PROFESSOR
DAME
SUE BLACK

A MISSION
TO FURTHER
ENGAGEMENT

ACADEMIC
FREEDOM
FOR ALL

THE LANCASTER
SANCTUARY
FELLOWSHIP PROJECT
Welcome

Last year, my introduction to Steps reflected on the dramas and challenges facing our world. Twelve months on and little has changed – and I didn’t anticipate writing this piece in a UK that still lingers on the edge of Brexit!

Despite the political and legislative headwinds we face, it has been another successful year for Lancaster, borne out by our UK league table placings. While we maintained our highest position in the Times/Sunday Times Good University Guide for a second year (6th), we also achieved our best ever result in the Complete University Guide (7th).

Whatever Brexit’s outcome, Lancaster is committed to maintaining strong connections with Europe, while we continue to expand our educational offerings worldwide. Having been the first UK university to establish a campus in sub-Saharan Africa (Lancaster Ghana) and built on strong relationships with China through the launch of our University College at Wuxi, in September we will be launching a new branch campus in Leipzig, Germany. This is another opportunity to share Lancaster’s exciting vision with a broader audience.

Alongside new ventures, our long-established partnership with Sunway University in Malaysia is moving to a new level later this year. The launch of the Future Cities Research Institute established partnership with Sunway University in Malaysia is moving to a new level later this year. The launch of the Future Cities Research Institute

As in many other areas of university life, philanthropy has played an important role in making this institute a reality. Charitable and philanthropic donors are helping our mission more and more, and alongside the Chancellor, Alan Milburn, I was delighted to unveil our first permanent donor wall in the Library earlier this year. It is heartening to see this list grow.

I finish with a note of farewell. I will leave Lancaster in October, to take up the post of Vice-Chancellor and President at the University of Southampton. I’ve been tremendously privileged to lead this great University since 2012 and I take with me some fantastic memories of the alumni I’ve met across the globe. Perhaps I was lucky in that respect to be Vice-Chancellor during our 50th anniversary year; but I sense the alumni enthusiasm and pride I’ve witnessed is a universal constant.

Thank you, for your friendship and support during my time as Vice-Chancellor, as well as your continuing interest in the wellbeing of Lancaster. You are a vital part of our success story and I will always be grateful for your support. I wish you the best for the future.

Professor Mark E. Smith
Vice-Chancellor

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MISSION TO ENGAGE

PROFESSOR DAME SUE BLACK, PRO VICE-CHANCELLOR FOR ENGAGEMENT JOINED LANCaster’S MANAGEMENT TEAM IN 2018. HERE SHE TALKS ABOUT HER BACKGROUND IN FORENSIC SCIENCE AND HER VISION FOR THE NEW ROLE IN THE ORGANISATION.

On the wall of her office above her desk on the fourth floor of University House, Pro Vice-Chancellor for Engagement Professor Dame Sue Black has a black and white photo showing her work with a team back in 2001 excavating a mass grave, containing the remains of a family of 11 in Kosovo - to remind her of one of the proudest moments of her career as a forensic anthropologist.

As a result of that effort leading the British Forensic Team in Kosovo, on behalf of the United Nations she was able to give a man who had lost his entire family (including his wife and eight children) in a shelling, named body bags for each one containing their remains, so that he could bury them appropriately, and begin to rebuild his own shattered life. Even today she can remember his dignity and gratitude.

“She came to us and thanked us,” she says with disbelief. “Not so humble, I was just doing my job. I was in the right place at the right time that day to be able to help him.”

Her humanity, incisive mind, professional rigour and passion for justice - developed whilst working to identify human remains in some of the most harrowing war and disaster zones of recent decades - are some of the qualities which gained Professor Dame Black her appointment at Lancaster University as first Pro Vice-Chancellor for Engagement. They have also given her a voice people want to listen to.

Professor Black - who prefers simply to be known as Sue - also has a world reputation for forensic identification of bodies, numerous serious publications on forensic anthropology and several books to her name (including the recently published All That Remains) and a number of awards including a DBE, not to mention a ferocious name for getting things done.

The whole concept of university engagement excites her enough to have lured her from her native Scotland and the role she loved at Dundee University as Professor of Anatomy and Forensic Anthropology - in a department she built up over 15 years from three staff and 90 students to 18 staff and 900 students - to come to Lancaster.

She has long admired and been curious about Lancaster’s high national rankings despite its size and believes it could play a more powerful and dynamic role in the region and beyond. She is also personally ready for a change.

Her appointment is for four years (with a possibility of an extension) with the enviable task of creating her own job to make sure that Lancaster communicates as effectively as possible as an institution, that it engages with the neighbouring city region and punches above its weight in the wider academic scene nationally and abroad.

“I will have succeeded if my job is mothballed at the end of four years,” she says with a laugh. “I should be in a position to make myself redundant. Successful engagement is about a culture and if the culture is embedded you do not need a Pro Vice-Chancellor to lead it.”

Engagement is about communication in her view. “There is a very good reason why we get engaged before we get married. Engagement is about saying ‘Can I live and work with this person? Or do I need to change how I work with this person so that we can achieve better things together?’”

Lancaster is keen to capitalise on Sue’s determination to pose those questions because it has just signed the Civic Universities Agreement, which recognises that universities are partly funded from the public purse with a civic and community responsibility to the public.

Starting with the campus itself, she has organised Big Conversations involving all teaching, research and professional services staff to establish on a ‘who what, when, where, how and why’ basis how effective the University is at engaging with its own. Then she thinks the ‘Town and Gown’ relationship needs to be strengthened.

She admires the links that the University already has with the economically deprived North West region, particularly plans for the Health Innovation Campus to prevent rather than cure disease. The Eden North project offers further opportunities for Lancaster to contribute to the economic, environmental and health regeneration of Morecambe and the region. She also wants to nourish links with FE colleges in the North West.

One regret she has is that she will not be teaching, but she will be giving some public lectures, for a public thirsty to hear about her experiences at home, overseas and with the police.

Her forensic anthropology work continues in new ways in collaboration with Dundee University to build the world’s first searchable database of the anatomy and variation of the human hand for use to convict child abusers. Sue pioneered the technique which has enabled a number of high-profile convictions.

The project has attracted European Research Council funding of 2.4m Euros over five years.

She contrasts the high expectations of today’s fee-paying students, to herself when she fell into the nearest university to her home: “Young people now have a much more mature view about the range of opportunities available to them and are more likely to experiment, take a gap year or split their studies. There is more flexibility to try out different things. University for them is an experience and there is a demand for greater quality.”

Although Sue is working flat out to ‘make myself redundant’, she does it with one goal in mind - to be able to go down to London in four years and to know that when she mentions Lancaster University, the person she speaks to in the street will immediately know where Lancaster is and what the University stands for.

YOU CAN FOLLOW PROFESSOR DAME SUE BLACK ON TWITTER @PROFSUEBLACK

Image above © David Gross
Alumni in Print

1. LEE FRANCIS (A SIMON SCARROW)  
   MSc Marketing, 2017  
   Playing with Death

2. TIM RIPLEY  
   Politics, 1984, County  
   Operation Alpaka

3. DAMIAN BARR  
   MA Contemporary Sociology, 2000,  
   MA Sociology, 1988, Bowland  
   You Will Be Safe Here

4. DR MIKE HUGGINS  
   PhD History, 1998  
   Horse Racing and British Society  
   in the Long Eighteenth Century

5. PENNY FARMER  
   English, 1982, County  
   Dead in the Water

6. DR STEVEN FINLAY  
   PhD Management Science, 2006,  
   Management Science, 1991, Fylde  
   Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning for Business

7. GRAHAM DUXBURY  
   Economics, 1973, Cartmel  
   A Guide to Energy Forecasting

8. HELEN TAYLOR  
   MA Creative Writing, 2013  
   The Backstreets of Purgatory

9. SHEENA KALAYIL  
   PhD Linguistics, 2017

10. PATRICIA O’SULLIVAN  
    Music, 1981, County  
    Polking Hong Kong – An Irish History

11. MICHAEL LYNCH  
    History, 2000, Fylse  
    Staybeck Rising

12. ANDREW CARTER  
    Criminology & Sociology, 2009, Lonsdale  
    The Thing Is

13. YVONNE BATTLE-FELTON  
    PhD Creative Writing, 2017  
    Remembered

14. DAISY JOHNSON  
    English Literature, Creative Writing & Practice, 2013, Cartmel  
    Everything Under

15. KAY SAVILLE-SMITH  
    PhD History, 2016  
    Provincial Society and Empire

16. TIM QUELCH  
    Religious Studies, 1972, Fylse  
    Never Had It So Good

17. PETER JONES  
    Central & South East European Studies, 1980,  
    Lonsdale  
    Dear Mona: Letters from a Conscientious Objector

18. IAN SEED  
    PhD European Languages and Cultures,  
    2012, MA Creative Writing, 2004  
    New York Hotel

19. ROBERT K. BROWN  
    Study Abroad, 1986 & 1990, Pindle  
    Hundred Percent Chance

20. TJAWANGWA DEMA  
    MA Creative Writing, 2017  
    The Careless Seamstress

The Big Day

Congratulations to our alumni couples

1. REBECCA HARNETT, Psychology, 2014  
   Cartmel married ASHLEY WURKES Economics & Politics, 2014, Cartmel

2. JAMES EDGAR, Law, 2011, County married  
   SARAH LUCAS, Psychology, 2012, County

3. JULIA CZAPLINSKA, Law, 2014, Furness  
   married ANTONI PAKOWSKA, Mechanical Engineering, 2013, County

4. GARETH POLKUP, Law, 2011, Cartmel married  
   NATHALIE CONNOR, Psychology, 2011, Cartmel

5. MATTHEW LORIEN, Sustainable Engineering, 2012, Fylde married  
   SARAH BUCKNELL, Financial Mathematics, 2012, Pendle

6. EVELYN BEDARD, Study Abroad, 2012,  
   Cartmel married ALEXANDER WILLIS, English Literature, 2010, Pendle

7. LAURENCE VENABLES, Geography, 2012,  
   married SOPHIE HANNAH INGRAM, English Language & Literature, 2008, Pendle

8. LAUREN GODFREY, Biology, 2014,  
   married SCOTT NASH, PhD Electrochemical Engineering, 2017, Graduate

9. STEPHEN RODDA, Psychology, 2010,  
   married KATHERINE MERCER, English Literature, 2008, Pendle

10. KERRY WOODS photography  
    2019 - 6
MELISSA CAME TO LANCASTER ON A 12 MONTH JUNIOR YEAR ABROAD EXCHANGE PROGRAMME IN LANCASTER UNIVERSITY MANAGEMENT SCHOOL IN 2003. SHE IS THE FOUNDER AND MD OF KATJES MAGIC CANDY FACTORY AND FOUNDER AND CEO OF REM3DY HEALTH LIMITED.

Having graduated from Lancaster University, Melissa Snover co-founded her first business, a financial services company, at the age of 23.

More than 15 years later sweet-toothed Melissa is the Managing Director and self-styled ‘Head Magician’ of Katjes Magic Candy Factory. She has developed the world’s first 3D food printer available to the consumer market, so that anyone can make up their own sweet treats exactly the way they like them - whatever the colour and design, with a choice of vegan, animal-free, kosher, Halal, and even the opportunity of incorporating a selfie. Melissa’s early experiments with ’gummy candy’ began in Lancashire because she could not find sweets she liked and developed her first confectionery line, which she later sold to Cioetta PLC. She then formed the Magic Candy Factory in partnership with Bastian Fassin, from the global Katjes confectionery business. The company was named Best UK Tech Start-up 2017 by Disruptive Tech TV. Now a business woman with many awards to her name - including Start Up Entrepreneur of the Year in the Great British Awards and Creative Entrepreneur of the Year in the English Women’s Awards, both in 2018 - Birmingham-based Melissa acknowledges the important part that her Lancaster studies played in her success to date. She says, "The best thing that Lancaster taught me was how to be a problem solver in a business setting. That is what you need to be in order to run a successful company.”

She arrived in Lancaster in 2003 on a 12 month JYA exchange programme at the Business School as part of her Business Management and Political Science degree at Colorado Boulder University USA, attracted by its broad-based approach to business. She says, “I had also read incredible reviews of the business school from people from all over the world who had been there.”

Melissa found courses to be ‘top class’ and thrived in the atmosphere of intellectual flexibility that allowed her to take additional courses in Physics and Geology, which were an adventure for her inquisitive mind.

Being taught in groups of 30 to 40, rather than as one of 500 as in the US gave her the chance to question and interact with the lecturers in a way that fitted her learning style.

The programme also offered Melissa her first experience of creating a business, as part of a project designed to do just that within parameters and to gain practical experience of developing an idea. She says, “It was really exhilarating - I was discovering what I really enjoyed - working hard and seeing it pay off!”

The campus provided plenty of opportunity for socialising, with trips out with the geology and the rambling groups, as well as the company of fellow athletes in the running club. Enjoying a drink on campus was a welcome novelty as alcohol consumption is illegal under the age of 21 in Colorado State. In doing so, she made friends she has kept to this day, with whom she went on trips to Edinburgh, York, and London’s West End, benefiting from the University’s good rail and road links.

After the successful exit from her financial business, Melissa began experimenting with making confectionery, creating a consumer brand and bringing that brand to market. She had loved ‘gummy candies’ since her childhood in New York, partly because she was the only child that she knew who did not like chocolate. From this seed Goody Good Stuff was born.

Suddenly she was doing something she loved and this was the opportunity to learn every detail of running a business with a tangible product - from packaging and marketing, to strategic planning and understanding the technology underpinning the sweets. That hands-on experience is still something she relishes. She may be the MD of her own company with 12 employees, but she still takes her turn at accepting deliveries at the back door of the business premises.

Recognition of Melissa’s entrepreneurial skills in the form of awards has only fanned her enthusiasm for new ideas. Her development of the 3D printer to make personalised sweets came out of frustration that no matter how many different types of sweets she created she could not satisfy everyone using traditional methods of manufacture. Now, she explains: “You can now truly be the creator of your own product.”

Already considered a rising female entrepreneur in the world of food technology, Melissa is now also developing 3D printed personalised nutrition snacks on demand using vegan, sugar-free ingredients and totally sustainable packaging. She is also working hard with her small team on another concept called Script3d, which will supply personalised medication delivery systems for prescription drugs at doses and formats that are 3D printed to suit each and every patient.

Melissa puts her success down in part to having the confidence to try things out. “Lancaster encouraged me to branch out,” she says. “The experience of being a foreign student made me relish new opportunities and travelling, which are a huge benefit when you are an entrepreneur.”

Melissa returned to campus in 2018 to attend the careers fair and run an entrepreneurship workshop. She also very kindly donated one of her 3D printers to the University.
As a Senior Fundraiser for Great Ormond Street Hospital Children’s Charity, Lucy Searles knows how to ask people for money and the best ways of persuading them to commit time and energy to benefit a good cause - skills she acquired at Lancaster while holding out volunteer work in time off from Her History studies.

Opportunities to act as Media Officer for the Oxfam Society, a trip to Northern India to Lancaster’s Goenka campus and organising student fundraising activities on campus, all gave her experiences that equipped her for a successful career in the charitable sector.

Her current role is focused on community fundraising, in particular recruiting teams for “challenge” events such as the London Marathon. Great Ormond Street Hospital has resources to support and monitor the training of individuals who volunteer to run or cycle to raise money for the charity and for SSAFA (the armed forces charity). Lucy Searles knows how to ask people for money and the best ways of persuading them to commit time and energy to benefit a good cause - skills she acquired at Lancaster while carrying out volunteer work in time off from her History studies. She says, “It was really exciting to see that we could bring value and it made me very aware of issues around the world. We worked with women’s groups who operated microfinance schemes to set up businesses. Seeing this really opened my eyes to women’s issues outside of my own experience.”

She left university without a clear idea of what career path to follow but took a year of teaching she received.

It was through the friends she met at County College that she was introduced to her fiancé, Phil Griffith, in her second year. Studying was an adventure for Lucy, because of the breadth of the modules on offer, such as history of medicine and Japanese history - both of which she took. She is full of praise for the quality of teaching she received.

The Oxfam Society gave her the chance to work with the North West Oxfam branch. Then the opportunity arose to visit Lancaster University’s Goenka World Institute in Northern India, through the LUSU travel scheme. She and a group of friends spent three weeks teaching English and blogging to students, visiting businesses and gaining an insight into how Indian charities operated, including the Kafra Education Charity for which she continued to fundraise on her return.

Friends For Life

Lucy Searles
Graduated: 2012
Degree: History
College: County
Profession: Senior Fundraiser at Great Ormond Street Hospital Children’s Charity

Many of our alumni meet and marry having found each other at Lancaster. One such couple, Phil Griffith and Lucy Searles met in 2013 and, despite pursuing quite diverse careers elsewhere, they will be celebrating their big day this summer at the Ashton Memorial in the city where it all started...

Looking back at his undergraduate days, sharing a floor at Bowland Hall with 40 others and a kitchen with 22, Phil Griffith is amused by how well it prepared him for living months in an attack submarine on patrol.

Now a Royal Navy Logistics Officer, Phil started his career after his officer training, packed in a 90 metre long vessel under the sea, with 130 men and only 100 bed spaces. Whilst he does not make a direct comparison between the living conditions on campus at Lancaster and in a submarine, he sees the spirit required in both as very similar.

“The level of camaraderie on a submarine is unparalleled,” he explains. “We tend to be very relaxed people. If you can get used to the sharing in a hall, it’s good training for a submarine!”

Studying International Relations at Lancaster has been “critical” to his fast progress in the Royal Navy, he says. He spent much of 2018 as part of the British contribution to the UN Peacekeeping forces in South Sudan. He was often pushed to show on his undergraduate learnings in his role dealing with the logistics required to support 13,000 members of the military in a region devastated by civil war, famine and its climate of alternating heat and torrential rain.

In such circumstances, he needed to help his men understand why they were there. He says, “Lancaster gave me a fantastic grounding in international relations and in understanding the historical context for action in my work in order to explain it to my men - particularly when they are tired.”

Brought up in Chichester, he did not need to be told about Lancaster as his father Gerald (now a Senior Leader at Chichester College) had studied there in the 1970s and his mother Annette currently learning Japanese to further his ambition to be sent to Japan. As a member of the armed forces he has a sense of duty to the British public. To this end Phil feels Lancaster prepared him well for his role. He says: “Quite simply I learned that it’s important to do your reading and to listen to the other side of the debates.”
LET'S GET TOGETHER

Events

As ever, alumni love meeting up through our great network across the world. From renewing old acquaintances at reunions to making new connections at professional networking events or hearing insights from guest speakers, there is a wide variety of events on offer.

We now also have 48 alumni groups in 29 countries, led by volunteers who organise events. If you want to get involved with the group near you, please contact us.

If you want a trip down memory lane back in Lancaster with friends, we can help. Contact the alumni office to find out what’s going on in the area, get accommodation advice and organise a guided tour of campus through us – if you haven’t been for a while you may not recognise the place!

Over the past twelve months, we have helped to arrange events in London and Manchester as well as China, Nigeria, San Francisco, Chile, Switzerland and Germany. If you organise an informal reunion, send us a photo and we will try to feature you either on the website or on social media.

Volunteering

Many alumni return to help with careers events, either as part of an exhibition or as a guest speaker – sometimes for a specific student society. For example, this year Sara Picazo (BBA European Management, 2011, Lonsdale) and Sam Hodges (English Language, 1999, Pendle) came to talk to the student Marketing Society about their respective roles at Twitter.

Lancaster Careers also run a very successful mentoring scheme where they team up alumni with students to offer advice including creating CVs, completing applications to interview techniques. If you would like to get involved, contact careers@lancaster.ac.uk

The Capital Connections programme provides opportunities for students to travel to a city to gain excellent careers insights and advice. Students participate in workplace visits, learn about graduate opportunities and attend a networking event with alumni from a variety of companies.

We are always looking for new companies and individuals to join us!

Tell Us Your Story

Don’t forget we are always keen to hear about your life after Lancaster and career paths, as well as your alumni books and weddings.

If you would like to share your story, please email alumni@lancaster.ac.uk with around 300 words and a landscape format high quality photo and we will endeavour to feature you in one of our online news items.

For further information about volunteering visit www.lancaster.ac.uk/alumni/volunteer

For further information about forthcoming events visit www.lancaster.ac.uk/alumni/events

11
Cara was set up by top UK academics and scientists in 1933 in response to the rise of the Nazis in Europe with an aim of rescuing their colleagues from persecution, to “prevent the waste of exceptional abilities exceptionally trained.” This founding intention has not changed and Lancaster is a long-standing supporter. Cara acts as the point of contact for the at-risk academics and administers their flight until they and their families reach the campus, at which point Lancaster takes over. It is Cara that matches individuals with supervising academics and departments in UK universities to ensure the best fit for both parties. This is not a one-way relationship as fellows also contribute to university life by teaching and sharing their experience with UK colleagues.

Now the University has formalised its welcome to at-risk academics by setting up a Sanctuary Fellowship to support individuals for up to two years at a time. This will offer temporary safety to colleagues in need, and help develop their skills and networks so they can return to help rebuild their home countries when this is possible. One scholar is already in place, but further funding of £13,000 is needed to provide support for a second fellow to come to Lancaster and carry on their work in safety.

Academic Freedom for All

It costs £18,000 to £40,000 to support an academic for one year - depending on whether they arrive alone or with an accompanying family. The money pays for their basic living expenses. Dr Sarah Marsden, who lectures in Radicalisation and Protest in a Digital Age based in the Department of Politics, Philosophy and Religion, acts as mentor to academics on the Cara scheme at Lancaster. She said “It is fundamental that we come together to safeguard education and structures in countries where people are at risk because their views are not popular with their regime. In doing this we are not only protecting individuals in danger, we are also giving those countries a much better chance of recovery after a period of turmoil.”

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To date, Lancaster University has supported two scholars to complete their PhDs here, but the Syrian crisis has highlighted the need to set up a more formal system for scholars on the point of fleeing their country.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Mark Smith has given his full backing to the Sanctuary Fellowship and says, “I regard this as an important example of Lancaster’s culture and ethos of fair play and inclusivity. For that reason, and to help launch the initiative, I have set aside £20,000 to provide matched funding for donations that support our Lancaster Sanctuary Fellowship. I am also donating my own money to the project. Please join me in making a donation today.”

His aim - announced in an all-staff meeting - is to have a Sanctuary Fellow in every one of Lancaster’s four main faculties by 2022.

Dr Marsden is appealing to alumni to consider giving financial backing to the Sanctuary Fellowship scheme. It needs 40 people to commit £25 a month to make it sustainable into the future. She says, “Education is the bedrock of the future for these troubled countries.”

The Alumni and Development Office ran a telethon in the summer to make contact with as many former students as possible about the Sanctuary Fellowship.

Lancaster undergraduates have also launched the Lancaster University Refugee Scholarship campaign to provide similar support for young refugees and asylum seekers.

TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE LANCASTER UNIVERSITY SANCTUARY FELLOWSHIP, GO TO WWW.LANCASTER.AC.UK/GIVING/LANCASTER-SANCTUARY-FELLOWSHIP/
Lancaster continues to scale the heights

Lancaster has climbed to joint seventh in the Guardian University League Table 2020, confirming its place as one of the UK’s leading institutions.

In the new table, Lancaster is ranked as joint seventh in the country, and maintains its top ten ranking across all three major UK league tables.

Lancaster has also risen three places to 128 in the QS World University Rankings 2020. In the most recent Guardian guide, Lancaster is ranked second for graduate employability with 89 per cent of graduates finding graduate-level jobs or undertaking further studies at professional or Higher Education level within six months of graduation. Lancaster appears in the top ten for 15 subjects listed, and is ranked at number one in the country for Criminology.

Universities are ranked according to course satisfaction; teaching quality; feedback; staff-student ratio; spend per student; average entry tariff; a value-added score that compares students’ degree results with their entry qualifications; career after six month and continuation rate.

The latest tables build on the recent successes in The Complete University Guide 2020, in which Lancaster rose one place to seventh.

Lancaster University is currently also placed sixth in The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide, and is also highly-ranked in international league tables such as the QS World Rankings.

More study at Lancaster

Rebecca Phillips (Strong) loved her time at Lancaster so much she stayed for more - here’s why...

Why did you choose Lancaster for your UCAS course? The main reasons for me choosing Lancaster was the University itself. I loved the idea of a campus and the collegiate system.

Why did you decide to stay on at Lancaster to do your Master’s? I chose to stay on for my Master’s because of the unique postgraduate course on offer (Psychology of Advertising), which allowed me to continue studying the topic I was interested in, combined with a discipline I thought I might be interested in working in after I had finished.

How did it all differ from your UC experience? The PG experience was quite different partly due to the nature of the course, but also lived off campus with friends so was less involved with campus activities.

How did your study help shape your career and lead to your new role in audience research at the BBC? Beyond providing me with the basic skills and knowledge for working in a research role, my Master’s degree was fundamental in influencing my career path; the placement introduced me to the media world, and I have been working in an insight capacity, first in agency and more recently client-side, ever since. Undertaking a Master’s degree helped me understand the career options available in the media & marketing industry.

Fifty-four degrees

The Lancaster University Management School draws upon the vast expertise within the leading faculty and from industry partners to showcase our cutting-edge knowledge and highlight research impact.

Contributors have included Professor Sir Cary Cooper CBE, Director of the Work Foundation Lesley Giles, Experten North America CEO Craig Boundy, Professor Eyal Winler and Professor Montaque Taraffar.

The sixth edition of Fifty Four Degrees is now available, with a focus on how responsibility and sustainability should form the pillars of all modern business activity.

You can read articles from the magazine and subscribe at lancaster.ac.uk/lums/business/fifty-four-degrees.

Vice-Chancellor opens elite sports facilities

Vice-Chancellor Mark E. Smith has officially opened new sports facilities as part of a 400 square metre extension to the Sports Centre on campus.

The new enhanced facilities include a Strength & Conditioning Room and Human Performance Laboratory, which together create space for high-performance training as well as a facility to serve the University’s first academic sports course launched this year.

The Vice-Chancellor said: “I am very pleased to be opening this project which sends out a very clear message about our commitment to sport. Not only does it service the first academic sports course here at Lancaster, but it is also a valuable training facility that will serve the local community and enhance the performances of our competitive teams.”

At the opening, players from Morecambe Football Club underwent fitness assessments in the Human Performance Laboratory, which contains technology used by elite athletes and is now available for the public.

Human Performance is a core topic of the University’s new Sports and Exercise Science degree and the new laboratory provides an opportunity for students on the programme to develop the necessary practical skills.

Premier Award nomination for online course

The History Department’s first ever online course ‘Lancaster Castle and Northern English History: the View from the Stronghold’ was a runner-up in a national ‘Learning on Screen’ award.

It was one of four nominations in the ‘Online Education Resource’ category – up against the BBC and two other universities.

The judges described the Lancaster University resource as ‘professional and engaging’. They also praised the well-produced videos, which featured enthusiastic presenters and created a sense of anticipation.

The Learning on Screen awards are the UK’s only celebration of film and media in education. This is the first such award nomination for an online course produced by Lancaster. The Department’s Regional Heritage Centre produced the course in partnership with the University’s Information Systems Services and the Duchy of Lancaster.

The course lasted for four weeks and was free to access via the Futurelearn platform futurelearn.com/courses/lancaster-castle. It will be re-run in October 2019.

Dr Bob Lauder, Director of Sports Science in the Faculty of Health and Medicine, said: “We are delighted that the value of this approach has been recognised by the nomination for this award, as well as by the many learners worldwide who took the course.

“We are very grateful to the Duchy of Lancaster for their support during the creation of the course, which has enabled us to showcase the castle’s fascinating buildings and history.”

Dr Fiona Edmonds, Director of the Regional Heritage Centre, said: “The course takes an innovative approach to historical study by using one iconic castle as an accessible way into two millennia of northern England’s past.

“We were delighted that the value of this approach has been recognised by the nomination for this award, as well as by the many learners worldwide who took the course.

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Rebecca Phillips (Strong) loved her time at Lancaster so much she stayed for more - here’s why...

Why did you choose Lancaster for your UCAS course? The main reasons for me choosing Lancaster was the University itself. I loved the idea of a campus and the collegiate system.

Why did you decide to stay on at Lancaster to do your Master’s? I chose to stay on for my Master’s because of the unique postgraduate course on offer (Psychology of Advertising), which allowed me to continue studying the topic I was interested in, combined with a discipline I thought I might be interested in working in after I had finished.

How did it all differ from your UC experience? The PG experience was quite different partly due to the nature of the course, but also lived off campus with friends so was less involved with campus activities.

How did your study help shape your career and lead to your new role in audience research at the BBC? Beyond providing me with the basic skills and knowledge for working in a research role, my Master’s degree was fundamental in influencing my career path; the placement introduced me to the media world, and I have been working in an insight capacity, first in agency and more recently client-side, ever since. Undertaking a Master’s degree helped me understand the career options available in the media & marketing industry.

Fifty-four degrees

The Lancaster University Management School draws upon the vast expertise within the leading faculty and from industry partners to showcase our cutting-edge knowledge and highlight research impact.

Contributors have included Professor Sir Cary Cooper CBE, Director of the Work Foundation Lesley Giles, Experten North America CEO Craig Boundy, Professor Eyal Winler and Professor Montaque Taraffar.

The sixth edition of Fifty Four Degrees is now available, with a focus on how responsibility and sustainability should form the pillars of all modern business activity.

You can read articles from the magazine and subscribe at lancaster.ac.uk/lums/business/fifty-four-degrees.

Vice-Chancellor opens elite sports facilities

Vice-Chancellor Mark E. Smith has officially opened new sports facilities as part of a 400 square metre extension to the Sports Centre on campus.

The new enhanced facilities include a Strength & Conditioning Room and Human Performance Laboratory, which together create space for high-performance training as well as a facility to serve the University’s first academic sports course launched this year.

The Vice-Chancellor said: “I am very pleased to be opening this project which sends out a very clear message about our commitment to sport. Not only does it service the first academic sports course here at Lancaster, but it is also a valuable training facility that will serve the local community and enhance the performances of our competitive teams.”

At the opening, players from Morecambe Football Club underwent fitness assessments in the Human Performance Laboratory, which contains technology used by elite athletes and is now available for the public.

Human Performance is a core topic of the University’s new Sports and Exercise Science degree and the new laboratory provides an opportunity for students on the programme to develop the necessary practical skills.

Premier Award nomination for online course

The History Department’s first ever online course ‘Lancaster Castle and Northern English History: the View from the Stronghold’ was a runner-up in a national ‘Learning on Screen’ award.

It was one of four nominations in the ‘Online Education Resource’ category – up against the BBC and two other universities.

The judges described the Lancaster University resource as ‘professional and engaging’. They also praised the well-produced videos, which featured enthusiastic presenters and created a sense of anticipation.

The Learning on Screen awards are the UK’s only celebration of film and media in education. This is the first such award nomination for an online course produced by Lancaster. The Department’s Regional Heritage Centre produced the course in partnership with the University’s Information Systems Services and the Duchy of Lancaster.

The course lasted for four weeks and was free to access via the Futurelearn platform futurelearn.com/courses/lancaster-castle. It will be re-run in October 2019.

Dr Bob Lauder, Director of Sports Science in the Faculty of Health and Medicine, said: “We are delighted that the value of this approach has been recognised by the nomination for this award, as well as by the many learners worldwide who took the course.

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University News
When Tony Heaton arrived at Lancaster University as an undergraduate he was 30, already a working artist, married with a child and had been a wheelchair user for 15 years following a motorcycle accident. For him, university was about acquiring the education he felt he needed in order to be taken seriously.

Now a disability activist and artist with an OBE under his belt, Tony has established his credentials and still continues to challenge public apathy about disability rights with major pieces of sculpture such as Gold Lamé— the golden covered mobility vehicle which hung above the roof of Liverpool Parish Church until Spring 2019. In many ways he feels Lancaster gave him his voice.

He says: “It suddenly opened a whole world of people who were prepared to talk to you. It was a real game changer.”

This was the age of Andy Goldsworthy and environmental art. Within weeks of arrival Tony had made a creative link with the artist Ad Reinhardt that ‘sculpture is something you fall over when you step on it’. He felt he almost had an advantage of being given a subject and researching it, He made a plaster cast of the ‘footprints’ of the wheelchair and crutches he left behind him. “This was the origins of my disability activism,” he reflects. “That was my experience of moving through space.”

His epiphany came after a chance remark by Paul Hatton, pointing out that he always knew where Tony had been by the ‘footprints’ of the wheelchair and crutches he left behind him. “This was the origins of my disability activism,” he reflects. “That was my experience of moving through space.”

He made a plaster cast of the traces using sand and sea water, and more pieces followed, including use of prosthetic limbs.

Preston-raised Tony says he’d felt a bit of a fish out of water on arrival at Lancaster, though he was delighted at how easy it was to get around the campus.

His decision to go to Lancaster had been a pragmatic one governed by accessibility and convenient travel home to Preston. Accessibility has had to be a governing factor in most of his career decisions.

His motorcycle accident put paid to a career as a rock drummer and following a turbulent time of recovery, he decided to develop his talent for drawing, eventually settling for an art foundation course at Southport, because it was accessible.

At Southport access was an issue, forcing him to opt for graphic design. This, however, enabled him to set himself up as an ‘arts odd job man’ and to work on commercial commissions in the evenings during his undergraduate years at Lancaster. He also ran a record shop. This, however, enabled him to set himself up as an ‘arts odd job man’ and to work on commercial commissions in the evenings during his undergraduate years at Lancaster. He also ran a record shop.

His passion to change attitudes continues.

He says: “You have to accept that the first thing that people see when they meet you is the wheelchair and the first thing that you have to negotiate with them is their attitude to disability.”

A measure of his success in getting his voice heard was being selected to create a sculpture outside the Channel 4 building to celebrate the Paralympics in 2012 and to make sculptural kentsimes for Lord Sebastian Coe and Sir Philip Craven based on the sculpture Great Britain from a Wheelchair for the Olympics. He is happy to acknowledge Lancaster’s part in helping him fight for what he believes.

He says: “Lancaster taught me not to accept things at face value, but to look beneath the surface.”

Championing Disability Arts

Now a disability activist and artist with an OBE under his belt, Tony has established his credentials and still continues to challenge public apathy about disability rights with major pieces of sculpture such as Gold Lamé— the golden covered mobility vehicle which hung above the roof of Liverpool Parish Church until Spring 2019. In many ways he feels Lancaster gave him his voice.

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Even at Southport access was an issue, forcing him to opt for graphic design. This, however, enabled him to set himself up as an ‘arts odd job man’ and to work on commercial commissions in the evenings during his undergraduate years at Lancaster. He also ran a record shop. Academically he enjoyed the challenge of being given a subject and researching it. He felt he almost had an advantage because he was so focused compared to his younger fellow students.

He started to make sculptures, knowing that this was what he wanted to do as a career. The first was in the University grounds - a new take on the comment by the artist Ad Reinhardt that ‘sculpture is something you fall over when you step back to admire a painting’. He made a mantrap with spikes and put it in front of a tree on which he put a black square painting in the style of Kasimir Malevich.

By the time he emerged with his degree, Tony Heaton could justifiably say he was an artist. He was the regional finalist for the Yorkshire Sculpture Park and had sold a piece from his degree show in the Peter Scott Gallery. He had also collaborated in several joint exhibitions with his lecturers. Almost immediately he was offered a job at RADAR (Royal Association of Disability Rights), as a field worker developing access for disabled people, before moving to the Citizens’ Advice Bureau to look at social justice, all the while dedicating around three days a week to making sculpture. He was later appointed Chief Executive of Shape - the UK’s first disability-led arts organisation.

He sees himself as a disability activist. He says: “Thirty years ago I used to give people the benefit of the doubt, that they just had not thought about access, but now I do not think that they can claim that as an excuse. I just think some people do not think discrimination against disabled people is wrong.”

His passion to change attitudes continues. He says: “You have to accept that the first thing that people see when they meet you is the wheelchair and the first thing that you have to negotiate with them is their attitude to disability.”

A measure of his success in getting his voice heard was being selected to create a sculpture outside the Channel 4 building to celebrate the Paralympics in 2012 and to make sculptural kentsimes for Lord Sebastian Coe and Sir Philip Craven based on the sculpture Great Britain from a Wheelchair for the Olympics. He is happy to acknowledge Lancaster’s part in helping him fight for what he believes.

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Making a Difference

COLLEGE 1000: THE RACE IS ON!
Many alumni are showing their student affiliation through donations to the College 1000 Campaign, directly supporting those students who are following in their footsteps.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE DONATED – YOU’RE DOING YOUR COLLEGE PROUD!

DONOR WALL UNVEILING
The Rt Hon Alan Milburn, Chancellor and Professor Mark E. Smith, Vice-Chancellor, unveiled Lancaster’s first donor wall in early 2019. It recognises over 200 supporters in the University’s giving experience, whether through our research or through direct support of our students.

Thank you to all those who make gifts, including those donors who choose to remain anonymous.

MEET THE PEOPLE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

CHEUK-MING TAM
PHD Environmental Sciences and Physics & Environmental Science, 1976, Cartmel
Ming remembers Lancaster fondly as “a place to think, to dream, to exercise the body and bless the soul.” After a 30 year career as a weather scientist, he has now retired from the Hong Kong Observatory. “I am happy to be a Patron and give as a gesture of reciprocity. There will always be students in need and I believe that given the chance of a quality education at Lancaster, these youngsters could also make their dreams come true.”

NIGEL HOWARD
LAW, 1987, Pendle
The first in his family to attend university, Nigel, who is now a technology transactions lawyer based in New York, says that Lancaster was instrumental in setting him on his career path. As well as supporting the University through his Pioneer gift, he is also “thrilled to be a member of the Board of Friends of Lancaster University in America (FLUA).”

ANGUS YIP
MA Accounting and Finance, 1994, Graduate
Angus, who has had a career in finance and teaching and is now a sustainability consultant, describes his time at Lancaster studying for his MA as “a life-changing experience.” He says “I would like to support overseas students to come to Lancaster for perhaps a once-in-a-lifetime experience.”

CATHY TURNER
Economics and Politics, 1984, County
Nadia understands the importance of bees and the need to protect them not only for the benefit of the environment, but for education and research. The University Bee Keepers used the funding to help with the set-up costs of the campus apiary – watch out for Lancaster University honey and beeswax products on campus, as well as an apiary webcam.

COMES TO LANCASTER

Lancaster’s donors are helping the University to fulfil its aim to lower carbon emissions by 80% by 2050 and create a sustainable place to live, work and study.

SUSTAINABLE LANCASTER

A BUZZ AROUND CAMPUS

The University Bee Keepers received an alumni-funded Friends Programme grant for their Eco Hives project in 2017. The University Bee Keepers used the funding to help with the set-up costs of the campus apiary, which is now home to three colonies of locally bred bees. The Eco Hives project is proving to be an excellent way to promote biodiversity, science research and education, and has also captured the imagination of the local community who have attended site visits and beekeeping events on campus.

For more information about how gifts to Lancaster are making a difference, please visit: www.lancaster.ac.uk/giving/news
To make a donation, please email pmccarthy@lancaster.ac.uk or visit www.lancaster.ac.uk/giving/donate
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 2018:

Lindsay Hixson is a multi-award winning international editor for Channel 4 News renowned for her ability to analyse the often complex issues underlying major conflicts around the world.

Mr Edward S. Fort OBE is an entrepreneur and inventor and founder of Fort Vale Engineering, a worldwide leader in the precision manufacture of valves and fittings.

Bryan Gray CBE DL was Pro-Chancellor of Lancaster University between 2003 and 2013 and Chairman of the Northwest Regional Development Agency from 2002-2009.

Professor Fusuo Zhang is a plant nutritionist and member of the Chinese Academy of Engineering. He works with farmers across the world to produce more food with reduced use of scarce resources.

The Alumni Awards

The University’s Alumni Awards recognize 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 2018:

Dr Sanaa Alsarhgal - PhD Law, 2016, Graduate

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Professor David Criddle - Appley OBE

Corporate Strategist and Advisor to the Boards of many public, private and voluntary organisations as well as the government.

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Dr Sanaa Alsarhgal - PhD Law, 2016, Graduate

As Head of First Direct, Joe is one of the youngest people to make it to the top of the UK banking industry.

Professor Phil Scriven - Professor Emeritus of Critical Criminology in the School of Law, Queen’s University, Belfast. He led the Hillsborough Independent Panel’s research team.

Professor Fusuo Zhang is a plant nutritionist and member of the Chinese Academy of Engineering. He works with farmers across the world to produce more food with reduced use of scarce resources.

Tony Heaton OBE

Visual Arts, 1989, Pendle

Highly acclaimed sculptor, performance artist and champion for disability arts.

Donna Munday - Theatre Studies, 1992, Pendle

Highly respected theatre manager and producer in the West End and provincial repertory theatres.

In Memoriam

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

Sally Hollis, former staff member died in June 2019. She joined Lancaster in 1995 as one of those founder members of the Medical Statistics Unit within the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. Her previous employment was as a lone statistician at Royal Salford. Her knowledge of the NHS and wide-ranging experience of clinical research projects was critical to the success of the unit’s collaborative work with the academic and non-academic interface. Sally became Senior Lecturer and Chair of Applied Bayesian Statistics in 2004 and delivering the MSc in Medical Statistics. She left Lancaster in 2014. 

Colin Smith

Professor Emeritus Colin Smith OBE passed away in May 2019 aged 81. He was an unrivalled expert and his work had a transformative impact on policing and public safety in his adopted home of the Scottish Highlands.

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Malcolm Wainwright

Malcolm Wainwright passed away on 17 May 2019 after a long illness. He was a leading practitioner in the field of education and was a true pioneer in the area of independent living for people with disabilities.

Professor Emeritus Colin Smith OBE passed away in May 2019 aged 81. He was an unrivalled expert and his work had a transformative impact on policing and public safety in his adopted home of the Scottish Highlands.

John Lewis

John Lewis died on 1 July 2019 at the age of 80. He was a leading specialist in the field of education and was a true pioneer in the area of independent living for people with disabilities.

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ALUMNI Benefits for Life

www.lancaster.ac.uk/alumni

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

JULY 2019
KUALA LUMPUR
Alumni networking with our Director of Development and Alumni Relations

SEPTEMBER 2019
CHELTENHAM
Alumni Group Event

OCTOBER 2019
MANCHESTER
Alumni social and networking event

NOVEMBER 2019
OXFORD
Alumni Group Event

NOVEMBER 2019
LONDON
Professor Sir Roland Smith Lecture with Sir Tim Smit

Details will be posted online at www.lancaster.ac.uk/alumni/events and more events coming soon