (Legal Practice Course 2011) and Hari Rajagopal

Sara Kent (BA Hons Business Studies 2005) and Steven Armstrong.



Photo by Claire Hillyard

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

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

Obituaries

Craig Alan Hutchison (aka DJ Chopper)

Not an alumnus, but somebody you may remember, Craig “DJ Chopper” Hutchison passed away in January 2015. Craig DJ-ed on Saturdays at “Climax” in the Students’ Union for over 11 years, and also made guest appearances at our alumni event Climax Reunited. There is no doubt that he has created great memories for thousands of students – playing the music that they now associate with their time at NTU.

Graham Joyce, author and former lecturer

Graham Joyce died of cancer in September 2014. As an author Graham won The British Fantasy Award six times, and was nominated several times more. He was also a winner of the prestigious World Fantasy Award. His novels included *The Tooth Fairy* (1996) and *The Facts of Life* (2002) and *Some Kind of Fairy Tale* (2013). Graham studied at Leicester University, gained a PhD from the University of Nottingham, and taught on the Creative Writing course at NTU.

Andrew Lane (LLB Hons Law 2009)

After graduation Andy did the Bar Vocational Course, was called to the Bar and went on to serve the community as a Magistrate. Andy was a well-regarded senior project manager in the financial sector. He held an MSc in Software Engineering from Kellogg College Oxford and studied Risk at the University of Leicester. He had a lifelong love of learning and was studying for an Open University degree in Physics at the time of his death. Andy loved animals and had many pets from dogs and cats to the more exotic; snakes, owls and even macaws. He was a great cook and an even better friend. He is survived by his wife, Wivine, and is greatly missed by all who knew him.

Lester Gordon Potter, aka LGP (BEng Hons Electrical and Electronic Engineering 1988)

Lester left school at 16 to join the Royal Navy but left after five years and got a job at BT in Derby where he began to fill in the gaps in his education. In fact, BT sponsored his degree at NTU. With a wife and two small children at home he was completely focussed on his studies. After university Lester worked for BT, Global Crossing, Cable and Wireless, before going back to BT and finally to Vodafone. He enjoyed watching and playing sports and was training for an extreme cycle ride over The Alps to raise money for a Ugandan charity for orphan boys when he suffered a fatal heart attack. Lester had six children (four with his second wife Penny). Daughter Kate Elizabeth Seaton-Potter has followed in her father’s footsteps and is currently studying at NTU.

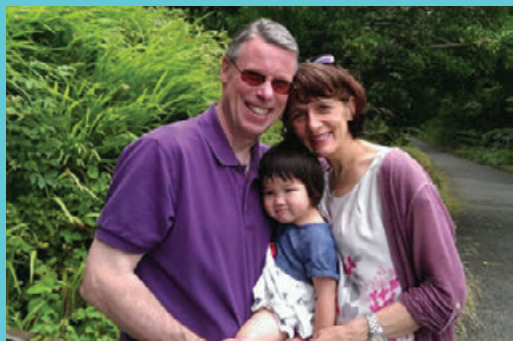
Tom Sweeney (Cert Ed Further Education and Training 1998 and BA Hons Education 2007)

A much loved and respected husband and father of two, Tom passed away after a short but courageous battle against oesophageal cancer. Tom worked in varied sectors, but his main passion was nursing and adult education. He believed that anyone could achieve their goals regardless of previous academic success and designed and maintained a well-used web community to help those working in the care industry to achieve work based qualifications. He also worked as an assessor and verifier. As a committed Christian, Tom gave free advice and support to the web community, always going that extra mile. He had a quiet but effective way of positively impacting on the lives of others and his family hope he will be remembered for this.

Thanks to you – our amazing alumni and friends!

Whether you've been back to NTU to give a guest lecture, acted as a mentor for a current student, participated in the NBS Alumni Fellowship Programme, taken a placement at your organisation, employed one of our graduates, are an international alumni ambassador or made a donation to the University, we are so grateful for your generosity and support.

Visit www.ntualumni.org.uk/getting_involved to find out how you can continue your support or get involved.



Visit www.ntualumni.org.uk/giving_to_ntu see how your donations make a difference, and to make a gift.

This information can be made available in alternative formats.

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