

Steps

The Lancaster Magazine 2018

TEZ ILYAS

FROM SCIENCE
TO STAND-UP
COMEDIAN

MEDICAL ADVANCES

A BRIGHT FUTURE
FOR LANCASTER'S
MEDICAL SCHOOL

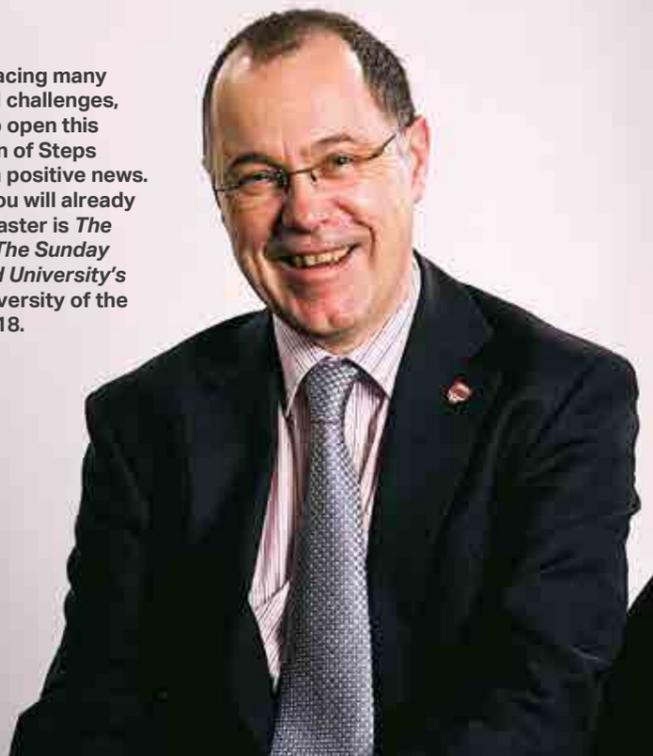


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Lancaster
University 

Welcome

In a world facing many dramas and challenges, it is good to open this 2018 edition of Steps focusing on positive news. As I hope you will already know, Lancaster is *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* Good University's Guide's University of the Year for 2018.



This accolade, alongside our highest ever UK league table placing (6th), is testimony to the hard work of everyone involved with the University. Added to a Gold standard award under the new Teaching Excellence Framework and scores of 91% for student satisfaction and 97% for graduates in employment or further study three years out from Lancaster, the last twelve months have brought considerable success to your University.

The year has also seen us build further on our founding vision to widen participation in higher education. A good example of this was the inaugural graduation, last September, of ninety students at Lancaster University Ghana in Accra; a vibrant and happy occasion delivered with wonderful exuberance. Most recently, this mission has seen us partner with the Manchester United 'Class of '92', led by Gary Neville, and corporate giant, Microsoft, to develop an innovative educational offering in the form of University Academy 92.

We continue to seek strong academic partnerships across the globe, to continue our original mission, enrich the student experience and enhance the impact and value of our research.

I close (as I did last year!) with a reference to the new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), implemented in May. We have always regarded it as an important duty to protect your data and GDPR adds to the safeguards. Do please read the information about keeping in contact by email and help us to ensure we have the appropriate permissions from you to allow us to stay in touch! Maintaining contact with our growing alumni network is critical to us. You are Lancaster's Third Estate (alongside students and staff) and I cannot overstate the importance of your advice, support and advocacy to our continuing success.

I hope you find plenty to interest you in this edition of Steps and look forward to engaging with you over the coming year.

Professor Mark E. Smith
Vice-Chancellor

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Easier by Email

Do we have your current email address? Most of our communications use email for speed and to restrict the amount of paper we use. To ensure you receive our Enews and event invitations, please email us at alumni@lancaster.ac.uk and we will verify that we have the appropriate information for all future communications. Also, if you move house, please contact us and we will update your address for your copy of STEPS. You can also let us know by using the form provided with this magazine.

We look forward to hearing from you. Keep in touch!

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The articles printed here, to the best of our knowledge, were correct at the time of going to press. We cannot guarantee that all articles submitted have been printed and we reserve the right to edit material where necessary. Furthermore, the views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of Lancaster University or the Editor.

Steps is available to view online at www.lancaster.ac.uk/alumni as a PDF. If you require this magazine in another format, please contact the Alumni & Development Office.

NEWLY QUALIFIED DOCTORS GRADUATING FROM LANCASTER MEDICAL SCHOOL HAVE THE ADVANTAGE OF A VITAL SKILL ABOVE THEIR ACADEMIC GROUNDING, TO EQUIP THEM FOR A FAST-CHANGING NHS SYSTEM WITH RAFTS OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND POPULATION CHANGES. IT'S CALLED ADAPTABILITY.

Medical Groundbreakers



Artist's Impression of the Health Innovation Campus



Dr Rachel Isba
Head of
Lancaster
Medical School

Adaptability - alongside problem-solving and community-facing care - drives the ethos of Lancaster's medical school, which admitted its first students in 2006 to produce more doctors for the under-doctored Lancashire and Cumbria area and to encourage young people from the region to go into medicine.

As one of the UK's newest (and smallest) public medical schools, Lancaster is ranked ninth in the Guardian's Student Guide for 2018. It has broken the traditional mould by putting general practice at the heart of its mission to train doctors for the 21st century. Students deal with patients from year one and gain a considerable amount of their clinical experience on placement in primary care, in Lancashire and Cumbria.

Head of Lancaster Medical School, Dr Rachel Isba says: "I think Lancaster medical students are a resilient bunch, they have to be, to catch the bus at 7am to make their way from Lancaster City to Barrow for clinical placements.

"My vision is to bring doctors to graduation who have a good understanding of their patients, but also the populations from which they are drawn and the context in which they live. We also have a good track record of producing doctors who go to work in shortage specialities such as general practice and psychiatry and who are good communicators."

The summer of 2017 saw the graduation of the first cohort of medical students to receive a Lancaster University MBChB. From the school's inception in 2006, until 2016, students studying on the Bailrigg campus did so under a partnership agreement with Liverpool Medical School until the General Medical Council approved its own degree-awarding powers.

The school has an intake of 50 students rising to 125 in October 2019. This increase follows a successful bid for additional students after the government's announcement of a 25% expansion in medical student places.

The next major advance will be the building of medical school premises, as part of the construction of the Lancaster University's Health Innovation Campus (HIC), set to complete its £41m first phase in 2019. The HIC will provide a focal point for the medical school which is currently housed across campus.

Dr Isba believes that the HIC will be good news for staff, students and the local population as it will provide the kind of inter-disciplinary learning environment where a wide range of individuals and organisations can join in exploring innovative approaches to find new solutions to current and future health problems.

She says "Our medical students already have the opportunity to work with a wide variety of colleagues across a range of university disciplines, as Lancaster prides itself on the fact that work around health takes place in all parts of the University. The HIC, however, will offer students the chance to cross paths with others from outside the University, including industry and the third sector."

Having qualified at Oxford University in 2003, Dr Isba took up her current post in Lancaster in February 2017. She combines this with clinical work at North Manchester General Hospital as a consultant in paediatric public

health medicine with an interest in emergency medicine - thought to be the only public health consultant to be based in an NHS emergency department in this way in England.

One of her goals is to raise the profile of Lancaster Medical School. She is excited to see some of the first intake emerging from postgraduate training and becoming local GPs. This trend is likely to continue as more Lancaster graduates choose to stay in the region for postgraduate training or return later in their careers.

The complexities of predicting what kind of medics will be required in 10 years - let alone further ahead - are challenging at a time of massive medical discovery, organisational change across the NHS and alterations in population disease patterns. Recruitment of medical students from a wider range of backgrounds forms a key part of Lancaster's strategy to train a future workforce.

"There's no fixed point, looking ahead, except that patients will always need doctors" says Dr Isba, "but graduates will need to understand more and more about the populations and communities from which individuals are drawn, and the wider determinants of health and wellbeing for those patients. And that's what we focus on here at Lancaster Medical School."

HEALTH INNOVATION CAMPUS

The Health Innovation Campus (HIC) which is currently under construction on a 32,000m² site next to the University, is designed to be a game-changer for both teaching and research, by focusing on helping people to live longer and better lives and to be supported in home settings with the best digital and technological support. This will not only require the development of new materials and techniques, but also innovative ways of thinking about the way we all live, in order to improve health.

HIC is funded by the University and through the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership's Growth Deal Fund and the European Structural and Investment Fund.

Construction of the £41 million first phase of the building, adjacent to the University's campus, has started on site and is due to open in 2019.

Work is about to begin on Phase 2, incorporating new University facilities for laboratory sciences and a new NHS diagnostic pathology for Lancashire and Cumbria. Phase 3 is still in the planning stage.

A new director, Dr Sherry Kothari has recently been appointed as Director of the Health Innovation Campus and will join the University in September 2018.

Head of the University's Health Engagement and Innovation Team, Professor John Goodacre, who is one of the academic leads for the HIC, says: "The main intention of the HIC is to help improve population health by building on our strong reputation for interdisciplinary teaching and research. It is also intended to be a driver for economic growth in a local area where there is a lack of employment, using the strong partnerships we already have with the health sector, business and the third sector."



Professor John Goodacre
Director of Health Engagement and Innovation Team

Alumni in Print

- 1 LESLIE SHORE**
MBA, 1993
The Tredegar Company – One of the South Wales Coalfield's Big Three
- 2 ZOSIA WAND**
MA Creative Writing, 1999
Trust Me
- 3 CATHERINE ROBINSON**
PhD Creative Writing, 2013
Forging On
- 4 MARCUS TOWELL**
MA Contemporary Literary Studies, 1997
English, 1995, Cartmel
Today or Not Today
- 5 DR MAY LAI-YIN WONG**
PhD Linguistics, 2005
Hong Kong English
- 6 PETER BARNES**
Politics, 1981, Fylde
The Story of Welcombe
- 7 MARTYN CRUCEFIX**
English, 1979, Bowland
The Lovely Disciplines
- 8 HEATHER LOTHERINGTON**
MA Linguistics for English Language Teaching, 1983
Teaching Young Learners in a Superdiverse World
- 9 HEATHER RICHARDSON**
MA Creative Writing, 2008
Doubling Thomas
- 10 RITIKA AGARWAL**
Business Economics, 2010, Lonsdale
Fit or Fiction
- 11 JOHN CULLEN**
PhD Management Learning, 2009
Leadership & Change for the Health Professional
- 12 RACHEL SARGEANT**
MA Creative Writing, 2015
The Perfect Neighbours
- 13 ALAN DENT**
French Studies, 1976, Fylde
Poets & The Algerian War
- 14 DAVID HACK**
MSc Ecology & The Environment, 2010
Biological Sciences, 2006, Furness
The Back to Basics Diet
- 15 DAVID CROSS**
MA Literary Research, 1983
Public Sculpture of Lancashire and Cumbria
- 16 RACHEL EVANS**
MA Modern Languages Research, 1997
Roses of Marrakech
- 17 TIMOTHY MCCRACKEN**
MA History, 2012
History 2008, Pendle
The Royal Army Medical Corps in the Great War
- 18 NAOMI KRUGER**
PhD English and Creative Writing, 2015
MA Creative Writing, 2010
English Literature with Creative Writing
2008, Bowland
May



The Big Day

Congratulations to our alumni couples

- 1 SAM WILLIS**, History, 2008, Furness married **ELIZABETH BEANLAND**, History, 2008, Furness
- 2 JAMIE ELLERSHAW**, Finance & Economics, 2010, Grizedale married **HANNAH DODSON**, History, 2011, County
- 3 JACK ASPDEN**, BBA Management, 2011, Fylde married **SALLY WALSH**, Psychology in Education, 2010, Fylde
- 4 CARL WALKER**, Mathematics, Grizedale, 2010 married **CLAIRE BOLTON**, Law, 2010, Grizedale
- 5 ANDY WILLIAMS**, BBA Management, 2011, Pendle married **JENNY HACKETT**, Psychology in Education, County, 2010
- 6 ZACK COATES**, Theatre Studies, 2011, Lonsdale married **JESS NEWTON**, Psychology, 2012, Lonsdale
- 7 JONATHAN HANCOCK**, History, 2012, County married **RACHAEL BURDEN**, Philosophy, 2012, Bowland
- 8 ANDREW PLATTS**, Law, 2010, Lonsdale married **RACHEL COCKIN**, Linguistics, 2010, Lonsdale
- 9 GARETH COLEMAN**, English Language & The Media, 2008, County married **FRANCESCA HALL**, English Language, 2008, Fylde
- 10 MICHAEL VICKERS**, Psychology, 2008, Grizedale married **SARAH GRAHAM**, English Literature, 2010, Grizedale
- 11 ROB HALL**, Biomedical Science, 2013, Cartmel married **HATTY BACON**, Philosophy & Creative Writing, 2012, Cartmel
- 12 GARY FIELDING**, MSc Sustainable Water Management, 2012, Earth Sciences with Geography, 2011, Furness married **REBECCA GREEN**, MRes Science of the Environment, 2012, Geography, 2011, Furness
- 13 CRAIG BARKER**, MA International Relations, 2012, History, 2011, Grizedale married **EMMA GREEN**, Law, 2011, Grizedale
- 14 PETER WATT**, Psychology, 2008, Lonsdale married **HOLLY PHELPS**, Psychology, 2008, County
- 15 LEE SHELLUM**, History, 2010, Furness married **HANNAH ROBERTS**, Theatre Studies, 2010, Furness
- 16 RAECHEL BUTLER**, Psychology in Education, 2010, Fylde married **ALICE RIPLEY**, Psychology in Education, 2010, Bowland
- 17 LORENZ HERFURTH**, PhD Design, 2017, MA Design, 2009 married **VIRGINIE THERIAULT**, PhD Linguistics, 2015
- 18 ANDREW MIDDLEHURST**, Law, 2009, Fylde married **GEORGIA HILL**, Geography, 2009, Pendle
- 19 GREG TOMASZEWICZ**, Geography, 2012, County married **KATY SHAW** Business Economics, 2012, Lonsdale



JOKING APART

FOR COMEDIAN TEZ ILYAS - A MUSLIM BOY FROM BLACKBURN WHO HAD NEVER BEEN ON A NIGHT OUT, LET ALONE TO A CLUB - FRESHERS' WEEK AT LANCASTER WAS A COMPLETE EYE-OPENER. HE LOVED IT AND QUICKLY AFTER MADE UP HIS MIND TO BECOME THE BEST HIP-HOP DANCER ON CAMPUS.

TEZ ILYAS
MSc Management, 2005
Biochemistry, 2004, Furness

Image © Steve Ullathorne

Now an established stand-up comedian, Tez laughs as he remembers the way that life exploded for him that first week, escorted by more savvy Furness student 'minders' to discos, bars and clubs and looking on at students being students – he was the only person who was not drinking alcohol.

"It was mad and I really enjoyed it," says Tez. "They were the best years of my life. Coming from a quite insular Asian community, Lancaster really broadened my horizons."

He gained something of a local reputation as a dancer in his four years at Lancaster, going clubbing two to three times a week, and also as a joker. One night he even managed to persuade a female admirer at The Carleton that he had been a backing dancer in Michael Jackson's final tour - which would have made him about 40 years old, had it been true! It was also a way for him to fit in with his student peers - and to keep his weight down given his diet of curries and pizzas.

Tez is completely honest in confessing that he did not set out to go to Lancaster University. Born in England, of Pakistani heritage, he wanted to go to medical school but did not get the A-level grades. But he is clear that his place through clearing to do Biochemistry at Lancaster was the best thing that could have happened to him. In fact, he enjoyed it so much that he didn't want to leave and stayed on another year to do a Master's degree in Management.

Lectures were never a big draw, and Tez admits he only went to about 15% of them and relied on the good friends he'd made to lend him notes. But he loved the lab practicals and the potential for having fun. However, he quickly realised that a life in science was not for him, but that he could make people laugh and he enjoyed the attention.

Management studies came much more easily and aspects of marketing have proved invaluable to his career as a self-employed comedian. He also learned to express himself on paper and realised he loved writing.

College life at Furness was a joy for Tez - with the added fun of discovering fellow students sharing the same names as racing star Eddie Jordan, cartoon character Charlie Brown, and musician Phil Collins. He instantly saw Furness' social potential. He was one of the first of his cohort to join the JCR, and went on to become International Student Welfare Officer and Male Education and Welfare Officer, which brought him friends, kept him in the loop of student goings on, and gave him an audience he was learning to enjoy entertaining.

He also seized some of the job opportunities the University offered, including working for the alumni office on the fundraising call team and working on summer camps with school kids who would not otherwise have considered university. He says: "That was really fun, and it gave me great experience of how to talk to people."

When the time came to leave Lancaster, Tez took a graduate job, winning a sought-after place on the Civil Service Fast Stream, beginning in Croydon. However, he was not a born Home Office Civil Servant, as he freely admits, although he enjoyed placements in The Prince's Trust and the Olympics. Friends kept telling him he was funny, so in 2010 he looked for a creative writing course and in doing so discovered stand-up. He was hooked.

He began doing open mic nights and downmarket gigs and writing his own material, alongside his day job as a civil servant. As the stand-up rapidly took off, he soon found his dual lives had become incompatible and he opted to become a full-time comedian in 2016.

Since starting he has performed at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival numerous times, which he describes as being like a four week long Freshers' week. He's had his own show on BBC Radio 4, and appeared on various TV panel shows, and recently starred in the hit BBC sitcom *Man Like Mobeen*. He has recently toured his third solo show *Teztify* in which he 'teztifies' against all the assumptions the world has of him: openly Asian, a Northerner and a working-class man of faith.

Like his previous two shows - *TEZ Talks* and *Made in Britain - Teztify* opens up both Muslim and non-Muslim society to scrutiny, which he feels is particularly important given the prejudices on both sides since the Manchester arena attack in 2017.

"It has become more difficult to be a Muslim in Western society over the last decade," he says, "but perversely it's easier to be a Muslim comedian, because people really want to hear our perspective."

"It's an easy way to humanise my community, because many people do not come across Muslims in their daily lives." How else would the curious be able to hear about what it feels

like to have to work during the Ramadan fast, or how a Muslim might view the concept of Father Christmas?

Looking back at his Lancaster days, Tez says: "They made me the man I am today." He always felt confident of practising his faith on campus, he made lasting friendships and developed a sufficiently strong sense of identity, that he can now make a living sending himself up in public.



**STAND-UP
COMEDY**

**YOU CAN FOLLOW TEZ ILYAS ON FACEBOOK, TWITTER OR INSTAGRAM
@TEZILYAS OR ON HIS WEBSITE WWW.TEZILYAS.COM**

Lancaster's Law School has consistently been ranked as best in the North West.

Raising the Bar

Here we profile two of our alumni at different stages in their successful legal careers.



Jan Lamping

Subject: Law
Year: 1986
College: Furness
Profession: Deputy Chief Crown Prosecutor for North London

As Deputy Chief Crown Prosecutor (DCCP) for North London, Jan Lamping (née Plevey) is responsible for managing 10% of the UK Crown Prosecution Service's magistrate caseload. It's a job she might never have done had it not been for a chance encounter at Lancaster three years after she had left.

Jan had graduated in Law in 1986 and was working as an articled clerk at a practice in Lancaster, when she was invited to attend a Lancaster University careers evening as a recent graduate. There she met Lancashire's then Chief Prosecutor, John Bates, who opened up the prospect of a legal career area she had never thought about, in the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and suggested she apply for a job.

"I left there feeling really excited," remembers Jan. "I remember spending a lot of the evening talking to him about the work of the CPS. It was about crime, which I had really enjoyed studying as an undergraduate, but it was making the decision about whether or not

to prosecute, which I thought sounded really interesting. I would not even have found out about it until a lot later, had it not been for that careers evening."

Having joined the CPS in 1990 and qualified as a solicitor later the same year, she worked in Lancashire until 1999 before moving to Scarborough and working in Hull, Scarborough, York and Leeds until 2015. She appeared in court and was responsible for many high-profile cases. In 2003, she became a manager and worked her way to the position of temporary DCCP for the North East. In 2017, that position was made permanent and she was asked to move to London, before being appointed to her current post.

At Lancaster, Law was not a subject she had studied before and Jan admits she found it tough, alongside the Politics and Social Administration she selected in her first year. She had no idea of what she would do after graduation, but enjoyed the criminal law modules, "Lancaster taught me to be able to work on my own," says Jan. "It also helped me to build up self-confidence."

The University Mooting Society gave her skills and confidence. Alongside this, she feels that the real sense of belonging she felt as an undergraduate gave her a sense of security upon which she could later build her high-powered career.

After graduation, she enjoyed 12 months as a management trainee with GEC in London, before deciding to become a solicitor. Her love for Lancaster influenced her decision to return to the area to work as an articled clerk after doing her Law Society finals in Newcastle.

Jan's career has progressed in giant strides and, although the work is challenging and keeps her in London away from her home in Scarborough, for four nights a week, she gains deep satisfaction from helping victims of traumatic crime through the criminal justice system.

She says: "The feeling of belonging to something greater that I felt for the first time at Lancaster has made me continue to seek to play an active part in the bigger community."



Robert Lassey

Subject: History and French
Year: 2013
College: Furness
Profession: Barrister at Kenworthy's, Manchester

The chance of Robert Lassey making the leap from average 'A' level student to barrister looked on paper to be so slim (the need to win one of 350 training places against 10,000 other applicants) that he needed a level of self-belief, as well as an ability for sheer hard work, to make that dream actually happen.

Now a barrister at Kenworthy's Chambers in Manchester, Robert acknowledges the debt he owes Lancaster for helping him build those qualities during his four-year course studying History and French.

Born and raised in Ripponden, West Yorkshire, Robert candidly describes the teenager who arrived at Lancaster as a fresher in 2009 as 'nondescript' with no real idea of what he wanted to do. What he did know, however, was that he had been attracted to Lancaster by its national reputation for excellence, its collegiate structure and its prominent location in the north of England.

Academically, Robert found Lancaster rigorous. "The tutors were always willing to stretch you academically, if you wanted to do it" he points out.

"They would always go the extra mile with you."

Robert admits he worked hard - even more so when he realised at the end of his second year that he was heading for a 2:2 but wanted a 2:1. Alongside his studies Robert's social life remained an important feature of life at Lancaster - "There was always something you could get involved in," he enthuses.

Graduation left Robert with the 2:1 for which he had sweated, but with still with little idea of what career to pursue with it. A couple of months of contemplation left him with two glaringly obvious options - becoming a barrister or entering academia. Ultimately he chose the former because he felt it may open more doors into the latter.

He had developed oratory and acting skills - both essential to his proposed career path - as a member of the Halifax-based Workshop Youth Theatre charity from the age of 13. The charity remains a big part of his life today, and he has recently been appointed to the Board of Governors.

He progressed from the graduate law conversion course to the Bar Professional training course. He then faced the final crucial stage of obtaining a pupillage in Chambers, knowing that 10,000 applicants from the UK's top universities were going for around 350 places of which 75% were in London. Undeterred, he was successful in obtaining a 12 month Common Law pupillage in Manchester at Kenworthy's Chambers, where he has now accepted a 'tenancy' specialising in criminal and employment law.

He loves his work, even though it requires much additional preparation to understand his cases and to be ready to present them effectively in court, often in the face of aggressive cross examinations.

"My teachers at Lancaster played an incredible role in helping me develop because they always had the time to explain anything that you did not understand. Ultimately that is refreshing and fosters self-belief."

For full features visit www.lancaster.ac.uk/alumni

ALUMNI: FRIENDS FOR LIFE

Over the past year Lancaster alumni, staff and students have met up at a variety of events across the world which bring friends – old and new – together to network and socialise.

Our annual flagship event in London took place in March 2018 at the Churchill War Rooms, where over 200 guests were treated to a tour of the venue, a formal dinner and live music. Many guests fully entered into the spirit and dressed according to the fashion of the era. In September 2017 we were delighted to host a Golden Anniversary Graduation Reunion for Lancaster's first graduates from 1967 at The Royal Geographical Society. Other event highlights this year have included the launch of the book *When Rock Went to College* in the Great Hall, an evening at the British Consulate in New York, a reception in Hong Kong hosted by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Andrew Atherton and Cartmel College's 50th Anniversary Reunion. Alumni have also facilitated work place visits for students on the *Capital Connections* employability programme and enjoyed networking events with them.

As ever, our volunteers in the UK and across the world help to keep the links with Lancaster by hosting events in their local area. These events may be part of a visit from staff from Lancaster or on a smaller scale where alumni meet up to network or recount their favourite memories from student days.

If you wish to know more about groups in your country, visit the alumni website www.lancaster.ac.uk/alumni/your-alumni-network

We hope to see you at alumni events soon! Forthcoming events online: www.lancaster.ac.uk/alumni/events



Cartmel College's 50th Anniversary Reunion - May 2018



FOR OVER 50 YEARS, LANCASTER HAS BEEN PROVIDING EXCELLENCE; OUR RESEARCH AND TEACHING, OUR ENGAGEMENT WITH LOCAL, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITIES, OUR CONTRIBUTION TO CURRENT DEBATES AND ISSUES, AND PRODUCING GRADUATES OF THE HIGHEST CALIBRE.



The First Student Cohort Graduation in Ghana



LU Ghana Graduation Selfie!



LU Ghana Graduation Ceremony



Oheneba Lovelace Prempeh (centre), Alumni Awardee

Lancaster University in Ghana

As of 2013, Lancaster was also the first UK University to open a branch campus in Sub-Saharan Africa – Lancaster University Ghana (LUG). This symbolised a continuation of our commitment to international engagement, outreach and education.

Working in partnership with the Transnational Academic Group Ghana Limited, the purpose of LUG was to produce dynamic, proficient and expert graduates, with the skills required to support the Ghanaian and wider African economy.

Lancaster University Ghana embodies diversity and internationalism, with the student body made up of over 25 different nationalities, taught by a combination of local, international and Lancaster University lecturers.

On Thursday 21 September 2017, Lancaster University Ghana celebrated its first student cohort's graduation,

with nearly 90 students taking part in the first ever degree ceremony – the first of many!

Graduates who attend the ceremony received the same degree certificate as they would from the UK institution, in the following subjects: Economics & International Relations, Politics & International Relations, Marketing, Business Studies, Accounting & Finance, Computer Science and Law.

The Provost of LUG Professor John Grainger, Deputy Provost Dr Cynthia Forson and Lancaster University's Pro-Vice Chancellor International Professor Steve Bradley attended the graduation.

The co-founders of Transnational Academic Group, Rakesh Wahi & Zafar Siddiqi, were also part of the proceedings.

The inaugural address was delivered by the British High Commissioner to Ghana, Iain Walker, with the Chancellor of Lancaster University, the Right Honourable Alan Milburn, presiding over the event. Milburn said of the graduation:

"We are committed to producing the graduates Ghana needs to fulfil its ambition to grow economically, to be inclusive socially and to bring lasting prosperity to all of its people in the years to come.

"We provide opportunities for students – regardless of their background – to realise their aspirations in life. Lancaster's philosophy is simple – what counts is not where you came from in the past, but what you are prepared to give of yourself in order to create a fulfilling future. The University's job is to give you that opportunity."

A poignant moment of the day was the presentation of the Alumni Recognition Award, given to Oheneba Lovelace Prempeh, Lancaster University's first ever Ghanaian graduate, and one of the first Africans to attend Lancaster University. Prempeh graduated in 1968 with an Economics degree.

The event was a fantastic celebration of the achievements and triumphs of Lancaster University Ghana's first graduates, and represented the best of Lancaster University culture – internationalism, hard work, friendship, success and fun!

We look forward to the next one.

University News

UNIVERSITY OF THE YEAR



Lancaster University has been named University of the Year by *The Times* and *The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2018*.

It has also taken the top spot for Best Campus University and Best University in the North West.

Lancaster has been the top university in the northwest of England for over a decade and this year rose three places to finish sixth place in the national league table, securing it a top 10 finish for the second consecutive year and its highest ever ranking.

Its sixth-place ranking in *The Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2018*, as well as the winning of the coveted University of the Year award, cements its place as an elite UK university.

Earlier in 2017 the University was also awarded Gold in the Teaching Excellence Framework – the new government-led teaching ratings published in June – and had an outstanding score in the National Student Survey for student experience. Lancaster's 84.3% positive score in this area

was the seventh-best in the UK, helping the University rise three places to sixth in the overall Good University Guide rankings.

Commenting on the decision to make Lancaster *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* University of the Year and Campus University of the Year, Alastair McCall, editor of *The Sunday Times Good University Guide*, said: "Rising to its highest ever ranking in our league table this year, Lancaster is at the top of its game. It knows the university it wants to be and as a result makes a distinctive offer to students."

"Dynamic course content and structure, plus the opportunities many students get to work abroad, is reflected in outstanding graduate prospects once they leave. In the 19 years of our University of the Year awards, there has rarely been a more clear-cut winner."



LANCASTER PLAYWRITING AWARD



A new playwriting prize is being launched this spring to discover new voices from culturally diverse backgrounds.

The Lancaster Playwriting Prize is an initiative arising out of the Cultural Partnership between Lancaster University and The Dukes Theatre, Lancaster. It is supported by the actor and Lancaster graduate, Lucy Briers and Tamasha Theatre Company.

"I want to find a play which not only challenges me as an audience but also challenges the genre of theatre," said Lucy, one of the judges.

"Live performance is still for me the most exciting form of dialogue between an author and an audience. Can it find a new voice to speak with? I don't want gimmicks, I don't want clever for its own sake. I want to feel that I am hearing the true soul and voice of the playwright."

In this inaugural year, the prize is focused on BAMER (Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic and Refugee) playwrights of any age or experience, resident in the North West.

Fin Kennedy, Artistic Director of Tamasha Theatre Company, said: "Tamasha is delighted to support the inaugural Lancaster Playwriting Prize, which we hope will uncover some exciting new talent in the region."

For more information on Lancaster Playwriting Prize, visit www.lancaster.ac.uk/playwriting



Many of the University's departments were represented during the five-week programme, which covered topics as diverse as child development, the history of medicine, Chinese culture and practical legal advice.

CAMPUS IN THE CITY

Campus in the City took place for the fourth time this year, with 2909 adults and 1760 children visiting the store in St Nicholas Arcades, Lancaster from 24 February to 31 March 2018.

The project brought local people, academics and students together through an exciting programme of free and interactive activities, which aimed to challenge, inspire and inform.

A wide variety of events took place, beginning with an exciting launch day including reptiles, a 3D tour of the human body, circus performers and activities related to immunology and bacteria.

INTRODUCING UA92: A GAME-CHANGING APPROACH TO HIGHER EDUCATION

University Academy 92 (UA92), a development in partnership with Lancaster University, is a game-changing approach to education that aims to unlock the greatness of students. It is the brainchild of Manchester United legends, turned businessmen, The Class of 92 (Gary and Phil Neville, Ryan Giggs, Paul Scholes and Nicky Butt).

Underpinned by the academic rigour of top-performing Lancaster in conjunction with the Class of 92's attitude towards preparedness and commitment to opportunity, UA92 degrees will be co-developed with industry partners such as Microsoft and aim to accelerate careers in business, sport, media and psychology.



UA92 will be based at the former Kellogg's building next to Emirates Old Trafford and is due to open in September 2019 with more than 6000 students expected to study there by 2024.

Every student will do a placement and degrees will be awarded by Lancaster University.

Universities have traditionally placed academic learning at the core of the curriculum, supported by employability for the world of work. By comparison, UA92 will ensure academic learning is intrinsically linked to a distinctive experience, which places character development and employability at the core.



HOW DAILY PHOTOGRAPHY COULD IMPROVE WELLBEING

Taking a photo each day and posting it online has complex benefits say researchers who say it supports improved wellbeing.

This is a popular social phenomenon, with Instagram having over 1.5million photos tagged #365 for each day of the year while there are thousands of members of Blipfoto, a key photo-a-day site.

A study co-authored by Dr Liz Brewster of Lancaster University and Dr Andrew Cox of the University of Sheffield recorded what photos people took, what text they added and how they interacted with others on the photo-a-day site for two months.

They found that taking a daily photo improved wellbeing through self-care, community interaction and the potential for reminiscence.

Taking a moment to be mindful, and looking for something different or unusual in the day were seen as positive well-being benefits of the practice.

One participant said: "My job was a very highly stressful role... There were some days when I'd almost not stopped to breathe, you know what I mean... And just the thought: oh wait a moment, no, I'll stop and take a photograph of this insect sitting on my computer or something. Just taking a moment is very salutary I think."

It also led to more exercise and gave a sense of purpose, competence and achievement.

The online contact helped people to manage loneliness and grief as well as meeting new people with shared interests. Several participants had taken early retirement and found that the contact established via photo-a-day replaced some of the daily office chatter that they missed.

The online interactions created a community based on the photos and accompanying text, which was used to provide personal narratives, reminiscences, and explanations of repeated images. The researchers said the practice is "an active process of meaning making, in which a new conceptualisation of wellbeing emerges."

ON LUCY BRIERS' FIRST DAY AT LANCASTER, A FELLOW FRESHER KNOCKED ON THE DOOR OF HER COLLEGE ROOM INTRODUCING HERSELF AS TINA REDFORD AND ASKED WHY LUCY HAD A PICTURE OF ACTOR RICHARD BRIERS ON HER WALL.



A Family Affair

LUCY BRIERS Theatre and Sculpture, 1988, Cartmel

Hearing that he was her father, her visitor responded that her own was called Robert Redford - but he was a baker not a film star. That instant friendship - and others she made there - helped Lucy through the turbulent three years she believes 'made' her.

She had arrived straight from the highly academic St Paul's Girls' School in London, never having seen the University, and was initially very homesick. The friendships she made in her first term, gave her the impetus to stick it out, as she adapted to living away from home, in a part of the country that initially felt quite alien.

Lucy - best-known for playing Mary Bennet in the BBC's television adaptation of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* - is clear that her time at University was life changing.

She says: "I arrived with a Sloane Ranger accent and long flowing hair and by the end of the first year I had shaved my head and had woken up to the world. I felt that I had emerged from some kind of chrysalis and had begun to understand something of what the world was about. Lancaster helped me to grow up."

She had been set on a career on the stage from the age of nine, but her father (a household name for his role as Tom

Good in the BBC's *The Good Life*) and mother Ann Davies (also an actress, a regular in the first season of *Dr Who*) were equally determined that she and her sister should get a university education first.

Lucy's response to intense homesickness was to immerse herself in her Theatre and Sculpture studies. Early on she realised that her drama course was, in her words, 'groundbreaking' and was opening doors into forms of experimental theatre she had never imagined previously, under the tutelage of Simon Jones, Keith Sturgess and Margaret Eddershaw. She says: "Lancaster's drama department really did have a pioneering feel."



Every production became a goal which allowed her to learn a new skill - whether it was a new dramatic concept, or the sound, lighting and stage management that were taught alongside.

Highlights for her were playing in Pete Brooks's *The Archaeology of Desire*, which she describes as 'crazy', and 'extremely difficult to perform' and playing Sally Bowles in a production of *Cabaret* in her third year.

"I tried not to let having a famous father define me," says Lucy, "but I felt I had more to prove in order to gain the respect of my peers and tutors. I wanted anything I achieved to be based on merit rather than my surname and I approached becoming a professional actress in the same way."

Although she had initially hoped her sculpture studies might give her an alternative career option, she was brought up short by the realisation that her fellow art students were more talented. When she was asked to move out of the art department and to work in the engineering department, because there was not enough room for her huge sheet-metal pieces, including one depicting the Brixton riots, she realised her future was in acting alone.

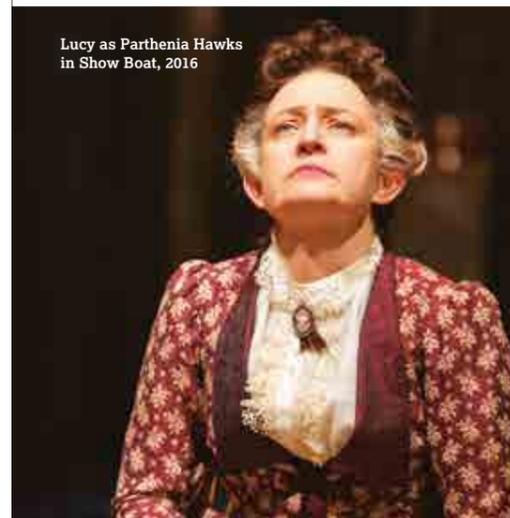
After graduation Lucy was all the more focused on a career as an actor. Lancaster had blown open her mind, but she needed the basic craft skills that a drama school would teach her and took up a place on a three-year course at the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School.

Lucy as Katherine of Aragon in *Wolf Hall*, 2014



Credit: Johan Persson / ArenaPAL

Lucy as Parthenia Hawks in *Show Boat*, 2016



Credit: Johan Persson / ArenaPAL

Since then she has notched up a wide range of credits on the stage including working at the National Theatre, The Royal Court and with the Royal Shakespeare Company and on TV, mostly recently in *Count Arthur Strong* and *DCI Banks*.

Lucy feels an enormous debt of gratitude towards Lancaster University, without which she is convinced she would never have gained a place at drama school. "As an actor, you have to have an inner core of steel because there is so much rejection in the industry. I had a struggle during my time at Lancaster, but going through it taught me to be tough and to look at the flip side of things.

There is an obvious way of doing something and then there is a more interesting way. That is an invaluable lesson, not only in how to approach a new role but also in how to approach life itself."

One way she is paying back that debt is by supporting a new playwriting prize for Lancaster Arts - an aspect of theatre which is close to her heart.

"New writing provides essential life blood into the theatre, there's something magical about being the first person to speak those lines. It's a massive liberation."

You can follow Lucy on Twitter @lucybriers

Making a Difference

DONORS TO LANCASTER CONTINUE TO SUPPORT OUR RISE AS A UNIVERSITY OF GLOBAL SIGNIFICANCE IN RAPIDLY CHANGING TIMES AND AMIDST GROWING COMPETITION. WE APPRECIATE ALL YOUR DONATIONS AND HERE WE HIGHLIGHT SOME EXAMPLES AS TO WHY OUR ALUMNI AND SUPPORTERS FEEL MOVED TO GIVE BACK.



Our First Ambassador

Lorraine Softleigh-Moore is our very first Ambassador level donor to the new Lancaster University fundraising campaign and here, she shares her memories and indicates why she chose to donate to her university.

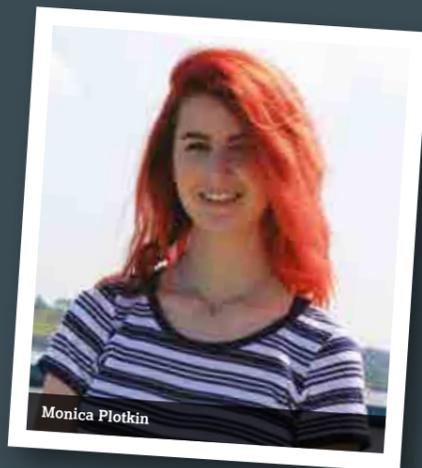
"I spent three wonderful years at Lancaster as an undergraduate between 1986 and 1989. My choice of university was determined by the variety of options within Lancaster's LLB degree programme, as well as the distance from London and my parents! When I came to visit, I immediately fell in love with the campus and the great atmosphere, despite it raining the whole day and missing the coach back to London.

I lived at Lonsdale College during my first year, as the Law Department in 1986 was located there and it meant I could attend my lectures with minimum effort. I enjoyed my degree immensely and found, as a law student, I was working hard from day one. The weight of the work did not prevent me from taking part in a range of extra-curricular activities and I would encourage every student to try

something new. I made lifelong friends at Lancaster and was even fortunate enough to meet my husband, so I can certainly confirm that my time left a lasting impression.

I was the first female in my family to go to university and my law degree gave me the confidence and ability to go out into the world and make a successful career and life for myself, my family and others. When I was asked to be involved in supporting this initiative, I agreed it could bring about life changing outcomes and was keen to play my part."

"I am delighted to have the opportunity to be an Ambassador and support students to maximise the value of their studies regardless of their background or financial means."



Women Into Science Prize

Current student, Monica Plotkin, who is studying Computer Science, has been awarded one of the prestigious Ede & Ravenscroft Women into Science Prizes. This £1000 prize rewards female students for their outstanding academic achievement

in science subjects in which they are traditionally underrepresented. The prizes are awarded by Ede & Ravenscroft, the company which supplies robes for Lancaster students for graduation.

Thrilled to receive the award, Monica is glad that her excellent academic achievement during her first year has been recognised. "I am incredibly grateful to win the Ede & Ravenscroft prize money. I found this year challenging, and to see that this has been recognised and rewarded has made me and my family very proud!"

Prizes were also awarded to Katharine Field (Mechanical Engineering), Bhuma Limbu (Chemical Engineering), Luhtu Murphy (Physics), and Isobel Mawby (Theoretical Physics) for outstanding academic achievement in Part I of their respective degrees.

Student Support Through The Heatherlea Bursary

Alumnus Kevin Shaw and his wife Caryl co-founded Heatherlea, one of Britain's leading wildlife holiday operators, 27 years ago.

They are passionate about supporting the next generation of environmentally-conscious students through the *Heatherlea Bursary in Biological Sciences*, awarded annually since 2006 to an MSc student with an interest in Ecology Studies.

Kevin comments:

"This bursary is our attempt to support and encourage worthy students who are interested in both learning about and protecting our environment. Over the years, we have met many people involved in very different and fascinating study areas, ranging from the feeding habits of Pink-Footed Geese in Iceland, to changes in the



distribution of dung beetles in northern England! The recipients are selected by their academic department, not by ourselves, and apart from an initial meeting and perhaps a report at the end of their project, there is no requirement for them to do anything except to enjoy their time studying at Lancaster, and of course in the field, where many still work whilst completing a degree. I'm very pleased to make this small contribution, and the knowledge that these students are encouraged to continue with environmental work long after leaving university is very satisfying."

This year's recipient Ami Weir, who studies part time as well as working for a North West based conservation charity, was delighted to be awarded the bursary and explains what it means to her.

"Receiving the prestigious Heatherlea Bursary reduced my barriers to returning to higher education to complete a Master's degree.

As a mature student who has been in full time employment for three years post-graduation, learning that I had been granted the bursary eased my financial concerns and allowed me to reduce my working hours to return to education. I was nervous about returning to university after such a gap, but being awarded this bursary greatly boosted my confidence and reassured me that I had made the right decision."

As well as supporting students through the bursary, Kevin is active on campus, donating his time to help students in a variety of ways. His latest contributions are as an Honorary Teaching Fellow and Entrepreneur-in-Residence in the Management School.

For further information about our fundraising programme please visit www.lancaster.ac.uk/giving

Honorary Graduates

Each year Lancaster awards honorary degrees to people with outstanding international or leading national reputation in their field. The following awards were made in 2017:



Professor Miles Carroll invented the cancer vaccine, TorVax, and has served as an advisor to industry and international governments on infectious disease research.



Dame Louise Casey DBE, DB is a senior civil servant working at the highest levels of government and has had a distinguished career as a leader in the charities section.



Professor Jacky Hayden CBE is President of the Academy of Medical Educators. She was formerly Dean of Postgraduate Medical Studies in Health Education North West.



Professor Maureen Raymo, an American marine geologist and paleoclimatologist, is a Research Professor at the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, Columbia University.



The Rt Hon Sir Ernest Ryder is one of the country's most senior and distinguished judges. He is a Lord Justice of Appeal and is also Senior President of Tribunals.



Dr Sarah Waters is one of Britain's best-known authors of historical fiction. She has been shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize and in 2003 she received the South Bank Award for Literature.



Professor Richard Plumbly Clegg FREng has played a leading role in revitalising UK nuclear research and education. He is now Managing Director of Lloyd's Register Foundation.



Dame Barbara Monroe DBE is known internationally as an inspirational leader, educator and facilitator of research in palliative and end of life care.

Honorary Degrees in July 2018 will be awarded to: Professor Steve Cowley FRS FREng, Bryan Gray CBE DL, Lord William Hague, Lindsey Hilsum, Sir Barry Rutter OBE, Professor Fusuo Zhang

Alumni Awards

The University's Alumni Awards recognise Lancaster graduates who have made a substantial contribution in their field and have developed an outstanding national or international reputation amongst their peers. The following awards were made in 2017:



Carol Atkinson LLB Law, County College, 1984
Deputy High Court Judge and Designated Family Judge for East London.



Damian Barr MA Contemporary Sociology, 2000
Sociology & English Literature, 1998, Bowland
Award-Winning Writer, Host and Presenter.



Tim Pemberton Philosophy & Religious Studies, 1986, Furness
Executive Editor of BBC Africa, BBC World Service.



Amaro Luiz De Oliveira Gomes MA Accounting and Finance, Furness, 1998
Financial Regulator, International Accounting Standards Board.

Alumni Awards in July 2018 will be awarded to: Joe Gordon, Tony Heaton OBE and Donna Munday



In Memoriam

Dr Peter Metcalfe (PhD Environmental Science, 2017) died in an accident in the Lake District in May 2018. He had been working at the University as part of a flood prevention research team based at the Environment Centre and specialised in using computer modelling in flood risk management.

Michael Moran (Politics, 1967, Lonsdale), a leading authority on British Government and public policy, died on 3 April 2018. He did a PhD at the University of Essex and then became a lecturer and senior lecturer in the Department of Social Science at Manchester Polytechnic. He later moved to the University of Manchester and then part time at the Alliance Manchester Business School. For the full obituary visit the Times Higher Education website.

Lady Josie Farrington LLD (Honoris Causa) 2007, died on 30 March 2018. She was a Lancashire Labour politician with interests in education, local government, the environment and women's issues. Initially she worked as an unqualified teacher and then moved with her husband Michael to Lancashire in 1968, and began her political career as a town councillor in Preston. From 1989 onwards, she represented a range of regional interests in Europe. She was a Labour Whip in the House of Lords for fifteen years.

Kelvin Thomas Giles (History, 1971, Bowland) passed away on 13 February 2018. After Lancaster he trained as a teacher and taught for a short while, but then pursued a career in sales and marketing working with several major names. He finally ran his own small soft drinks business. He and his wife, Chris, met at the Freshers' Ball in Bowland College bar and married in 1975.

Professor Harry Townsend, passed away in February 2018. Harry began working at Lancaster as Chair of Economics, then became Head of the Economics department in 1979. Harry studied at Cambridge and the London School of Economics. He was a Senior Lecturer at the London School of Economics and had been a Reader in Industrial Economics, building his reputation as an expert on the actual practices of large firms in the UK.

Jimmy Armfield CBE, LLD (Honoris Causa) 2011, died on 22 January 2018. He won 43 caps for England between 1959 and 1966 and captained his country fifteen times. He was awarded the CBE for services to the community in Lancashire in the 2010 New Year's Honours List. Full details on the BBC website.

Alexander Geoffrey Thompson, OBE, LLD (Honoris Causa), 1994, former University Treasurer, died on 5 January 2018. Mr Thompson, a former Vice-Chairman of J. Bibby and Sons PLC and Fothergill-Harvey PLC, became Chairman and subsequently Treasurer of the Finance Committee in September 1983, and continued until July 1993. Mr Thompson also led pioneering medical health fundraising for the University.

Paul Mather (Information Engineering, 1990, Cartmel) died on 28 December 2017 after a two year battle with cancer, aged 52. Paul lived in Malaysia where he ran his own consulting business, having earlier in his career lectured at Blackpool and Fylde College and then in Singapore.

Professor Bob Hale passed away on 12 December 2017 aged 72. Formerly a member of the Department of Philosophy from 1969 until transferring to the University of St Andrews in 1989, and latterly Professor of Philosophy at Sheffield University, he has been described as one of the most outstanding philosophers of his generation.

Dr Alan Thomson, former staff member from the Departments of Chemistry and Biological Sciences, passed away on Sunday 10 December 2017. He retired from the University initially in 2007, although later returned that year to undertake various roles within the Lancaster Environment Centre until his final retirement.

Katarina Pardula, former University staff member died on 30 November 2017. Katarina (Kat) had been a member of staff at Lancaster since 1994 in a number of roles including receptionist, then secretary at the Sports Centre. She also worked in the Ceremonies & Events office, as a faculty administration assistant and latterly in a Personal Assistant role to the Dean in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

Trevor Hart (Economics, 1967, Bowland), died on 7 November 2017. During his career he worked for Runcorn Development Corporation and Local Government in Somerset where he was involved in town planning, economic development and tourism. He was a consultant for Binder Hamlyn and Spicers and a Senior Lecturer in Town & Country Planning at Leeds Metropolitan University, the University of Dundee and Newcastle University.

Sir John Manduell CBE, the first Director of Music at Lancaster in 1968, passed away on 25 October 2017 at the age of 89. He moved to become the Founding Principal of the Royal Northern College of Music in 1973. His full obituary appears on the RNCM website.

Steve Packham (Sociology, 1973, Cartmel), passed away on 24 October 2017 aged 66. He was the Chief Executive of Chelmsford City Council for 13 years. In 2017 he received a long service award in recognition of 18 years of continuous accreditation with 'Investors in People'.

Paul Ramsden (PhD Educational Research, 1982) died suddenly on 2 August 2017 from a pulmonary embolism. Of dual Anglo-Australian nationality, he worked in Australian universities for twenty years, where he was the architect of the Course Experience Questionnaire. He returned to the UK in 2004 to become the founding Chief Executive of the Higher Education Academy.

Gabriel Epstein, one of the original architects of the University, died on 25 July 2017. On a visit to the University in 2009, then aged 91, he was quoted as saying that to return to campus was 'a very magical experience' and that it was great to see lots of activity going on as it did 40 years ago.

Gary Waller (Politics & International Relations, 1967, Bowland) passed away on 21 July 2017. He was a Conservative MP representing first Brighouse & Spenborough and then Keighley between 1983 and 1997. Out of the Commons, Gary became a director of Which? and in 2011 was elected to Epping Forest Council, a post he held up to his death.

Peter Whalley (Philosophy, 1967, Lonsdale) passed away in July 2017. He was described as a 'story genius' and wrote over 600 episodes of the soap 'Coronation Street' - more than any other writer in the show's history. In 2009 he was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2009 British Soap Awards.

Ian Stewart (English & Medieval Studies, 1980, Furness) died on 11 June 2017 from a brain tumour. He was an inspirational and highly popular English teacher and went on to become Head of English and Head of Sixth Form at a comprehensive school in Milton Keynes. In addition, he worked for AQA, as a Senior Examiner and developing specifications for 'A' Level English Literature exams.

Miss Joy Welch, one of Lancaster's longest-standing friends and philanthropic supporters died on 16 May 2017, aged 90. She has supported Lancaster since 1963. She established the Joy Welch Educational Charitable Trust to help fund educational projects, in particular, those that are scientifically-based and offer potential benefits to the UK economy.

For full obituaries please visit www.lancaster.ac.uk/alumni/in-memoriam



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Alumni Group Event

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22 NOVEMBER 2018

LONDON

Alumni Group Event

13 JUNE 2019

LONDON

House of Lords Alumni Reception

5-7 JULY 2019

LANCASTER

County, Fylde, Furness
50th Anniversary Reunion
Weekend

ALSO COMING IN 2018/2019:

Events in China and the USA – plus other countries around the world – details to be announced via website and email invitations.

