

# dunelm

THE MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS  
OF DURHAM UNIVERSITY

MAGAZINE



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**DUNELM**

Durham University Alumni Community



## Dear alumni of Durham

Durham, as it always has, is continuing to develop. Major advances have been made on the plans laid out in the University Strategy, 2017-2027. As you will see in your magazine, we have begun work on a new Centre for Teaching and Learning near St Mary's and we now have planning permission for our 17th college, the first in ten years, which will be built near Van Mildert on South Road. The developments at Maiden Castle and in Computer Science are also moving forward quickly. You can see the artists' drawings of some of these projects over the next few pages.

In order to prepare the way for the transition of colleges and departments into Durham from Queen's Campus Stockton, Ustinov College has now moved into a first-class new home at Sheraton Park (the old Neville's Cross college site), and John Snow and Stephenson Colleges have established bases in Durham City in preparation for their move into Durham over the summer. Meanwhile in Queen's, our new International Study Centre (ISC) has enjoyed a successful first term, and we are looking forward to a large number of ISC students joining Durham University degree courses next year.

All of this work is designed not only to keep Durham at the pinnacle of UK education but also to expand our global reputation and reach; and so I am also pleased to let you know that we have a new Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Professor Claire O'Malley, who will lead on globalizing Durham.

Alongside this new determination to reach out into the world, we understand we are a university rooted in and respectful of all of the communities who support us. The magazine will tell you about many of the achievements of our students and staff, but I am also very pleased to tell you we are working with the Durham Miners' Association and other bodies to ensure new students arriving in Durham are given more opportunities to use their time here to develop an understanding of our county and its people.

**Professor Stuart Corbridge**  
Vice-Chancellor and Warden

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Rhiannon Bull, Philosophy, *Hatfield College and St Chad's College, 2009-13*

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## NEWS

## UNIVERSITY RANKINGS NEWS



### DURHAM RANKED IN THE WORLD TOP 100 UNIVERSITIES

Durham University's position among the world's leading universities has been confirmed again.

The *Times Higher Education World Reputation Rankings 2017* employ the world's largest invitation-only academic opinion survey to provide a list of the top 100 most powerful university brands, based on the judgement of senior, published academics.

Internationally, Durham is consistently ranked as one of the world's leading universities in other surveys too.

- In the *QS World University Rankings@ 2017-18*, the University is 78th.
- In the *THE World University Rankings 2016-17*, Durham was ranked 96th.

### IN THE WORLD TOP 50 FOR EMPLOYER REPUTATION

Durham University has also been ranked among the world's leading universities for employer reputation in the *QS Graduate Employability Rankings 2018*.

These rankings, based on over 30,000 responses to the QS Employer Survey, ask employers to identify those institutions from which they source the most competent, innovative and effective graduates.

Professor Stuart Corbridge, Vice-Chancellor of Durham University, said: "This is the world's largest survey of its kind, so it's pleasing to be ranked among the leading universities by employers.

"Durham is distinctive in combining a world-class education, research and wider student experience that equips our graduates with the knowledge and life skills that leading recruiters look for. Our students also benefit from being members of one of our Colleges, each of which offers a diverse and supportive community and outstanding opportunities for personal development."

### DURHAM CONFIRMED AS ONE OF THE UK'S LEADING UNIVERSITIES

#### *The Guardian University League Tables 2018*

Durham University has moved up to 4th in the UK, according to *The Guardian University League Tables 2018*. This is Durham's highest-ever position in this league table – up from 6th last year.

As well as the University's overall improvement, the guide ranks Durham's Department of Archaeology as top in the UK and the University's School of Education as 2nd in the UK.

Another five subjects are ranked 3rd in the UK:

- Chemistry
- Earth Sciences
- English
- Geography and Environmental Studies
- Religious Studies and Theology.

#### *The Times and the Sunday Times Good University Guide 2018*

Durham has also been ranked 5th in the UK according to *The Times and the Sunday Times Good University Guide 2018*.

In addition, the guide has ranked Durham's Department of Music as top in the UK for the second consecutive year and the Department of English Studies as joint top in the UK.

### WORLD TOP 5 FOR DURHAM ONLINE MBA

Durham University Business School's Online MBA has been recognised as one of the world's top programmes by the Financial Times, in this year's Online MBA Ranking. The programme has placed 2nd in the UK, and 5th globally.

### DUBS ACHIEVES FIVE-YEAR EQUIS ACCREDITATION

Durham University Business School (DUBS), one of the UK's longest-established business schools, has been awarded a five-year extension to its accreditation from EQUIS, the leading international system of quality assessment, improvement and accreditation of higher education institutions in management and business administration. There are fewer than 20 UK business schools with the so-called 'gold standard' of five years' accreditation status – and under 40 in the rest of Europe.



### STRENGTHENING DURHAM'S GLOBAL PROFILE

Durham University has appointed its first Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Global). Professor Claire O'Malley, (pictured above), previously Vice Provost (Research and Knowledge Exchange) at the University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus, took up her position in January.

The post of Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Global) is a new addition to the University's senior leadership team. Professor O'Malley will be responsible for the strategic leadership and implementation of the University's international agenda, a key part of the University Strategy 2017-2027.

Professor O'Malley will build strong networks internationally and will strengthen the University's global profile. She will ensure that Durham continues to thrive as an institution that promotes intercultural learning and an ever-stronger sense of global citizenship.

### MULTI-MILLION-POUND BOOST TO IMPROVE ENERGY TECHNOLOGY

A new research centre will see Durham University join forces with two of the North East's other universities to help improve energy technology at an atomic level.

The North East Centre for Energy Materials is a new partnership between Durham, Newcastle and Northumbria universities, with £2.25 million funding from the UK Government's Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund.

The centre will bring together engineers, chemists, biologists and physicists to develop

high-performance materials to improve efficiency in energy generation, storage and transmission, while enhancing the region's expertise in tackling the energy challenge.

The Durham Energy Institute, part of Durham University, will contribute particularly in the areas of solar energy, simulation, and the advanced analytical tools needed to observe how materials behave at a molecular level.



### NEW DURHAM DBA BASED AT FUDAN IN CHINA

The Durham DBA at Fudan is a new part-time executive doctoral programme delivered by DUBS at three leading business locations across the world.

This exciting new programme is built on a partnership of over 10 years between Durham and Fudan University in Shanghai, China, and will start in 2018.

It will be delivered at: the School of Economics, Fudan University in Shanghai, China; DUBS in Durham, UK; and in Silicon Valley in San Francisco, USA. Fudan will be the main location. Dr Sarah Xiao, Programme Director at DUBS, said: "The new Durham DBA at Fudan is for motivated high achievers. It enables students to focus on the areas of either finance or management, and encourages them to bring an unparalleled combination of independent thinking and business knowledge to their organisation and their future career."

Professor Zhang, Dean of the School of Economics at Fudan University, said: "As one of the top three universities in Mainland China, Fudan is very honoured to work with Durham on this DBA programme. I believe that we, as two globally prominent research communities, will ensure students are at the centre of lively debate and have access to experienced, diverse academics and managers from around the world."

The DBA is a professional doctorate with the same status and challenge as a PhD, where students continue to work within their field, while applying and developing their theories and knowledge to enable them to make a significant contribution to their profession or their area of business. Find out more at

[www.durham.ac.uk/business/dba-fudan](http://www.durham.ac.uk/business/dba-fudan)



### INTERNATIONAL STUDY CENTRE'S SUCCESSFUL START

Durham University International Study Centre (ISC) opened in September and has had two intakes of students already..

The ISC, based at the University's Queen's Campus in Stockton-on-Tees and managed by Study Group, opened in September 2017. It offers language and study skills to non-EU students, to prepare them for entry onto Durham University undergraduate and taught postgraduate programmes in Durham City. The first intake numbered over 400 from over 30 countries, well above expectations, and reaffirming the strength of Durham's reputation around the world.

Watch a video about the ISC at <http://bit.ly/ISCqueens>

### NEW ZURBARÁN CENTRE FOR SPANISH AND LATIN AMERICAN ART

Dr Stefano Cracolici, Associate Professor (Reader) in Durham University's School of Modern Languages and Cultures, will lead the new Zurbarán Centre for Spanish and Latin American Art.

The Centre, which has already begun operating, will be run by Durham University from newly refurbished, dedicated premises in Roper House, Bishop Auckland, County Durham. The Centre forms part of the University's partnership with The Auckland Project, which is also creating a gallery for Spanish art in Bishop Auckland, as part of a major culture-led regeneration project.

The Zurbarán Centre for Spanish and Latin American Art will connect Durham's academic research to the Spanish Gallery's displays, while also providing opportunities for students, fellows and public engagement. It is envisaged that the Centre, which will also host major conferences and workshops, will raise the public profile and understanding of Spanish and Latin American art, both in the UK and globally.

Initial funding comes via a £600,000 donation from the Santander Group, the largest it has ever made to a UK university.



### WILL.I.AM VISITS DURHAM

Musician, tech entrepreneur and philanthropist will.i.am visited Durham in November 2017 with representatives from Atom bank, to find out more about how the University is engaging young people in science and technology.

The visit was organised by Atom bank, the UK's first bank built exclusively for smartphone and tablet, which has announced a new four-year partnership with The Prince's Trust as its leading North East science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) partner.

In his role as its Strategic Board Advisor, Atom is learning from will.i.am's passion and experience in building successful STEM programmes in the USA, alongside his wider involvement with the World Economic Forum future skills agenda. This will help to inform the role that Atom can play in building a broader skills base and in fuelling social mobility in the North East.

## NEWS



### NEW FIRST-CLASS HOME FOR USTINOV COLLEGE

An early pillar of Durham's ambitious University Strategy 2017-2027 has been delivered successfully, with the opening in September

2017 of Sheraton Park as a new home for Ustinov College.

Sheraton Park houses 400 postgraduate students, who benefit from high-quality accommodation and a full Durham college experience.

The purpose-built facilities on the site of Neville's Cross College, just over a mile from Durham city centre, include single en-suite bedrooms and studios. Students enjoy dedicated pastoral support, scholarly and research activities and access to social and sporting facilities.

### UNIVERSITY ATTRACTIONS ARE A BIG HIT AT LUMIERE 2017

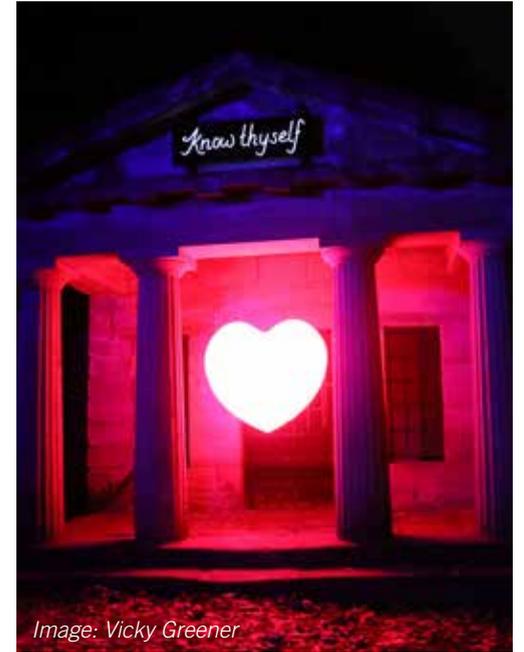


Image: Vicky Greener

Lumiere 2017 – the UK's biggest light festival – was declared a resounding success, with Durham University's attractions and expertise playing a major part.

Estimates indicate that around 240,000 people visited the free festival during its four nights, from 16 to 19 November 2017, with many exploring University-hosted or University-inspired installations, including What Matters, Cosmic Architecture, and For The Birds.

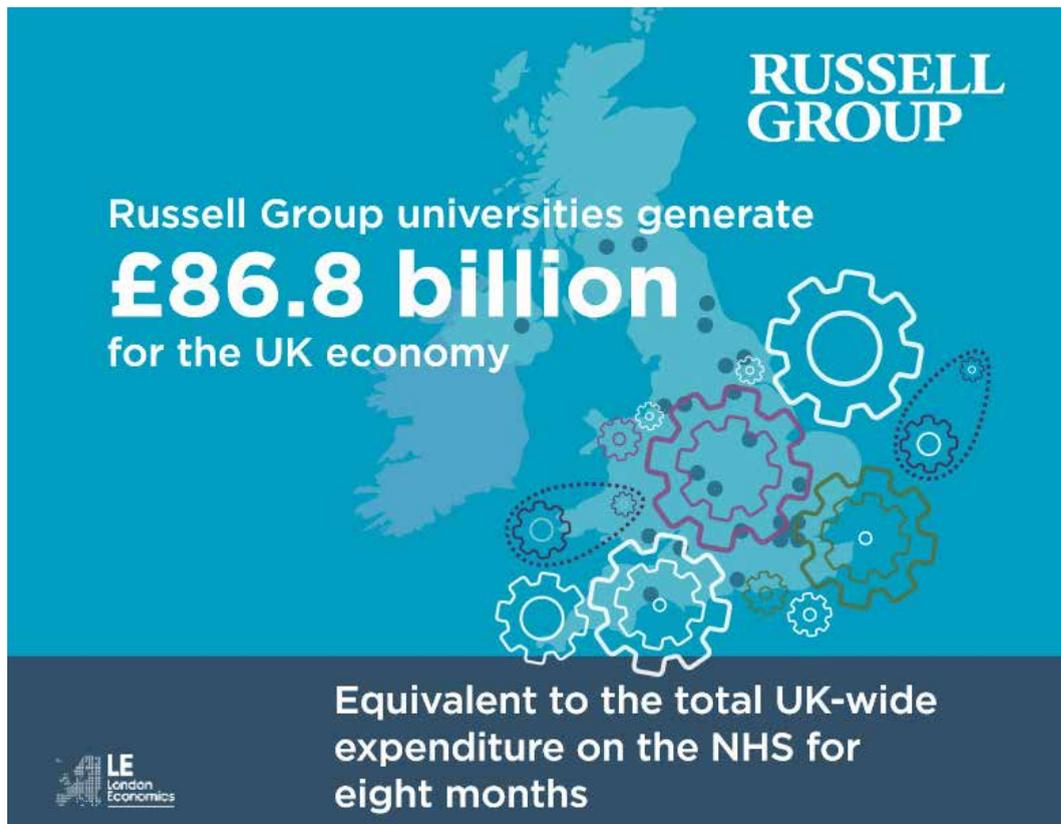
Durham University is a major partner of Lumiere, which is produced by Artichoke, the UK's leading producers of art in the public realm. The festival is commissioned by Durham County Council, with additional support from Arts Council England and a host of other funders and supporters.

Since its inception in 2009, Lumiere has transformed Durham City into a nocturnal art gallery every two years. For the 2017 festival, 29 spectacular artworks and installations created an illuminated trail right across the City.

### MAJOR WORK TO EXPAND POPULAR SPORTS COMPLEX

Work is underway to further enhance the Maiden Castle sports complex. Durham University is making a £35 million investment in its sports facilities, for both student and community use. The developments will include a new indoor space, a 12-badminton-court sports hall with spectator provision, a five-lane cricket hall, a purpose-built martial arts studio, a 90-station fitness suite with additional strength and conditioning provision and a sports laboratory, which will house the University's academic Sport Degree programme. There will also be social learning and club room spaces, including an expanded café.

See updates at <http://bit.ly/MaidenCastle>



### LEADING UNIVERSITIES WORTH £87 BILLION TO UK ECONOMY

A major new study has revealed that the UK's leading research-focused universities, including Durham, are worth nearly £87 billion a year to the national economy.

The total contribution of the 24 Russell Group universities, including Durham, equates to eight months' UK-wide expenditure on the NHS.

The £86.8 billion figure is contained in a new study on the short-, medium- and longer-term impact of Russell Group universities by the respected economic research consultancy London Economics. Its authors have undertaken the most comprehensive and detailed analysis to date of the group's combined net contribution, by calculating the impact of their teaching and learning activities, their world-renowned research, their spending on goods, services and people, and their value as a major exporter through the income generated from overseas students.

The London Economics report follows a major study undertaken by BiGGAR Economics, which found that Durham University generated £1.1 billion gross value added (GVA) for the UK economy in 2014/15, and supported 13,600 jobs.

## RESEARCH NEWS

## FORMATION OF HUMAN TISSUE TO IMPROVE DRUG TESTING AND REDUCE ANIMAL RESEARCH

Innovative three-dimensional (3D) cell culture technology is giving scientists the ability to grow realistic human tissues for more effective drug testing, while reducing the need for animal research.

Alvetex, developed at Durham University's Department of Biosciences, is a highly porous polystyrene scaffold, designed to support 3D growth of human tissues from cells cultured in the laboratory – such as skin and intestinal tissue – that closely resemble those found in the body. In tests, these tissues provide a more realistic subject and often yield more accurate predictive results than existing 2D models in conventional Petri dishes.



## RESEARCH HELPING PARENTS AND BABIES TO SLEEP BETTER GETS ROYAL APPROVAL

The Parent-Infant Sleep Lab in the Department of Anthropology at Durham University has been awarded the Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher Education – the highest accolade for any academic institution and part of the UK's national honours system.

The Lab's work with more than 5,000 parents and babies over the last 20 years has substantially increased parents' understanding of babies' sleep, how best to care for babies during the night, and how to keep them safe when asleep.

The prize from the Royal Anniversary Trust has been awarded to Durham University for 'leading influential research on parent-infant sleep with a widely-used public information service'.

Working together with partner organisations,

the Lab's research has helped to reduce rates of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) through evidence-based advice for health professionals and parents.

## WHY SOME PRIMATES HAVE BIGGER BRAINS

The accepted view of why some primates, including apes and humans, have evolved to have large brains is contested in new research from the Department of Anthropology. The study also questions whether brain size is a useful indicator of cognitive ability.

The research project, led by PhD student Lauren Powell and published in the Royal Society's Proceedings B journal, has found little evidence to support a long-held view that larger brains have developed to help primates cope with increasingly complex social structures – known as the Social Brain Hypothesis.

The research also uncovered problems with the

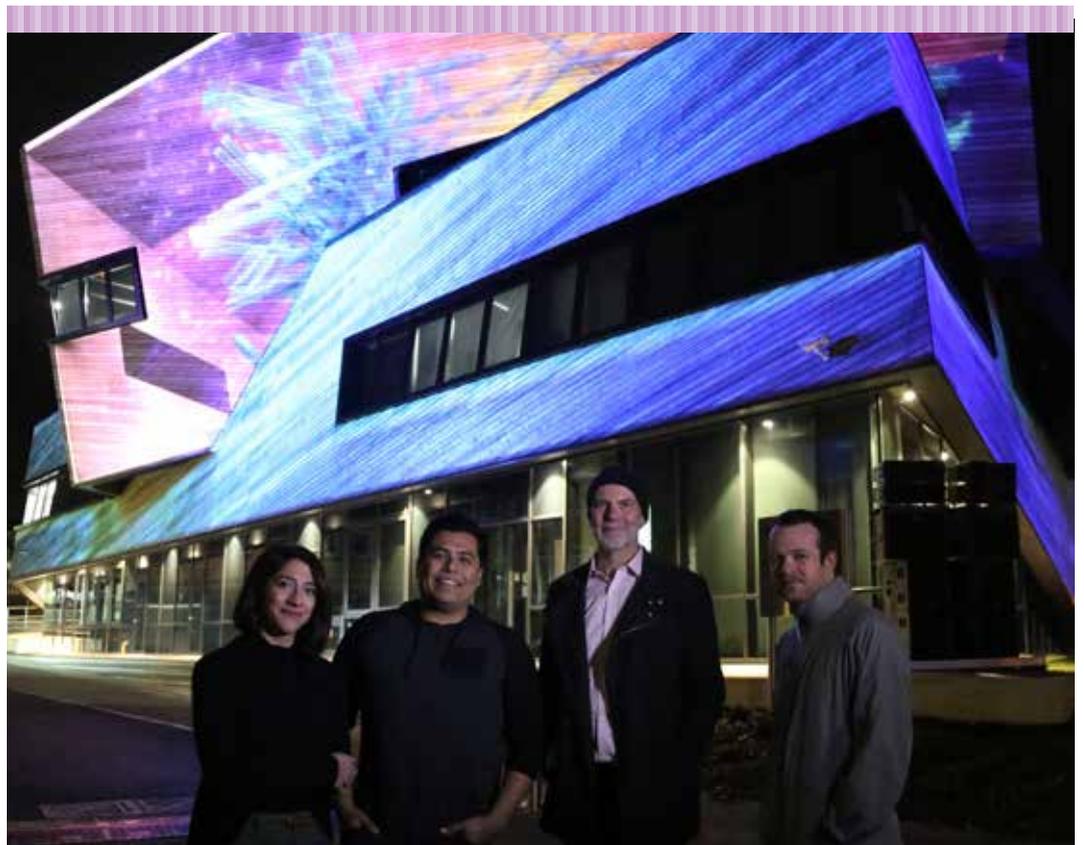
most commonly used approach to tackling the issue, which looks for correlations between brain size and behaviour. As a result, the team argues that there needs to be a fundamental shift in how the evolution of the brain is viewed and studied.

## WHAT IS THE 'RIGHT AMOUNT' OF PANIC FOR WOMEN?

Durham researcher Dr Fiona Vera-Gray has spent the last five years speaking to women about how they change their behaviour through fear of sexual harassment and assault.

The public conversation on violence against women tends to focus on sexual assault and domestic abuse. We talk less about the routine intrusions women experience from men in their everyday lives, even though this is the most common form of sexual violence.

Read more at The Conversation: <http://bit.ly/rightpanic>



## ILLUMINATING THE UNIVERSE

Durham University is one of the world's leading centres for research into the origins and evolution of the Universe.

Cosmologists working on the EAGLE Project use a huge supercomputer to create remarkably life-like simulations of the Universe, which are then compared to the real thing by astronomers through their telescopes, to further our understanding of the Universe and to learn how it evolved to become what we see today.

You can read an interview with the Institute for Computational Cosmology's Professor Richard Bower at <http://bit.ly/cosmoeagle>

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*Financial Times Online  
MBA Ranking 2017*

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[www.durham.ac.uk/online-mba](http://www.durham.ac.uk/online-mba)



# TO RIVAL THE BEST IN THE WORLD: THE UNIVERSITY STRATEGY 2017-2027

The global higher education market is increasingly competitive and challenging. To maintain and develop its global top 100 position, its reputation and its world-class performance in research, education and the wider student experience, Durham has adopted a new University Strategy for 2017-2027, led by **Vice-Chancellor and Warden Professor Stuart Corbridge**.

## Aims

The main aims of the University Strategy are to deliver:

- world-leading and world-changing research across all core academic departments and institutes;
- education that is challenging, difficult, enabling, research-led and transformative;
- through our Colleges, Experience Durham and Durham Students' Union, a wider student experience to rival the best in the world.

Over the life of the University Strategy, we will make a significant investment in our people, systems and estate, to ensure that we achieve our core objectives of excellence in research, education and the wider student experience, and to secure the future of the University in a competitive operating environment.

## Faculty development

This year, we will be hiring around 100 new academic staff, to build up the critical mass required to enable research excellence across all departments. A recruitment campaign has begun, with new webpages and supporting material to reflect our ambition and high academic standards, and to support our equality and diversity objectives. In line with our commitment to raising academic quality and recognising staff performance, we have put in place new recruitment and progression procedures. We have also invested in conference and travel support, provided a higher number of PhD studentships, and set up a research incentive scheme.

## Estate development

Our Estate Strategy is well underway, with some significant milestones being reached in recent months.

Work on the new Centre for Teaching and Learning (see images on pages 10–11) has begun, and we are on track to open in September 2019. The Centre will host a wide range of learning environments and technologies, as well as an education lab to develop innovative teaching and training methods.

Alongside this, planning applications for two colleges, a hub facility and a multi-use games area at Mount Oswald were granted. The new facilities, include a new home for John Snow College and a brand new 17th Durham college. See pages 16–17 for more on the plans.

You can keep up to date with all the latest Estates news at [www.durham.ac.uk/estates-developments](http://www.durham.ac.uk/estates-developments)

## CENTRE FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING



## A CUTTING-EDGE LEARNING SPACE: DURHAM'S NEW CENTRE FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING

Construction has begun on a new hub for educational innovation at Durham

**T**he £40 million Centre for Teaching and Learning, near St Mary's College, will host a wide range of learning environments and technologies, including new classrooms that will allow students to share courses in real time with students from peer institutions around the world.

There will be lecture theatres, teaching rooms, education laboratories where new teaching and training methods will be developed, student learning zones and catering facilities.

Professor Alan Houston, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education), said: "The Centre for Teaching and Learning is a key part of our University Strategy 2017-2027 to ensure Durham is world-leading in research, education and the wider student experience.

"It is the first new-build development to come

forward under the Strategy, and this reflects the fact that enhancing our teaching and learning – our students' education – is a key priority for us. We are excited to begin work on site, and we look forward to the Centre welcoming its first students in 2019."

Sabrina Seel, Postgraduate Academic Officer at Durham Students' Union, said: "I'm really pleased that Durham students will be benefiting from this new, cutting-edge learning space. As students, we work incredibly hard in our areas of study, and the importance of the right resources and spaces to helping us make the most of our time at Durham can't be overestimated. My hope is that the Centre for Teaching and Learning will meet the changing and evolving needs of students now and into the future."

The design of the building was carefully considered, to respond to the context, including

nearby buildings and views of the Durham UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The project is targeting a BREEAM\* 'Excellent' rating, and insect-friendly plants and native tree and shrub species will be incorporated into the soft landscaping for the site.

The University is also developing other proposals to improve infrastructure. You can keep up to date with this project including viewing live feeds of the latest progress at

[www.durham.ac.uk/estates-developments/projects/ctl/](http://www.durham.ac.uk/estates-developments/projects/ctl/)

\*BREEAM is the world's leading sustainability assessment method for masterplanning projects, infrastructure and buildings. See [www.breeam.com](http://www.breeam.com)



CENTRE FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING



INTERVIEW



# COACH ANNIE BREAKS FOOTBALL COACHING GLASS CEILING

**Annie Zaidi**, *MA in Community and Youth Work, Hatfield, 2008*, tells Nic Mitchell that her year at Durham gave her the confidence and skills to help brush aside the sexism and racism and become a successful football coach and recognised role model for women in the sport.

**T**

Today Annie Zaidi is a role model for women coaching football, but it has taken the 34-year-old Durham graduate blood, sweat and tears to break through the glass ceiling in the male-dominated world of football coaching.

She's overcome sexism and racism and been ostracized by parts of her own Asian community for coaching both men and women – but she's proved her ability on the pitch and last year became the first female Muslim in Europe to gain the UEFA 'B' coaching football licence.

Known as Coach Annie, she was recognised in the Queen's 2017 New Year's Honours List with the British Empire Medal (BEM) for services to football coaching. The honour followed winning the Sky Sports' Woman of the Year Helen Rollason Award for Inspiration and the Asian Women's Award, both in 2015.

Annie's had a variety of coaching roles around the country and encourages other young female footballers as women and girls' officer for Leicester City Football Club Community Trust and through her work as a national ambassador for equality for women in football.

She picked up her 'Coach Annie' nickname while studying at the University of Durham for her MA in Community and Youth Work.

Part of the course involved running her own community programme and she jumped at the chance of working with a voluntary organisation in North Benwell, one of the more deprived areas of Newcastle.

"They were looking for a coach to help motivate a group of young men, aged 16 to 24, and matched

my skills and passion for football to help run training sessions," recalls Annie.

"Well, you can imagine the reaction one early November evening when 40 stocky Geordie lads saw a South Asian woman wearing a hijab walk across the astro turf carrying a ball. This was not that long after 9/11 and the 7/7 London bombings and there was a lot of misconception and ignorance around about how we decent Muslims were perceived at the time.

"There was disbelief when I told them 'I'm your coach for tonight'. A Muslim woman in a headscarf taking a men's football training session was unheard of," says Annie.

"They didn't make it easy on the turf and I had plenty of bruised legs and elbows to my ribs."

Annie, who describes herself as "a headstrong and stubborn working class girl", rose to the challenge and after four or five weeks of training sessions the North Benwell lads – many of whom were unemployed and in and out of trouble with the law – realised she was not going to go away.

"I really had to implement the skills I was taught in my university lectures and during group work on the course to be accepted by the lads, but when I was, I said: 'Yeah! I've made it.'"

"The MA showed me the reasons behind different personality traits and helped me to see behind the façade and that they were not 'bad lads' and there were reasons for their behaviour."

Her big breakthrough came when they started talking to Annie about religion and how they perceived a South Asian girl in a headscarf.

"I knew I had won their respect when another group of men came in and started verbally abusing

me. The lads I had been training defended me and had my back.

"I realised then that football was more than just a game and that it could be such a powerful tool in helping break down social barriers and create community cohesion.

"Yes, it took all my grit and determination, but within 12 weeks they saw me as Coach Annie and my new identity was formed."

After leaving Durham, she took her FA Level 1 and 2 coaching badges and began managing a Sunday league team, but the racism and sexism she faced from opposition managers and parents almost every week forced her to stand-down.

Instead, she decided to put her efforts into changing the face of the game.

She was supported through her UEFA B licence by QPR director Les Ferdinand and QPR Technical Director Chris Ramsey and by Wallace Hermit, co-founder of the Black Asian Coaches >>

*"They didn't make it easy on the turf and I had plenty of bruised legs and elbows to my ribs."*

## INTERVIEW



Association (BACA), who took Annie under his wing in 2011 when no-one else saw her potential. Now, she is pressing on to gain her UEFA 'A' qualification to pursue her potential on the elite coach pathway and was recently invited to a meeting at FIFA in Zürich to discuss their plans for a women's football-coach mentoring programme. Annie first fell in love with the 'beautiful game' as a youngster, kicking a ball about in the back garden with her two older brothers to escape household chores.

Her South Asian parents were quite liberal and didn't mind Annie playing football as long as she was covered up, which she didn't mind as she suffered from eczema in her young teens.

"I knew from a very early age that I wanted a career in football, but the opportunities weren't there," she says.

Her first knockback came at primary school in a predominantly white area, where it was made abundantly clear that she wasn't wanted in the girls' football team as 'a brown skinned girl' and only played one game.

Then at secondary school, she was heartbroken to be told the school football team was just for the boys. "It was like someone telling me I couldn't play with my best friend," she says.

But the twin challenges of racism and sexism didn't stop her passion, even if she had to settle for watching Match of the Day on TV rather than going out on a Saturday night.

Her dreams of working in football were re-awoken when her uncle took her to Highbury for her first-ever match watching her beloved Arsenal. She was 19 and remembers crying with joy and thought she would one day like to coach the men's team! Interest in youth work came at Northampton University where she studied English Literature.

"I really loved mentoring high school students as a volunteer and decided youth work rather than teaching was my destiny."

That led Annie to search out youth work master's degrees and she spotted the MA at Durham.

"I thought a working class girl like me would never get into Durham because I wasn't from an affluent background, but I got an interview and was accepted."

Annie admits it was a culture shock seeing some of her fellow students driving around in BMWs and not worrying about how they were going to finance themselves through university. She had worked in an ASDA warehouse to raise the money to do her master's and admits it was a struggle financially. What she loved was the lack of racism. "There were a lot of international students. It felt like the United Nations," she says.

"I also loved how the environment set me up for real life. All those formal Durham gala dinners showed me how to conduct myself in an elite environment. That's very useful now that I have to attend corporate meetings and dinners."

"It also helped me to understand my own qualities and worth and that you don't need X amount of money to go to a university like Durham. I'd love to return one day to do my PhD, but not yet. I need to get my 'A' licence first."



## INCREASING THE VISIBILITY OF WOMEN MEDIATORS IN INTERNATIONAL PEACE NEGOTIATIONS

**Dr Catherine Turner**

**R**ecent years have seen the establishment of a number of new networks of women mediators. These networks have been created at the quasi-governmental level in regions including the Mediterranean, the Nordic region and Southern Africa to advance the representation of women in international peace mediation. They are a response to the persistent and severe under-representation of women in the highest levels of international mediation, particularly at the United Nations. The creation of networks of women mediators is rooted in United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325, which made normative commitments to increase women's participation in peace and security. Since UNSCR 1325 was adopted in 2000, successive resolutions have called for an increase in the number of women in high-level mediation roles. This commitment was reinforced in 2017 by the UN Secretary-General, who pledged to increase the number of women mediators. The international environment therefore appears supportive of initiatives such as the creation of

networks. However, there are a number of persistently challenging conceptual and practical difficulties that will still need to be grappled with, most notably the question of why there should be more women mediators. This can be answered quite simply from a representational point of view – namely, that women make up half of the population and therefore they should have equal access to peace processes. However, the risk with this strategy is that representation – or the mere presence of women – in peace talks will not guarantee that they have any influence in those talks. So representation alone is insufficient to make sure that the process will be gender sensitive, meaning that it will take into account the effect of conflict and peacemaking on women's lives.

Therefore the debate centres more often on the argument that the presence of women in peace talks will make a positive impact on the outcome. While there is evidence to suggest that this is the case, there have been unintended consequences of relying on this claim.

The first of these is that it has become too easy to equate women's presence with gender advocacy.

What this means is that it is too easy to assume that women only represent women, and that they do not bring experience or expertise in other issues to the table. This has the effect of side-lining women and seeking their views only on 'soft' social or community issues. Equating women with women's rights advocacy also pushes women into a seemingly adversarial role, where their presence challenges traditional actors and structures, making it less likely that parties will accept women mediators.

The second challenge is that the presence of women mediators risks being conflated with the role of the gender advisor. Gender advisors, whether female or male, are made available to mediators and their teams to advise on the gender aspects of the talks. Their job is to ensure that both the process and the outcome are gender sensitive. However, in addition to the risk that women mediators are viewed solely as gender advocates, there is also the risk that parties, including donors and international organisations, will see the presence of women mediators as removing the need for gender advisors.

This would be a backwards step, and would also lead directly to the final challenge: namely, that responsibility for ensuring that peace talks are inclusive and gender sensitive will be placed exclusively on women mediators. This would place a disproportionate burden of expectation on women to deliver sustainable outcomes in order to justify their role in the process.

Just like men, women play a number of different roles in peace talks. These include negotiators, mediators and expert advisors. The challenge for the new networks is to work to define more clearly the different roles that women play in mediation and to ensure that these roles are treated as complementary to each other, rather than viewing them all through the same lens. In practical terms, this means supporting women at different levels and in different roles in peace processes. From the women mediators working at the community level, to women's coalitions and negotiators, to high-level women mediators, a more system-wide approach to supporting women in mediation could yield better results in the long run. A joined-up approach will be needed between networks, states and the United Nations, whereby each works together to support the aim of increasing women's representation in peace mediation.

**Dr Catherine Turner is Associate Professor of Law at Durham University.**

This is an edited version of her article, 'Absent or Invisible? Women mediators and the United Nations', from a forthcoming issue of the *Global Policy* journal (published by Durham University School of Government and International Affairs). It is reproduced here with the kind permission of *Global Policy*.

NEW COLLEGES

# A NEW DURHAM COLLEGE AND NEW STUDENT FACILITIES

Work will begin on the development of a brand new, 17th Durham college plus a new home for John Snow College, which is relocating from Queen's Campus, Stockton-on-Tees.



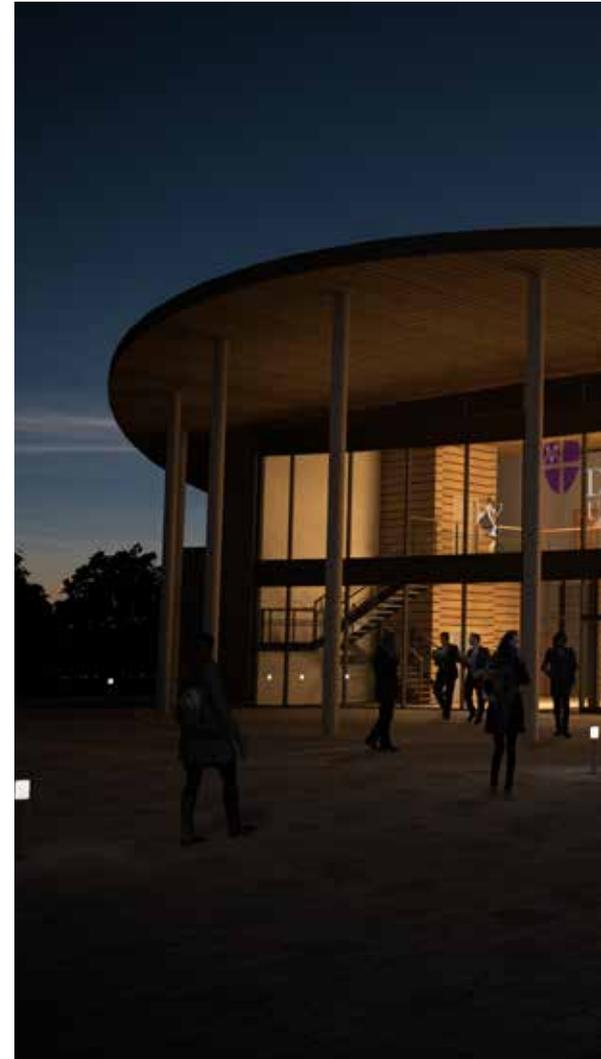
**T**he development, at Mount Oswald, off South Road in Durham City, will create 1,000 student bed spaces. There will also be a hub, with an events hall, a gym, music practice rooms, a launderette, a faith room and an administrative space, plus, subject to a separate planning application, a multi-use games area. Developing new college and student facilities is part of Durham's University Strategy 2017-2027 (see also page 9).

Jane Robinson, Chief Operating Officer, said: "We are proud that Durham University combines world-class research and education with an outstanding student experience. Our colleges are key to that and we are very excited to be developing new colleges for the first time in over ten years."

All the new facilities will be self-catering, with a mixture of en-suite and shared bathroom accommodation. Each college will have its own administrative and social space. Jane Robinson said: "We are very pleased Durham County Council has supported our vision. We are looking forward to getting started on site and to the first students arriving at Mount Oswald in 2020."

## THE PROJECT WILL BRING:

10	School / college / university site visits	
5	School / college / university workshops	
12	Work experience placements	
150	Existing apprentice weeks	
6	Project-initiated apprentices (number of persons)	
2	Higher level skills (number of persons)	
30	New employment (number of persons)	



NEW COLLEGES



## EVENTS

# Events 2018

**We hold regular** events all over the world. They are perfect opportunities to meet up with old friends, to make new ones, and to reconnect with all things Durham.

This is only a selection of the events for this year. To see more, visit:

[www.dunelm.org.uk/events](http://www.dunelm.org.uk/events)



## JUNE

Thursday 7

Hild Bede Final Formal Dinner

Saturday 9

Collingwood Alumni Football Competition

Thursday 14

Van Mildert Jam by the Lake

Sunday 17

Mary's Day

Tuesday 26

Professional Networking Event: Technology in London

Friday 29 – Sunday 1 July

Hatfield Association Reunion Weekend, Durham

Saturday 30

St Chad's 1904 Society Black Tie Dinner

St Chad's Green and Gold Society Black Tie Dinner and Regatta Day

## JULY

Friday 6 – Sunday 8

Van Mildert Association Reunion Weekend

Thursday 12 – Wednesday 18

St Chad's College Chapel Choir Tour to Chicago, concerts tbc



## SEPTEMBER

Friday 14 – Saturday 15

Hild Bede Alumni Association Weekend

Friday 14 – Sunday 16

St Mary's College Society Annual Reunion

Friday 14 – Sunday 16

Durham Castle Society 72nd Annual Reunion

Friday 14 – Sunday 16

St John's College, 5 Year On Reunion

Friday 21 – Sunday 23

Chad's Decades Reunion

Saturday 22

Chad's Horsfall Lunch for Legacy Donors

Saturday 29

St John's College, Cranmer Hall Diamond Jubilee

## OCTOBER

Friday 5

The Big Match – Rugby in London

Tuesday 9

Convocation and Dunelm Society Annual Dinner

Thursday 18

London Rugby Dinner

Saturday 20

30 Years of Hatfield Women Celebratory Dinner, Durham

## NOVEMBER

Saturday 10

Collingwood Gala Evening

Sunday 11

Hild Bede Remembrance Day Service and SCR Sunday Lunch

Tuesday 13

Hild Bede St Trinian's Formal Dinner

Sunday 25

Hild Bede SCR Sunday Lunch

Thursday 29

Hild Bede Christmas Formal Dinner

## DECEMBER

Saturday 1

Collingwood Gala Evening

Sunday 9

Hild Bede College Carol Service

# 2019

## JANUARY

Saturday 12

Hatfield Association Winter Dinner, Durham



EVENTS



Look online for more events near you and see photographs of previous events on Flickr:  
<http://bit.ly/DunelmFlickr>



# GETTING MORE WOMEN INTO TECHNOLOGY

The new Department of Computer Science at Durham has launched the Anne-Marie Imafidon Scholarships (AMI Scholarships) for Women in Technology.



**Above:** Professor Stuart Corbridge, Vice-Chancellor and Warden; Zoe Scheinman, Chair of the North American Development Board [of Durham University] (Chinese, Trevelyan College, 1984-88); Dr Neil Hunt, Former Netflix Chief Product Officer (Computing & Electronics, Collingwood College, 1980-83)

**Below:** Ian Ellison-Taylor, Distinguished Engineer of Microsoft's HoloLens (Computing, Grey College, 1987-90)



**T**hese prestigious new scholarships are named after Anne-Marie Imafidon MBE, (pictured right), Co-Founder of Stemettes – an award-winning social enterprise inspiring the next generation of females into Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics – in recognition of her remarkable work in inspiring young women to get involved in STEM. Anne-Marie is also a member of Durham University's Computer Science External Advisory Board.

Anne-Marie said: "I'd never really thought of myself as a 'woman in tech' before ... and realising I was part of a shrinking minority of women working in this area made me recognise this as a problem that needed solving."

The new scholarships have been made possible through the generosity of our alumni community, with particular thanks to our principal donors and Advisory Board members Ian Ellison-Taylor *Computing, Grey College, 1987-90* and Dr Neil Hunt *Computing & Electronics, Collingwood College, 1980-83*. Ian is a Distinguished Engineer at Microsoft in Seattle, and Neil was formerly Chief Product Officer at Netflix; both are passionate about bringing more women into the sector and have been integral to the launch of the new scholarships.

## Fantastic developments

The AMI Scholarships will showcase the outstanding calibre of Durham students and create future cohorts of ambassadors, who we hope will champion the developments underway in the Department and encourage more talented young women to join our Computer Science community here at Durham in the future.

The under-representation of women in STEM subjects, particularly in Computer Science, has been a topical issue across the world. But with more young women than ever engaging in computing and related subjects at GCSE, now is a great time to celebrate the vibrancy of our Computer Science network – not just here at Durham University, but across industry and academia.

By working with our Advisory Board, our student ambassadors, our industrial partners and our alumni community, we hope to raise the profile of this exciting discipline and to attract more talented young women to our fast-growing Department, building up our pipeline of exceptional graduates, who will shape the next generation of technology and innovation.

You can find out more about Anne-Marie Imafidon's work at <http://bit.ly/STEMettes>

To see who else is on the Advisory Board, see <http://bit.ly/CSadvboard>



*Anne-Marie Imafidon, Co-Founder of Stemettes and Computer Science Advisory Board member at Durham University*



*“Just a few years ago I never would have imagined becoming a computer scientist – looking back now, taking that leap of faith has been the best decision I have ever made.”*

**SARA CHEN**  
THIRD-YEAR COMPUTER SCIENCE  
STUDENT, 2018



## **NEW COMPUTER SCIENCE DEPARTMENT**

The new Computer Science Department at Durham University, which was launched formally in September 2017 after splitting from the Engineering Department, has been recognised as a critical area of growth and is set for considerable institutional investment under the new University Strategy 2017-2027.

With plans to significantly grow the academic team and the talented student population, and to erect a state-of-the-art new facility on campus in the next few years, now is an exciting time for Computer Science at Durham.

The Department is taking this opportunity to expand its core research areas, building its content and culture from the ground up, with close support from the experience and expertise of its External Advisory Board.

INTERVIEW



# SMITI BRINGS HER MARKETING FLAIR TO DUNELM USA

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**Smiti Kumar**, *MSc in Management Studies, 1980-81*, was elected president of the North American Foundation for the University of Durham, now known as Dunelm USA, last year. Here, she talks to Nic Mitchell about her life-changing year at Durham, and why she continues to support the University in the USA.

**A**merican Smiti Kumar showed her flair for marketing early on in her master's degree in Management Studies, by persuading Procter & Gamble to donate thousands of free toothbrushes and tubes of toothpaste to a dental awareness campaign around which her dissertation was based. Just 22 at the time – and a rarity in 1980 as an American student in Durham – Smiti had spent almost her entire life growing up around Georgetown University in Washington DC, where her father was a professor and her mother worked in administration. “Although I was born in India, we moved to Washington DC when I was less than one year old and I literally learned to walk on the Georgetown campus. I was an undergraduate student there and so was my sister. So when it came to picking a grad school, I was determined to get as far away as I could,” she recalls. While researching her options in a catalogue of accredited American grad schools, Smiti came across a section on international schools teaching in English – and Durham was mentioned. She had an uncle, Dr P. M. Pillai, a GP near Newcastle, whom she visited on a family holiday, and Smiti remembered how attractive the City of Durham was during a trip to see the castle, the cathedral and the University. “Several things appealed to me about the Durham master's programme. It was a straight 12-month course rather than over two years. I also liked having a maximum of 30 students on the programme. That sounded pretty exclusive. So I applied to Durham almost as a lark. I certainly didn't think I was going to get in. “They asked if I could attend an interview. I said ‘No’, but suggested they talk to my uncle to get to know me better. To my surprise, they agreed and my uncle did my interview! He told me later how nervous he was, thinking I would blame him, if I wasn't accepted.” So Smiti's transatlantic voyage of discovery began. She remembers the excitement of being the first among friends to venture abroad for a degree. “From flying into London and getting the train from King's Cross, I knew it was going to be an adventure. I didn't even know where I was going to

live. The University told me not to worry and that something would be sorted. “So I went to my uncle's house, then met with the director of the Graduate Society, who offered me a place in Shincliffe Hall. “It was amazing, being in a house with 30 other students. Only a few of us were studying at the Business School and it was great to get to know other postgraduate students. The only downside was it was a mile and a half from the Business School, but two of my fellow students had cars. So, I got a lift in every day and walked back.” Shincliffe Hall was in a beautiful, picturesque place, Smiti recalls, adding: “One of the best things was the staff, who gave us a cooked breakfast and a dinner during weekdays and left out breakfast ingredients for us to cook at weekends.” Weekends – and weekday evenings – often revolved around the village pubs, particularly the Seven Stars Inn, and Smiti and her friends became well known by the locals! She is still in touch with several of her 1980-81 alumni, including Tiina Moore (Koppel back then), Roy Stairmand, Amy Lau and Andy Eaglen. About her classmates, Smiti says: “I hadn't expected such diversity. Of the 30 students on the MSc, only half were British. I was the only American. There were students from Norway, Portugal, India, Africa, Iceland, Japan, Malaysia and Hong Kong. “The age difference was another surprise. I was the second youngest person. We ranged from 22 to 52. There were a couple who had gotten the course >>



*Smiti Kumar and Alex Curtis Durham Graduation December 1981*

*“My uncle did my interview”*

## INTERVIEW



as part of a redundancy package, including a guy laid off from British Steel. Hearing from people with significant work experience really brought something to the conversations, when we were talking about things like labour relations. The difference in how things were managed in different countries was astonishing.”

After recovering from having all her exams in one go after six months (unlike the continual assessment system in the USA), it was time for Smiti to pick her dissertation subject.

“I didn’t have anything specific in mind, but some companies and organisations approached the University with potential projects and one caught my eye.

“This was from the Durham Area Health Authority, who said: ‘We offer free health education, so why don’t people go to the dentist more?’ What I did was approach it from a marketing standpoint and not a health standpoint.

“I found out there was one health authority person going round schools, trying to convince students to go to the dentist. She was trying to cover the whole county and she wasn’t a marketing person, but a dental assistant.”

Investigating further, Smiti discovered that the UK headquarters of US-owned conglomerate Procter & Gamble was close to Durham, and she approached them about giving the health authority free toothbrushes and toothpaste to help the campaign.

“They said ‘Yes’ and together we created some fun packs to use in schools. In the end, we got thousands of free toothbrushes out of them!

“When I graduated, I got a special commendation for my dissertation and I am sure it was down to those free toothbrushes.

“Even more amazing, after I had left Durham, I discovered Procter & Gamble and the health

authority created a little character to help the campaign and they called her ‘Smiti Brushwell’.

I thought that was really funny. But I didn’t know about it until Terry Webb, one of the lecturers, whose children went to school in the county, told me.”

Unsurprisingly, after a shaky start to her career on returning to the States in the middle of a recession, Smiti worked her way up from media sales and being an account executive in advertising agencies in Washington DC to become a senior promotions manager with The Coca-Cola Company in Atlanta. She went on to realise her dream of moving to New York, where she held various marketing and public relations roles with Merrill Lynch and US Trust/ Bank of America.

### Raising Durham’s profile in the USA

Smiti got involved with the Durham Alumni Association in the early 1990s, and took over the presidency of the North American Foundation

for the University of Durham – the legally registered philanthropic corporation in the USA – last year from its founder, Bob Klein.

Also known as ‘Dunelm USA’, it links past students living and working in America. Together with the Durham North American Development Board, it raises funds to help the University to support scholarships and bursaries for deserving students. It also backs special projects in several colleges and serves as a base for alumni networking in North America.

“We’re also doing more friend-raising and fund-raising and helping to increase the profile of the University of Durham in the USA. It does get confused with Durham [in North Carolina] in the USA.

“I’m passionate about supporting the Alumni Association, and it is wonderful to take over as the figurehead of the philanthropic organisation and bring together the 3,000 or more past students here in the US to support our University,” concludes Smiti.

*“I got a special commendation for my dissertation and I am sure it was down to those free toothbrushes.”*

# Durham's Inaugural New York Fundraising Gala Dinner

Manhattan Penthouse, New York City, Thursday, 7 December 2017



# FACING GLOBAL HEALTH CHALLENGES IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Durham's new Centre for Global Infectious Disease (CGID) is tackling some of the most significant challenges to global health. **Dr Paul Denny** from the Department of Biosciences, and **Dr Steven Cobb** from the Department of Chemistry, explain:



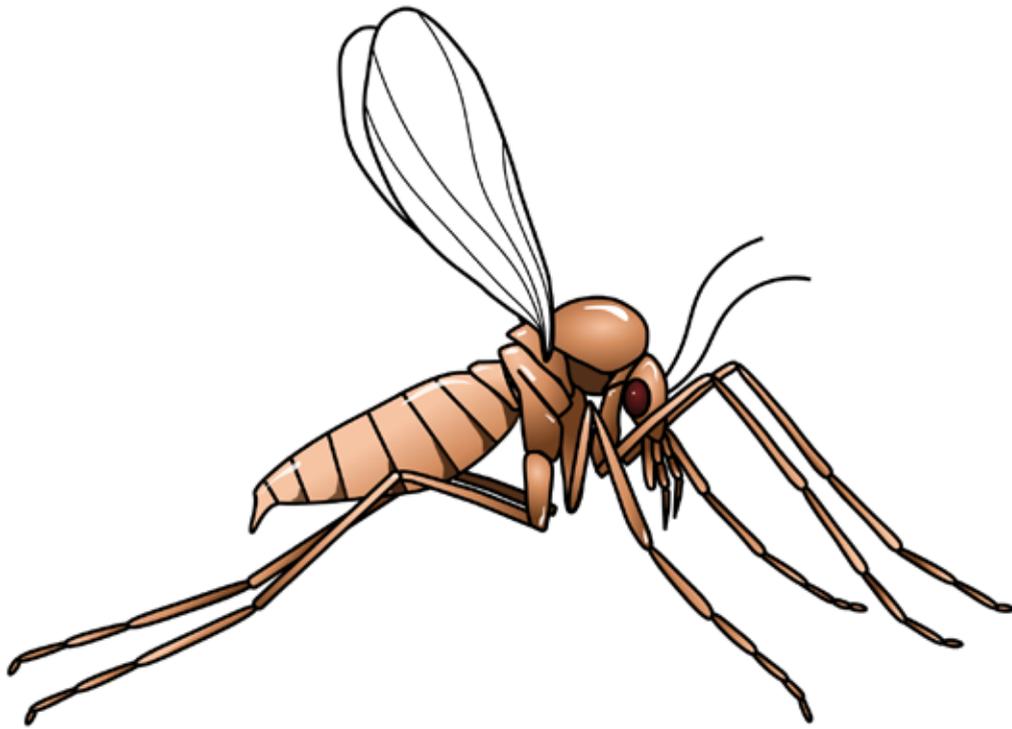
The *a* parasite, the cause of leishmaniasis.

**E**ach year in the UK, healthcare-associated infections account for thousands of deaths and cost the NHS more than £1 billion. While healthcare-associated infections caused by the bacteria *Clostridium difficile* and *Staphylococcus aureus* have fallen significantly, those caused by other bacterial species have risen to take their place. Sally Davies, Chief Medical Officer for England, has described the “catastrophic threat” caused by the rising tide of antimicrobial resistance and a “post-antibiotic apocalypse”, when routine surgery could lead to life-threatening infections. In addition, on a global scale, tuberculosis, caused by the bacterium *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, remains responsible for more than 1.8 million deaths, with nearly 5% of the 10 million or more new cases each year showing multi-drug resistance. Similarly, the threats posed by pandemic viral infections such as influenza and HIV are well known. They remain major and ongoing problems, with 35.3 million people living with HIV and a flu outbreak currently sweeping the world. Whilst these diseases are familiar in the UK, their impact is greatest in the developing world. There, populations are also threatened by fungal infections, for example causing cryptococcal meningitis in HIV-positive people, and protozoan diseases such as malaria, with over 200 million cases leading to more than 400,000 infant deaths per annum in sub-Saharan Africa.

## Tackling neglected tropical diseases

In recent years, antimicrobial resistance, HIV and malaria have become *causes célèbres*, attracting attention from politicians, health officials, the media and, of course, the general public. However, the so-called neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) remain outside the public consciousness, with limited interest from government, the media and healthcare professionals.

NTDs are a spectrum of 18 infectious diseases of the developing world, together affecting more than 1 billion of the world's most deprived people and



Sandfly, the insect vector of leishmaniasis.

exerting a greater burden than malaria, tuberculosis and HIV combined. This burden is manifest not just in mortality, but also in the social and economic impact that long-term NTD morbidity can have, by delaying educational development and reducing employment capacity. The new Centre for Global Infectious Disease (CGID) at Durham provides a multidisciplinary platform to tackle some of the most significant challenges to global health. Steven Cobb (Department of Chemistry), Director of the CGID, said: "The real strength of the work being carried out is rooted in the fact that it brings together researchers from different disciplines, to find solutions to what are challenging problems with real-world impacts."

### A global approach

Despite significant gains elsewhere, the battles against the related protozoan NTDs leishmaniasis and Chagas disease are being lost – with increasing numbers of cases and mortality. Some 350 million people worldwide live at risk from leishmaniasis, with over 20,000 deaths each year; and 7 million people suffer from Chagas disease in Latin America. The combined effects on health and well-being are devastating, but current therapies are inadequate, with issues of cost, toxicity, practicality and availability.

In this environment, researchers all over the world are labouring to develop solutions. New drugs for all diseases require new drug targets. However, the identification and validation of these is fraught with difficulty and expensive failure.

Responding to industry concerns, the CGID at Durham is leading a new £7.8 million Medical Research Council-funded international network of scientists – the Global Network for Neglected Tropical Diseases – to respond to the challenges of drug target validation through multidisciplinary research, training and capacity building.

Paul Denny (Department of Biosciences, Durham), UK hub lead for the Network, said: "Robust validation of targets has been identified as a

problem for the pharmaceutical industry, with millions spent on drug discovery programmes, which ultimately fail due to poor target identification. The Network will address this issue for the NTDs leishmaniasis and Chagas disease." The Network hub lead for India, Nahid Ali (Indian Institute for Chemical Biology, Kolkata), said: "Dynamic networking with different collaborators in the fields of disease biology and therapeutics will help to manage these diseases, leading to significant social and economic impact in India."

Ariel Silber (University of São Paulo, Brazil), the Network's South America hub lead, said: "This Network will lead to an 'army' of highly trained young scientists, to drive forward the search for alternatives to the drugs currently in use for leishmaniasis and Chagas disease."

This Medical Research Council award follows other recent grant successes for Durham in the area of infectious diseases.

### Lowering the cost of life-saving drugs

Each year, worldwide, 950,000 cases of HIV-related cryptococcal meningitis lead to 625,000 deaths, making it the leading fungal cause of HIV-associated mortality.

The recommended treatment is a combination of flucytosine and amphotericin B, both of which feature on the World Health Organization List of Essential Medicines. However, flucytosine is very expensive, as its patented manufacture involves a sequence of four chemical reactions.

CGID member Professor Graham Sandford (Department of Chemistry at Durham), working with pharmaceutical company Sanofi-Aventis and MEPI (France) and funded by the European Union Innovative Medicines Initiative, has developed a more efficient way of producing flucytosine via a one-step method.

This method uses significantly less energy and fewer raw materials, and produces less waste, than the current four-stage manufacturing process. It is hoped that this will lead to significantly cheaper flucytosine to treat HIV-associated cryptococcal meningitis in the developing world.

As current activity in the CGID exemplifies, it is only by aligning the physical sciences with the biosciences that solutions to the 21st-century global health challenges of infection, antimicrobial resistance and efficient antimicrobial discovery will be overcome.

The Centre for Global Infectious Disease (CGID) is a new and rapidly growing venture at Durham, which brings fundamental science (especially Biology and Chemistry) to bear on the protozoan and bacterial pathogens that are major threats to global human health and food security.



The team behind the £7.8 million Medical Research Council-funded Global Network for Neglected Tropical Diseases.

Picture credit: Steven Cobb

## SCOTTISH SOLDIERS



## USING SKELETON SCIENCE TO SOLVE A CENTURIES-OLD MYSTERY

How an unexpected discovery led Durham University archaeologists to solve a centuries-old mystery about what became of captured seventeenth century Scottish Soldiers.

In November 2013 archaeologists overseeing groundworks for the construction of the new café in Palace Green Library made an unexpected discovery when human remains were uncovered in two mass graves. The work was halted to allow the remains of the individuals to be carefully cleaned, recorded and lifted. In total the incomplete remains of between 17 and 28 individuals were excavated. Over the next two years a team of researchers from the Department of Archaeology, led by Professor Chris Gerrard, applied the very latest techniques in archaeological science to try and understand who these individuals were and why there were seemingly no historical records of them.

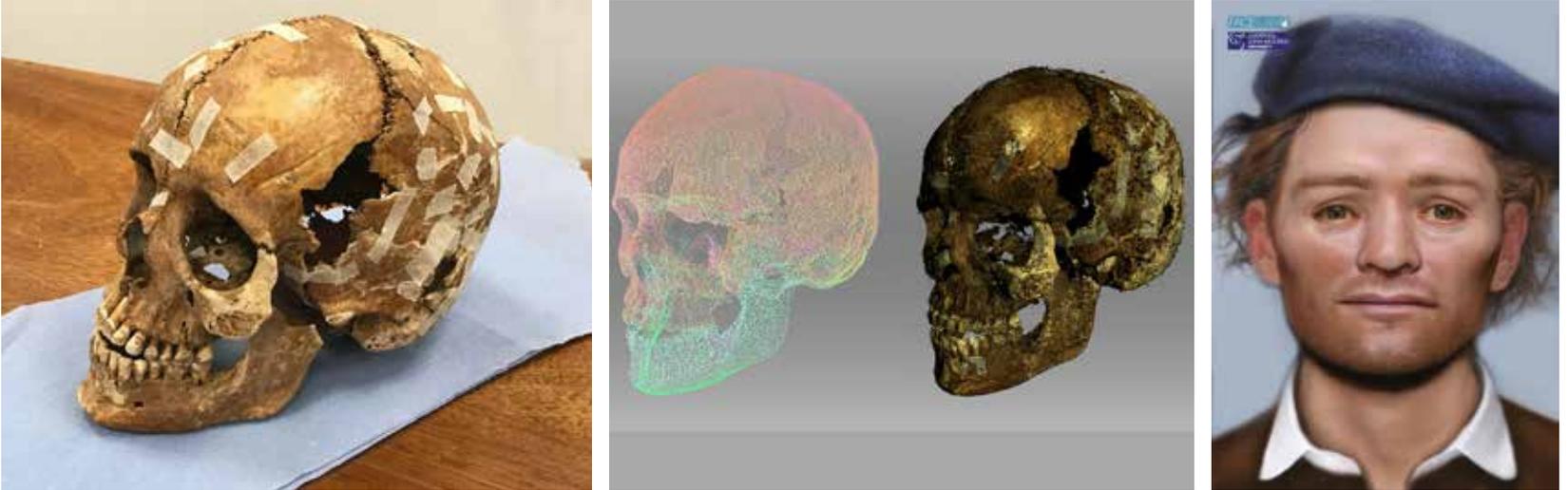
### Piecing together the clues

The manner of burial gave the team its first clue as to the possible identification of the individuals. Normally, Christian graves would have been individual burials, carefully laid out on an east-west alignment. However, the remains of these individuals were jumbled in mass graves, indicating they had been buried with little ceremony. Examination of the remains revealed that they were all male, with the majority under the age of 25 years old. This helped rule out causes of death such as plague, which would have affected a wider population, and instead led the team to consider the possibility that this was a group of men of fighting age and therefore possibly soldiers. However, the skeletons showed little convincing evidence of battle wounds suggesting these individuals had not died in battle. When working to establish when these individuals had been buried the team observed that two of the skeletons had crescent-shaped wear in their teeth consistent with habitual use of a clay tobacco pipe. This was something which first became popular in the early seventeenth century, giving a further clue as to the possible age of these remains. Isotopic analysis carried out on the remains showed that the individuals had different origins. Some were from Scotland, or Northern England, whilst three came from outside Britain, raising the possibility that they could have been mercenaries.



*Crescent shaped tooth wear indicating clay pipe smoking (credit Jeff Veitch, Durham University)*

## SCOTTISH SOLDIERS



Above left: Reassembled skull for digital scanning. Above centre: Digital scans of the skull for the facial reconstruction. Above right: Facial reconstruction of one of the Scottish Soldiers. (All images, credit Face Lab, Liverpool John Moores University)

The teeth and bones of the individuals also showed evidence of poor nutrition and stress during childhood, including scurvy and rickets. This would be consistent with individuals being born mostly in periods of famine and disease.

### Solving a centuries-old mystery

All the evidence led the team to conclude that the remains were those of seventeenth century Scottish soldiers, taken prisoner after the Battle of Dunbar in September 1650 and marched south to Durham where they were held prisoner.

The Battle of Dunbar was one of the shortest, most brutal and bloody battles of the seventeenth century civil wars. In less than an hour the English Parliamentarian Army, under the command of Oliver Cromwell, defeated the Scottish Covenanting army who supported the claims of Charles II to the Scottish throne.

Unusually large numbers of prisoners were taken and it is thought that around 3,900 were marched south towards Durham. Several hundred did not

arrive. Some escaped their captors, others were shot and some died of disease, probably dysentery. When the soldiers finally reached Durham, around 3,000 Scottish soldiers were imprisoned in Durham Cathedral and Castle, at a time when the Cathedral was empty and abandoned. Conditions were poor and the situation quickly slipped out of control as contagious disease spread.

The sickest of the soldiers were isolated in the Castle and it is believed that around 1,700 Scottish soldiers died in Durham whilst imprisoned. The discovery on Palace Green, and dedicated work by Durham archaeologists, has allowed the mystery of their burial place to finally be solved.

### Bringing history to new audiences

Since the discovery of the remains, the project team has worked hard to learn as much as possible, both about those soldiers who died in Durham and those who survived imprisonment. The team has been able to learn most about a group of soldiers who survived imprisonment

and were transported to New England in America to work as indentured servants, usually in saw mills and ironworks. The team has been in touch with descendants of these men to share their research and learn more about the soldiers' lives after their release.

In 2017 Durham University worked with experts from Face Lab at Liverpool John Moores University to create a digital facial reconstruction of one of the skulls found on Palace Green.

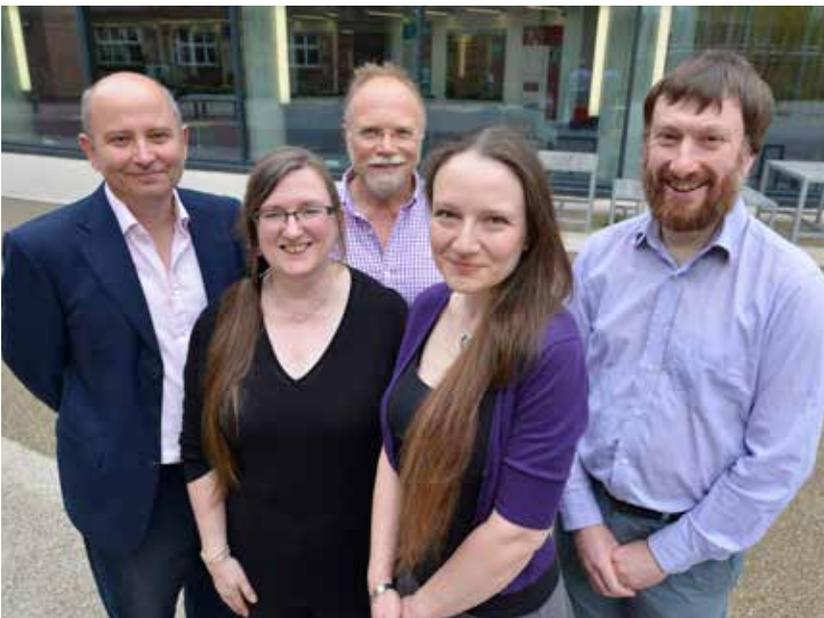
The process involved painstaking re-assembly of the fragmented skull to allow for detailed digital scans to take place upon which the reconstruction was based. The result is a remarkable opportunity to come face to face with a soldier who lived and died over 300 years ago.

This reconstruction will form the centrepiece of an exhibition at Palace Green Library from 9 June – 7 October 2018 which will focus on the discovery and identification of the Scottish Soldiers. Entitled 'Bodies of Evidence: How science unearthed Durham's dark secret', the exhibition will showcase how the latest scientific techniques, together with focused documentary research, has revealed more about the soldiers' story – how they lived, why they died and what became of those who survived.

### Commemoration and reburial

In May 2017 the University unveiled a plaque to commemorate the soldiers. The plaque is mounted in the courtyard of the Palace Green Library café, the construction work for which led to the discovery of the remains in 2013.

Once research work is complete, the remains will be reburied in Durham, in a cemetery less than a mile from where they were originally discovered. Reburial is planned to take place in early-mid 2018.



Project team left-right: Professor Chris Gerrard, Dr Pam Graves, Richard Annis, Dr Anwen Caffell and Dr Andrew Millard

To learn more about the Scottish Soldiers Archaeology Project please visit [www.durham.ac.uk/scottishsoldiers](http://www.durham.ac.uk/scottishsoldiers)

## PAST EVENTS

## Alumni Evensong, St Gabriel's Pimlico, 22 April 2017



The year 1972 saw an extraordinary collection of very talented, musical students at Durham as undergraduates, including **Ralph Allwood MBE Music, Van Mildert College, 1968-72** and **Canon Stephen Shipley Music, University College, 1971-74**.

On Saturday 22 April 2017, we gathered the chamber choir of 1972 under the baton of their original conductor, Ralph Allwood, for a spectacular service of Evensong.

Also involved in the service were **The Very Rev. Michael Tavinor, Dean of Hereford Music, University College, 1972-75** who was a Castle singer, and **Michael Hodges Music, University College, 1973-76**, who played the organ for the service. He was a Castle Organ Scholar after Stephen Shipley. The two lessons were read by two members of the choir who are Deputy Lord Lieutenants, **Luke March Law & Politics, St John's College, 1970-73** and **Sarah Elsom, née Bagshawe, History, St Mary's College, 1971-74**. Both sang in Castle Choir under Stephen Shipley, and also with Ralph Allwood.

The following was read as part of the service:

**A meditation in praise of Durham by Canon Stephen Shipley given at the Inaugural Durham Reunion Evensong, 22 April 2017**

**Grey towers of Durham**

**Yet well I love thy mixed and massive piles  
Half church of God, half castle 'gainst the Scot  
And long to roam those venerable aisles  
With records stored of deeds long since forgot.**

Those lines of Sir Walter Scott immediately picture in our minds what must be one of the famous views in the world – what Sir Nikolaus Pevsner called “one of the great experiences of Europe to the eyes of those who appreciate architecture and to the minds of those who understand architecture. The combination of castle, cathedral and monastery built on the rock can only be compared to Avignon and Prague,” Pevsner said. Indeed, for me – and I guess for so many of us here, our first glimpse of this glorious ensemble must be from the railway station. Here you can see instantly why it became

one of Britain's first World Heritage Sites – and why I and a lot of us here today could think of no better place to spend our formative years.

For those of us reading arts subjects and living in colleges on the peninsula – all male of course back in the 70s – Palace Green was the heart of our academic activity. You had to cross Prebends Bridge to find female company. “A women's college! Maddest folly going! What can girls learn within its walls worth knowing?” (Princess Ida). We sang Gilbert and Sullivan on the tiny stage in The Assembly Rooms Theatre on the Bailey. For some of us, musical activities abounded from the start with the Freshers' Concert in Room 6 – a first venture into close harmony and cabaret – and for many of us the college chapels, particularly Castle, as well as the Cathedral and its wonderfully resonant Chapter House also played a significant part in our musical journey through university life. Bishop Cuthbert Tunstall's portrait used to be hidden away in the Senior Common Room of the Castle. Now it quite rightly graces the wall of the Tudor Chapel built while Tunstall was Bishop of Durham. And it was his name which was to inspire the creation of the Tunstall Choir, which flourished for 38 years singing in over 20 cathedrals and cementing very many dear friendships as well as producing many musical children!

So we have a lot to be thankful for – not least for the joy of music making, which is so evident this afternoon, and for renewing contact with people we haven't seen for a long time. But there's another aspect of our lives for which we can ask God's blessing. It's the ability to praise. The seventeenth-century priest and poet George Herbert expressed it perfectly. His prayer, which I personally use regularly when we're about to launch into a live broadcast, says it so succinctly, Lord, you have given us so much, give us one thing more – a grateful heart – not thankful when it pleases us as if your blessings had spare days, but a heart whose pulse shall be your praise.'

**Jessica Lawrence**

Head of Student Music, Durham University



### Durham University Fencing Team Reunion

Anniversaries do concentrate the mind. Fifty years after some of us first went up to Durham, we enjoyed a reunion of fencing team members in November 2017. Once suggested, the idea of a reunion grew rapidly, and tracing old friends meant that eventually 12 fencers (and some partners) were reunited. We were unable to trace a few. Some at the reunion had not seen each other since leaving Durham, others had kept in touch, but we enjoyed a wonderfully happy few days together, at the Lumiere Festival, dining in Hatfield SCR, and wandering round the City. Some parts of Durham have not changed much – others we did not recognise.

The photograph (above) shows us in the fencing salle at Maiden Castle, holding the photograph of the 1969/70 University fencing team: then and now! We were impressed by the facilities available to fencers, and their dedication – we heard there is training six days a week. In our day, it was competing with badminton for floor space in the main hall on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons.

**Ron Howard Psychology & Economics, Grey College, 1967-70** and **Elizabeth Howard, né Gray Geography, St Mary's College, 1967-70** met in the fencing club, and so far have enjoyed 45 years of marriage. The others at the reunion were **John Charney Applied Physics, Van Mildert College, 1966-69**, **Michael Collins Politics with History, Van Mildert College, 1968-72**, **John Crouch Education, St John's College, 1967-71**, **Val Davis, né Wise Chemistry, St Aidan's College, 1969-72**, **Felicity Greenlaw Persian Modern, St Aidan's College, 1968-71**, **Mark Havelock-Allan Law, Grey College, 1969-72**, **Martin Macdonald Physics, Grey College, 1972**, **Phil White Anthropology & Psychology, Van Mildert College, 1968-71**, **Ann Winter History, St Aidan's College, 1969-72**, **Jacek Zapasnik Politics & Sociology, Hatfield College, 1966-71**. **Maureen Young, née Kitchin Mathematics, St Mary's College, 1966-69** sent her greetings but was unable to attend.

**Elizabeth Howard, né Gray**

Geography, St Mary's College, 1967-70

## Life since Durham: a group of scientists who had a reunion in March 2017

### Dr Debbie Buckley-Golder, neé Smelt

*Physics, Trevelyan College, 1973-76*

On leaving Durham, I gained a DPhil from Oxford University and went on to work with UKAEA, subsequently AEA Technology plc, advising UK and European governments on energy technology and environmental policy development, analysis and implementation; leading to becoming a member of the company's senior leadership team. Building on my experience in working with academia, business and the public sector, I have further developed my career in research commercialisation and knowledge exchange, developing and leading a number of key government programmes such as KTP, and am now Head of the Research Portfolio at Innovate UK, the national innovation agency.

### Deborah Cohen

*Physics, Van Mildert College, 1973-76*

My physics degree gave me the knowledge and the confidence to apply, and subsequently get, my first researcher contract with the BBC Radio Science Unit. With a small amount of writing for *Palatinate* I felt I could be a journalist. It's still a mystery why I got my first role, as I gave the wrong answer when the interviewer asked me if one of the then Durham staff was a good broadcaster. I said no, from his lectures, but I was wrong: he turned out to be sparkling when talking to the general public. I've been getting scientists to explain their work to the general public ever since and am now Editor of the BBC Radio Science Unit.

### Professor Janet Drew

*Physics, St Aidan's College, 1973-76*

On finishing my physics degree, I worked for a PhD in astronomy, based mainly at University College London – I was in that generation of research students who learned to be self-sufficient through the experience of near-total supervisor neglect! Taking up the challenge delivered by a senior UCL staff member (after he'd had a few) who didn't think I could succeed, I have pursued a career in university teaching and astronomy research. My longest periods of tenure have been at Oxford (8 years), Imperial College London (13), and most recently in Hertfordshire (10), where I have had a spell as research centre Director. My partner is an astronomer too – both a good and, at times, a not so good thing. We have two grown children and we are all deeply concerned about Brexit.

### Professor Dorothy Duffy, neé Gibson

*Physics, Trevelyan College, 1973-76*

After graduation in Physics from Durham, I joined British Aerospace researching carbon fibre composites for aerospace. I left this role to complete a PhD in solid state physics at Imperial College. I then moved to the Atomic Energy Authority (Harwell), where I was involved in the development of the first computer programs to model radiation effects in materials. After a career break, following the birth of children, I returned to academia supported by a Daphne Jackson

fellowship. In 2005, I was appointed a lecturer in Physics at UCL, where I continued to research radiation effects, and I was promoted to Professor in 2015.

### Dr Tricia Ellis

*Physics, Trevelyan College, 1973-76*

After Durham, I felt unprepared for real work and did an MSc in Manchester on Pollution and Environmental Control which, although multidisciplinary, saw me landing a physics-related job in the R&D labs of the Health and Safety Executive and then a similar scientific consultancy role with the Greater London Council. After my own career break, I worked for the Daphne Jackson Trust, which led to an opportunity to do a PhD in women and science. I then moved into research management, setting up the National Institute of Health Research Primary Care Research Network and finishing full-time work as Divisional Director for Research Delivery. Now I am working freelance as a research advisor and training to be a London Tourist Guide.

### Mrs Barbara Ewin, neé Evans

*Physics, Trevelyan College, 1973-76*

Following graduation, I trained with Price Waterhouse in Newcastle. After three years in the audit department, I qualified as a Chartered Accountant and transferred to the corporation tax department. I left to set up my own accountancy and taxation practice in Durham. Based at home, I was able to combine bringing up my two sons with working. I have been a school governor and

treasurer of several local charities, including the Ruth First Educational Trust. Now retired, my husband and I have created an award winning garden of several acres at Old Durham near the city centre.

### Professor Elspeth Garman

*Physics, St Mary's College, 1973-76*

I went from Durham Physics to Oxford, where I did a DPhil in Experimental Nuclear Structure Physics. After seven years as a Research Officer and Physics Tutor in Oxford, I changed fields entirely to protein crystallography, finding the 3D shapes of biological molecules important for human health and disease. I am now Professor of Molecular Biophysics in the Biochemistry Department at Oxford University and Tutor for Graduates at Brasenose College. I was recently Director of the Systems Biology Doctoral Training Centre for five years, and President of the British Crystallographic Association. I am a Visiting Professor in Chemistry at Durham.

### Gill Lawrence, neé Briggs

*Physics, Trevelyan College, 1973-76*

After graduating from Durham, I went to Birmingham to complete an MSc in Radiobiology and Medical Physics. Since then I have worked in medical physics and predominantly radiotherapy for the whole of my career, initially at the Royal Marsden Hospital, and then after a seven-year career break in Newcastle upon Tyne, where I was Head of Radiotherapy Physics, before retiring. Knowledge and use of radiation physics and latterly nuclear magnetic resonance has been an essential element of my role, with a number of academic papers published and teaching radiotherapy physics to MSc clinical scientists and clinical colleagues for fellowship qualifications.



Left to right: back row: Tricia Ellis, Gill Lawrence, Debbie Buckley-Golder, Elspeth Garman, front row: Dorothy Duffy, Barbara Ewin, Janet Drew, Deborah Cohen

## CLASS NOTES

## CLASSNOTES

**Jay Armstrong** *English Literature, College of St Hild & St Bede, 1992-96*, following a career in the Army and then as a freelance photographer, has set up as an independent publisher of nature writing.

**Danielle Bartram** *Education Secondary, Ustinov College, 2011-12*, has published *Forty Pence Each or Two for One Pound: Making maths memorable, accessible and relevant*.

**Jo Colman** *Economics, St Chad's College, 1981-84*, CEO and author of *Psychology Today*, featured in a list of Top Psychology Blogs of 2017.

**Vivien Cumming** *Natural Sciences, University College, 2004-08*, and *Geological Sciences, Ustinov, 2009-13*, has been named one of the winners of the European Geosciences Union 2018 Science Journalism Fellowship.

**Rev Mark Edwards** *Theology Occasional, St John's College, 1991-95*, is the author of *Life After Care*.

**Katie Falkingham** *Sport, Health & Exercise, Grey College, 2012-15*, was named Sports Journalist of the Year by the National Council for the Training of Journalists.

**Tim Healey** *Engineering, University College, 1972-75*, received an award from the Institution of Civil Engineers at its 2017 South East England Engineering Excellence Awards ceremony for the 'Greatest Contribution to Civil Engineering'.

**Andrew Hemmings** *History, University College, 1965-68*, has published his second book, *Secret Newport*.

**Geoffrey Howard** *Theology, St John's College, 1965-70*, has his book *Wheelbarrow Across the Sahara* back in print; all royalties and publisher's profits are being donated to the charity Water For Kids.

**Miles Hudson** *Physics, College of St Hild & St Bede, 1988-93*, is to publish his second novel, *2089*.

**Andrew Ilott** *Natural Sciences, St Cuthbert's Society, 2003-07*, is the new Chemistry Award winner in the Blavatnik Regional Awards for Young Scientists.

**Jonathan Jeczalik** *Geography, University College, 1974-79*, a founding member of 1980s band Art of Noise, has re-released top albums from the 1980s.

**Jennifer Le Marinel** *Mathematics, St Cuthbert's Society, 2004-08*, walked from Land's End to John O'Groats, raising money for charity.



**Michael Keigwin MBE** *Business Administration, 2005-07* collected his MBE at Buckingham Palace in November for his contribution to wildlife conservation. He helped to create the Elephants, Crops and People project in the southern Queen Elizabeth National Park, Uganda, to boost the region's wildlife after five decades of war and rebel activity.

**Baret Magarian** *English Literature, University College, 1989-94*, has published *The Fabrications*.

**Rosemary McGarr** *Education, College of St Hild & St Bede, 1961-64*, sculptural ceramic artist, received a RAW Talent 2017 award and participated in the 'Art&' show 2017 at York Racecourse.

**William Oldroyd** *Theology, St Cuthbert's Society, 1999-2002*, received 15 nominations in the British Independent Film Awards (the most nominations for any film in 2017), and two nominations in the British Academy Film Awards, for *Lady Macbeth*, which he directed.

**Karen Osman** *English Language & Linguistics, College of St Hild & St Bede, 1997-2000*, won the Emirates Airline Festival of Literature prize for her book *The Good Mother*.

**Roger Pearce** *Theology, St John's College, 1969-72*, had his third book, *Javelin*, published.

**Dr Dick Potts** *Zoology, St Cuthbert's Society, 1966*, was posthumously awarded the most prestigious medal by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

**Simon Ratsey** *Geography, Hatfield College, 1965-68*, has published *The Little Blog of Lucanus*.

**David Roche** *Psychology, Hatfield College, 1980-83*, has published *Just Where You Left It: Family rhymes for modern times*, *The Lyrical Loo Book of the Year*.

**John Sharpe** *Classics, University College, 1955-58*, is author of *The Police and Me*.

**Robert Swan** *General Studies, St Chad's College, 1976-79*, has reached the South Pole for the second time on an expedition solely powered by renewable energy; he became the first person to have walked to both the North and South Poles, when he reached the North Pole in 1989.

**Leah Tether** *Modern Languages, University College, 1999-2003*, has authored *Publishing the Grail in Medieval and Renaissance France*.

**Minette Walters** *French, Trevelyan College, 1968-71*, has released her new novel *The Last Hours*.

**Tristan Watson** *Psychology, St John's College, 2001-04* and **Richard Carter** *Software Engineering, Collingwood College, 2006-09* feature in the North East Local Education Partnership's #LiveWorkandStay campaign. You can see their stories at <http://bit.ly/LiveWorkandStay>

**Dr Anthony Wells** *History, St Cuthbert's Society, 1965-69*, has published *A Tale of Two Navies: Geopolitics, technology, and strategy in the United States Navy and the Royal Navy, 1960-2015*.

## THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS 2017

**Mr Asif A Ahmad CMG** *Economics, St Cuthbert's Society, 1977* For services to British interests in South East Asia

**Mr J Keith Getty OBE** *Music, St Chad's College, 1996* For services to music and modern hymn writing

**Professor Erica V Haimes OBE** *Sociology, St Cuthbert's Society, 1978* For services to social science

**Mrs Amy D Hathaway MBE** *Education, College of St Hild & St Bede, 2001* For services to providing interim and community care for abandoned and vulnerable infants in Mwanza, Tanzania

**Mrs Veryan S Johnston MBE** *Law & Sociology, St Aidan's College, 1978* For services to higher education

## THE QUEEN'S NEW YEAR HONOURS 2018

**Sir Graham S Brady Kt MP** *Law, St Aidan's College, 1989* For services to economics and public policy

**Mr Darrell G Buttery MBE** *English Literature, St Cuthbert's Society, 1964* For services to heritage in York

**Mrs Katharine E Carruthers OBE** *Chinese, Van Mildert College, 1982* For services to education

**Ms Susan E Kruse MBE** *Archaeology, Graduate Society, 1978* For services to community archaeology in the Highlands of Scotland

**Mrs Stefa J McManners MBE** *Education, Graduate Society, 1981* For services to the community in County Durham

**Dr Trevor L Ogden OBE** *Physics, Hatfield College, 1964* For services to occupational hygiene and workplace air quality

**Mr Q J K Phillips CMG** *Geography, Van Mildert College, 1985* For services to British foreign policy

**Miss Gail Porter BEM** *Management Competence Development, 1990* For services to troubled families in Liverpool

**Mr William R Sergeant MBE QPM** *German, St Cuthbert's Society, 1961* For voluntary service to ex-Service personnel and to First World War remembrance

**Mrs Elizabeth J Tappenden MBE** *Entrepreneurship, 2001* For services to small business start-ups and Women in Business in the Isle of Wight

**Joyce Taylor BEM** *College of St Hild & St Bede, 1953* For services to Durham Cathedral

**Mr A Edward Timpson CBE** *Politics, Hatfield College, 1996* For public and parliamentary services

**Dr Jennifer M Walsh MBE** *Physics, Van Mildert College, 1986* For services to transmissions research and development

## THE DUNELMENSIS AWARD

This Award is given to a Durham alumnus or alumna for meritorious and exceptional service in support of the University, particularly for our institutional advancement and for enhancing the University's reputation. In 2018 the Awards are to be presented to two outstanding alumni:

### Mark Hillary

*Engineering & Management, Collingwood College, 1985-88*

Recognising the exceptional commitment Mark has shown to Collingwood College and the University over the years: the significant and transformational philanthropic support given to Collingwood, as well as the creation of impetus in driving greater alumni engagement in both financial and non-financial giving; coming back to College to host careers talks for students; and hosting alumni events.

### Sir Peter Ogden

*Physics, University College, 1965-68*

Recognising the exceptional commitment Sir Peter has shown to the University and University College as one of its most generous benefactors. His support and that of the Ogden Trust has been invaluable in enhancing Durham's excellent reputation for Physics research and teaching both nationally and internationally, as well as contributing greatly to the University's objective to make physics education available to all regardless of socioeconomic background.

## INNOVATIVE LEGAL TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR WOMEN LAWYERS

A Durham alumnus has introduced an innovative legal training programme for women lawyers in Saudi Arabia. **Dr Ibrahim Alhudaithy** *Law, Ustinov College, 2001-06* is Dean of the Prince Sultan University School of Law. He tells us about the programme.

**P**rince Sultan University, the leading private University in Saudi Arabia, has launched a pilot programme for its law graduates in partnership with the American Bar Association.

The programme is four weeks of intensive training, giving law students practical skills they need to begin a career in law; best practices are taught by highly qualified experts.

The course covered:

- accounting for lawyers, introducing financial reporting, including underlying principles of financial accounting, the elements of

financial statements and key accounting standards;

- law practice management, which identified and strengthened critical skills needed to transition from the role of law student to legal professional;
- legal writing in English, to help prepare students for internship and practice opportunities in legal settings, teaching best practices in the customs, styles structure and protocols of legal writing;
- oral advocacy, as practiced in the courtroom. Students also compete in the Philip C. Jessup International moot court, an advocacy competition for law students.

## COMEX 2 MEMORIALISED

**A**lumni and staff who were at Durham in 1967 will remember that the Durham coach, one of 11 from UK universities on this overland expedition to India, was involved in a tragic accident in Yugoslavia on the return journey in which 14 students died. Their deaths stunned the universities and colleges involved. Last year, the 50th anniversary of Comex 2, the survivors of the Durham coach held a reunion which was later followed by a Memorial Service in Durham Cathedral on 30 September, the exact date of the tragedy. This was attended by relatives and friends of those who died and representatives of other Comex coaches as well as 10 from the Durham coach. You can read about the Memorial Service and the reunion along with photos taken on the expedition at: [comex2blog.wordpress.com](http://comex2blog.wordpress.com)

## AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR

# DURHAM ALUMNA NAMED AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR 2018



Durham alumna Professor Michelle Simmons has been named 2018 Australian of the Year.

**M**ichelle (*Physics & Chemistry Of Materials, Trevelyan College, 1985-88 and Physics PhD, St Aidan's College, 1988-92*) is now a physics professor at the University of New

South Wales, leading pioneering research that could result in a quantum leap in computing. The accolade, Australian of the Year, was awarded to Michelle as part of the Australia Day celebrations last week.

At Durham, Michelle studied physics and chemistry and stayed here to do her PhD.

"A physics PhD is, in a sense, a passport to the world" Michelle said in her Australia Day address. Michelle remembers: "I learned a lot about myself at Durham and it is safe to say it changed my life.

I met great people, expanded my horizons and learned a lot about what I loved: physics, experimental work, cycling, circuit training, and basketball. I also have many wonderful memories of time spent travelling with the canoeing club, exploring the Cathedral and its history, drinking the local beer in cosy pubs, walking the moors, traveling to Newcastle by train for a truckies breakfast, going to the Lake District, working in the libraries and partying in the colleges. And of course I will never forget cycling in the cold wet weather! Durham is a beautiful, down to earth Town and I really loved the outdoors, sense of history, and strength of tradition.

"It was at Durham that I learned to create, build and test electronic devices and where I really came

to appreciate that reward comes from hard work. I did a double degree in Physics and Chemistry, which is now known as the Physics and Chemistry of Materials degree. It was a full-on degree, with not many free periods, but it was great as it prepared me for my PhD, where I used the knowledge I'd learnt to design, fabricate and test solar cells. It was immensely rewarding to start from a concept of how to improve a device, make it from scratch, and then measure it to see if it works as expected. I took this knowledge to Cambridge, where I got into quantum devices and then onto Sydney where I'm now applying it in quantum computing.

"One of my fondest memories of Durham was learning quantum mechanics from a chemist's point of view and then from a physicist's point of view. I was amazed at the different notation, terminology and different thinking this created. I was fascinated at the interface between these two fields and knew that the difference would lead to new ideas, concepts and understanding. It was definitely the degree for me."

In 1999 Michelle left Britain for Australia and soon transformed the University of New South Wales' Quantum physics department into a world leader in advanced computer systems.

In 2007, Michelle became an Australian citizen. She established a large research group dedicated to the fabrication of atomic-scale devices in silicon and germanium using the atomic precision of a scanning tunnelling microscope. Michelle and her team created the world's first transistor made from a single atom, along with the world's thinnest wire.

"We have achieved tremendous success in our endeavour, largely because we gave things a go that the rest of the world didn't dare to try"

At the forefront of what she calls the "space race of the computing era", Michelle aims to build a quantum computer able to solve problems in minutes that would otherwise take thousands of years. Such a discovery has the potential to revolutionise drug design, weather forecasting, self-driving vehicles, artificial intelligence and more. "Quantum physics is hard. Technology at the forefront of human endeavour is hard. But that is what makes it worth it. I strongly believe that the things that are most worth doing in life are nearly always hard to do."

*"I strongly believe that the things that are most worth doing in life are nearly always hard to do."*



# RETURN OF DUNELM DAYS! NOVEMBER 2018



After three consecutive years of success, Dunelm Days are back, this time for an entire month this November.

**S**ince the launch of Dunelm Days in 2014, Durham alumni have organised a significant number of events across six continents, all at the same time, with one aim: to celebrate what it means to be a graduate of Durham University. Dunelm Days have provided alumni with an opportunity to revive old friendships, make new ones and develop the worldwide Durham alumni network. Dunelm Days have varied from a Chinese dim sum lunch at the exclusive Aberdeen Marina Club in Hong Kong, and a wine-tasting session at a Cambridge wine merchants, to a river cruise on the Norfolk Broads and a harbour cruise to see the Vivid lightshow in Sydney.

The last series of Dunelm Days were held in 2016 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the formation of the first Durham alumni group, Durham University Society, in 1866. Over 200 guests shared their pride in being a Durham graduate at 25 Dunelm Days across the globe. For example, Dr Duncan Connors, Assistant Professor in Finance, met alumni for informal drinks in Mexico City;

elsewhere, alumni were meeting in America, Tokyo and even Durham itself, to name but a few.

This year, the alumni office has decided to run Dunelm Days as a month-long celebration throughout November, to encourage as many people as possible to get involved. Whether you are already a part of a Durham alumni network, or are looking to make new connections, Dunelm Days are the ideal opportunity to join a global celebration of what it means to be Durham alumni and to share happy memories of your time in the North East of England.

The Development and Alumni Office would like to thank everyone who has attended Dunelm Days and to say a huge thank you to all our incredible alumni volunteers – we could not do this without you!

*“The idea of Dunelm Days across the globe was a wonderful way of sharing what we all seem to have in common – happy memories and good friendships from our time at Durham”*

**FIONA TURTON**  
GEOGRAPHY, ST AIDAN'S COLLEGE,  
1975-78  
NORFOLK

If you would like to get involved in attending a Dunelm Day, or are interested in organising your very own with the support of the alumni Office, please do get in touch at [alumni.volunteer@durham.ac.uk](mailto:alumni.volunteer@durham.ac.uk)

# DURHAM COMMISSION ON CREATIVITY AND EDUCATION

Image: Mark Carline

## What is the Commission?

The Durham Commission on Creativity and Education is a collaboration between Arts Council England and Durham University that aims to identify ways in which creativity, and specifically creative thinking, can play a larger part in the lives of young people from birth to the age of 25, both within and beyond the current education system. Crucially, the Commission hopes to find out what already works well and where there might be gaps that can be addressed.

## Background

There is a general appreciation of the importance of creativity to society and it is an exciting time for the country, with a huge amount already achieved across the education sector and beyond. But the Commission believes there is further untapped potential that can be unlocked.

The increasing recognition of the economic and social value of creativity and creative thinking has brought a fresh urgency to the development of entrepreneurship and the skills of the future workforce. In response to this, the Commission will

focus on the value of creative thinking and ask if creative thinking across all disciplines, including the arts, sciences and humanities, is sufficiently supported by the current education system.

## What does the Commission hope to achieve?

The Commission will formulate a series of proposals to be considered by government, teachers, parents, arts organisations, business and the creative industries. Specifically, the Commission will:

- seek to influence national (English) policy
- inform and contribute to Arts Council England's next ten-year Strategy for the period 2020-30
- contribute towards Arts Council England's work with children and young people, including engagement with Arts Council England's 25-Year Creative Talent Plan.

## How will it work?

The Commission will collect evidence from across the UK and beyond, to determine the role that

creative thinking and cultural education play within the education system, and to explore whether there is a gap in what is currently provided.

Drawing on the evidence from literature and stakeholders, the Commission will identify concrete examples of best practice and lessons learnt to provide a robust analysis of whether the development of a creative education embedded across the curriculum is of benefit.

The Commission aims to identify what the specific components and benefits (or the disadvantages) are of a creative education, and will try to establish what the particular role of creative thinking is in the development of these.

The following deliverables will result from the project:

- published report with practical recommendations to inform policy and practice
- a repository of existing research
- a new body of research
- a conference to share learning
- practical resources for teachers to embed theory into practice.

## Key research questions and themes

The benefits of a creative education will be looked at within the following three themes:

1. Economic growth, skills, and social mobility
2. Community identity and social engagement
3. Personal fulfilment and wellbeing.

The key research questions will include:

- Is developing a creative education which promotes creative thinking and practice of benefit – why is it important, and is there currently a gap in the current education system in the provision of this?
- What are the benefits, with particular reference to the themes, and what part does thinking and acting creatively particularly play in the development of these?

*“Universities, colleges and schools have a responsibility to develop engaged, global citizens, capable of fulfilling their full career potential – both for their own benefit and for society. We need to ensure that creativity and creative thinking are properly embedded in our education systems.”*

**PROFESSOR STUART CORBRIDGE**  
VICE-CHANCELLOR AND WARDEN OF DURHAM UNIVERSITY

## DURHAM COMMISSION



- How do we teach/encourage creative thinking and practice, and create the conditions for how these benefits can be realised?

### Timescales

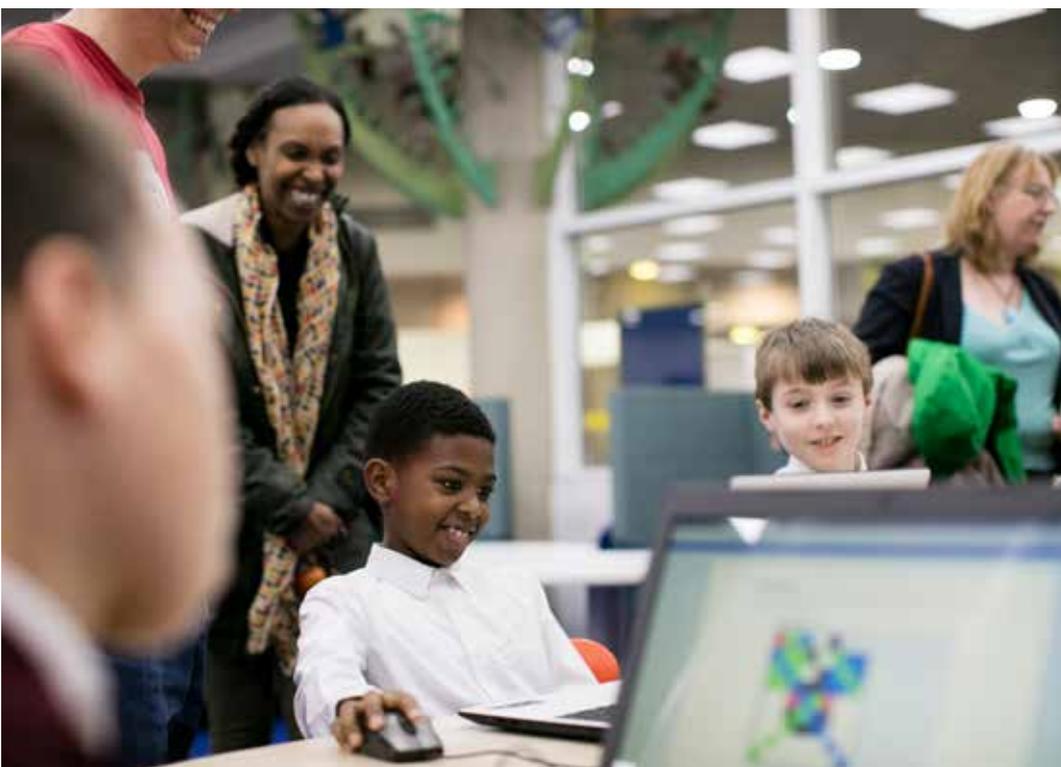
The Commission will run until spring 2019, followed by a further review period until 2020. The phases of the project will include:

- a literature review
- data collection through questionnaires
- in-depth investigation of case studies through focus groups and stakeholder sessions
- testing of initial recommendations
- publication of report
- a review period.

In the review period, a plan will set out how practical changes can be implemented through the creation of resources and practical tools that can be used by schools, colleges, universities and others.

*“Creative thinking is crucial to the development of young minds, encouraging the growth of confidence, adaptability and self-expression.”*

**SIR NICHOLAS SEROTA**  
CHAIR OF ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND



Cesare De Giglio for Arts Council England.

### COMMISSIONERS

Leading figures from business, the cultural sector, policy and academia have been appointed to the Durham Commission on Creativity and Education. The Commissioners will lead the joint project between Arts Council England and Durham University to determine the role that creative thinking and cultural education play in education.

The Commissioners are:

- Sir David Adjaye OBE**, architect and lead designer of the National Museum of African American History and Culture
- Lauren Child MBE**, Children's Laureate, writer and artist
- Jon Coles**, Chief Executive of United Learning
- Althea Efunshile CBE**, non-executive director of organisations spanning education, culture, media and health
- Dame Reena Keeble**, retired primary head teacher and former National Leader of Education
- Lord Kerslake**, former Permanent Secretary for the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG)
- Akram Khan MBE**, award-winning dance artist
- Imran Khan**, Head of Public Engagement at the Wellcome Trust
- Baroness Beeban Kidron OBE**, award-winning filmmaker, and co-founder of the educational charity Into Film
- Professor Roger Kneebone**, Professor of Surgical Education and Engagement Science, Imperial College, and a London Wellcome Trust Engagement Fellow
- Anne Longfield OBE**, Children's Commissioner for England
- Professor Linda Merrick**, Principal of Manchester's Royal Northern College of Music and Chair of Conservatoires UK
- Jacqui O'Hanlon**, Director of Education at the Royal Shakespeare Company
- Kat Pugh**, Head teacher at the St Marylebone Church of England School
- Paul Roberts OBE**, Chair of The Innovation Unit
- Phil Stokes**, Assurance Leader for Entertainment and Media Practice, PwC
- Alice Webb**, Director of BBC Children's and BBC North

The Commission will be chaired by Sir Nicholas Serota from Arts Council England with Professor Alan Houston, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education) at Durham University as the academic lead. As part of the first stage of the research, interested organisations and members of the public are encouraged to register their interest via the Commission's website, which can be found at [www.durham.ac.uk/creativitycommission](http://www.durham.ac.uk/creativitycommission). This will be followed by further detailed investigations and a final report in the summer of 2019.

## HONORARY GRADUATES

## HONORARY GRADUATES

Alongside our class of 2017 graduates, we bestowed honorary doctorates on a number of honorary graduates at Congregation last year.

## Summer Congregation 2017



**Dr Rob Catty** was formerly a partner at Claypath and University Medical Group, Durham City, and served as a member of the Ethics Committee of Durham University's Anthropology Department. Born in London, Dr Catty enjoyed a long and varied career in medical practice, before retiring in 2006. He worked for the Medical Research Council and as a Medical Adviser for the Gateshead and South Tyneside Health Authority. He became a trainer and then an examiner in general practice, and was made a Fellow of the Royal College of General Practitioners. In retirement, Dr Catty is an active Member of Durham Quakers.



**Sir Andrew Motion FRSL** is one of the most respected poets in the English language. He has published over 15 collections of poetry and is also a celebrated biographer, author and editor. Sir Andrew served as Poet Laureate from 1999 to 2009 and received a knighthood for services to poetry in 2009. In 2012, he succeeded former Durham University Chancellor Bill Bryson as the President of the Campaign to Protect Rural England. He was appointed the inaugural Durham Book Festival Laureate in 2009. Sir Andrew is a member of the Steering Group for Durham University's Institute of Advanced Study and is a regular visitor to the University.

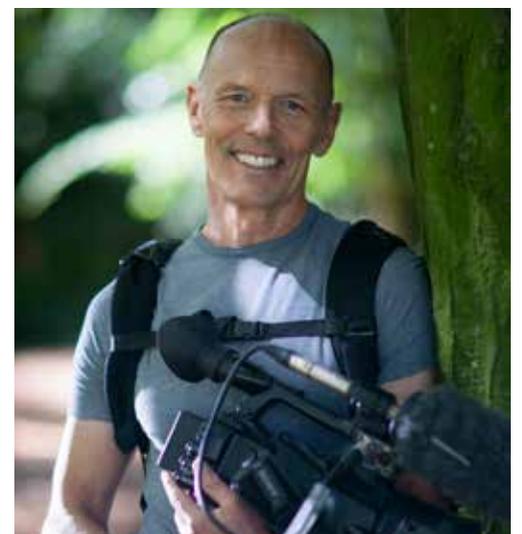
## Winter Congregation 2017



**Jonathan Ruffer** is an investment banker, art collector and philanthropist. He grew up in North Yorkshire, read English at Cambridge, trained as a barrister, and then moved into the investment world, setting up Ruffer LLP in 1994. In 2012, he purchased *Jacob and his twelve sons*, a series of paintings by Spanish master Francisco de Zurbarán, as well as 900-year-old Auckland Castle, Bishop Auckland, where the paintings have been housed for more than 250 years. Determined to keep the paintings for the people of the North East and beyond and to give them access to the beautiful castle, he established The Auckland Castle Trust, which became known as the Auckland Project. The charity is working to transform Auckland Castle into an arts, faith and heritage destination of international significance, including a reimaged Walled Garden with restaurant, a Spanish Gallery, a Mining Art Gallery, a Faith Museum and a hotel. He also leads the Eleven Arches Trust, a sister charity located in Bishop Auckland, which produces the acclaimed annual open-air theatrical production *Kynren – an epic tale of England*. With a total investment of more than £130 million, the Auckland Project will boost visitor numbers, create opportunities for employment and skills development, and serve as a catalyst for the revitalisation of Bishop Auckland. Jonathan Ruffer is also a Fellow of St John's College.

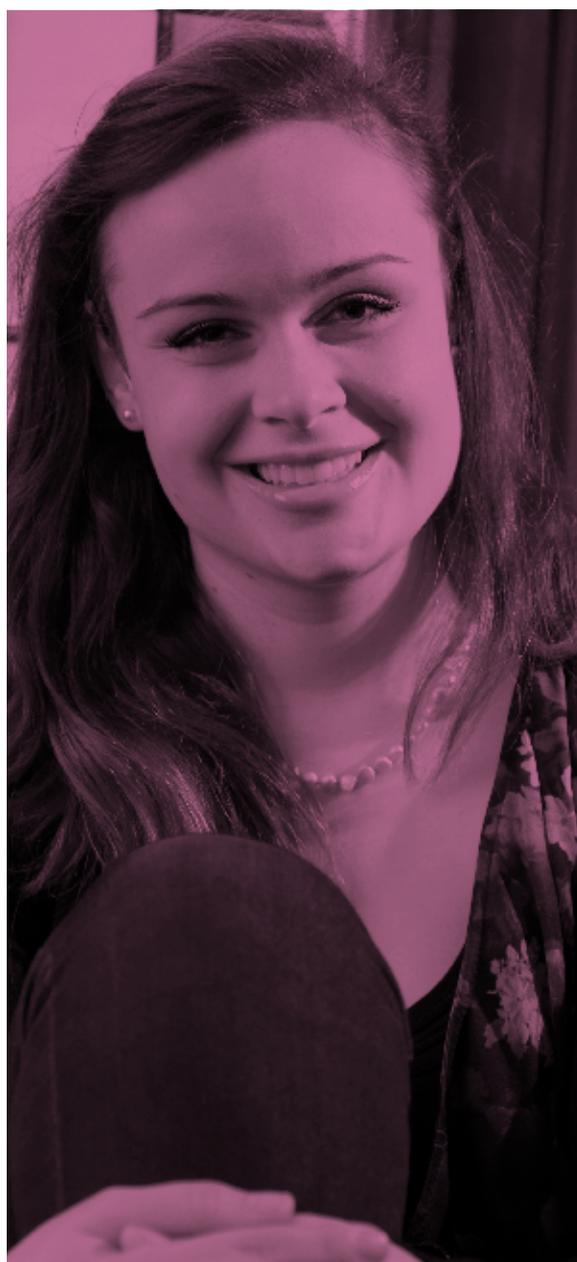


**Wendy Shepherd** has devoted decades to improving the situation of children, young people and vulnerable adults who have experienced sexual violence, exploitation and trafficking. Born on Teesside, she recently retired after 25 years leading the Barnardo's Sexual Exploitation Children's Outreach Service, which received the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in 2004. Wendy Shepherd received the Diana Award for supporting child participation in service delivery in 2015, and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland in 2016. She has advised on research from Durham University's School of Applied Social Sciences and facilitated placements for Durham students at Barnardo's.



**Chris Terrill** is a pioneering anthropologist, adventurer, author and filmmaker. He won an Emmy Award for Outstanding Investigative Journalism for his film *Ape Trade* and a Royal Television Society Award for Innovation for his series *Soho Stories*. After 21 years at the BBC, he set up his own company, UpperCut Films, in 2004, focusing on communities in conflict zones or threatened by natural hazards. These include warring factions in Afghanistan's Helmand Valley, Islamic militants in Africa, and the Sami reindeer nomads of northern Norway. He holds a joint honours degree in Anthropology and Geography from Durham University and maintains close links with the Anthropology Department.

# A Thought for the Future...



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Durham University Alumni Community

## EXPERIENCE DURHAM



## MUSIC AND THEATRE HIGHLIGHTS

**T**here was no easing into Epiphany term for many of our music ensembles and performers, with a full schedule of events from week one! Professional masterclasses are planned for each month of the year, including opera with Roderick Williams, and Alexander Technique for best performance practice. Durham Vocal Festival was another success, with record participation from university groups. The Northern Lights once again held their annual show in the Gala Theatre, Durham Opera Ensemble (DOE) performed Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, the Chamber Choir took part in the North East Festival of Youth Choirs, and the chapel choirs sang a masterclass with Daniel Cook (Master of the Choristers, Durham Cathedral) and an



intercollegiate Evensong in Durham Cathedral. For theatre, Epiphany term started in full force, with five productions happening in the first week of term. Particular highlights included multiple performances in the Gala Theatre, such as Durham University Light Opera Group's *Seussical*, DOE's *The Magic Flute*, and The Durham Revue's Comedyfest.

We also saw the return of Durham Drama Festival for its 43rd year, including a brand-new scratch night to kick off the festival. We had an exciting series of workshops, including a programme of directing and writing workshops from award-winning Jake Murray and Jemima Foxtrot. Durham also returned to the National Student Drama Festival, remaining one of the most represented universities at the annual event.



## SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

**O**ver 1,900 students have represented Durham University so far this season – a figure that will rise to around 2,500 by June.

Our Varsity with Loughborough has been and gone for another year – Durham won both the home and away legs comfortably, the overall score: 24-9 in favour of the Palatinates! Durham currently sits second in the overall BUCS points table and is well placed to retain the Number 1 Team Sport Title, with 16 teams being seeded number 1 or 2 in Britain in advance of the key knockout rounds – we will know a lot more by April.

Our Rugby Club delivered a first for University Sport, by playing a 'home' fixture in the capital. Over 800 spectators joined us and a further 3,500+ watched live online. Our thanks go to our Rugby Alumni Steering Group, who worked tirelessly to organise the event – it is certainly something to build on over the coming years.

Over 60 student athletes have been called up to international squad programmes since 1 August 2017, across 18 different sports. Heather Kerr (*Hatfield*) deserves particular mention, having started for the Senior England Women's Rugby Team during the recent Test series against Canada. Our College Sport programme has grown again, with nearly 700 teams competing in what remains the largest programme of its kind in Britain. Our Colleges have also played their own Varsity fixtures against Loughborough and York and, on both occasions, have emerged victorious!

With over 3,000 students organising and leading both University and College teams, it remains abundantly clear that our programmes could not run successfully without their tireless commitment – as ever, our greatest thanks and congratulations go to them.



## VOLUNTEERING HIGHLIGHTS

**H**eaded into the middle of term 2, our students have volunteered over 10,500 hours across projects that have made a positive difference to people across the local, regional and international community. We are on course to go beyond the 25,000 student volunteer hours in 2016/17!

### Duke of Edinburgh's Award

We are also thrilled to have attained a licence to deliver the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Thanks to this new partnership, the University will give local young people aged 14 to 24 the opportunity to complete the world's leading, internationally recognised, youth achievement award. Participants will complete four to five challenging sections of the Award over six to 18 months (Volunteering, Physical, Skills, Expedition and, at Gold level, Residential), with the possibility of achieving three overall progressive Awards (Bronze, Silver, and Gold).

### Second Chance Debate

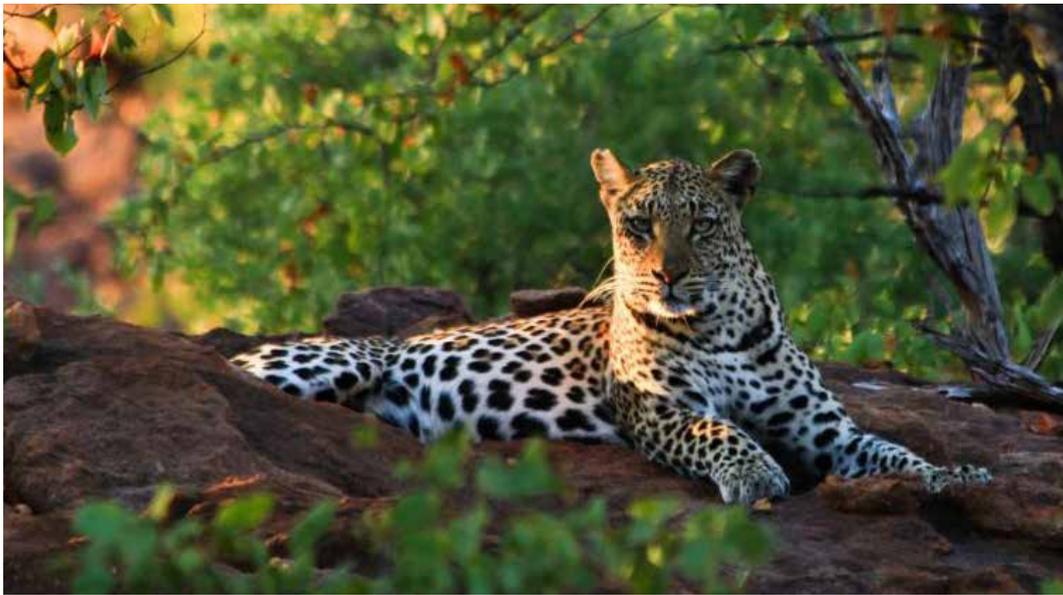
One of the undoubted highlights of the year thus far has been the annual Second Chance Debate. Held in the Pemberton Building on Durham City's Palace Green, the discussion topic this year was euthanasia. It marked the tenth anniversary of a seven-week programme of training in public speaking delivered by Durham Union Society and Team Durham Community Outreach. The Second Chance Debate works with people who face homelessness and drug and alcohol-related issues to improve their confidence in public speaking. During the programme, Durham University student volunteers organise confidence-building games for the participants, centred on fun and easy topics. This then leads on to more serious debates and, finally, a formal debate and celebratory meal at the end of the programme. The debate was conducted by the President of the Union with usual ceremony, with the audience including members of the public, Experience Durham and Durham Union representatives, and the student volunteers.



## RESEARCH

# SAVING LEOPARDS FROM HUMAN THREATS

Leopard populations in parts of South Africa are decreasing in greater numbers and at greater speed than expected, due in large part to illegal killing by humans.



All images: © Durham University

**A** research team led by Dr Samuel Williams, an Honorary Research Fellow in the Department of Anthropology, conducted a long-term study of the leopard population in the Soutpansberg Mountains in South Africa. They found that leopard density (the number of leopards per 100km<sup>2</sup>) had decreased by 44% between 2012 and 2016 – and by 66% since 2008.

The project aims to understand more about the threats faced by leopards, and the research team hope that their findings, which have been published in the academic journal *Royal Society Open Science*, will help to inform conservation efforts.

Dr Williams explained the significance of the decrease in leopard population density: “If the current rate of decline is not slowed down, then there will be no leopards left in the western Soutpansberg Mountains by 2020.

“This is especially alarming considering that in 2008 this area had one of the highest leopard population densities in Africa.”

## Tracking individual leopards

To track leopard numbers, the team set up 23 camera stations across the study area. The cameras ran continuously from January 2012 until February 2016, collecting hundreds of photos of leopards. You can see some of the remarkable photos of leopards gathered by the research team in an online photo gallery at <http://bit.ly/leopardgallery>

The team were able to identify individual leopards

in each photo by their unique coat markings, allowing the researchers to build up the most detailed picture to date of leopard numbers in the area.

Eight adult leopards were also fitted with GPS collars, enabling researchers to track their movements for over a year, to help understand why leopard numbers were declining.

## Conservation efforts

Six of the eight leopards fitted with a tracking collar died during the monitoring period. Investigating the causes of death, the team found that illegal killing of the animals by humans, mainly in response to a perceived threat from leopards to livestock, was a leading cause.

Dr Williams explained: “Illegal human activities like shooting, snaring and poisoning were the leading cause of death in the leopards we tracked. This was often in response to a perception that leopards were a threat to livestock.

“Clearly, there is a need for conservation efforts to address these illegal killings. Educating communities and supporting them to adopt non-lethal techniques to help protect their livestock is essential.”

The research team worked with a community engagement officer to help educate local communities about how to protect their livestock from the threat of leopards and other carnivores without taking lethal action. This can include building stronger fences and enclosures to keep leopards out, and even keeping a guard dog within livestock enclosures, to ward off predators.

Education for communities on the importance of

leopards to the local ecosystem, including the role they play in keeping other predators under control, has also formed an important part of this work.

The team also argue that trophy hunting of leopards, which is subject to a temporary ban in South Africa while more data on leopard numbers is collected, should not be allowed to resume in areas such as the Soutpansberg Mountains, where numbers are in steep decline.

Dr Williams said: “In areas such as this, trophy hunting is a luxury that cannot be afforded. Large carnivores like leopards are hugely important to the ecosystem of an area and also carry significant economic and cultural importance. Their loss would impoverish both the ecology of the area and human culture, so it is vital that we understand the threats leopards face and act on this.”

## THE PRIMATE AND PREDATOR PROJECT

This research, based at the Anthropology Field Station in the Soutpansberg Mountains, South Africa, was carried out as part of the Primate and Predator Project. This is a wildlife research project led by Professor Russell Hill from Durham University's Department of Anthropology in conjunction with the Earthwatch Institute.

You can read more at:

<https://primateandpredatorproject.wordpress.com>

# STUDENT ENTERPRISE AT DURHAM

Over 3,000 Durham students are engaged in enterprise activity through the student society 'Entrepreneurs Durham' and some 3000 alumni members identify as a founder, an owner, an entrepreneur or an angel investor.



*"Entrepreneurial skills are very useful for graduates. If you can demonstrate starting a business or even just making a business plan, you are instantly showing a drive for success and creativity to your potential employer. Not to mention, that if you start a business that takes off, you might be able to work for yourself!"*

**ANDREW LILLEY**  
BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT,  
JOHN SNOW COLLEGE, 2011-14  
WINNER OF THE BLUEPRINT  
ENTERPRISE CHALLENGE



*"We are committed to enterprise and entrepreneurship, with excellent links to the business community. Our student-led enterprise societies are very successful. Durham graduates have helped to found the Fairtrade Movement and created Aardman Animations, The Eden Project and Hawk-Eye."*

**PAUL HAWKINS**  
NATURAL SCIENCES, GREY  
COLLEGE, 1993-96  
FOUNDER OF HAWK-EYE  
INTERNATIONAL

## OUR MANY DURHAM ALUMNI ENTREPRENEURS INCLUDE:

**Tom Barfield** *English, St Cuthbert's Society, 2001-04*, **Rachel Quayle, née Anderson** *Anthropology, University College, 2001-04* and **Elliot Grainger** *Politics, Ustinov College, 2005-06* set up the Ankawa Foundation, a charity that works with Iraqi refugees near Erbil, Iraqi Kurdistan.

**Matt Brown** *History, St Cuthbert's Society, 2005-08* set up Thomas Clipper – a luxury male grooming brand.

**Richard Carter** *Software Engineering, Collingwood College, 2006-09* set up specialist web design agency Peacock Carter, when he was still at Durham.

**Sandy Craig** *English Language & Medieval Literature, Trevelyan College, 1966-70* founded Partner West Africa, an NGO supporting ethical volunteering in Africa.

**Samantha Crossfield** *Natural Sciences, Hatfield College, 2006-09* developed the non-profit research organisation ResearchOne, which has won a Research Councils UK award for academic impact in UK health and social care.

**Mohamed Soliman** *MBA, Ustinov College, 2006-07* won the Entrepreneurial Award at the UK Alumni Awards Ceremony 2017. His Adrenalin Park is the top outdoor recreation venue in Egypt.

**Thomas Rogers** *Economics, St Aidan's College, 2010-13* is the co-founder of Switchd – automatic energy switching.

**Tristan Watson** *Psychology, St John's College, 2001-04* founded a number of successful start-ups and is now is CEO of Ignite, a business accelerator that supports growing businesses across the UK.

**Henry Wilson** *Geography, St Cuthbert's Society, 2011-14*, CEO & Founder of Perfect Daily Grind, received the Specialty Coffee Association's Young Entrepreneur Award 2016. He launched Perfect Daily Grind while still living in his student accommodation.

**Humphrey Wilson** *Theology, College of St Hild & St Bede, 2001-04* set up Mad Dogs, providing the planning and support for long-distance adventure cycling challenges in Asia.

**John Wilson** *Engineering Aeronautics, University College, 2006-11* set up Supplycompass, an online platform that links UK brands with international manufacturers.

The University also has a very successful group of 'tech alumni' on the West Coast of the USA, who have joined with other friends and supporters of the University to help us re-imagine Computer Science at Durham. You can read about them and one of their initiatives, the Anne-Marie Imafidon Scholarships for Women in Technology, on pages 20–21.

# Are you lost?



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