Graduates' review

Elite without being elitist

INSIDE

Return of the King
Breaking Barriers Appeal
Summer Reunion 'White Rose' Ball

www.le.ac.uk/alumni
Welcome from the Director of Development

Leicester Alumni have been closely following the University’s archaeological search for Richard III and were astounded by the rewriting of history when our findings were announced in February.

You can meet leading members of this amazing project at the Summer Reunion ‘White Rose’ Ball on Friday 28th June as part of the Summer Reunion weekend. We will be celebrating not only the Richard III discovery but also the 50th anniversary of Engineering and the iconic Stirling-Gowan building, and the 90th anniversaries of Geography and the Students’ Union.

As a former resident of College Hall I am following its transformation into the University’s Hotel and Conference Centre with great interest. I know I am not alone and so alumni will be given the first chance to experience the new ‘College Court’ and relive fond memories at the College Hall Reunion on 12th October.

There is a great pride amongst alumni in their University, and we are delighted that many have chosen to share their experience and offer internships and work placements as part of our Careers Development Programme. I also want to thank all those alumni donors who made their gift to the Annual Fund Campaign this year in support of the £1.5m ‘Breaking Barriers’ Appeal.

Enjoy your Graduates’ Review 2013 and I look forward to welcoming you to one of our many alumni events.

Steve O’Connor
(BA Combined Studies, 1979)
Director of Development
Email: sjo18@le.ac.uk

P.S. Alumni Ambassadors enjoy giving back their time to help us to reconnect with a growing network of Leicester graduates. If you want to know more or get more involved as an ambassador please call Sharon on 0116 229 7464 or email: alumni.relations@le.ac.uk.

The Development and Alumni Relations Team.

Contact: Development and Alumni Relations, University of Leicester, University Road, Leicester, LE1 7RH · email: alumni.relations@le.ac.uk · tel: +44 (0) 116 223 1071
web: www.le.ac.uk/alumni
An historic year for the University and our Alumni

Introduction by Professor Sir Robert Burgess, Vice-Chancellor

This has been a memorable and historic year for your University in many ways. The University’s search for King Richard III has captured the attention of the general public and our archaeologists stunned the world when they shared the outcome of their search. The discovery has made headlines around the globe and the skill of the University’s archaeological and scientific team, led by Richard Buckley, has further endorsed Leicester’s reputation for producing world-class research.

The University has produced many graduates who have achieved great success through their lives and careers. A good example is Bruce, Lord Grocott, who was recently installed as the University’s sixth Chancellor. Lord Grocott returns to the University following a distinguished political career and nearly fifty years after graduating as a student here. This is the first time that this has occurred in our history.

A Leicester honours degree is a robust and highly valued qualification, but we recognise that a single degree classification cannot do justice to the range of skills, knowledge and experience students gain during their time here. As Chair of the Universities UK Steering Group on this important area, I was pleased to launch a report which will see the introduction of the Higher Education Achievement Report (HEAR) across the sector which all students will receive on leaving in addition to their degree certificate. The HEAR will provide a more detailed breakdown of academic qualifications alongside information on a student’s non-academic experiences that have been verified by the institution, such as volunteering.

The 2012 National Student Survey placed Leicester once again in Britain’s top-ten universities for teaching quality and we became the only university to secure six Times Higher awards over consecutive years, winning Outstanding Library Team 2012. The University has also continued to win accolades for its high quality facilities including the state-of-the-art £12.6m Cardiovascular Research Centre at the Glenfield Hospital site and our new Sports Centres on campus and at the Oadby student village.

In the current challenging economic and funding climate, the continuing philanthropic and in-kind support shown by the alumni community and long-standing friends for our research, teaching, student welfare and building programme will be ever more important. The record donation of £7m from The John and Lucille van Geest Foundation to establish a new Biomarker Facility and Heart Research Fund is an outstanding example of such remarkable philanthropy. Finally, I would also particularly like to thank all our alumni and supporters who have made a gift to the Annual Fund Campaign this year which makes a significant difference to the University and its students.

Lord Grocott returns to the University nearly 50 years after graduating as a student here to take up the role of Chancellor, the first time that this has occurred in the University’s history.

Read about Bruce’s memories of Leicester and his ambitions for his new role on page 16 of your Graduates’ Review 2013.

Professor Sir Robert Burgess, Vice-Chancellor, congratulates Lord Bruce Grocott on his installation as Chancellor, on 24th January 2013.
University of Leicester confirms discovery of King Richard III

On Monday 4th February, the University of Leicester confirmed to the world that it had discovered the remains of King Richard III

University of Leicester reveals:

At a specially convened media conference, experts from across the University unanimously identified the remains discovered in Leicester city centre as being those of the last Plantagenet King who died in 1485.

Rigorous scientific investigations confirmed the strong circumstantial evidence that the skeleton found at the site of the Grey Friars church in Leicester was indeed that of King Richard III.

University of Leicester researchers have revealed a wealth of evidence – including DNA analysis, radiocarbon dating and skeletal examination – proving the identity of the skeleton.

University of Leicester archaeologists co-director Richard Buckley, the lead archaeologist in the search for Richard III, said: “It is the academic conclusion of the University of Leicester that the individual exhumed at Grey Friars in August 2012 is indeed King Richard III, the last Plantagenet King of England.

“It has been an honour and privilege for all of us to be at the centre of an academic project that has had such phenomenal global interest and mass public appeal. Rarely have the conclusions of academic research been so eagerly awaited.”
It is the academic conclusion of the University of Leicester that the individual exhumed at Grey Friars in August 2012 is indeed King Richard III, the last Plantagenet King of England.

Richard Buckley,
Lead Archaeologist

University of Leicester geneticist Dr Turi King confirmed that DNA from the skeleton matches that of two of Richard III’s family descendants – Canadian-born furniture maker Michael Ibsen and a second person who wishes to remain anonymous.

Dr King, of the University’s Department of Genetics, said: “The DNA sequence obtained from the Grey Friars skeletal remains was compared with the two maternal line relatives of Richard III. We were very excited to find that there is a DNA match between the maternal DNA from the family of Richard III and the skeletal remains we found at the Grey Friars dig.”

The University of Leicester osteoarchaeologist Dr Jo Appleby said: “The skeleton has a number of unusual features: its slender build, the scoliosis and the battle-related trauma. All of these are highly consistent with the information that we have about Richard III in life and about the circumstances of his death. Taken as a whole, the skeletal evidence provides a highly convincing case for identification as Richard III.”

Trauma to the skeleton indicates the individual died after one of two significant wounds to the back of the skull – possibly caused by a sword and a halberd.

It also showed a number of non-fatal injuries to the head, rib and pelvis – believed to have been caused by a wound through the right buttock, which may have been caused by ‘humiliation injuries’ after death.

This is consistent with contemporary accounts of Richard being killed after receiving a blow to the back of his head.

Dr Appleby’s analysis is backed up by radiological evidence carried out by University of Leicester forensic pathologists and forensic engineering experts.

The verdict also drew from circumstantial evidence at the dig site, radiocarbon dating, genealogical evidence and comparison with historical sources.

The search has been described as ‘one of the greatest archaeological discoveries of recent times’ and Nature* wrote: “The University of Leicester has managed to unite two cultures of science and humanities in a way that few have before.”

The Search for Richard III is also the subject of a Channel 4 documentary Richard III: King in the Car Park. The documentary makers had exclusive access to the search team during the archaeological dig and during the scientific tests to determine the skeleton’s identity.

More information about Channel 4’s Richard III: King in the Car Park documentary can be found by searching for Richard III on the channel 4 website: www.channel4.com/programmes

Alumni can find more information about the University of Leicester’s search for Richard III at the dedicated website: www.le.ac.uk/richardiii

*Nature 494, 6 (07 February 2013)
The University of Leicester is securing its place as a centre of excellence in cancer studies

I now feel cancer research has come full circle. It is a really fantastic time to be involved as we are developing treatments from the discoveries that were first made back in the ’80s. Leicester will continue to be at the forefront of research, especially in the areas of targeted therapies and chemoprevention.

Professor Catrin Pritchard, Head of the University’s Cancer Theme

Leicester makes major strides in Cancer Studies

The University of Leicester’s commitment to tackling cancer – one of the greatest challenges of our generation – has seen it make great strides in researching the disease and developing cutting-edge treatments.

The dedication and innovation of our top-notch cancer researchers has attracted more than £30 million in funding from external bodies and philanthropic supporters in four years. This has coincided with a string of developments that has seen the University establish itself as one of 18 Experimental Cancer Medicine Centres in the UK and a world leader in cancer prevention research.

During this time, the University has formed an academic Department of Oncology and a cross-departmental Cancer Theme, as well as maintaining an ongoing partnership with the University Hospitals of Leicester Trust (UHL).

Leading cancer charity Cancer Research UK has also agreed to work with our researchers to establish the University as a Centre of Excellence after a steady increase in the quality of cancer care and research here. This will position Leicester as one of the leading institutions in the UK – and the only one in the East Midlands. The accolade will help the Cancer Theme in its aims to sustain world leading research, improve links with the
CASE STUDY:
Can curry combat cancer?

There is some evidence that curcumin is capable of killing carcinogenic cells without harming adjacent healthy cells, which makes it potentially very useful in the treatment of cancer. But what is required of any potential cancer treatment, including naturally occurring substances such as curcumin, is solid evidence that not only is it beneficial but that such benefits more than outweigh any negative aspects of the treatment regime.

Researchers at Leicester, led by Dr Karen Brown and Dr Lynne Howells from our Department of Cancer Studies and Molecular Medicine, are looking into the use of curcumin as an adjunct or follow-up to chemotherapy in colorectal cancer, targeting the small groups of cells which can survive chemotherapy and cause the cancer to return.

Leicestershire public and improve patient care on a national and international level.

The University, in partnership with UHL, has opened a Clinical Trials Centre at Leicester Royal Infirmary, thanks to generous philanthropic funding from Leicestershire and Rutland cancer research charity Hope Against Cancer. It will provide the East Midlands with a centre for the latest clinical cancer research led by the University.

Leading the University’s cancer research is Professor Catrin Pritchard, who has taken up the reins as head of the Cancer Theme. The theme is a multi-disciplinary research programme consisting of 52 academic staff across the Departments of Biochemistry, Cancer Studies and Molecular Medicine, Cell Physiology and Pharmacology, Chemistry and Genetics and also colleagues within the MRC Toxicology Unit and the NHS.

Funding support
Leicester’s advances in cancer studies have been made possible through continued support from Cancer Research UK, Hope Against Cancer, Breast Cancer Campaign, the Association for International Cancer Research (AICR), the World Cancer Research Fund (WCRF), Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research (LLR), the USA’s National Cancer Institute (NCI) and the generous philanthropic support of University of Leicester alumni.
How extra-terrestrial auroras can help us find other worlds

*New Scientist* magazine has published a feature on work being carried out by Dr Jonathan Nichols, a Lecturer and Research Fellow in our Department of Physics and Astronomy.

Dr Nichols is leading ground-breaking research into how extra-terrestrial auroras can be used to detect previously undiscovered planets. He is currently studying the auroral effects on planets within our solar system, including Jupiter. This will increase our chances of being able to detect auroral signals from further afield.

Jonathan uses a combination of data from spacecraft, such as Cassini–Huygens, and earth-orbiting telescopes, including the Hubble Space Telescope.

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University of Leicester academics recognised for outstanding achievement

Dr Alan Cann of the Department of Biology, and Dr Raymond Dalglish of the Department of Genetics, have achieved the status of Senior Fellows of the Higher Education Academy (SFHEA).

The Higher Education Academy (HEA) is an independent institution funded by grants from the four UK HE funding bodies and subscriptions from HE institutions. The HEA works with individual academic staff, discipline groups and senior managers in institutions to identify and share effective teaching practices in order to provide the best possible learning experience for all students.

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New discovery of species from 425 million years ago

Emeritus Professor David Siveter from the Department of Geology led a team of scientists from the universities of Oxford, Imperial and Yale who discovered a new and scientifically important fossil species of ostracod related to crabs, lobsters and shrimps.

The discovered species, which is up to 10 millimetres long, is special because it is exceptionally well preserved, complete with not only the shell but also the soft parts – its body, limbs, eyes, gills and alimentary system. Such discoveries are extremely rare in the fossil record.

The discovery of the tiny shelled arthropod was made in 425 million year old rocks in Herefordshire, Welsh Borderland. The rocks at the site date to the Silurian period of geological time, when southern Britain was a sea area on a small continent situated in warm, southerly subtropical latitudes. The ostracods and associated marine animals living there were covered by a fall of volcanic ash that preserved them frozen in time.

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Tribute to Sir Patrick Moore

4th March 1923 – 9th December 2012

Sir Patrick had a long association with the University and our Department of Physics and Astronomy. His contribution to science and learning was recognised with the award of an Honorary Doctor of Science degree in 1996, then a Distinguished Honorary Fellowship in 2008, the highest award that the University bestows.

Sir Patrick was of course best known for his BBC TV Series, *The Sky at Night*, which has been running since 1957 and includes Dr Paul Abel, a lecturer here at Leicester, amongst its co-presenters. He was also a patron of the National Space Centre, the brainchild of the University of Leicester. His amazing passion for astronomy and learning will be his lasting legacy for future generations of students.
University Sports Centres now fully open

The University’s new sports centres at Manor Road and on campus opened fully in October 2012. Alumni are eligible for a special discounted yearly membership; email the Development and Alumni Relations Office at alumni.relations@le.ac.uk for information. See www2.le.ac.uk/offices/sports/membership/alumni for full details.

You, in 130 volumes: entire human genome in printed form

University of Leicester scientists have printed the whole of the human genome (all our DNA) to show just how much information it takes to make up one human. The 130 volumes would take up to 95 years to read.

The printed volumes are now on display at “Inside DNA: A Genomic Revolution”, funded by the Wellcome Trust and working in partnership with GENIE, based within the Department of Genetics at the University of Leicester. The exhibition is based at the New Walk Museum and Art Gallery until May 2013 and offers the public the chance to challenge their own perceptions of current genome research and have a say in the future policy of science that will affect our lives.

Santander Universities UK supports Creative Writing Lecture and Summer School

New funding from Santander Universities UK enabled the University of Leicester’s English Department to bring one of the Latin world’s literary superstars, Mexican author Laura Esquivel, to Leicester for the annual Creative Writing Lecture.

Santander Universities UK also provided crucial funding for the University’s Summer School programme. This programme gives 100 pupils from local schools in some of the most disadvantaged communities a taste of university education. One pupil commented that the experience “just proved that if you work hard it does come to something and does make a difference.”

University of Leicester British Heart Foundation Cardiovascular Research Centre

The state-of-the-art building is now complete and research staff moved in during February and March but the appeal is still ongoing to raise funds for specialist equipment. Tours of the new building for supporters are planned for April and May 2013 with an official opening to be announced in due course. Make your donation at www.le.ac.uk/alumni/supportus

For more details on these and other university stories go to: www2.le.ac.uk/offices/press/press-releases
Engineering is one of the largest departments in the University of Leicester. The department is internationally renowned for quality research and excellent teaching, and has links with many of the world’s major engineering companies. 2013 marks the 50th anniversary of Engineering and the iconic Stirling-Gowan building.

Design work begins on refurbishment of iconic engineering building

The University is embarking on a vital project to preserve the glass roof of the Stirling-Gowan engineering building, which is nearing the end of its natural life after fifty years of service. The internationally renowned Grade II* listed structure was built in the early 1960s, and remains a famous architectural icon to this day.

The University is keen to extend its use for another fifty years and Peter Ridley, the University’s Special Projects Manager, says consultant architects were appointed to undertake a study of options and to develop a conservation plan. The University has now appointed Berman Guedes Stretton to design the renovation of the Engineering department workshops.

With some clever design and creative use of materials, we should see the building house engineering students and teachers for many years to come.

Students off to a racing start!

University of Leicester Engineering students have entered ‘Formula Student’, the global motorsport competition.

A group of Engineering students is leading the University’s first entry to a competition in which teams from universities around the world must design and build their own high performance racing cars.

The team – named ‘Leicester Racing’ – will take the car to the legendary British racetrack Silverstone from 3rd to 7th July 2013, a week after the British Grand Prix.

Engineering at Leicester

The Engineering department is internationally renowned for the quality of its research. For further information go to: www2.le.ac.uk/departments/engineering/research
90th Anniversary – Department of Geography

90th Anniversary Commemorative Book

Recent graduate, Sam Norris (BA Geography, 2012) is currently researching archival material for a book which is being compiled to commemorate the Department of Geography’s 90th anniversary. Sam’s initial research has already unearthed some very thought-provoking material. He says of his findings: “Having only recently passed through the department as an undergrad, it’s exciting to be able to look back over this history and appreciate its influences on Geography at Leicester today.”

Virtual Reality

Virtual reality (VR) work integrates with the Department in several different ways. It has been used in teaching, for example as a tool to familiarise students to field locations such as Almeria, or to assist in the understanding of ‘invisible’ GPS signals. For geographical information science students, the VR theatre and associated modelling suite have been used to illustrate visualisation principles and as a basis for dissertation projects on subjects ranging from the visualisation of local histories, paleolandscaes and potential adaptations to climate change. PhD students and staff also use the facility regularly for associated visualisation research.

Geography at Leicester

The Geography department has a thriving research culture and is internationally recognised for its excellence in teaching and research. For further information go to: www2.le.ac.uk/departments/geography/research

Susan Helen Wiley Memorial Scholarship Fund

Geography students are sometimes unable to pursue their particular passion in fieldwork due to a lack of funding. When he learned of this, David Barry (BSc Mathematics, 1965), decided that the most appropriate way to honour the memory of his late wife, Susan Helen Wiley (BA Geography, 1965), would be to endow a scholarship fund in her name. From this year forward, Leicester students will benefit from the Susan Helen Wiley Memorial Scholarship Fund and from her husband’s thoughtful generosity. For more information on endowing a scholarship visit: www.le.ac.uk/alumni/supportus

Research Overview

Paul Arellano, PhD student in the Department of Geography is pictured above during his fieldwork campaign in Yasuni National Park, a tropical rainforest in Ecuador which is considered to be the most biologically diverse hot spot on Earth. His research topic involves the use of hyper-spectral satellite images to detect vegetation affected by hydrocarbon/petroleum pollution.

Research by Professor Sue Page and Ross Morrison revealed that biofuels produced from palm oil grown in plantations on peat in Southeast Asia may not be as eco-friendly as first thought, since the cultivation of organic soils leads to a very high emission of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.
Celebrating 90 Years of the Students’ Union

The Percy Gee Building which houses the Students’ Union was named after Percy Gee, a Director of Stead & Simpson Ltd, a well-known local shoe manufacturer, and leading benefactor to the University.

When HM The Queen opened the Percy Gee Building in 1958, the Students’ Union had already been in existence for 35 years. The building was intended as a place where students would “be able to meet and exchange ideas in debate and in their leisure pursuits”. The spirited activism which campaigned for the formation of the Union in 1923, and eventually inspired a building, continued through the following decades. Finding places to meet on the pre-war campus had been very difficult, but student societies multiplied from the start and hundreds are still thriving today.

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Dan Flatt (BA Modern Languages with Management, 2012)

“It’s such a privilege to be an Executive Officer (Academic Affairs, 2012-13) in the Students’ Union 90th Anniversary year. It is absolutely fantastic that we have the longevity to continue to put the priorities of students at the forefront of the University’s aims and objectives. The ever busy Percy Gee Building is a testament to the continuing success and popularity of the Students’ Union and I am confident we will continue to grow in the future. As the Students’ Union flourishes during its 90th year, it is clear to see that this really is an ‘Exceptional Students’ Union’ to be a part of.”

For more information about the Students’ Union today contact Dan on +44 (0)116 223 1128 or at su-academic@le.ac.uk

Mike Judge
(BA Combined Arts, 1963)

“My involvement with the Students’ Union at Leicester (1959-63) as SRC Member, Rag Organiser, Chairman of Entertainments and President, proved to be absolutely key to my subsequent career in the Motor Industry. I learned very early on the leadership skills of persuasion, organisation and organising, face-to face communications with my team and crucially the art of negotiation. In retirement, I am fortunate enough to be involved with a number of national and also very local charitable enterprises all of which emanate from my Students’ Union experiences.”

Jane Esuantsiwa Goldsmith
(BA Combined Studies, 1975; PGCE, 1977)

President of the Students’ Union in 1976, Jane shares some memories of SU life:

“The academic course at Leicester was interesting, but really it was the Students’ Union that shaped me and made me what I am today. In those days the Students’ Union was not only a service provider, ... but was also an entertaining debating forum. Students were concerned about their careers up to a point, (though few would admit it), but those who were so inclined had the thinking space to focus on changing the world, read, explore and debate outside and around our subjects.

I was the first black woman President and President of the women’s lib group and the anti-apartheid group. As President I had to attend the Senate meetings with ninety white middle-aged guys in mortar boards. Students’ Union office is, and was, an opportunity for young people to gain incredible amounts of influence and responsibility at a very young age.”
**Your Alumni Association**

This year plans are afoot for a College Hall reunion to mark the reopening of the site which has lain dormant for almost eight years. In the autumn of 2013 the venue will be ‘re-launched’ as ‘College Court’, with the kind of first-rate corporate facilities which would have been alien to any of its former residents, like myself, in its student hey-day. On the positive side I suspect that ‘brown stew’ will no longer be on the menu though sadly a pint of Webster’s will certainly cost more than 50p and the yard of ale glass will be long-retired.

Like the majority of alumni who spent a year or more in the University Halls, I have some fantastic memories of my time there: of the events and balls; the corridors of A Block; the JCR and its bar and elections; and of course the wonderful array of people that I met.

Friendships made in the halls of residence, and indeed through University academic departments, sports, theatre, music and so on can last a lifetime and I would love to hear from any Leicester graduates who retain a thriving network and who would be interested in becoming an ‘Alumni Ambassador’. Only with your help can we continue to reach even more people and strengthen the links between the University and its alumni.

Thank you to everyone who has supported our Alumni Association events and do feel free to get in touch if you feel 2013 is going to be your year to renew links with your University.

Patrick Mulvihill (Economics BA, 1987; MBA, 2002)
Chairman, Alumni Association

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**Standing Committee of the Alumni Association Welcomes New Members**

**Aatin Anadkat**  
(Economics and Law with a year in Europe BA, 2003).

“It is important for me to get involved as it is an exciting opportunity to help shape a small part of the University and establish strong links. I’m hoping to bring a fresh perspective to the Standing Committee and to be involved in ‘Summer Reunion 2013’. I hope to transfer my catering and hospitality knowledge, and experience in planning large events, and identifying market trends. The benefits of getting involved include meeting like-minded individuals, networking, and establishing new relationships. It’s worth joining the Committee and there is a really good team driving it forward.”

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Alumni Support

The Standing Committee of the Alumni Association provides invaluable advice and support to the Development and Alumni Relations Office, by taking an active role in helping to arrange and host events and by sharing their collective experience, skills and expertise in support of the Alumni Relations programme.

**Join the Standing Committee**
We would love to hear from anybody who is interested in serving on the Committee. If you would like to know more, please contact Sharon on +44 (0)116 229 7464 or email at slc49@le.ac.uk.
Alumni Events in 2012

Leicester Networking Evening

Graduates and guests joined us for an informal Networking Evening on 24th May at Hotel Maiyang in the centre of Leicester. Guests enjoyed drinks and canapés on the Terrace overlooking the City and met friends old and new.

Graduates heard informative presentations from the University’s Career Development Service and the charity, Teach First. There was, of course, plenty of time for just mingling and socialising with fellow alumni and friends on a beautiful warm evening.

May 2012

Summer Reunion and Open Day

Over 500 graduates, guests and staff attended the Summer Reunion and Open Day event on 30th June. Thanks to the fine weather, alumni, staff, families and children were able to enjoy a fun-filled and educational day of indoor events and outdoor activities, packed with talks, tours, demonstrations and workshops.

The Keynote Lecture by Professor Rob Colls from the School of Historical Studies kicked the day off in perfect style. Professor Colls’ engaging and timely lecture, entitled ‘England and the Olympics’ took us on a journey from the birth of the Olympic Games to London 2012.

Women of Influence Luncheon

“This common perception is that women will steadily gain greater access to leadership roles. There has been a bit of a change, but not the step change we need. Still women are treated like probationers and still women follow the rules. My advice: break a few.”

Guest speaker Dame Janet Paraskeva gave this hard-hitting advice at the third annual ‘Women of Influence’ Luncheon at the House of Lords on 24th October. This popular social occasion brings together women from a broad range of sectors, including non-profit, business, the arts, engineering and finance. It enables the University to engage with women of achievement and seek their input and support for our future plans, such as the current Breaking Barriers Appeal to raise funds for New Galleries at Embrace Arts.

Women of Influence Luncheon

House of Lords Reception

This event ‘sold out’ quickly and over 230 graduates, supporters and guests attended on 5th September. The event, sponsored by Tim Stevens the Rt Revd The Lord Bishop of Leicester, (Honorary Doctor of Letters, 2003), was held in the Cholmondeley Room and the adjoining Terrace overlooking the Thames.

Alumni and guests came from all over Britain, and some had even travelled from Ireland and the USA to join the reception. The event attracted graduates from Class Years 1955 right up to 2012, with several current students also attending along with their parents who are members of the Family Programme.

June 2012

Benefactors’ Reception

Over 150 supporters and guests gathered with the Vice-Chancellor at the increasingly popular annual Benefactors’ Reception, held during the Summer Reunion. Guests enjoyed an informal drinks reception in the David Wilson Library, followed by talks and presentations from students, staff and donors, updating them on the University’s current developments and the progress of the many fundraising appeals they have so generously supported.

June 2012

Wesley’s Chapel: Building on a Legacy

A packed audience attended an informal reception and guided tour of Wesley’s Chapel on 19th September – the first in our series of legacy events. The visit to one of London’s ‘hidden gems’ attracted history lovers and the contemporaries of renowned University graduate, Donald English, (History BA, 1952; PGCE, 1953; Doctor of Letters, 1994). Alumna Sylvia Ladyman (left) enthusiastically encouraged fellow alumni to follow her lead in making a legacy pledge to the University.

September 2012

October 2012

Visit www.le.ac.uk/alumni for more details and photographs of the events listed.
Alumni Events in 2013

Alumni Lecture 2013
“The search for Richard III: The Archaeology and the Genetics”
This must attend lecture on 21st March, just a month after the news broke confirming the find, was presented to a packed house by Dr Turi King, Lecturer in Genetics and Archaeology, and Mathew Morris, Richard III Dig Site Director. A rapt audience heard about the search for Richard III from both archaeological and genetics viewpoints. Read more about the lecture at www.le.ac.uk/alumni

Summer Reunion
‘White Rose’ Ball at Grey Friars
Join alumni, academics and current staff on Friday 28th June in Leicester for a fantastic event to celebrate the work of the Richard III search team and the very special anniversaries of Engineering (50th), Geography (90th), Students’ Union (90th) and Medicine (Classes of ’94 to ’99).

Alumni Dinner 2013
Over 170 graduates and guests attended our 2013 gala evening of fine dining, entertainment and nostalgia in the grand surroundings of The Langham, one of the most distinguished hotels in London.

Guests enjoyed excellent cuisine, music, dancing and socialising throughout the evening. Attendees also had a rare opportunity to meet the Richard III project team and our very special guest and Honorary Graduate, Julie Etchingham (right), who presented the Outstanding Alumni Achievement Award 2013 to proud winner Margaret Nkrumah, (English BA, 1963 and Doctor of Laws, 2005) (left).

SAVE THE DATE
Planning your own Reunion?
Contact the Development and Alumni Relations Office who will be happy to help promote your event and find “lost” friends. Please also send us your event photos to display online. Email us at alumni.relations@le.ac.uk or call on +44 (0) 116 223 1071.

Summer Reunion
Open Day 2013
Book now for the Summer Reunion 2013 on Saturday 29th June. Meet the project team and learn all about the University’s search for Richard III and celebrate the Engineering Department’s 50th Anniversary and the Geography Department and the Students’ Union’s 90th Anniversaries. Visit www.le.ac.uk/alumni/reunion for the full event programme of lectures, workshops and social activities.

College Hall Reunion
Calling all previous College Hall residents! Save the date of Saturday 12th October for a special reunion at the newly refurbished “College Court” the University’s Hotel and Conference Centre. Have a sneak preview of the transformed facilities and enjoy dining again in the Main Hall.

Relive those happy memories of hall life, meet up with old friends and academics and you may even be able to stay in your old room!

BOOK YOUR PLACES FOR ALL OUR EVENTS HERE
www.le.ac.uk/alumni
alumni.relations@le.ac.uk
+44 (0)116 223 1071
Graduate Profiles and Achievements

Margaret Nkrumah
(LLD Doctor of Laws, 2005; BA English, 1963)

Winner of the Outstanding Alumni Achievement Award 2013

Margaret was the Founding Principal of SOS Hermann Gmeiner International College, which takes talented orphaned and abandoned children from across the African continent. SOS-HGIC is acknowledged as the most successful school in Ghana and places its graduates in leading global universities. Margaret also serves on the Boards of the International Baccalaureate Organization and the International Schools Association. Margaret is currently the Board Chair of the SOS Ghana Association and a Board member of the African Leadership Academy in Johannesburg.

Lord (Bruce) Grocott
(LLD Doctor of Laws, 2011; BA Social Sciences (Politics), 1962)

Distinguished Labour Life Peer the Rt Hon Lord Grocott became the new Chancellor of the University of Leicester in January.

Lord Grocott’s installation as the sixth Chancellor marks an historical landmark for the University, as it is the first time ever that a graduate of the University has held this prominent position.

We asked Bruce to reflect on his time as a student at Leicester and his plans for his new role as Chancellor…

University life…

Leicester was one of the very few places where you could do a pure politics degree. Like many others of my generation, I was the first in my family to go to university. I found things strange and slightly daunting. I have had the good fortune to have had much of my life in politics; practicing the subject I studied has enabled me to put political events in perspective and not to take defeats personally! I am pleased to see a mix of the old and the new at the University. It has grown in the range of subjects taught and numbers of students, whilst managing to retain its friendly, reassuring and inclusive character.

Highlight of your time at University…

It has to be meeting Sally (my wife). It was fifty years ago at a party in a fellow student’s flat. Without that there would be no children or grandchildren – much more important than anything else in life that has happened to me.

Ambitions as Chancellor…

I love the description of the University “Elite but not elitist”. I want to play a part in continuing the remarkable success and achievements of the University. I intend to be an ambassador, and where I can be useful, to be involved in its work.

Honorary Degree for Paralympic Champion – Danielle Brown
(LLD Doctor of Laws, 2013; LLB Law, 2010)

Danielle Brown, gold medal-winning Paralympic athlete and 2012 Outstanding Alumni Achievement Award winner was bestowed an honorary degree of Doctors of Laws from the University of Leicester in January.

Danielle is a world-leading archer in both Paralympic and able-bodied competition and studied for a degree in Law at the University whilst competing internationally.

Danielle represented Great Britain at the 2008 Beijing Paralympics and the London 2012 Paralympic Games, taking home a gold medal in both. In 2010, she won a team gold at the Commonwealth Games in Delhi, where she was the first disabled competitor to represent England in an able-bodied discipline.

She holds ten Paralympic world records and was awarded an MBE for services to sport in the New Year Honours for 2013.

Margaret Nkrumah (LLD Doctor of Laws, 2005; BA English, 1963)

Winner of the Outstanding Alumni Achievement Award 2013

Margaret was the Founding Principal of SOS Hermann Gmeiner International College, which takes talented orphaned and abandoned children from across the African continent. SOS-HGIC is acknowledged as the most successful school in Ghana and places its graduates in leading global universities. Margaret also serves on the Boards of the International Baccalaureate Organization and the International Schools Association. Margaret is currently the Board Chair of the SOS Ghana Association and a Board member of the African Leadership Academy in Johannesburg.
Jane Esuantsiwa Goldsmith
(BA Combined Studies, 1975; PGCE, 1977)

A former President of the Students’ Union tells us how Leicester helped shape her career and her future ambitions...

University Life...
Back in those days universities were much smaller so it was possible to get to know people and feel part of a community. The University of Leicester was a place that enabled my interest and commitment to social justice and equality to flourish, and that’s a passion which has stayed with me throughout my life. I treasure the friendships and connections I made at Leicester, some of which I’ve kept up with or been able to renew in recent years. I have discovered that my former Vice-Presidents and Union Speaker are still trying to make the world a better place.

Career Path...
I have my own business, Anona Development Consultancy, which I’ve run for the last 17 years. I also work at community level in Ghana as Queen of Development of my local village near Cape Coast, where my father was a Regional Chief. As part of my role I’ve helped to fundraise to install street lighting for the village, provide communal washrooms and build a school. Now I feel it’s time to take time out to write a book about my journey. We are living in rapidly changing times and it will be good to reflect on the story so far...

Queen’s Birthday and New Year Honours 2013

Danielle Brown (LLD Doctor of Laws, 2013; LLB Law, 2010) has been awarded an MBE for services to Archery.

Michaela Butter (Co-Director of Embrace Arts at the Richard Attenborough Centre) received an MBE for services to the Arts in the East Midlands.

Penelope Jane Egan (BA Combined Studies, 1972) received a CBE for services to International Education.

Dr Alan Hatton-Yeo (PGCE Special Education, 1976) has been awarded an MBE for services to promoting inter-generational Practice.

Dr Vina Mayor (BSc Health and Science, 1987) was awarded an MBE for services to the NHS.

Mr Riaz Ravat (MA/DIP European Politics, 2001) was awarded the British Empire Medal for services to Interfaith Understanding.

Ms Carolyn Robson (Med, 1985) received a CBE for services to Education.

Iain Tuckett (MSc Education, 1973) has been awarded an MBE for services to Architecture and Regeneration.

Lisa Vernon (MA Museum Studies, 1996) was awarded an MBE for services to Learning and Skills.

Dr Rachel Howes
(MBChB Medicine, 2008)

Career today... “I am an Army Doctor, and the Regimental Medical Officer for 26 Engineer Regiment in Perham Down, Wiltshire. When deployed on exercise, or abroad on operations, my role involves providing pre-hospital emergency care at the point of wounding and primary care in remote locations. I aspire to be a Military Consultant Plastic Surgeon, dealing with complex trauma, upper and lower limb reconstructive procedures and rehabilitation.”

Memories of Leicester... “I chose Leicester as I felt immediately at home and sure I would thrive socially and academically in the relaxed, but supportive, atmosphere. My five years in Leicester gave me time to mature into an independent adult, and introduced me to a huge spectrum of people, who have become life-long friends.”
Supporting our Students

The Career Development Service

“The Career Development Service is on a mission to get University of Leicester Students to ‘make the most of themselves’ and become graduates with that ‘extra dimension’. The premise being that they need a first-class education, that’s a given, but they also need an edge, an advantage, a head start in the competitive graduate recruitment world.”

How You Can Help

“That’s where you come in. With your drive and determination as former students of the University, you can really support the Career Development Service to help the next generation of graduates to gain that ‘extra dimension’ that they need to stand out – real-world skills and qualities that will enhance their early career prospects but will stay with them for life, just like they did for you!”

For more information about the ways you can help the Career Development Service please contact Bob Athwal, Director of the Career Development Service on +44 (0)116 252 5011 or at ba111@le.ac.uk

Careers After Biological Sciences (CABS) Programme

For the past seven years, graduates from the School of Biological Sciences have been helping current students improve their careers awareness, by delivering a series of talks during the Spring Term. Alumni talk to students about their current roles and their career journeys and offer advice to anyone seeking to move into a similar field. Resources associated with the presentations are archived on the website: http://biosciencecareers.wordpress.com.

Dr Chris Willmott (Department of Biochemistry, also an alumnus) organises the Careers After Biological Sciences programme. “Over the past few years alumni have beautifully illustrated the diversity of roles, both Careers in Science and Careers from Science, which can follow a Bioscience degree.”

If any graduates from the Biological Sciences programmes would like to contribute to the programme please contact Chris at cjrw2@le.ac.uk or join the School’s alumni group on Facebook www.facebook.com/groups/leicesterbioscience

Working Group on Student Employability

The Working Group on Student Employability (WGSE) chaired by Professor Annette Cashmore of the GENIE Centre of Excellence in Teaching and Learning is committed to enhancing the employability of the University’s current and future students. Also contributing to the work of the Group are student representatives, specialists from the Career Development Service and the Development and Alumni Relations Office. A current project is producing guidance for staff in writing effective employment and further study references for Leicester students and alumni.

Professor Annette Cashmore (centre front) with some of the students who are benefitting from the activities of the Working Group on Student Employability.

Sarah O’Callaghan Project Intern

“The Students’ Union and the GENIE Centre of Excellence in Teaching and Learning in Genetics have formed a research group looking at Student-Staff partnerships within universities.

The project will culminate in a conference in November 2013, which aims to provide a platform for academic staff and students to discuss collaborative working.”

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Alumni Giving Back

Nigel Bond (BSc Physics and Astrophysics, 1978)

Nigel Bond was the first in his family to attend University, and is Group Managing Director of Domino Printing Sciences PLC in Cambridge. Nigel has engaged his Research and Development team to work intensively with a group of 3rd year Physics undergraduates on a project to solve a ‘real-world’ industrial problem.

Current career… “Our company develops printing equipment using a range of technologies. We have a turnover of about £320 million and about 2,500 employees…and growing. The company is 33 years old. I joined Domino because it was in my hometown. I enjoyed the application of the technology and someone smiled on me and gave me the chance to run the place.”

Advice… “Use the fact that you’re at one of the top universities in the country and get the best degree you can, because employers like me – we look at where you come from, and whether you have really applied yourself. If you’re lucky enough to go to a good university like Leicester, take advantage of it and get the best you can out of it both academically and outside of the lecture theatre.”

Future plans… “A lot of my time now is trying to help other people, develop other people and trying to get the next generation of management through the company to be ready and able to take the company on in the future.”

Claire Gillingwater (BA Combined Studies, 1983)

Leicester Graduate and media training coach Claire Gillingwater returned to campus to deliver her lecture “Presenting with Impact” in November 2012. Claire’s talk to postgraduates on life after academia attracted over 200 people…

“I am a management coach working with senior business executives across the UK, Europe, Middle and Far East – helping them prepare for interviews with the media and deliver major presentations to their shareholders, financial institutions and internal audiences. I was a journalist for 14 years and in 1997 decided to cross over the fence and become a media trainer instead.”

Advice to others… “Journalism has always been immensely competitive so in respect of that career I would say you have to demonstrate your commitment to it. Be true to yourself and if at first you don’t succeed, do try again.”

Memories of Leicester… “I have a lasting image that returns whenever I think or hear about Leicester and that is the autumn sunshine and colours of Victoria Park. It fills me with warmth and always makes me smile because it unleashes three years’ worth of golden memories.”

Peter Quirk (MSc Health & Safety Management, 2006; MPhil Social Sciences, 2011)

In February this year, Peter very kindly gave up three days to spend time back at Leicester, supporting the Alumni Relations team, presenting a talk to students about “Risky Business”, as well as finding time to enjoy the Alumni Dinner at The Langham, London, with fellow graduates.
Alumni Support:
Making a Difference

The Student Opportunities Fund was established by Alumni to respond quickly to students in need and to recognise individual talent and potential. Every donation made to the Fund has a profound impact upon the lives of students. We hope that the following stories will inspire you to continue making a difference. Thank you to all our donors for their fantastic support.

Hardship Awards

In 2011-12 the Student Welfare Office received hundreds of requests for hardship support from students in exceptional financial need, who had nowhere else to turn.

This year Alumni will be giving over 50 students the essential lifeline they need to continue their studies including:

- **Ben**, a young care leaver, who suffered a significant bereavement with no family support, was supported with travel and other associated costs.
- **Priyanka**, a young student suffering from domestic violence, was assisted with housing costs to enable a move into safe accommodation.
- **Rachel**, a mature student, supporting two members of her immediate family through serious illness leaving her unable to work, was assisted with rent to avoid eviction plus travel costs relating to the care of her family members. Rachel has now successfully graduated.

(The names of students have been changed to protect their identity)

Last year saw a 12% increase in the number of students applying for hardship support, with an average award of £506 per student. Just two alumni giving £7 a month over three years will fund one life-changing Hardship Award.

Research Scholarships

Alumni support also gives opportunities to talented students to register for Masters and research degrees, and to undertake world-leading research as members of the next generation of academics. **Tess McCarthy** received an invaluable Alumni Research Scholarship this year to support her through her MA in Modern Literature.

“I am so grateful to everyone who donated to the scholarship, without which I would not have been able to continue my studies. With the Alumni Research Scholarship I have been able to continue my research with tutors who are leaders in their field. I hope to be able to continue on to do my PhD!”

Sports Scholarships

Appropriately for the Olympic Year of 2012, Alumni also helped to enrich the lives of students through the award of the first ever University **Sports Scholarships**. Olympic archery hopeful, **Kieran Slater**, was one of ten students to receive a Sports Scholarship.

“I would like to thank those graduates who have supported this scholarship. They have allowed me access to physiotherapy at short notice, given me membership to the University’s sports facilities and supported me with travel costs to the National Sports Centre in Lilleshall, where I receive vital coaching, strength and conditioning support.” This vital support is helping Kieran to achieve his ultimate ambition to compete at the Rio Olympics in 2016.
**Leicester Calling**

**During the Autumn Term, a team of 28 enthusiastic students worked on our Annual Telephone Fundraising Campaign.**

The students really enjoyed speaking with over 2,000 alumni, learning about their University experiences and subsequent careers, updating them on the latest University news and events, and raising an amazing £75,000 for our Breaking Barriers Appeal. The Appeal will ensure more people, especially children, young people and those with disabilities, have access to the very best contemporary visual arts in a New Galleries Wing planned for the University’s Arts Centre (read more on pages 22-23).

**Music Scholarships**

Our 20 alumni-funded Music Scholars have been able to continue to learn and enhance their musical abilities, while completing their academic studies at Leicester. Not only do these students have the opportunity to fulfil their own potential, they also offer enriching performances for the benefit of our local community, staff and students.

**Logan Gregory**

“Thanks to the alumni-funded music scholarship I have been able to continue developing my ability on the violin. I would not have been able to afford to have lessons without the support of the alumni scholarship. The lessons have helped me to work on a challenging repertoire, to perform at concerts and to build my confidence in performing.”

**Roll of Benefactors**

You may have noticed that our Roll of Benefactors is not included in this edition of Graduates’ Review. Do not fear! With more and more people choosing to support the University (more than 1,500 donors since our last edition), the annual Roll of Benefactors is now published in the new Benefactors’ Review which will be sent to all donors, as well as being generally available on our website: [www.le.ac.uk/alumni](http://www.le.ac.uk/alumni)

Projects supported this year include health-related research (cancer, heart disease and transplant and renal care), the Student Opportunities Fund, scholarships and bursaries, the Library and numerous academic schools and departments including Archaeology, Education, Geography, Geology, Law, Medicine and Psychology. Please do contact us should you like to direct a gift towards a particular area of interest and join our growing number of supporters.

**Giving is Easy**

Please make a gift today to support the Student Opportunities Fund or the Breaking Barriers Appeal. Giving is easy – just complete the enclosed donation form or visit [www.le.ac.uk/donate](http://www.le.ac.uk/donate).

On behalf of our students, **Thank You**.
Arts Council England announces £600k grant towards expansion of University’s Arts Centre

Breaking Barriers – widening participation

Arts Council England is so impressed by the project to build a New Galleries Wing for the University’s Arts Centre, Embrace Arts at the Richard Attenborough Centre, that they have made a conditional pledge to contribute £600,000 towards the £1.5m New Galleries Appeal.

The new facility will make a transformational difference for people who would not otherwise have access to high quality arts and creative learning, especially the children and adults with disabilities who make up almost 25% of visitors and users each year.

A shining example of inclusivity and accessibility

As the University’s Arts Centre, Embrace Arts provides an important focal point for cultural life on campus and in the wider community. Opened in 1997 by Diana Princess of Wales and championed by Lord Attenborough, it remains one of only two purpose-built spaces in the East Midlands dedicated to promoting, encouraging and engaging people with disabilities in the arts.

Embrace Arts fosters inclusive arts practice for artists, audiences and participants across all its programming, both within the Centre and through its outreach activities, engaging more than 35,000 people annually. The programming includes the promotion of disabled artists into the mainstream; developing new audiences from disadvantaged communities and schools; offering opportunities to the University’s students to develop work-based skills, and developing apprenticeships and other similar opportunities for young disabled people.

However, it is estimated that for every three people who are able to access Embrace Arts, there are a further two who are unable to do so due to the lack of space.

“I do urge you to support this important appeal to raise funds for the expansion of Embrace Arts at the Richard Attenborough Centre.”

Lord Attenborough CBE
"I am extremely proud to support the Breaking Barriers Appeal. Art is such a powerful tool that enables people of all abilities to express themselves in new and creative ways and this appeal will ensure that even more people are able to access the incredible resource that is Embrace Arts."

Tanni Grey-Thompson DBE, Paralympian, LLD Doctor of Laws, 2005

Will you support this inspirational vision?

Now, with your help, we have the opportunity to build the New Galleries Wing to provide 50% more space, including three new galleries, an outdoor Sculpture Court and a flexible Creativity Space.

It will attract the very best art to Leicester and allow much larger works to be displayed, generating partnerships with galleries such as Tate and the Yorkshire Sculpture Park.

Most importantly, the New Galleries Wing will help break down barriers to access and participation and fulfil Lord Attenborough’s original vision of making the arts accessible to all.

Why your help is needed so urgently

Whilst the Art Council England pledge is exciting news, it will only be realised if we can raise the balance of the funds needed by November 2013, hence the urgency of this appeal. Already, we are almost two-thirds of the way there; over £350,000 has been raised through donations including £200,000 from alumni and friends to reduce the fundraising gap to just over £500,000.

Every £3 donated will attract a £2 match from the Arts Council England.

Please make your gift today to the Breaking Barriers Appeal.

Making your donation is easy

- Please complete the enclosed donation form and return in the SAE
- Phone: +44 (0)116 252 2354 to donate by credit or debit card
- Online giving at www.le.ac.uk/breakingbarriers

Thank you for supporting this inspirational vision.

www.le.ac.uk/breakingbarriers
History is rewritten as the University announces it has successfully identified the remains of King Richard III in February 2013

League table cites Leicester in UK's top ten for research citations (QS Rankings 2012)

Leicester plays host to the BBC's *Stargazing Live* event drawing thousands to the campus to see the work of the University

A sixth *Times Higher Award* (this time for Outstanding Library Team) means Leicester has won more consecutive Times Higher Awards than any other university

The University's Dr John Bridges leads a European team embedded with the NASA Curiosity Mars Rover mission

Major investment in new sports facilities sees new sports centres and two swimming pools open at the University

Revolutionary new techniques to combat tinnitus under development at Leicester

Two Leicester academics named as National Teaching Fellows

Britain's most comprehensive study of hate crime launched by Leicester criminologists