Graduates’ review

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

I recently met up again with University friends from the ‘70s and we were soon immersed in happy memories of life in Halls, favourite (and not so popular) lectures, Sunday morning football at Manor Road and live bands in the Queens Hall.

Beyond the nostalgia we were happy to know that we could continue to be involved in our University today, celebrate recent successes and continue to share the values which make Leicester ‘elite but not elitist’. In this issue of the Graduates’ Review you can read about the Leicester graduate behind Band Aid, the latest groundbreaking research and book your place for Homecoming 2010.

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

P.S. If you have alumni friends who don’t receive Graduates’ Review then please put them in touch with us at alumni.relations@le.ac.uk

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The Development and Alumni Relations Team

From left to right: Helen Bradford, Jon Angell, Rosemary Faint, Steve Jones, Kathryn Whitehurst, Steve O’Connor, Amber Cuttill, Rob Hicks, Lisa Davies.

Contact: Development and Alumni Relations, University of Leicester, University Road, Leicester, LE1 7RH · email: alumni.relations@le.ac.uk · tel: +44 (0) 116 252 2418 · web: www.le.ac.uk/alumni
I know that Leicester alumni are proud of the growing reputation of their University and in the last year we have continued to be consistently ranked in the top 20 for all UK universities. Of these top 20 universities, Leicester is the only one to exceed its government benchmarks for inclusivity for students from the maintained sector and lower socio-economic groups. In these challenging economic times, I believe it is important that we remain passionate about providing a high quality experience for our students who will be the workforce, citizens and leaders of tomorrow by offering inspirational teaching, and undertaking research that will transform the future.

The University now has more than 300 degree programmes and over 22,000 students. Our reputation and popularity is testament to the dedication and support of staff, students, alumni and friends of the University who have helped us to provide the very best experience for all those who choose Leicester as their University. We anticipate that applicants will outnumber available places by a factor of 10 for many subjects this year. We continue to receive accolades for our teaching quality and Leicester was ranked top for student satisfaction, alongside Cambridge, amongst mainstream universities in England by the National Student Survey 2009.

We believe that teaching is inspirational when delivered by academics at the cutting edge of their disciplines and our research is stronger when delivered in an academic community that includes postgraduate and undergraduate students. Leicester is home to the UK’s top Research Department (Museum Studies RAE 2008) and top teaching department (Cell Physiology and Pharmacology NSS 2009). In this edition of Graduates’ Review you can read about research in our four Colleges including the development of a vaccine against Swine Flu and the celebrations of the 50th Anniversary of Space Science.

Last year I was delighted to welcome over 500 alumni, their family and friends to the University campus during our annual Homecoming. It was a splendid opportunity to meet so many alumni who were keen to learn more about our current work and see our new facilities, which are key to the quality of the student experience and part of our ambitious £1 billion Development Plan. Full details of the next Homecoming on 26th June 2010, including the events in the new Percy Gee Building, can be found in the enclosed flyer, or online at www.le.ac.uk/alumni/newsevents.

I was also delighted to meet the grandchildren and relatives of Percy Gee in June 2009 for a special groundbreaking event which marked the beginning of the £15.25m transformation of the Percy Gee Building, home to the Students’ Union and the hub of student community life.

The University of Leicester can truly be said to be competing with the best whilst opening up the competition for everyone and its alumni community continues to be fundamentally important to our future prosperity. I hope you will continue to feel great pride in your University, which may be very different to the Leicester you knew, but remains ‘elite without being elitist’. We could not have achieved our recent success without the magnificent fundraising support of our alumni and long-standing friends of the University, many of whom are listed on pages 22-23. I have written to thank all our donors personally but I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you again for your generous support without which the University could not continue to grow and flourish.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Robert Burgess has been Knighted in the 2010 New Year Honours List for services to local and national higher education.
Looking to the Future after 50 Years of Space Science

In 1960, three years after the launch of the world’s first satellite, Sputnik, a young physicist arrived at the University of Leicester, armed with a grant of £13,006, to study x-rays coming from the Sun. That physicist was Ken Pounds, now Emeritus Professor at the University and recipient of awards including a Gold Medal from the Astronomical Society, the Planetary Award from the Association of Space Explorers, and a Space Science Award from COSPAR, the Committee on Space Research.
Now celebrating its 50th Anniversary, the programme Ken helped to found at Leicester in space astronomy has become one of the biggest academic space research centres in Europe with a staff of around 80 academic researchers, engineers, technicians and PhD students, and grants totalling more than £12 million. Thanks to a proposal led by Alan Wells, a founding director of the research centre, Leicester is now home to The National Space Centre, opened in 2001, which welcomes a quarter of a million visitors a year. And the scope of research into space astronomy carried out at the University has grown too. “We started off looking at the Sun,” says Martin Barstow, professor of Astrophysics and Space Science. “Now we look at the whole universe.”

In the early 1960s the research group investigated x-ray sources by using sounding rockets that travelled beyond the Earth’s atmosphere and fell back to the ground. But in 1962 the first British satellite, Ariel 1, was launched, and with it an experiment, involving the Leicester team, to record the first low-resolution x-ray spectra of the Sun.

Since then the group has provided the first evidence that black holes exist, and has catalogued more than 300 x-ray sources, providing a fruitful basis for research carried out worldwide. It was part of the British-led Beagle 2 mission to Mars in 2003 and has taken part in missions run by NASA, the European Space Agency, and space agencies in Germany and Japan, as well as in the Indian Astrosat space mission.

Leicester-made instruments are now in orbit as part of six different projects, including Swift, a NASA mission to detect gamma ray bursts. Leicester’s Space Research Centre will be closely involved in developing the James Webb Space Telescope, due to replace Hubble in 2013, and over the next ten years will take part in missions to Mercury, Mars and Jupiter. It will also be expanding its Earth Observation programme, finding out about how the Earth’s atmosphere might be changing as a result of climate change.

Instruments and technologies developed within the Space Research Centre also have ground based applications ranging from the green economy through to healthcare and biology. In the latter two areas applications range from cancer detection through to genetics and detection of biomolecules, and in the future non-invasive diagnostics via imaging of the body in the visible and infra-red parts of the spectrum.

“It has grown from that small beginning so that we now do everything that anybody can do in space in one form or another,” says Barstow. “We are part of the whole gamut of space exploration.”
Fighting Disease
The University of Leicester, working with Leicester Hospitals, has been at the forefront of the development of a vaccine against Swine Flu, A (H1N1). Leicester trials revealed that one dose of vaccine provides a strong immune response, and results have helped in the planning of vaccination campaigns.

Dr Iain Stephenson, of the University’s Department of Infection, Immunity and Inflammation, explained: “The clinical trial of Novartis MF59-adjuvanted cell-based A (H1N1) vaccine indicates that the ‘Swine Flu’ vaccine elicits a strong immune response and is well-tolerated.

“Results showed that the serum antibody responses were highest among subjects who received two doses of vaccine. However, a single vaccine dose also induced responses associated with protection against influenza.”

Swine Flu may be topical but it is by no means the only disease which the Department of Infection, Immunity and Inflammation is working to combat. Head of Department Professor Peter Andrew and his colleagues have been investigating ways in which growing scientifically treated plants could provide a cheaper way to deliver vaccines, enabling developing countries that cannot afford vaccines to grow their own.

A breakthrough in the fight against TB was reported recently in a study by his colleague Professor Mike Barer, working with St Georges, University of London. They found that the TB bug lays down body fat that may help it survive passing from one person to another and, in the process, the bacteria increase their resistance to the action of anti-TB drugs. This challenges the view that the TB bacteria coughed up in sputum by infected people are rapidly multiplying.

The groups of Professor Mark Carr and Dr Peter Moody in the Department of Biochemistry are making important advances in our understanding of TB. Professor Carr’s laboratory is characterising key molecular weapons of the bacterium to assist with the development of new treatments and vaccines, while Dr Moody’s research team, with colleagues from the Department of Chemistry, has shown how the TB bacteria become resistant to one of the only available treatments for the disease.

The Department of Genetics, famous for the discovery of DNA fingerprinting, is also concerned with the battle against disease. Professor Peter Williams is studying the interaction between the microbe and the host when bacteria cause diseases such as Salmonella and E Coli. He is also working with colleagues in India to identify quickly and cheaply the most deadly forms of diarrhoea, which should revolutionise diagnosis and treatment for children in the developing world.

Leicester scientists involved in research against disease have received funding from some of the most prestigious UK funding bodies. They include:

- the Medical Research Council and the Wellcome Trust - Professor Barer and Professor Andrew;
- the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) - Dr Peter Moody;
- the European Union and the Wellcome Trust - Professor Peter Williams’ work in India;
- the BBSRC and the Medical Research Council – Professor Ketley’s work on Campylobacter and Clostridium difficile, respectively;
- The Wellcome Trust – Professor Mark Carr’s TB research.

His colleague Professor Julian Ketley is focusing on Campylobacter jejuni, the commonest cause of food-borne diarrhoea in the developed world, and Clostridium difficile, a cause of hospital-acquired antibiotic-associated diarrhoea, seeking to understand at the molecular level how these diseases develop, and exploiting genomics technologies to determine how they colonise the intestine.

The fight against disease continues at the University, crossing departmental and disciplinary boundaries. The work of its scientists is indicative of the world-class research undertaken at Leicester, where medical and scientific advances are bringing hope to millions.
The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir Robert Burgess, believes passionately in improving the aesthetic feel of the campus and has begun to create a collection of art at the University of Leicester. It is, he believes, what brings a place to life.

With Assistant Registrar, Jo Wood, and with the aid of a fund set up for ‘the enhancement of the University’, over the past four years he has begun to build up a substantial collection, mainly of pictures but also of sculptures. Some are by nationally and internationally known artists including Terry Frost and Joan Miro, others are by local artists including Joyce Markie and Douglas Smith.

The Vice-Chancellor has also succeeded in establishing a highly successful annual summer sculpture exhibition in the University’s Harold Martin Botanic Garden.

In 2009, the eighth sculpture exhibition celebrated British sculpture with 50 works of art, much of it by artists of international acclaim. The new curator of the exhibition is Leicester-born sculptor John Sydney Carter, an Honorary Graduate of the University, whose work is known nationally. Two of his large-scale sculptures, ‘Vortex’ and ‘Atomica’, are featured at the Henry Wellcome Building on the main campus.

One of his pieces on display in ‘A Celebration of British Sculpture’, entitled ‘Falling Man’, was subsequently featured in The Guardian. Inspired by the horror of 9/11, it is in his words: “The image of falling people and the tower collapsing merged into one so that the figures became fragments of the building…Art can often say something that photography or film cannot. It changes the way we look at things.”

The founding curator of the Sculpture in the Garden exhibitions, Helaine Blumenfeld, is also a Leicester Honorary Graduate whose work has been donated to the University including, in 1990, the specially commissioned ‘Souls’, which adorns the lawn in front of the Fielding Johnson Building.

More recently, her bronze ‘Shadow Figures: Dialogue’ has taken pride of place on the ground floor of the award-winning David Wilson Library. Helaine says the sculpture represents, “…spiritual essence, the flame that is lit by our spirit and which illuminates our lives.”

The David Wilson Library has also attracted donations of other artworks, including the steel sculpture ‘Flying Colours’ by Almuth Tebbenhoff. Suspended above the Library’s entrance it represents the change from old to new generated by the digital revolution.
As part of the University's £15 million transformation of the Percy Gee Students’ Union Building, works of art are already being sought for key areas, including a statue to stand on the terrace overlooking the city. One sculpture already donated by the artist for the new building, sadly just before she died, is the sensuous ‘Touching Pair’ by Deirdre Hubbard FRBS, another Leicester Honorary Graduate and sculptor of international stature who exhibited regularly in Sculpture in the Garden.

To date the Vice-Chancellor and Jo Wood have acquired over 100 paintings, prints and sculptures for the University. The resulting art now on display around the campus has proved popular with staff and students, encouraging them to continue building a permanent collection and a legacy for the University.

- In their quest for new art, the Vice-Chancellor and Jo Wood have visited art galleries as far afield as Norfolk and Yorkshire.
- Their maximum budget in any one year is £14,000.
- The acquisition of ‘Souls’ by Helaine Blumenfeld in 1990 was made possible by donations from Lord Sieff and East Midlands Arts.
- Helaine Blumenfeld’s ‘Shadow Figures’ was donated by Distinguished Honorary Fellow of the University, Dr Frank May and his wife Mrs Katherine May. It is dedicated to a former Principal of the then University College of Leicester, Frederick Attenborough and his wife Mary, in memory of their care for Irene and Helga Bejad, who fled Nazi Germany in 1939.
- ‘Flying Colours’ by Almuth Tebbenhoff was the winning entry in a competition held in 2008, when 20 artists from the Royal British Society of Sculptors were invited to design a contemporary artwork for the David Wilson Library, and was donated by Philip and Jenny Bland.

See the campus art collection first hand during Homecoming 2010 where you will be able to take a guided tour with an artist from Embrace Arts at the RA Centre.
National Acclaim for Inspirational Teacher

Graduates of the University of Leicester School of Education may remember Rose Griffiths, Senior Lecturer, who has recently been named by the Higher Education Academy as a National Teaching Fellow.

This award represents national recognition of a teaching career that has inspired student teachers of mathematics, and has reached out to support bereaved children and raise the educational expectations of children in care.

Rose Griffiths joined the University of Leicester in 1990 after a career as a mathematics teacher. She has built up a strong record of more than 100 publications for both school and home. The acknowledged high quality of her teaching and research stems from a sound understanding of how children learn.

A highly acclaimed project which she initiated with the Laura Centre and the Childhood Bereavement Network, called 'Not too young to grieve', has made a contribution to the understanding of childhood bereavement for parents, carers and professionals that has spread across the world.

Over six years her pioneering Letterbox Club for looked-after children has proved to be both hugely popular and highly effective. Each child taking part was personally sent a monthly parcel, containing a selection of stationery, books and maths activities for six months.

Results indicate a noticeable improvement in educational outlook for the children who took part. It has also impacted positively on foster carers and professionals involved with looked-after children.

Speaking of her National Teaching Fellowship, Rose Griffiths said: “I’m very pleased – teaching is such an important and enjoyable part of my job. It’s been a pleasure to work with so many students and teachers.”

- National Teaching Fellows receive an award of £10,000 to support individual professional development in teaching and learning or aspects of pedagogy. In June 2009 fifty Fellows were announced from a total of 200 nominees.
- The Letterbox club was started in 2003 and received major funding from the Department for Children, Schools and Families in 2007-8.
- It operates in partnership with the national charity Booktrust. More than 100 local authorities in the UK and over 4,500 children are currently involved.
- More information about the Letterbox Club is available on http://www.letterboxclub.org.uk/Home
Percy Gee
Redevelopment Update

“...The sweet smell of stale beer, the possibility of a racing tip from one of the porters, the sight of a torn poster advertising a practical demonstration on safe sex and most important the heart stopping possibility of a quorate general meeting of the Students’ Union – all of these made a daily trip to the Percy Gee Building a must.

Even after an absence of 33 years the very mention of Percy Gee bathes me in a fog of happy memories (although I imagine that these days there is no smoke induced fog in the building). Saturday nights taking the money from the ‘townies’ for Big Will’s Disco, mid week gigs with Country Joe and the Fish (an annual favourite), Mungo Jerry, Slade or the local boys Showaddywaddy, these were formative years that have left their imprint.

When I go off on one about Leicester and the Union my kids all groan and tell me life has moved on, that Uni isn’t like that these days and that I should get a life.

Well I would like to think that much remains the same but I know that I can never again get into those flared hipster jeans, that the tie and die granddad vest isn’t even fit to clean the car anymore and my hair has shortened by about two foot.

Happy days – God bless you Percy Gee!

Jeff Shear (BA History 1976)
Former Deputy President 1976-77

Memories of Percy Gee

Following Homecoming 2009 work began on the redevelopment of the Percy Gee Building, home to the Students’ Union.

1 In August 2009 The Venue (previously the Refectory and the Salisbury Road Halls dining room) was demolished to make way for a new 1,750 capacity nightclub and a huge glass-roofed central Atrium (picture below).

2 By October 2009 the framework for the new nightclub and Atrium had been put in place as both of the new areas began to take shape (picture above).
News from the University

Mid-Jurassic flying reptile discovered

Research by the University of Leicester in conjunction with the Geological Institute in Beijing has made a global impact with the discovery of a new species of flying reptile from the dinosaur era, named Darwinopterus in honour of Charles Darwin.

Darwin identified an evolutionary gap between primitive long-tailed forms and advanced short-tailed pterosaurs which has now finally been solved by researchers from the School of Museum Studies.

More than 20 fossil skeletons were found in north-east China dating from 160 million years, offering the solution to a mystery perplexing scientists for decades over the speed of evolution between the two.

Dr David Unwin from the University’s School of Museum Studies commented:

“Darwinopterus came as quite a shock to us. We had always expected a gap-filler with typically intermediate features. This supports the controversial idea of a relatively rapid ‘modular’ form of evolution.”

Detecting bias in the reporting of clinical trials

New methods for detecting distorted medical statistics have been successfully developed by Health Science researchers at the University of Leicester. Postgraduate researcher Santiago Moreno and his colleagues have demonstrated how to spot publication bias in the reporting of clinical trials which can form the basis of Government and NHS health policies.

Using two new methods of statistical analysis, the researchers were able to effectively identify and eliminate publication bias from medical research whereby there is a tendency to focus on distorted views of treatments. The results of the research featured in the prestigious British Medical Journal.

University of Leicester Graduates appointed as Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Leicester

Leicester’s Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress are, for the first time ever, both graduates from the University of Leicester. Councillor Roger Blackmore and his wife Hilary studied social sciences at the University and succeeded another Leicester graduate, Councillor Manjula Sood from the University’s School of Education.

Their term in office began last May, for one year, and they have both visited the campus on numerous occasions during this term, attending University events and guest lectures. Mrs Blackmore commented: “I enjoyed all aspects of university life and it is rewarding to maintain contact with the University today.”
The University's world renowned neuroscientist and bio-engineer, Professor Rodrigo Quian Quiroga, discovered and named the 'Jennifer Aniston' neuron.

Professor Quiroga discovered that a remarkable type of neuron in the brain fired in an 'abstract' manner to completely different pictures of familiar people, for example Jennifer Aniston or Halle Berry.

He also discovered that given the firing of these neurons, it was often possible to actually tell what the subjects were seeing – literally reading their minds.

The 'Jennifer Aniston neuron' - World-class research on brain function

September 2009 marked the 25th Anniversary of DNA Fingerprinting. Research in the Department of Genetics has certainly not stood still since 1984. Since the establishment of the Department in 1964 with just seven members of academic staff, the Department has continued to grow its international reputation for research.

There are now more than 20 academic staff members leading independent research groups, and the total size of the Department is around 140 strong, with an international flavour that is testament to its worldwide reputation.

Five facts you need to know about your University:

1. Received the Times Higher Education's Award for Outstanding Student support 2009/2010.
2. Is ranked top in the region and 15th in the UK (out of 114 Universities) by the Times Good University Guide.
3. National Student Survey sees Leicester “top…for student satisfaction” amongst full-time students according to the Sunday Times.
4. Leicester is the only top 20 university to meet government benchmarks for inclusivity amongst state school pupils and students from lower socio-economic groups.
5. Two world rankings of Universities place Leicester in the top 3% of institutions.
John Kennedy (LLB 1974) is the Chairman and CEO of the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry (IFPI), an organisation representing the recording industry worldwide. He has over 30 years of experience in the music industry including roles as Chairman and CEO at Universal Music UK and later President at Universal Music International. He is perhaps most recognised for his role as legal advisor and trustee for The Band Aid Trust and most recently co-producer of the ten Live 8 concerts around the world and is regarded as “The Rock on which Live 8 was built.” John also provided, on behalf of Universal Music, the funding to produce Mamma Mia, one of the most successful musicals of all time which in turn spawned the United Kingdom’s most successful film.

John has been the recipient of many awards and accolades for his work. He received an OBE in 1995 for his work with Band Aid and in 2006 was awarded the title of Music Industry Personality of the Year (alongside Bob Geldof and Harvey Goldsmith) at the Midem Music Festival, and made Chevalier de L’ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the French Government. “I didn’t realise just what a good start Leicester gave me until I looked back recently. I have great memories of College Hall and student life and I’m pleased to be in touch again and to be supportive in whatever way I can be.”

Entrepreneur Dan Foreman (BSc Psychology and Pure Mathematics 1995) is Managing Director of Atlanta-based market research business, ActiveGroup. Dan has also recently acquired a bespoke engineering company which he intends to sell to a Far East business as well as being a Non-Executive Director for four other businesses. “My current roles allow me to continue to embrace diversity. Having a portfolio of businesses forces me to be focused and organised. The benefits are no two days are the same.”

Dan retains good memories of his time at Leicester “I am a rugby-playing, vegetarian, concert pianist. Leicester allowed me to do all of these things whilst studying, partying hard and making lifelong friends. The University and the city made me realise the world was a much bigger place, full of opportunity, fun and excitement – and now I thrive on that.”
Caroline Roe (PG Cert 2009) is the founder of Harmless, a national voluntary organisation for people who self harm, their friends, families and professionals. On setting up Harmless Caroline said: “My motivation to establish Harmless developed from my own personal journey towards health and recovery and a great belief that a project could be established to meet the need of people who are struggling with self harm, in a way that my needs remained unmet.”

Caroline gained support from the Enterprise Inc initiative available at the University which enabled her to develop Harmless: “Harmless was a successful community group when I entered the Enterprise Inc programme, but I was starting to think of establishing it as a sustainable enterprise. The support and assistance the programme gave me has enabled the project to move forward, so it can exist as a provider at a time of change in the delivery of healthcare.”

Mike Parish (BA Social Science 1980) joined Care UK, a leading independent provider of health and social care services in 2001 as their Chief Executive. He regards his role as “A fantastic job at the heart of health and social care policy and provision.” Mike started his career in 1981 as a trainee at the National Freight Corporation, later called Exel PLC. In 1995, while at Exel, Mike initiated the formation of Tradeteam, now regarded as the UK’s leading drinks logistics business and he went on to be named Joint Chief Executive of Exel Europe and later Chief Executive of Exel’s global industrial division in 1999.

Mike has fond memories from his time at Leicester during which he was Hall President, Union Speaker and Deputy President. “Nobody in my family had gone to university before so it was a complete adventure for me. I lived an incredibly privileged life in Clare Hall – lovely Edwardian houses with big gardens, great mates, plenty of sport and pinball - and the odd lecture! The education and personal development, together with the Student Union roles, were all great preparation for my subsequent career.”

Ugandan entrepreneur Charles Mbire (MBA 2007) delivered the keynote address to fellow alumni from the School of Management at the International Conference “Managing in Turbulent Times” on 8 June 2009.

Charles already has a long line of accomplishments to his name, with investments ranging from power, to telecommunications, finance, medicine and real estate. His latest venture, Afro Alpine Pharma Limited (AAPL) aims to be the first company on the continent to produce a medicine to combat malaria.

Charles has maintained his links with the University and enjoys talking to fellow students about his experiences, especially those in developing countries. “I would like to see more practical experience for students …people like me, who are within industry, are willing to help in taking students on internships or undertake apprenticeships for three months.”
Jenifer Liu (MA Mass Communication 2004) is a current editor of the Chinese edition of Cosmopolitan Bride magazine. Jennifer manages a number of columns for the magazine including Wedding Banquet and Love and Happiness. In addition Jennifer also edits the magazine's largest feature (eight pages) entitled Sex, Smart, Sentimental which focuses on successful or socialite couples in China. “In China, the editor’s role includes a reporting element. Most of my job involves designing the article, picking up the topics for the article, selecting photographers, stylists and writers, it’s kind of like what you see in films.”

Her experience at Leicester has helped Jennifer progress her career “Studying at Leicester broadened my mind and enabled more of a global view, it is why I am able to communicate with our international editors, it is not only about the language it is also about the mentality.”

We also produce Personalia, a publication which contains short updates about hundreds of our graduates. This can be downloaded from www.le.ac.uk/alumni or a print copy is available upon request.

Erratum: Graduates’ Review regrets that the credit for the photo of Hotel Mayango on page 9 was omitted from the Spring 2009 issue. The photo is copyright to Keith Cooper.

Graham Joyce (MA English and American Literature 1980) began his writing career in 1988 following a role as Senior Youth Officer at the National Association of Youth Clubs. He secured his first publishing deal in 1989 for his first novel Dreamside and has since gone on to write a further 14 books. He has received many awards for his writing including the British Fantasy Award on no less than five occasions, the French Grand Prix de L’Imaginaire twice and in 2009 was awarded the prestigious O Henry award in the USA for his short story ‘An Ordinary Soldier of the Queen’. His first non-fiction novel Simple Goalkeeping Made Spectacular was recently shortlisted for the William Hill Sports Book of the Year.

Not content with penning novels Graham was recently recruited to write for the eagerly awaited video game Doom 4, and film rights for his as yet unpublished novel ‘The Silent Land’ have been snapped up by Universal Studios.

Graham enjoyed his time at Leicester where he won his first writing award, The George Fraser Poetry Award (1980). “It was at Leicester with an antique typewriter in my room that I started to nurture ideas of becoming a writer and often scribbled articles for the student newspaper Ripple. I would drag Suzanne [now his wife] off to poetry readings at the Charles Wilson Building (which she said were “Truly Awful”).”

2009 has seen Martin sing at events for some top sportsmen including John McEnroe, Fabio Capello and Sir Alex Ferguson and in May 2009 Martin had the honour of singing in front of Her Majesty the Queen at an official royal opening in Lancashire.

Martin retains good memories from his time in Leicester during which he was President of the French Society and regularly involved in the Leicester University Theatre (LUT), “There is no doubt that acting in plays like Peter Schaffer’s Five Finger Exercise and Molière’s Le Tartuffe, directed by the inspirational Dr Robert Kenny, was great preparation for my current career.”
Lost – but soon to be found?

As you have begun to read this latest copy of Graduates’ Review it seems clear that you are happily still in touch with your University. Unfortunately many graduates from the University of Leicester are no longer in touch with us, particularly those who graduated in the 1970s, and that is why we are launching the Lost Alumni Project: to reconnect with your friends who we have lost contact with.

Being in contact with our graduates is very important to us. If you are still in touch with your University friends then we would love to hear from you. If you would like to help us to ensure that the University community is as complete as possible then simply email alumni@le.ac.uk with the names of the University friends you are still in communication with and we can make sure that others can be back in touch with them too.

Alumni Association – Join Us!

Do you have happy memories of your time at Leicester? Are you passionate about higher education and feel you can give something back as one of our alumni?

We currently have vacancies on the Standing Committee of the Alumni Association, which is responsible for advising the University on all matters relating to the Alumni. The Committee works closely with the Development and Alumni Relations Office to organize an engaging programme of events, advising on alumni communications and ensuring that graduates can remain actively involved in ways that benefit both themselves and their University.

If you are interested and can spare five or six days per year to attend meetings and events, please contact Lisa Davies, ld109@le.ac.uk or 0116 252 2153.

Graduate Benefits and Services

The Development and Alumni Relations Office exists to maintain strong links with graduates, parents, friends and supporters of the University through a programme of events, services and communications. We are also responsible for encouraging and stewarding philanthropic gifts to support a range of funding needs including bursaries for students, campus facilities and state-of-the-art research equipment.

There are also a number of social networking groups that have been set up by graduates, including Facebook University of Leicester Alumni Association and Linked In University of Leicester Alumni.

Visit the Alumni Relations Website www.le.ac.uk/alumni for the latest alumni news and events, and for more information on the benefits and services we provide for graduates, such as University of Leicester memorabilia, Contact Service, Reunions, Careers Advice, Email for Life, Travel Programme, Library Privileges, Graduates’ Sports card and much more.
Alumni Events
From the Chair of the Alumni Association

2009 was another great year for the University of Leicester and it was fitting that the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Robert Burgess, was honoured with a Knighthood on New Year’s Day after leading the University to new heights over the last decade.

I couldn’t have asked for a better time to be taking on the role of Chair of the Alumni Association and I would very much like to see the activities involving graduates continue to improve and match the progress made by the University itself.

Having become a regular visitor to the campus once again, there are some major changes which we should all welcome (though it was of course sad to say goodbye to the Redfearn). The David Wilson Library is fantastic and the new Percy Gee Building is going to be an unbelievable resource for the Students’ Union. On seeing this progress and having spoken to many of the staff and students, it is no wonder that the University is rated in the top 3% in the world.

We should all be proud of what has happened in recent years and I hope that these steps forward will encourage more alumni to re-engage with our University. We would welcome your views on events and graduate literature and we hope to see you at one of the University’s events in the next twelve months. Our time at Leicester will have influenced our careers and social networks in so many ways and just because our undergraduate days may be some years behind us, there is no reason why we cannot still benefit from the links which were once so strong.

If you have any views on alumni activities, do please feel free to contact me via email at pmulvihill@le.ac.uk

With best wishes

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

Homecoming 2009
Homecoming 2009 welcomed over 500 alumni and guests to campus in June. Dr John Bond, a member of the University’s Forensic Research Centre, gave an engaging keynote address on a new method of recovering fingerprints from metal that is now helping to solve crimes. The Department of Engineering hosted a range of interesting demonstrations such as a flight simulator, robots, turbines and “squeezing” liquids; and we were treated to ice cream after lunch, made by the Chemistry department with the aid of liquid nitrogen. Activities continued into the evening with an auction of Redfearn memorabilia and Last Orders in the Redfearn. Alumni also took the time to meet old friends, and many informal get togethers happened around the campus over lunch and during the afternoon.
Homecoming 2010
This year Homecoming, the annual reunion for all graduates, takes place on June 26. Featured will be activities marking the 50th Anniversary of Space Science at Leicester, such as a keynote lecture from former astronaut and visiting professor, Jeff Hoffman. There will be lectures from other key members of the Physics and Astronomy department, tours of the Space Research Centre, and demonstrations and workshops for all ages run by the Space School (including making your own comet). Also featured will be an alumni production from Leicester University Theatre, an open day at Embrace Arts at the RA centre, a sculpture tour across the campus, and mini-lectures from a range of departments. The popular children’s activities will be back as well, including a free packed lunch. For those who visited the Redfearn last year, you will have a chance to visit the new bar, ‘The Scholar’. Full details can be found on the alumni website, www.le.ac.uk/alumni. Don’t miss out! Book early.

2010 Alumni Dinner
Over 175 alumni and guests were welcomed by the Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir Robert Burgess to the Mandarin Oriental Hyde Park in London for the 2010 Alumni Dinner. This black tie event was enthusiastically attended by alumni representing each decade from the 1950s to the present, and who had travelled to London from locations ranging from as far afield as Israel and Nigeria.

The dinner was both a chance to meet old friends, and also the perfect opportunity for alumni to gather and celebrate the past decade of successes for Leicester, which the buoyant spirit of the evening certainly reflected. Good friends met each other again after 30 years, former housemates were reunited and new graduates met old. Several “lost alumni” who had come as guests were even found again on the night when they recognized themselves on our Lost Alumni banner!

Guests were treated to a delicious three-course meal prepared by the Mandarin’s top chef, followed by socializing well into the night. If you missed this year, keep your eyes open for next year’s date! It will be the event not to be missed.

Degree Certification Ceremony
On October 30 2010 the University of Leicester will be holding a special event for alumni who graduated between 1958 and 1966. During this time graduates did not receive a degree certificate at their graduation ceremony. This event will offer alumni a unique opportunity to revisit the University and receive their degree certificate at a graduation style ceremony officiated by the Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir Robert Burgess. For more information contact the Development and Alumni Relations Office on 0116 252 2153.
University of Leicester Annual Fundraising Appeal

Student Opportunities Fund

Leicester is the most successful of the top 20 universities in attracting students from communities with no history of young people attending university and enabling them to reach their full potential.

Support for the Student Opportunities Fund is vital for these students who are amongst the brightest and the best but may be deterred by the prospect of high student debt.

The University is doing all it can. But there are many students who still struggle because of their challenging financial circumstances and bursaries funded by the Student Opportunities Fund can help. The Fund also provides much sought after scholarships for postgraduate study, giving talented students the one chance they may need to become the next generation of leading academics and researchers. The essential financial support offered through these scholarships makes even more world changing research a real possibility.

Your help will make an immediate and lasting difference

Support from graduates in the last year has meant that an additional seven scholarships have been awarded and thanks to the Student Opportunities Fund these students are now benefitting from the same first-class education that you experienced at Leicester. But some students have missed out this year due to limited funds.

To make a donation towards the Student Opportunities Fund complete the enclosed donation form and return it to the Development and Alumni Relations Office.

With Gift Aid and the Government’s Matched Funding Scheme, every pound you donate can be turned into £1.70.
Malcolm Noble started a PhD within the Centre for Urban History this September. “Like many students at Leicester, I thoroughly enjoyed my first degree which was in History, and which I completed in 2007. I wanted to continue and do an MA, so I opted for the Centre for Urban History, because of its excellent reputation. The alumni-funded scholarship has made a significant and critical contribution to the costs of completing this research.” Malcolm plays an active part within the School of Historical Studies, and he is Chair of the enterprising and very popular School of Historical Studies postgraduate workshop known as the New History Lab.

Charlie James
PhD student Charlie James received a scholarship that was funded by our alumni through the Student Opportunities fund. With this support Charlie started a PhD in Geology in September 2009. “The alumni scholarship has made a huge difference to me. It has made it possible for me to study for a PhD and to further my education in a field that interests me. My ambition is to take this further and pursue a career in academia. The reduced financial constraint means I will also be able to continue with my commitments to sport, specifically to the England deaf rugby team, during my time at Leicester.”

Claire, a third year Law LLB student, has worked as a caller since 2007 and speaks with great enthusiasm about her experience. “Having spoken to many graduates about their time at the University, I am always interested and motivated to hear how they have progressed from being a student to where they are today.”

Fellow team member Sonia is studying BA Economics and Law. “It always amazes me when I hear how much the campus has changed over the years, hearing how it has grown from just a couple of buildings. And it is such a brilliant feeling when a graduate decides to give back to their University by making a donation.”

Alumni supporting today’s students
This year the University has been able to offer vital support to seven postgraduate students thanks to donations from alumni. For example, students from the College of Science and Engineering and the College of Arts, Humanities and Law are now benefitting from a first class education at Leicester. Without the support from the University’s alumni these students would have faced increased long term debt or been unable to pursue postgraduate study.

Annual Fund Telephone Campaign – meet the callers
Every year a select group of students from the different Colleges of the University form a team of Student Callers for the Annual Fund Telephone Campaign. They raise funds for capital campaigns like the Percy Gee Building and much needed scholarships and bursaries for undergraduate and postgraduate students. The Student Callers’ role is to make it easy for you and your fellow alumni to support the University in whatever way you can.

As well as discussing support for the University, Student Callers want to give you a firsthand account of life at the University. Sharing with you recent University news, telling you about exciting alumni events and talking about the changes that have been made on campus since your last visit.
Thank you for your generous support

Thank you to all those benefactors listed below, and to our 97 anonymous givers, who made a gift to our Annual Fund between 1st January 2009 – 31st December 2009.

1943
R Kinns
1944
W Estill née Palmer
1947
S Gamble née Marshall
1949
G Anderson
K & S Elsdon née Armstrong (1950)
1950
H Bridger
B Daubney
J Dorrell née Dorrell
P Naylor
P Richards
A Saltman née Boughen
P Sharp
D Sturley née Courts
1951
J & P Davis née Barton (1952)
S Ladyman
J & P Eastaugh née Weir
M Jenkins
M Pryor née Hicks
R Thornton
1952
J Bent née Topliss
A Clarke née Wilcox
M Dain née Rose
A Dickman
D Grundy
M Pryor née Hicks
R Thornton
1953
J Bennett
E Corder
R Fairbrother
S & J Gell née Stinton (1952)
M & J Hicks née Crosby
J Pawling
B & B Tout née Bunny
1954
J & J Aslett née Jones
M Dawkins née Pursehouse
J Dickinson
M Newstead
I Nightingale
1955
S Alcock
R & M Brown née Nevison (1957)
A Klar née Sykes
A Porgess née Carter
J Sanderson
1956
I Chapman née Schuler
A Cheesman née Wynne
H & E Meehan née Christie (1959)
S & E Miller née Mansell (1957)
1957
H Bartlett
J Jackson née Cooper
A Ryan
1958
D Downs
K Hill
K Holden
T Nicholls
J Richardson
K Ross
M Savage née Rigby
R Wood
D Yates
1959
M Ambrose née Oliver
P Anderson
R Baker
J Cutler
J Harrison
P Mans
J & G Rimmington
J Shaw
R Titley
1960
P & B Bullock née Nash (1962)
P Burdett née Moore
D Durant
I Gaunt FRCPath
D Green née Rhodes
D Jennings
M Lester née Marshall
J Ramsbottom
1961
M Brook
J Clark
T Fulton
E Hasler née Joynes
S Haynes née Gregory
S Morgan
R Page
N & L Power née Barker (1962)
D Rex
R & P Stockwell née Morley
G Wilson
J Wolstenholme née Sharp
1962
S Alcock née Wood
J Aslin née Burridge
H Clews née Garsed
D Howe
S Kenny-Levick
D McNeil
J Martin
C Melia
S Noon
K Shah
G Walker
J Wills
1963
M Adams
J & J Fitch née Bagley
B & D Gowar
P Harris
B & V Pocock née Thompson
B Thomason
M Underhill
J White
1964
V Adamson MBE née Peak
E Brooks née Sugrue
M Coates-Smith
B Colman
R Davies
1965
K Crick
C & M Fletcher née Hewitt (1964)
R Howells
H Huxman
T & J Pugh née Winter (1964)
B & E Wilkinson née Lloyd (1967)
1966
P Ballantine
F Harding
J Metcalfe
R Peake
R Sortwell
1967
J Adams née Wharf
R & V Angel née Creamer (1968)
J & V Cumming née Carter (1968)
A Ford
E Lomas née Williamson
G Pool
1968
J Anderson née Wearing
A Andrews
A Baker
J Cuthbert
J Duerten
K Gent
W Grant
I & S Harvie
P Horn
R & L Perham née Corry (1968)
J Roberts
C & A Taylor née Richardson
J Woodward
1969
D Blackmore
B Chatfield née Taylor
M & M Clarke née Murray
L Gibbons
C Gregory née Bennett
J Hawkes
N Regan
R Van Mechelen
D & A Wood née West (1972)
D Woodward
1970
J & C Bourne (1976)
J Clarke née Taylor
J Davenport
P & J Eastaugh née Weir (1971)
I Pearson
B Rogers née Young
M Townsend
1971
B Doherty née Simpson
R & S Hubbard née Swain
M Jennings
P Kennedy née Couper
P Read
J Riddle née Membrey
J Turner
M Williams née Lamb
1972
J Bradshaw née Bentley
A & P Chadwick
I Glass
M Hawkman
E & J Jackson née Yates
M Jones
C Pelham
D Roberts
T Robinson
P & E Roff née Hughes (1973)
S Stanwell
J Travis
1973
R Burme
J Callow
P Cutcher
M Davies
W & K Dillon
S Medhurst
J Moran
J Perrett
1974
R Aveling
R Baker née Townsend
S Barr née Sharp
M Colen
R Crowder
D Fisher née Collison
I & C Godfrey née Bushnell (1976)
T Goldsmith
G Hoyte
R O’Shea
I Pennifold
V Reilly née England
A Scott
W Scutcher
C Squire
S & I Whigham (1975)
1975
B Cleveland
H Ferguson née Crick
J Hunter
H & M Middlemass née Malbon
L & K Nicholls née Stuckey (1976)
P Rivlin
P Warner
1976
S Broughton
A Carpenter
R Clayton née Brierer
M Fellows
M & M Goldsmith
B Judkins
A & J McFadyen née Sawyer (1983)
A McSparron-Edwards née McSparron
M Maier née Hartley
P & S Moore née Jeffries (1975)
D & S Mountford née Clare
G West
1977
W & E Brock
J Bull
M Dunford
P Ensom
A Holloway
I Johnson
K Kent née Harrison
S Naylor
S Peacock née Pennycook
S Royle
R Sargent
R & C Sindall née Copp (1981)
J Stone née Malink
G W & R Watson née Ellis
1978
P & G Codd née Bullock (1979)
C Horner
P Jones
1979
G Birley
P Bruce-Moore
G Comery
E Draper née Garret
A Hogarth
P Millgate
R Munslow
D Riley
1980
G & J Dickinson
M Doughty
K Elkin née Harman
D & S Fraser née Brown (1989)
D Goldsmith
C Jenkins
M Parker
D Rudd
C Tyrell née Foley
1981
P Allen
P Bell
S Brodeheust
M Coughlin
M Dando
N Eckersley
M Felgate
S Fuller
R Gill
M Gillard
D Hancock
Y Lang née Benton
A Markwick
F Ritson née Caruth
J Tomalin
1982
S Brand
P Brodrick
D Brown
F Chapman
An education lasts a lifetime

Your help will last generations

No-one knows what the future holds, but planning ahead can bring you peace of mind, in the knowledge that the things you value will be given, as you wish, to family, friends and deserving causes.

Gifts in Wills are essential to the University’s future. They enable us to remain at the forefront of world-changing research, deliver high quality teaching and provide facilities befitting a first-class university, which will enable students to reach their full potential and enjoy a ‘Leicester experience’ that will last a lifetime.

As a former student you have benefited from this experience and from the support of previous generations who helped shape your future. If, after taking care of family and those closest to you, you choose to remember the University with a gift in your Will, we will make leaving these very special gifts as simple as possible.

You can obtain a free copy of our Gifts in Wills guide (without obligation) by contacting Kathy Whitehurst, who would be happy to discuss your plans with you in confidence.

If you have already remembered the University in your Will, we would love to know of your intentions.

You can contact Kathy Whitehurst at:
The Development and Alumni Relations Office
University of Leicester,
University Road,
Leicester LE1 7RH
Tel: +44 (0) 116 252 2195 or
Email: kw42@le.ac.uk

Alternately you can browse the Gifts in Wills section of our website at www.le.ac.uk/alumni

Thank you for your generosity