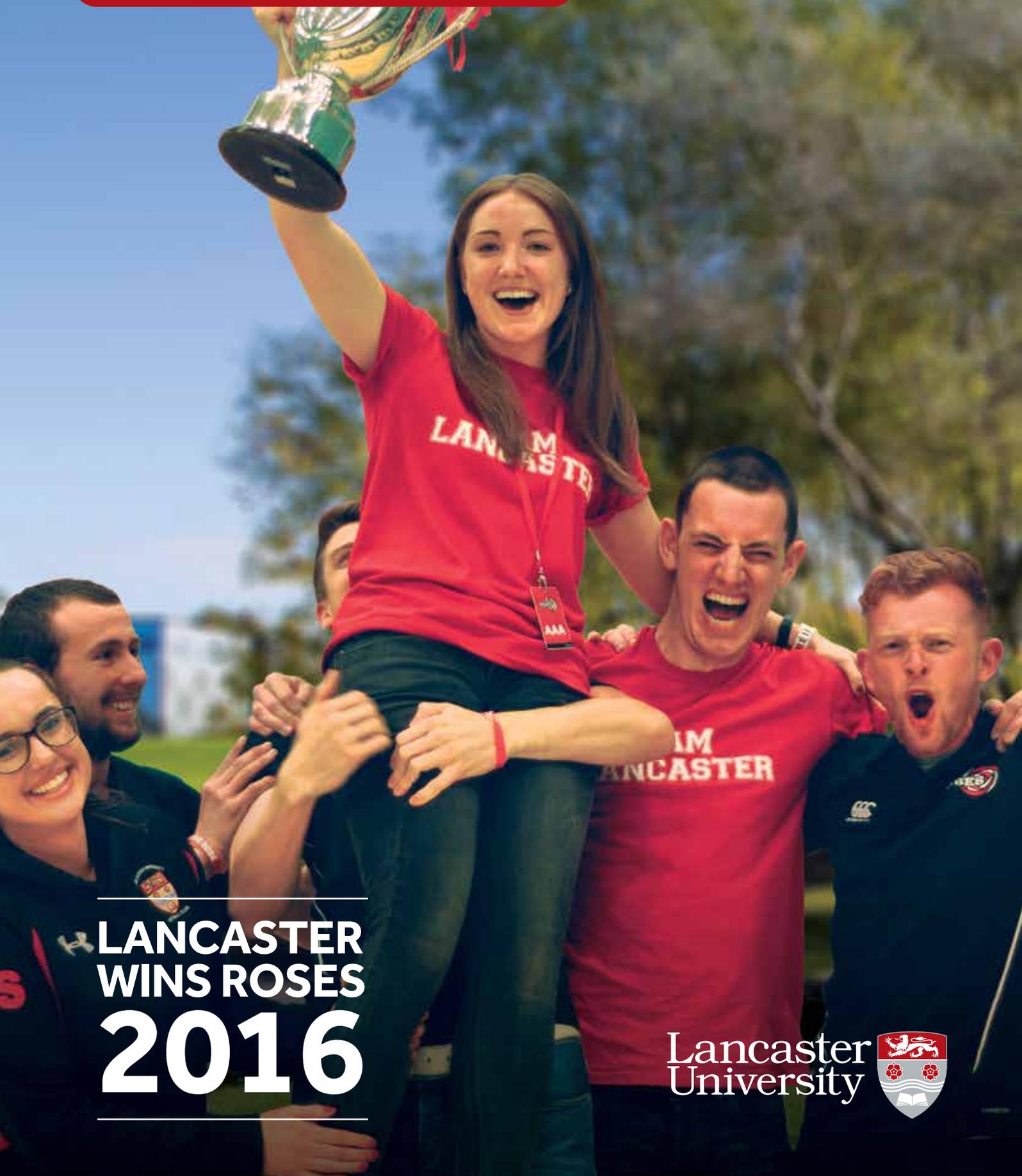


Steps

The Lancaster Magazine 2016



LANCASTER
WINS ROSES
2016

Lancaster
University



WELCOME



Welcome to Steps. It's been another very successful year for Lancaster; there isn't space here to share all our good news!

A few highlights: we received a Queen's Anniversary Prize last November, for work conducted by Professor Tony McEnery and his team in the Centre for Corpus Approaches to Social Science, presented at Buckingham Palace on 26 February. Lancaster has also retained its place in the UK's Top 10 Universities in the recently published Complete University Guide; and we have moved up to 121st in the QS World University Rankings.

We continue to grow, both at home and overseas. The Ministry of Education in Beijing has approved the establishment of a joint institute with Beijing Jiaotong University. The new campus, called Lancaster University College - Beijing Jiaotong University, will be located in Weihai, Shandong province. Meanwhile, at Bailrigg, we have exciting plans to redevelop the Management School's main buildings; more news of this important project will be released over coming months.

2015 also threw up some big challenges. The Morecambe Bay area can be wet; but on 5th-6th December the rain fell on an entirely different scale. A UK record flow of water was recorded in the River Lune, bursting its banks and flooding an important electrical sub-station. This knocked out power to both city and campus. After providing emergency accommodation to 6,000 students over that weekend, we ended term early; no easy undertaking to evacuate so many people in such a short space of time. I was tremendously proud of the way staff and students responded to adversity.

Lancaster is a famously modest institution; but we have plenty to be proud about. While we'll never rest on our laurels, I hope that you will help us to spread the message about our quality and ambition. To get the latest from Lancaster keep a regular eye on our website. And we want to celebrate your successes, too; so please stay in touch, whether through Facebook, LinkedIn, the alumni website or by contacting the Alumni Office.

Professor Mark E. Smith
Vice-Chancellor



Senior Management Team Celebrate Roses Win

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/steps as a PDF and a Word document. If you require this magazine in another format, please contact the Alumni & Development Office.

CONTENTS



03 PREDICTING THE NORTHERN LIGHTS

Professor Jim Wild explains the science behind the Northern Lights and where and when to see them.



05 ALUMNI TALK

A round-up of books published by alumni and Lancaster graduate weddings in the last 12 months.

07 WHAT LANCASTER MEANS TO US

Local MP and alumna, Cat Smith and her father, Alan, come back to campus and reminisce.



09 STUDENTS' UNION... THEN AND NOW

LUSU Communications Manager, Bob Hart takes a look at the changing fashions for Lancaster's Students' Union.



11 EVENTS AROUND THE GLOBE

A global tour of alumni events in the last year.



13 TACKLING THE EBOLA AND ZIKA VIRUSES

Dr Derek Gatherer explains some of the important research into finding new diagnostic standards for Ebola.

15 UNIVERSITY NEWS

Updates from around the University and the alumni office.



17 THIS CHARMING MAN?

Alumnus Will Thacker talks about the launch of his second novel and the filming of his Morrissey biopic.

19 CONFESSIONS OF A COLLEGE PRINCIPAL

Former Fylde Principal, Frank Wareing, describes his long and dedicated service to Lancaster students.



21 HONORARY DEGREES AND ALUMNI AWARDS

Awards presented during the 2015 Graduation Ceremonies.

Published by:
Alumni, Development & Events Office
E: alumni@lancaster.ac.uk
Additional Contributor: Rachel Pugh
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The Science Behind Predicting the Northern Lights



PROFESSOR JIM WILD EXPLAINS THIS NATURAL PHENOMENON

"Where should I go to see the northern lights? It's a question I get asked a lot, usually just after I say that I study the physics of the aurora borealis. More often than not, it is followed by "When's the best time to see them?"

"It's not surprising. The northern lights are one of nature's most beautiful spectacles. So where is the best place to see them and when is the best time?"

Aurorae are caused by the interaction of the Earth's magnetic field with the solar wind, the stream of electrically charged particles constantly emitted by the Sun. Because the solar wind is electrically conductive, it drags remnants of the Sun's magnetic field out into interplanetary space.

When it arrives at the Earth, the magnetic field in the solar wind can couple with the Earth's own magnetic field. Ions and electrons in the region of near-Earth space known as the magnetosphere are energised by this coupling and some, guided by the shape of the terrestrial magnetic field, are funnelled down towards the magnetic poles. Collisions with atoms in the upper atmosphere cause it to glow, with the characteristic green and red colours of the aurora emitted by oxygen atoms at altitudes between 100-200km above the ground.

This process generates aurorae in crown-like ovals surrounding the magnetic poles. Although the solar wind is continuous, changes in the efficiency of the solar wind-magnetosphere coupling process modulates the auroral activity.

Nevertheless, residents of northern Scandinavia, Iceland, northern Canada and Alaska regularly witness stunning natural light shows, weather and darkness permitting. But what about closer to home?

During periods of increased solar activity, the aurora can occasionally be seen at much lower latitudes than usual, but a particular chain of events need to occur. Typically, it starts with an eruption of material from the Sun known as a coronal mass ejection (CME). An average CME can include a billion tonnes of solar material moving at a million miles an hour, crossing the interplanetary space between the Sun and Earth in just a couple of days. If the magnetic field within the CME is aligned anti-parallel to the Earth's, then the CME's energy and momentum can efficiently couple into the magnetosphere, triggering a geomagnetic storm.



Receive alerts from aurorawatch.lancs.ac.uk



Like us on www.facebook.com/aurorawatchuk



Tweet us on www.twitter.com/aurorawatchuk

This heightened geomagnetic activity causes the auroral oval to expand, pushing aurorae southward. If the skies are clear and the geomagnetic storm coincides with the hours of darkness, mid-latitude observers including those in the UK can be treated to auroral displays.

So why are auroral displays from the UK so hard to predict? Although they can occur at any time, the CMEs that cause them are most common during solar maximum, the peak of solar activity that occurs every 11 years. They can be fired outwards from the Sun in almost any direction, so the geometry has to be just right.

If it is Earth-bound, predicting a CME's time of arrival at Earth is not straightforward. Uncertainties of around 10 hours are not unusual meaning that a CME could arrive and trigger aurorae during daylight instead of darkness.

The orientation of the magnetic field inside the CME is crucial. If it is aligned parallel to the Earth's magnetic field, then the coupling is weak whereas if it is antiparallel the coupling is strong. Unfortunately, this crucial parameter cannot be measured until the CME passes the ACE spacecraft located approximately 1.5 million kilometres upstream of the Earth, only one hour before the CME arrives at the Earth. Finally, even if all the other factors are favourable, cloudy skies or light pollution can put pay to any aurora being seen from the ground.

We know from historical data that the "perfect storm" scenario, where each element of the chain is maximally geoeffective, can push aurorae as far south as the Caribbean, but these occur less than once each century.

Geomagnetic storms that result in aurorae visible from the south coast of England are more common, perhaps occurring once every twenty years or so.

Set against this background, auroral displays visible from northern Scotland are relatively common, occurring a few times a year.

So if you want to try and see aurorae from the UK, you might want something to tip the odds in your favour. Fortunately, Lancaster University's free AuroraWatch UK service – aurorawatch.lancs.ac.uk – alerts users to heightened activity in the UK via email and social media. When I'm asked what's the best way to see the northern lights from the UK, it's what I recommend. That, patience and a bit of luck."

Professor Jim Wild teaches on our MPhys and BSc Physics, Astrophysics and Cosmology programmes.

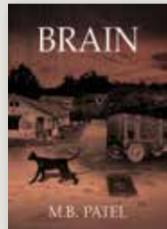
The northern lights are one of nature's most beautiful spectacles. So where is the best place to see them and when is the best time?



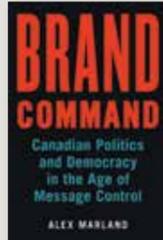
Alumni in Print



HELEN BARBOUR
French Studies, 1986
'The A to Z of Normal'



MENESH PATEL
MSc Operational Research,
2002 'Brain'



ALEX MARLAND
PhD Politics, 2005
'Brand Command'



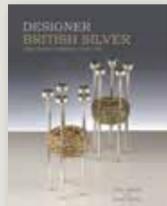
DR CHAITANYA NIPHADKAR
MA Human Resource
Development & Consulting,
2009 'Building Organizational
Leadership'



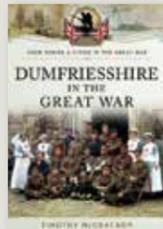
SOPHIE DUFFY
English, 1989
'Bright Stars'



MICHAEL PICKERING
PhD Linguistics, 1990
'The Compass Dances'



JOHN ANDREW
Economics/Financial Control,
1974 (and Derek Styles)
'Designer British Silver'



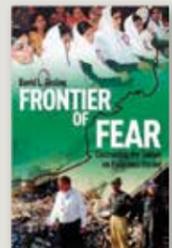
TIMOTHY MCCRACKEN
MA History, 2012
'Dumfriesshire in the
Great War'



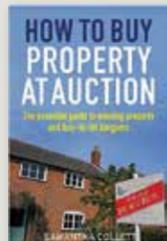
BRIAN TERRY
Accounting & Finance,
1972 'Dark Pools'



REV AUGUSTINE KANJAMALA
MA Sociology and Religion, 1974
'The Future of Christian Mission
in India'



DR DAVID GOSLING
PhD Religious Studies, 1974,
'Frontier of Fear'



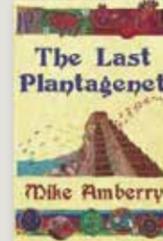
SAMANTHA COLLETT
MSc Contemporary Sociology,
1998, Sociology 1997 'How to
Buy Property in Auction'



WENDY JONES NAKANISHI
MA 18th Century English, 1978
'Imperfect Strangers'



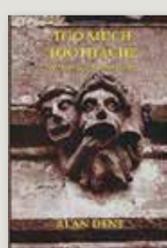
NIGEL GRAY
English, 1971,
'Laugh, You Buggers, Laugh'



MIKE AMBERRY
Medieval and Renaissance
Studies, 1997
'The Last Plantagenet'



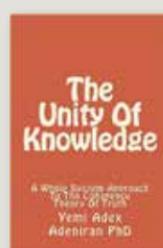
DR PHILIP MACDOUGALL
Politics, 1971 'Naval
Resistance to Britain's
Growing Power in India 1660-
1880'



ALAN DENT
French Studies, 1976
'Too Much Toothache'



David Warwick
PhD Education, 1978
'Chorus Endings'



DR YEMI ADEG ADENIRAN
MSc Operational Research,
1987 'The Unity of
Knowledge'



PROFESSOR PAYAL KUMAR
Religious Studies, 1987
'Unveiling Women's Leadership'

Alumni Weddings



- 1 ZEYU JIANG** Logistics and Supply Chain Management, 2012, Graduate married **WEIXIAO CHEN** TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language), 2012, Graduate.
- 2 GARETH PATTENDEN** Accounting and Finance, 2006, Grizedale married **LISA PARKIN** Law, 2006, Furness.
- 3 JAMES WEBSTER** Geography, 2008, Fylde married **CLAIRE WALTON** Social Work, 2008, Furness.
- 4 PETER MORGAN** Psychology, 2008, County married **JOELLE-MARIE ALLEN** English Literature, 2008, County.
- 5 DIMITRIS MITROMARAS** MSc Information Technology, Management and Organisation, 2008, Graduate married **CLARA MALMROS** MSc Management, 2008, Graduate.
- 6 OLLY TRUMBLE** International Relations and Strategic Studies, 2011, Fylde married **ELLIE COOTES** Theatre Studies and English Literature, 2011, Lonsdale.
- 7 DANIEL DRIVER**, MEng Mechatronic Engineering, 2013, County married **EMMA COOPER** Mathematical Finance, 2011, Fylde.

- 8 JAMES MICHAEL KENT** Marketing, 2007, Cartmel married **JUNE HIU YING LAI** English Language and Sociolinguistics, 2007, Cartmel.
- 9 EDWARD RIGBY** Geography, 2011, Fylde married **HOLLY ENGLISH** 2013, MBChB Medicine, 2013, County.
- 10 JAMES KEIR** History and Politics, 2011, Lonsdale married **ELEANOR BLANC** History, 2012, Fylde.
- 11 MIKE CLAYTON-JONES** Philosophy, 2008, Cartmel married **LUCY DRAKE** Marketing Management, 2010, Cartmel.
- 12 MATT CANN** Culture, Media & Communications, 2005, Furness married **SAMANTHA HALE** Law and Criminology, 2006, Furness.
- 13 BEN JAMES** English Language, 2010, Bowland married **HEATHER KERCHAL** English Language and Italian, 2008, Grizedale.
- 14 SAMUEL MONK** Accountancy and Finance, 2011, Pendle married **SABRINA MCNALLY** Theatre Studies and English Literature, 2011, Pendle (photo credit – Rebekah Jane Photography).

- 15 RICHARD LOUIS PORT** Accounting, Auditing and Finance, 2012, Pendle married **JESSICA LLEWELLYN** Business Studies, 2012, Cartmel.
- 16 BRADLEY PATES** Biomedical Science, 2008, Grizedale married **CARLY AYLING** Fine Art, 2009, Lonsdale.
- 17 ADAM LOMAS** History and Philosophy, 2008, Furness married **LAURA LEWIS** Psychology, 2009, Furness.
- 18 BEN WHITE** History and English Language, 2007, Grizedale married **CAROLINE LEGG** Media and Cultural Studies, 2007, Furness.
- 19 JOE PAULINE** Physics with Medical Physics, 2012, Cartmel married **KATIE GROCOTT** Media & Cultural Studies, 2011, Bowland.
- 20 MARK LORD** Law, 2011, Cartmel married **BRONWYN WHITE** Law, 2011, Lonsdale.

WHAT LANCASTER MEANS TO US

Cat Smith (Gender and Sociology, 2006, Cartmel) has just completed her first year as a Labour MP, having been elected for Lancaster and Fleetwood in 2015. Her father, Alan, who also studied at Lancaster, recently accompanied her on a visit back to campus where we took the opportunity to interview them about their student experiences.



WHAT MADE YOU CHOOSE LANCASTER UNIVERSITY FOR YOUR DEGREE?

Alan – I made my first connection with Lancaster 45 years ago when I came to see a Pink Floyd concert in the Great Hall in 1971. I then came to study social work from 1988-90 before returning to do an MA in History between 2008 -2011 after retirement from my career with the Youth Offending Team in Cumbria.

Cat – I recall my Dad bringing home a prospectus for me to look at when I was 15 and reading it from cover to cover. Originally I was looking at sciences, but was intrigued by the whole range of options available. I first came onto campus at the age of 2 or 3 to visit Dad (and recall wrestling with my sister on Waterstones floor - though I am much better behaved now!) I wasn't really aware there were any other universities; my Dad had planted the seed and loved his experience so much that I had to come with my Mum to the Open Day to avoid his bias!

WHAT IS YOUR FONDEST MEMORY OF YOUR TIME HERE?

Alan – I was so amazed that I got a place as I had failed my 11 plus years ago at school that I enjoyed every single minute of it. I remember being overwhelmed at having a former Oxford student sitting next to me in a tutorial, I loved the general camaraderie, evenings at the Waterwitch etc.

Cat – I particularly enjoyed the first year, the feeling of independence, limited pressure regarding exams and the chance to figure out who you were and no curfews. I was the first one in the family to have the full university experience living away from home.

DO YOU KEEP IN TOUCH WITH OTHER ALUMNI SINCE YOU GRADUATED?

Alan – I lost touch a bit during the 90s after my first stint at Lancaster, when career and family took over, but the advent of the internet has enabled me to reconnect and a number of my peers from both the Social Work and the MA History groups regularly keep in touch.

Cat – I met my husband-to-be at Lancaster University (Ben) and through my constituency work I am frequently between Lancaster and London, so have visited the University several times since graduating (latterly for talks about my work!) I also keep in touch with alumni through the annual Labour Club reunion dinner.

I FEEL I COULD HAVE BEEN AN ETERNAL STUDENT AS I MISS ALL OF IT, BUT I AM PLEASED THAT I HAVE RETAINED LINKS

ALAN SMITH

IS THERE ANYTHING YOU PARTICULARLY MISS ABOUT STUDENT LIFE?

Alan – I feel I could have been an eternal student as I miss all of it, but I am pleased that I have retained links.

Cat – I miss having the free time. I took it for granted when I was here so didn't fully appreciate it and I actually felt busy at the time. I would like to have time now to enjoy reading for reading's sake and not just to a deadline.

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY THE MOST ABOUT YOUR WORK?

Alan – I'm now retired, but in my career I felt I thought I knew life, until I did social work. You're then amazed when you can make some difference to someone's life – to help them fix themselves, even if it's just a little bit.

Cat – In my role as an MP everything's different and you see the best and worst in people. If you can't actually help them yourself you can hopefully point them in the right direction through your networks. Entering Parliament was strange and I felt like a 'fish out of water'. It's taken me a little while to realise that I deserve to be there!

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT SO FAR (IN ANY ASPECT OF YOUR LIFE?)

Alan – In my case, my greatest achievement has been to survive in a house with four women! I am also proud of the fact that I obtained an MA in History after failing my eleven plus in 1958.

Cat – That a 29 year old working class girl from Barrow could be elected as a Labour MP in a marginal constituency.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO TODAY'S STUDENTS?

Alan – Enjoy every minute, it will go faster than you think. And remember, whatever happens next, you are always a Lancaster graduate.

Cat – Don't waste time worrying about revision and exams. I remember some students tried to work themselves into the ground.

For more Steps features visit www.lancaster.ac.uk/steps

STUDENTS' UNION THEN AND NOW

THE MORE THINGS CHANGE, THE MORE THEY STAY THE SAME.

That may seem a hackneyed phrase, but it's certainly true of Lancaster University Students' Union, writes Communications Manager Bob Hart.

Since it was formed (just a few years after the University itself) the Union has made a huge impact on life at Lancaster, combining dedicated political campaigning, a deep commitment to student welfare, a passion for education and an irrepressible sense of fun.

That said, some of the things that go on these days might not look quite the same as you remember them. Changing times

mean changing fashions, a barely recognisable campus and a way of doing things that's moved on from the DIY spirit of yesteryear.

If you'd like to find out more about what the Union gets up to, visit the website at www.lusu.co.uk or follow www.facebook.com/lancastersu or www.twitter.com/lancastersu



WHAT'S A 'SABBATICAL OFFICER?'

Known as Sabbatical Officers or 'Sabbs' in old money, these days they're called Full-Time Officers.

Here's the SU Executive 1983/4 from bottom left, clockwise: Andy Arnfield, Jackie Cawkwell, Andy Broom, Morton Geppert, Sam Walker, Dave Lightman, Charlie Blueglass, Jayne Williams. Centre is President Bernard Hughs.

Now pared down to six (and looking a lot less like Littlewoods catalogue models) is the 2015/16 team – from left, back: VP Union Development Tom Stapleton, VP Education Ben Harper and VP Welfare & Community Anna Lee; front: VP Activities Natalie Sutcliffe, VP Campaigns and Communications Katie Capstick and President Will Hedley.



SUN ON THE STEPS

One thing that hasn't changed at Lancaster is that Alexandra Square is THE place to be on a sunny afternoon.

But it might not be quite as you remember it...The phrase 'it's grim up north' was created for this grainy image from the '70s with its brooding sky and austere fashions. These days it's brighter, whiter and glossier, with the Learning Zone replacing the cubicle seminar rooms of Bowland.



EPIC EVENTS

You may remember attending one of the many events organised by the Union during your time at Lancaster – many of them still exist, but have changed in character over the years. Freshers' Fair has become an epic experience sprawling out of the Great Hall and into the surrounding buildings.

Grad Ball has changed a bit too – check out this civilised bunch gathered in the Great Hall way back in 1989. This year's event will be in Blackpool Tower Ballroom, featuring a number of live performances including the Hit Parade's Fuse ODG.



POLITICS, PROTESTS ...AND POSTERS

The Union still loves to campaign on a wide variety of issues, but the social media age has changed how and where it takes place.

Here are a bunch of student protesters in the city centre in the mid-70s, bemoaning cuts to grants.

These days protests are much more likely to be made on campus and broadcast on Twitter. But as you can see from the photo, one thing that hasn't changed at Lancaster is liberal use of posters.

HAIR TODAY GONE TOMORROW

Bob Hart arrived at County College as a fresh-faced youth back in 1998 - the year many of this year's intake of new students were born.

He graduated from Lancaster with a degree in English in 2001. After leaving to pursue a career in journalism he returned older, wiser and balding in 2014 as the Students' Union Communications Manager.



MOVING THE GOALPOSTS

Improving facilities, improving equipment and a greater understanding of the mental and physical benefits of exercise mean there's never been a better time to do sport at Lancaster.

Compare this shambolic football match at Fylde in the '70s to the professionalism you'll see at Lancaster these days. 2016 is a home Roses year, which meant building a stadium for the Women's Football 1sts clash with York at the opening ceremony and for other fixtures.





Abuja Alumni Dinner
June 2015



Alumni Private View Art Exhibition
June 2015



Cake and Careers
May 2016



Dubai
October 2015



Grizedale Reunion
March 2016



Hong Kong
October 2015

House of Lords Reception
April 2016



Media Event, London
October 2015



Mumbai
February 2016



Music Society Alumni Concert
March 2016



Pendle Reunion
August 2015



Seoul Dinner
March 2016



Public Lectures
Throughout the year



Here is a small selection of the events that have taken place over the past 12 months.

The alumni office continues to extend its range of events for Lancaster graduates in conjunction with our alumni group representatives from all over the world. Visit www.lancaster.ac.uk/alumni/groups to see if there is an alumni group near you or contact alumni@lancaster.ac.uk if you are interested in helping co-ordinate one. Keep in touch with all our events online www.lancaster.ac.uk/events

RESEARCHERS FROM LANCASTER ARE HELPING TO CARRY OUT IMPORTANT RESEARCH INTO FINDING NEW DIAGNOSTIC STANDARDS FOR THE EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE AND THE UNANSWERED QUESTIONS ABOUT ZIKA.

Tackling the Ebola and Zika Viruses



Dr Derek Gatherer has hailed 'a major step forward' in the diagnosis of the disease after working with the World Health Organisation (WHO). The WHO Expert Committee on Biological Standardisation organised an international study to produce a standard test for Ebola virus infection and Dr Gatherer from the Faculty of Health and Medicine at Lancaster was a member of this study team.

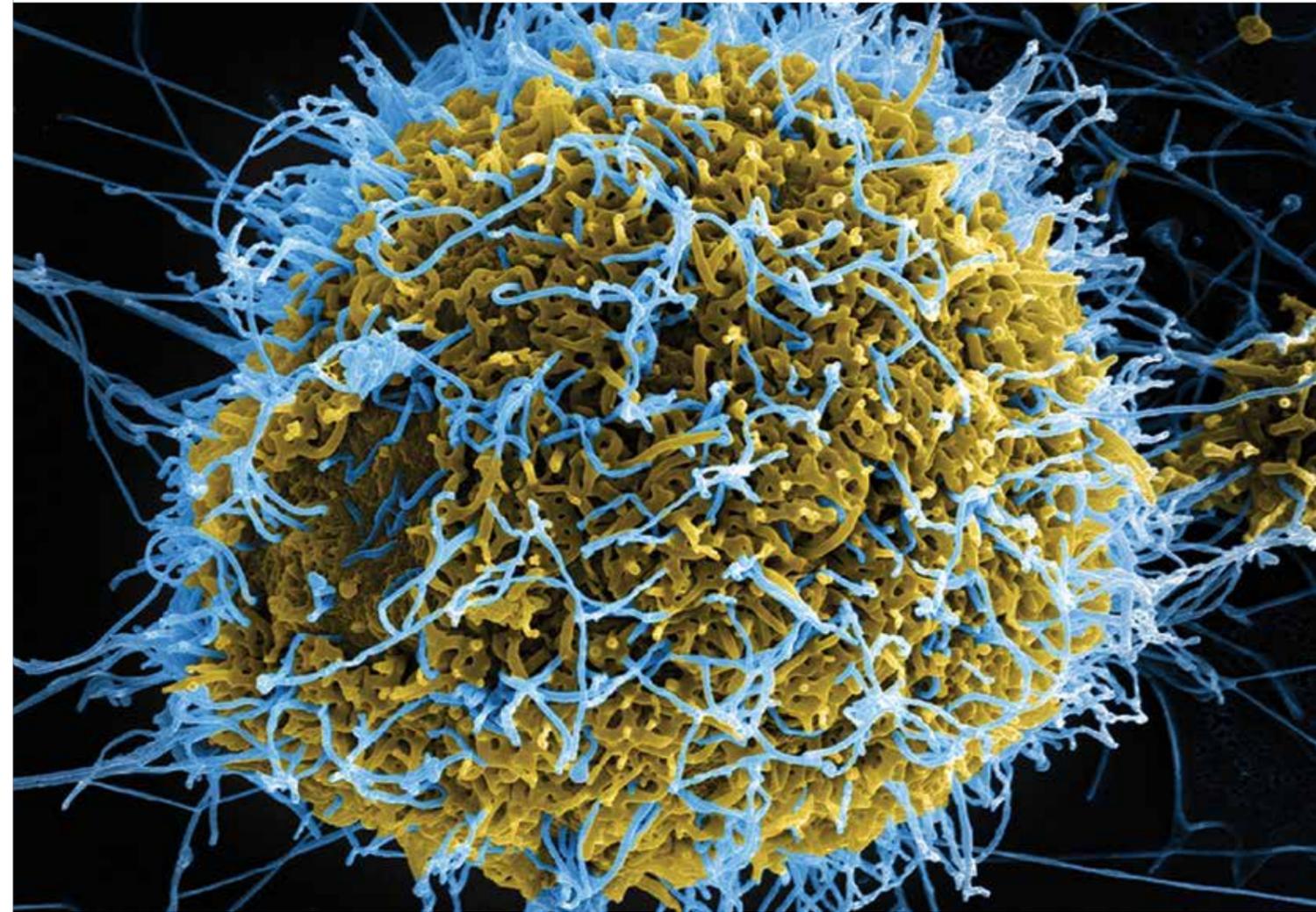
He said: "At the completion of this study we now have a standard diagnostic test which can be distributed to labs around the world so, in the event of another suspected outbreak, we can very rapidly tell whether the suspected cases are true positives or not. This is a major step forward in Ebola virus diagnostics and what we hope is that in the future we won't have any more large Ebola virus outbreaks like the one we had in West Africa over the last couple of years."

The Ebola reference reagents produced by the National Institute for Biological Standards and Control (NIBSC) and endorsed by the WHO can now be used in laboratory tests by the scientific community around the world. NIBSC was asked by WHO to produce 2 standard tests for Ebola reference reagents. The first detects active Ebola infection. The second measures Ebola antibody levels following infection, and helps to find out who has had the virus and recovered. The Ebola antibody standard will be used around the world to screen for potential new outbreaks.

Similarly, the Zika virus, carried by Aedes mosquitos and previously a slow pandemic, is on the rise across the Americas and its rapid spread is causing serious concern to health officials. Researchers at the Universities of Glasgow and Lancaster (led by Prof Steven Sinkins) are stepping up work on mosquito-borne viruses into the study of the Zika virus (Flaviviridae), a much neglected illness, and aim to develop improved diagnostics, therapeutics and a vaccine in the absence of no current treatment.



DR DEREK GATHERER



Dr Alain Kohl, from the Medical Research Council-University of Glasgow Centre for Virus Research, is leading the work, along with colleagues from Brazil at Fiocruz in Recife, into how the Zika virus interacts with the cells, and understands the virus genetics to support these efforts. Dr Kohl's review paper on Zika is also co-authored by Dr Derek Gatherer.

Although the virus is not particularly life-threatening, current data suggests the Zika virus is behind a recent tenfold increase in the number of cases of microcephaly – a serious brain birth defect – in parts of Brazil. And, as more and more people are infected, different symptoms emerge.

First discovered in Uganda in 1947, the Zika virus arrived in Southeast Asia by mid-century. It then spread across the Pacific Islands, reaching South America around 2013. Since then, it has spread rapidly northwards.

Its clinical profile has symptoms resembling a dengue-like febrile illness and Chikungunya viruses, but some recent cases have also displayed microcephaly and Guillain-Barré syndrome.

Dr Gatherer states "There are many unanswered questions – has the virus changed in some way to be more infectious? Were the newly observed symptoms merely unnoticed before due to low case numbers? Do the new observations of sexual transmission and the presence of virus in non-symptomatic blood donors mean that the virus could sustain itself in a human population without the need for mosquito transmission?"

Dr Gatherer believes that in the next 12 months they hope to have at least preliminary answers to some of these questions. "In the meantime, we can only urge normal precautions are observed when visiting mosquito-infested areas of the Americas, especially for pregnant women."



1947

year in which Zika virus was discovered in Uganda.



14

number of confirmed cases of Zika in humans from 1947 to 2006.



1.4m

number of suspected Zika cases worldwide since 2007, the vast majority since 2014.

University News

LANCASTER TO OPEN NEW CHINA CAMPUS WITH BEIJING JIAOTONG UNIVERSITY



Lancaster University has received approval from the Ministry of Education in Beijing to establish a joint institute with its highly ranked partner Beijing Jiaotong University (BJTU). The new campus, called Lancaster University College - Beijing Jiaotong University, will be located in Weihai in the Shandong province.

Chinese and international students will be offered undergraduate programmes in Computing, Design, Engineering and Environmental Science from September 2016, co-delivered by Lancaster and BJTU academics. Masters courses in Computing and Engineering will be available from 2017 and courses in Business, Accounting & Finance and Logistics are also planned. Graduates will receive a degree from both institutions.

Lancaster is committed to providing students at Lancaster University College - Beijing Jiaotong University with an

excellent student experience and many of Lancaster's resources will be available to them. Academic standards will be subject to rigorous quality assurance including continuous moderation of assessment setting and marking.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Mark E. Smith welcomed this new development: "I am delighted that students in China will be able to benefit from Lancaster's and BJTU's joint expertise which is built on internationally very strong track records of delivery in education and research."

LUMS SPACE PROGRAMME

Our world-ranked Management School is embarking on an ambitious infrastructure project, adding significant new space to the School, as well as redeveloping existing facilities.

Reflecting on pioneers who have helped shape the future we know today, it is our intention that, with your help, we will create a community that inspires and encourages the next generation.

With initial designs approved, we're looking for input on how we make our spaces inspirational and functional places in which to lecture, learn and collaborate.

Visit www.lums.space or follow us on social media to share your ideas and suggestions with the architects and project team.



THE CAMPAIGN SO FAR...

Defying Dementia is a community-supported campaign designed to change the world that we live in and make a real difference to people's lives, by tackling the big threat that is presented by brain diseases, such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and Motor Neurone Disease.



There are currently no drugs available that cure these diseases, none that prevent them, and only a small number that can delay their advance, depending when in the course of the disease they are taken.

Defying Dementia was founded in order to progress a promising Alzheimer's drug into human clinical trials in November 2014. Now, over a year later, this drug is close to being in human trials, thanks to tremendous public support, which means that we can carry out pre-clinical safety trials.

We have also started to fundraise for more of our ground-breaking research into neurodegenerative diseases.

Total raised for the neurodegenerative research is over £11,000.

With an ageing population more families are going to face the heartbreak caused by these diseases that destroy memory, personality and movement.

Our first fundraising project, to fund the safety testing to get an extremely promising drug into human clinical trials is making real progress:

So far we have raised over £65,000 of the £165,000 target needed for Professor David Allsop's Alzheimer's Drug.

Donate online: www.lancaster.ac.uk/defyingdementia

THIRD SECTOR PLACEMENT SCHEME SUPPORTS GRADUATE EMPLOYABILITY

Thanks to Friends Programme funding, Lancaster University students have benefitted from a unique project previously only offered in Scottish universities. The project, developed within the Faculty for Arts and Social Sciences, offers students a range of work-based learning opportunities which enhances the employability of Lancaster University students.

Replicating a successful 4 year Scottish Funding Council project, Third Sector Internships, the initiative has successfully:

- Offered paid work experience and development opportunities for students
- Promoted the third sector as a graduate career option
- Enabled students to make a valuable contribution to the work of regional and national third sector organisations

The funding provided nine placements during 2014/15 for students from departments across the Faculty for Arts and Social Sciences, two were kept on in permanent graduate roles and one secured a longer term placement. All placement hosts pledged further opportunities for placements during 2015/16.



MATTHEW AITCHISON

"I am especially proud of leading a team to create a brand new Facebook group, where I had the chance to manage people and develop innovative strategies. This role tested my leadership skills, and greatly improved my confidence." Matthew Aitchison. Placement Student 2014/15

To read more about Matthew's experience please visit his blog dukes-lancaster.org/a-word-from-a-work-placement-student/ If you work in the Third Sector and would like to discuss placement opportunities for students within your organisation please contact: **Kate Dunbavan** k.dunbavan@lancaster.ac.uk

HOW YOUR MONEY IS SPENT



University Projects Awarded over £72,000 of Friends Programme Funding

The Friends Programme provides funds to use across campus for projects that fall outside statutory funding but are vital to the life of the University. This is made possible by donations from alumni and friends of the University.

The Friends Programme disbursement committee met in December and were overwhelmed by the number of high quality and innovative projects happening across campus. After much deliberation they agreed to fund the following projects:

Faculty/Department	Project
All Colleges	Social learning and engagement through inter-college competitions
Students' Union Activities	Inclusivity and Sport: Raising the profile of Women's and Disability Sport at Roses 2016
Colleges and Student Life	'Get Sorted': an online programme for building student resilience and addressing mental health issues
School of Law	Alumni awareness and engagement
Research and Enterprise Services	Enterprising Alumni Programme
Green Lancaster	Outdoor cleaning station at the Green Lancaster Eco-Hub
Lancaster Institute for Contemporary Arts	Education outreach: workshop for A level drama teachers
Lancaster Environment Centre	Double cropping energy and food in rural Tanzania
Politics, Philosophy and Religion	Richardson Institute Internship Programme
Psychology	Psychology Volunteering Programme

For more details visit www.lancaster.ac.uk/giving

FILMING AND CO-WRITING A FEATURE-LENGTH BIOPIC ABOUT MANCHESTER MUSIC ICON MORRISSEY IS THE KIND OF BREAK FOR WHICH MOST YOUNG WRITERS WOULD GIVE THEIR EYE TEETH.

This Charming Man?



William Thacker finds himself juggling that challenge at the same time as preparations begin for the launch of his second novel, *Lingua Franca*. Speaking from Manchester during the filming of *Steven, William* (English Literature/Creative Writing 2008) acknowledges the confidence and self-assurance he gained as an undergraduate.

He says: "It was about meeting other young people from all walks of life, and being free to be myself. And there were a lot of talented people to learn from."



Discipline and hard work has got him to the point where he's co-written *Steven* with director Mark Gill (Oscar-nominated for *The Voorman Problem*) with whom he also co-wrote the short film, *Full Time*, winner of the Best Film award at the 2014 Shanghai International Film Festival

In part his pragmatic attitude comes from having an artistic family background – his father David Thacker is a theatre director and his mother Margot Leicester a stage actress. William had always wanted to write and saw leaving North London to attend a semi-rural university campus in the North West as a way of broadening his experience.

But perhaps the defining characteristic of William's experience at Lancaster was the activities which had nothing to do with his course. He worked at the Oxfam bookshop, where he encountered memorable characters; he volunteered as the assistant editor of the student newspaper *Scan*, dipped his toes into university radio and loved to explore the surrounding countryside.



JACK LOWDEN AS 'MORRISSEY' IN THE FORTHCOMING FILM



Alongside a rich social life, and the demands of his studies, he still found time to write; the feedback and encouragement he received from Lancaster persuaded him to push his writing ambitions to a new level and to go to Manchester University to do an MA in Creative Writing. To pay the rent, he took a part-time job assisting disabled students, which brought him into contact with Mark Gill (then teaching Film at Salford University) and another job with an online news agency churning out 25 articles a day. "Looking back, it instilled a certain discipline and focus. I managed my time more effectively and of course, drank lots of coffee."



The high-pressure job meant he would write his first novel, *Charm Offensive*, in the dead of night when the need for focus was absolute. His second novel *Lingua Franca*, published in May 2016, is about a branding agency that renames towns under corporate sponsorship. It is set in Stella Artois (better known to most of us as Milton Keynes) and sees Barrow-in-Furness become Birdseye-in-Furness. Lancaster is one of the few places to escape William's black comedy, "perhaps out of loyalty", he explains.

William came up with the idea during a late-night chat at Lancaster, where he would hash and re-hash ideas with fellow students from diverse backgrounds. He posited the dystopian idea (to a sceptical audience) that towns could one day sell their name in order to manage spiralling debts. His later experiences working as an agency copywriter would affirm his prediction. "PR, branding and marketing get a gentle bashing," he says of the novel. "It's a world stuffed with jargon and with special names for very simple things."

Shooting the Morrissey film has the potential to open all sorts of doors for William. The cast includes Jessica Brown Findlay (*Downton Abbey*) and Jack Lowden (*War and Peace*) whom William describes as "an actor whose charm and depth brings something really exciting to the role".

He adds: "We're confident the story will connect with many people, not just Smiths' fans."

For more Steps features visit www.lancaster.ac.uk/steps

CONFESSIONS OF A COLLEGE PRINCIPAL

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FRANK WAREING RETIRED IN JULY 2015 AFTER 9 YEARS AS FYLDE COLLEGE PRINCIPAL.

He had worked at the University since 1992 in the School of Independent Studies, Department of Applied Social Science and the Alumni Office. He graduated from Lancaster in 1976 (Politics and International Relations, Fylde College). He was appointed Principal of Fylde in 2006. For the last eighteen months before he retired he was appointed Senior College Principal with responsibility for co-ordinating preparations for the first review of the college system at Lancaster since 1997.

1992 I WOULD NOT HAVE MISSED THE OPPORTUNITY FOR THE WORLD! 2015

IT'S BEEN FUN!

AMONGST OTHER THINGS (MAINLY THE UNLOOKED FOR "FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITIES" MASQUERADING AS ALMOST INSUPERABLE PROBLEMS) IN THE COURSE OF HIS APPOINTMENT, HE ESTIMATES HE WILL HAVE:

- Welcomed about 3,000 first year students to Fylde College.
- Presented around 2,600 final year students to the Chancellor at their Graduation.
- Acted as Area Safety Officer for 9 College Extravs. (as a pirate, wizard, castaway, cowboy, A&E assistant, etc.).
- Taken part in 9 Roses Principals/Provosts competitions (bowls, archery, petanque, more bowls, bar sports, clay pigeon etc.).
- Worked with 10 JCR Execs and 12 JCR Presidents (we got carried away with the democratic process one year).
- Acted as college photographer at (lost count) Carter Shield competitions and inter-college matches.
- Welcomed back a lot of Fylde alumni who wanted to re-capture lost youth for a weekend or two.

LOTS OF MEETINGS!

BUT IT HASN'T ALL BEEN AS TOUGH AS THE ABOVE - THINK OF THE FUN TO BE HAD IN:

- Attending 32 meetings of the Senate (which represents about 100 hours of your life you'll never get back).
- Attending 27 meetings of the Colleges and Student Experience Committee (or whatever it was called at the time).
- Attending 25 meetings of the College Principals' Group.
- Chairing 5 meetings of the College Principals' Group (but his therapist says the nervous twitch will eventually diminish).
- Chairing 30 meetings of the College Syndicate.
- Preparing 2 bids to the University's new strategic and financial planning system and preparing one college self-evaluation document for the College Review in 2014.

ALL CHANGE

THERE HAVE BEEN ONE OR TWO CHANGES:

- At the start of his Principalship the colleges still ran the bars (but not at a profit level required by the university). Today they are run centrally as part of the University's retail services. The old Fylde residences had just been demolished (no, not an Extrav that had got out of hand) and a reduced number of on-campus Fyldeans were housed in accommodation in Pendle and Grizedale. Now Fylde offers high quality accommodation to nearly 500 students in its new residences.
- That statistical excerpt from one Principal's experience probably encapsulates the main responsibilities of the role, but it doesn't quite capture those aspects which made the appointment tremendously enjoyable and rewarding (if at times a little frustrating).

THE HIGHLIGHTS

THE ROLE OF THE COLLEGE PRINCIPAL AT LANCASTER IS A CHANCE TO:

- Share the lives, hopes, aspirations (and anxieties), successes (and failures) and personal development of some of most creative, intelligent, dynamic and motivated young people you are ever likely to meet.
- Work with some of the most committed and motivated staff in the University.
- Contribute to the University's strategic aims relating to student engagement and involvement, international integration and student welfare.
- Be part of something which helps distinguish Lancaster from most other Universities.
- Feel part of something which is constantly developing, but which has managed to maintain its ethos of putting concern for student well-being at the top of it priorities across all 50 years of the University's life.

PRESENTED AROUND

2600 STUDENTS

TO THE CHANCELLOR AT THEIR GRADUATION

TAKEN PART IN

9 ROSES

PRINCIPALS/PROVOSTS COMPETITIONS

PROVIDED ACCOMMODATION TO

500 STUDENTS

IN THE NEW FYLDE RESIDENCES

ATTENDED

27 MEETINGS

OF THE COLLEGE AND STUDENT EXPERIENCE COMMITTEE

ATTENDED

32 MEETINGS

OF THE SENATE (ALMOST 100 HOURS!)

Honorary Graduates

Each year, Lancaster awards honorary degrees to people with an outstanding, international or leading national reputation in their field. The following awards were made in 2015:



Professor Dieter Bimberg of the Technical University of Berlin, is a leading European figure in the field of semiconductor physics and nanoscience.



Professor Roy Harrison an atmospheric chemist, is the Queen Elizabeth II Birmingham Centenary Professor of Environmental Health, at the University of Birmingham.



Intikhab Alam Khan is an internationally renowned and widely respected Pakistani cricketer who made his first-class cricket debut at the age of 15.



Professor Georgina Mace CBE FRS a population biologist, is Professor of Biodiversity and Ecosystems at University College, London.



Professor Hugh Montgomery a renowned experimental particle physicist, is the Director of the Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility.



Gillian Tett is the US Managing Editor of the Financial Times and has established an enviable reputation as a commentator on financial markets and economics.



Professor Scott Zeger is one of the world's leading biostatisticians, whose research involves the development of novel statistical methodology.

Honorary Degrees in July 2016 will be awarded to:

Professor Bernard Silverman
Louise Casey
Dr Mo Ibrahim
Dame Fiona Reynolds
Tessa Ross

Alumni Awards

The University's Alumni Awards recognise Lancaster graduates who have made a substantial contribution in their field and have developed an outstanding international or national reputation amongst their peers. The following awards were made in 2015:



Manav Kumar Agarwal (MSc Management, 2000) is President and Director of Dynamic Drilling, a family-run business which operates six rigs with ONGC, The Fortune 500 National Oil Company of India.



Barbara Daniels (English, 1986, Furness) represented England in women's cricket from 1993 to 2000, and was part of the World Cup-winning side of 1993.



Rainer Hersch (Economics 1985, Cartmel) is an award-winning stand-up comedian, pianist and conductor.



Dr Hugh Reeve (MA Management Learning and Leadership, 2005) is a General Practitioner and Chief Clinical Officer of the NHS Cumbria Clinical Commissioning Group.



Kathleen Reid OBE (Geography, 1996, Cartmel) is Deputy Head of Office in the Department for International Development's mission in South Sudan.



Paul Stewart (English, 1977, Bowland) is one of the most successful and popular children's authors working in Britain today.

Alumni Awards in July 2016 will be awarded to: **Michael J Dormer, Sam Hodges, Jane Lingham, Victoria Peterkin and David Shackleton**

In Memoriam



Porsche Ellis, who worked in the central alumni office between 2001 and 2008 sadly passed away on 30 April 2016 at St Catherine's Hospice in Preston, aged 40. Porsche was a key member of alumni staff and was involved with many alumni activities including editing the Steps magazine and co-ordinating the alumni careers fair, and, as such was well known to many Lancaster graduates.

Richard Watts-Tobin, retired member of staff sadly passed away on 26 April 2016 after a long illness. Richard started with the Physics Department in 1967 and retired in 1996, however he continued to work on a part-time basis until 1999

Dr Chris Paice, who was a member of the Computing Department for 40 years, sadly passed away on 21 April 2016. Chris joined the then Department of Computer Studies as a Research Associate in 1969-70 moving on to a Lectureship and retiring in 2009. Chris was acting Head of Department in 1977-78 and Head of Department 1979-82.

Tim Holmes, Food Operations Manager, long serving colleague to the University, passed away on 18 April 2016. Tim worked at the University for over 40 years and was well loved by his team. The University thanked him for his outstanding work over the years with a Staff Award at the degree congregations as part of the 50th Anniversary.

Judy Merry (English, 1970, County) passed away on 27 March 2016 after battling cancer for two years. She worked extensively for the BBC, both in radio and TV. She taught English, Radio Production and Media Studies at a variety of Further Education Colleges in the North West and lectured for the Journalism degree at the University of Central Lancashire. She led training in how to interact with the media in both industry (with AMTV) and in the voluntary sector.

John Urry, distinguished Professor, died unexpectedly on 18 March 2016. John embodied the tradition of world class Sociology that he was central to creating at Lancaster.

He is a former Head of the Sociology Department, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and University Dean of Research, and made a significant contribution to the establishment of the Academy of Social Sciences. John not only guided the development of the Sociology Department, which he joined in 1972, but also the direction of research in the wider community of Sociology itself, with interests that crossed disciplinary and national boundaries. He provided enthusiastic and inspirational support to students and colleagues over five decades.

Brian Heron, Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council from 1997 to 2003, died peacefully on 11 February 2016. Brian retired in 1990 as Chief Executive of a major subsidiary of Turner and Newall. He was Chairman of the Working Party on Corporate Governance set up by the Committee of University Chairmen in the late 80s, and he was a keen amateur sailor. His period of office included the start of the developments at Alexandra Park and the refurbishment of the colleges, a major review of the Chapter and Statutes, and the appointment of Professor Paul Wellings as fourth Vice-Chancellor.

Dr Richard Xiao (Linguistics and English Language) passed away on Saturday 2 January 2016. Richard started his career in China and first came to Lancaster to study towards his PhD, which he received in 2002. He stayed on as a Research Associate until 2007, and returned as a Lecturer in 2012 after working at UCLAN and Edge Hill. In 2014, he took early retirement due to ill health, having been promoted first to Senior Lecturer and then to Reader.

Lindsey Tasker (Economics, 1991, Cartmel) died suddenly on 1 January 2016 aged 45 after being diagnosed with cancer. After graduation, Lindsey was accepted onto a graduate scheme with Barclays Bank and undertook a number of roles over a 12 year period. He also held senior leadership positions with Halifax Bank of Scotland, Lloyds Bank and Asda. Most recently Lindsey was a HR Director at Wm Morrisons.

Raymond John Lawrence died on 30 December 2015 at the age of 90. He was Professor of Marketing at Lancaster from 1 August 1965 until summer 1988, thereafter Professor Emeritus. Ray was awarded the first chair in Marketing to be established in the UK. He was particularly fond of mathematics and classics, areas in which he continued to read long after his retirement.

Elaine Dodson (nee Smith) - (Educational Studies, 1977, Furness)- passed away on the 15 December 2015 at the age of 60. After graduating she went on to complete a postgraduate diploma in Library and Information Science at Birmingham Polytechnic. From 1995 she worked as the Learning Resource Centre Manager at Myton School, Warwick.

Rob Dunkley (Accounting and Finance, 2001, Pendle) passed away suddenly on 13 December 2015. Rob was a valued mentor on the Lancaster Career Mentoring programme and his enthusiasm towards helping his mentees was much appreciated. He will be missed by fellow mentors and all those who knew him at Lancaster.

Philip French, Observer film critic and honorary degree recipient passed away aged 82 on 27 October 2015. Please visit www.theguardian.com/film/2015/oct/27/philip-french for his full obituary published in the Guardian.

Dr Jayne Steel (English & Creative Writing, 1995, County, MA Creative Writing, PhD English) died on 10 October 2015 aged 57. Jayne had a long association with the university, latterly as a member of staff. Jayne was an unforgettable presence in the Department. Flamboyant without ever being a show-off, effervescent but also in some ways shy and reserved, she brought a terrific sense of intellectual fun, creativity and mischief to the teaching of the discipline. Visit the Steps website to read a tribute written by Michael Greaney www.lancaster.ac.uk/steps/obituaries

Charlie Pottins (History, 1973, Furness) passed away on 15 September 2015. Charlie came to Lancaster in 1969 and was a part of that generation of working-class mature students, with a strong grounding in left-wing politics and trade unionism, which had a major impact on the culture of the new university. He was also a gifted organiser and was instrumental in establishing the Socialist Society on campus. His blog can still be accessed www.randompottins.blogspot.co.uk

Dr Andy Bailey passed away on 28 June 2015 following a short illness. Andy was a former Head of Department of the Management Development Division and subsequently Director of the Centre for Strategic Management at Lancaster in the Management School (LUMS).

For full obituaries please visit www.lancaster.ac.uk/steps/obituaries

YOUR ALUMNI NETWORK

ALUMNUS (PL. ALUMNI, FEM. ALUMNA) N. A FORMER STUDENT



KEEP IN TOUCH

Register on our website, like our Facebook page and join the alumni LinkedIn group. Keep your details up to date to receive newsletters, Steps magazines and invitations.

www.lancaster.ac.uk/alumni

GET INVOLVED

Come back to campus, give a talk, mentor students or help to organise alumni events – there are plenty of ways to keep your links with Lancaster.

www.lancaster.ac.uk/alumni/help

JOIN OUR ALUMNI NETWORK

We have over 138,000 graduates in over 180 countries. Join your local group and come to events or contact us about starting your own!

www.lancaster.ac.uk/alumni/groups

BENEFITS AND SERVICES

Lancaster continues to offer ongoing careers support, discount at the sports centre, use of library services, scholarships and competitive accommodation rates (on campus and at Lancaster House Hotel).

www.lancaster.ac.uk/alumni/benefits

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

3 SEPTEMBER
BEIJING

Alumni and students speaker event

22 SEPTEMBER
NEW YORK

Welcome to new graduates

22 OCTOBER
LANCASTER

Law Reunion

7 DECEMBER
LONDON

Sir Roland Smith lecture

Our events programme is continually updated. Make sure we have your email address and location so we can send you notification of events in your area.

You can also check online at
www.lancaster.ac.uk/alumni/events

