

Dunelm



Welcome to our new Chancellor, Dr Fiona Hill

Dr Hill has been installed as our
Chancellor. Joined here by Professor
Karen O'Brien, Vice-Chancellor and
Warden, and alumna Beth Henderson

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CUR/06/23/347

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Professor Karen O'Brien

Welcome from our Vice-Chancellor

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to this edition of our annual alumni magazine.

When I arrived in Durham in January 2022, I said what a privilege it was to be a part of this great University. After much change in the past year – within our University, the higher education sector, our country and right across the world – it is a great comfort to me that the constant has been the positive way our community comes together to support each other. We continue to achieve great things.

As a community, there has been much that is encouraging. We have met the challenges head on and achieved a new normal. Our campus is vibrant and stimulating. It has once again been possible to connect with our communities overseas in person, an opportunity I have relished, especially through my international visits.

Over the last twelve months, the world has once again opened its doors. I have thoroughly enjoyed being welcomed by alumni and friends in Japan, Singapore, Toronto, San Francisco, Seattle and a second event in New York. My colleague, Professor Claire O'Malley, also hosted a reception in Kuala Lumpur which I was sad to miss due to Covid-19. Each visit brings a new source of inspiration. I am always heartened to feel the enduring connection that you maintain with the University and with one another.

We have trips planned after the summer to Hong Kong, Sydney and Malaysia so please come along if you are in the area and we have lots more events planned for next year.

Our University community is becoming increasingly global. We are represented by more than 130 countries, creating an outward-looking, globally minded and

inclusive culture. We value international collaboration as central to enhancing global knowledge and citizenship.

Whilst we continue to be saddened by all conflict in the world today, we have been able to respond and support our strategic partners in Ukraine during the ongoing situation, from student-led vigils and fundraising activities, through to sharing relevant academic expertise. We are proud to be twinned with Zaporizhzhia National University in eastern Ukraine, through which we are supporting Ukrainian students and scholars. As an international community of learning, we at Durham University continue to condemn the invasion. We stand in solidarity with our Ukrainian colleagues and friends.

Our support for Ukraine is one example of Durham University's global reach and impact. Another is our recent visit to India, where we have opened our first office and where we have many active research collaborations and a growing alumni presence. We are nurturing many such connections. We are proud to say that our collaborative research is tackling some of the major global challenges facing society today. We conduct innovative and impactful research to transform lives and make a difference, globally and locally: research to empower and inspire (see page 8).

For the first time this year, we celebrated Durham Global Week, spotlighting our international connections and the multicultural diversity of our community. The week created a focal point through which to recognise, celebrate and learn from our cultural diversity and the impact of our communities across the world. The week

was a resounding success both within the University and locally within Durham City and County. It has had positive impact on our collective future outlook.

As we look forward to our next academic year, we welcome some key members of our leadership team. Many of you have already met Glen Whitehead, who has joined us as Director of Development and Alumni Engagement, working closely with Lucian Hudson, Director of Advancement, Marketing & Communications. Professor Mike Shipman will join us as our new Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Provost in August 2023, succeeding Professor Richard Crisp, who has been Interim Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Provost since Professor Antony Long retired in December 2022.

We have much to look forward to. However, we remain mindful that our student community, like many others, often faces a challenging and uncertain future. We know the breadth of experience and outstanding education at Durham is transformational and undoubtedly stands our students in good stead. The support of our wider community adds an extra dimension for which we are extremely grateful. We fully believe that every student should have the opportunity to realise their potential, no matter their background or circumstance. Our alumni have always been our strongest allies in this endeavour, offering advice, time, and support for scholarships and bursaries, with the aim of encouraging students to apply, and supporting them through their studies to successful careers when they graduate. For this we remain deeply appreciative.

Professor Karen O'Brien

Vice-Chancellor and Warden

"It is exceptionally important that we engage with our many communities. Working together, we can achieve even more impact and influence globally, nationally, and locally, including encouraging and supporting talented students to apply to and thrive at Durham irrespective of their background."

Karen O'Brien,
Vice-Chancellor and Warden

University news



A very warm welcome to Glen Whitehead, our new Director of Development and Alumni Engagement

In February 2023, we were pleased to announce the arrival of Glen Whitehead as the University's new Director of Development and Alumni Engagement.

Glen comes to Durham with 20 years' experience leading development teams, most recently at the University of Cambridge where he played a leading role in the achievement of its £2 billion campaign. Prior to this, he led Development at the National Foundation for Youth Music, and Major Gifts fundraising at the charity Shelter, drawing on experiences from an early career in private banking.

Working closely with the current alumni relations team and wider marketing and communications colleagues, Glen's focus will be to strengthen the University's relationships with alumni and supporter groups globally, fostering an increasingly supportive and connected community. He will be collaborating with University and College leadership to support our research, education, and student experience priorities ahead of Durham's bicentenary in 2032.

Glen is a graduate of the University of Surrey and the Sorbonne and has a Master's in Voluntary Sector Management from Bayes Business School. In his free time, his hobbies include a real interest in music, he is a keen supporter of his local music centre and has played classical guitar for many years.

"I am thrilled to have been given this opportunity to lead Development and Alumni Engagement at Durham. The University's global status, educational and research strengths, and rich student experience form a powerful basis for growth in alumni and philanthropic engagement."

Durham students



We are Sports University of the Year

Sport is at the core of the Durham experience for many students and it is testament to their sporting achievements and the commitment of our staff and students that we have been named Sports University of the Year for 2023 by The Times and Sunday Times.

We are proud to have one of Britain's largest student participation programmes in sport, with over 75% of our students engaged in sport and physical activity. We have been in the top three of the BUCS table since 2012 and we have invested over £47 million in sporting facilities over that time.

We offer multiple scholarships each year for students who want to pursue their passion for sport at Durham. In addition, our Department of Sport and Exercise Sciences was ranked 2nd in the UK in the Complete University Guide 2023, which is an incredible achievement and accolade to our dedicated staff.



Professor Sue Black named on new Diversity Power List

We are thrilled that our esteemed colleague, Professor Sue Black OBE has been recognised in the brand new Diversity Power List, honouring 50 of the UK's most inclusive and inspirational people.

Professor Black received an award at the 2022 Inclusive Awards for her continuous championing of using technology as a power for good. Sue joins a list of inspirational people, including Stormzy, Marcus Rashford,

Norman Chapel interior



Conserving Durham City's oldest standing building

Work has started on conserving and improving the oldest standing building in Durham City – the 11th century Norman Chapel inside Durham Castle.

Over the last 200 years, the ground levels outside the Chapel have risen. It was accidentally subterranean and, as a result, water from the soil is causing damage to the sandstone walls. The conservation work will ensure that this process is stopped and this important historic building with its many original features is preserved.

The work will also include improvements to the visitor experience with the addition of interpretation and displays in a newly refurbished entrance area of the Chapel.

The conservation work will ensure that the many original features within the Chapel are preserved. These features include sandstone pillars with iron threaded through which gives the appearance of marble, and unique stone carvings at the top of the pillars. The carvings include men, lions, snakes, and even a mermaid, thought to be the earliest depiction of a mermaid in England.

The first phase of the project will cost £2.6 million with £80,000 provided by the Wolfson Foundation towards the cost of restoration and interpretation of the Norman Chapel at Durham Castle.

Katie Piper OBE, and Clare Balding CBE, who have shown outstanding bravery and dedication to promoting diversity and inclusion both within their communities and the wider world.

Through her work as a Professor of Computer Science and Technology Evangelist, Director of the TechUP initiative and with her own social enterprise, #techmums, Sue has had a huge impact on the opportunities available to a wide range of underserved groups across the UK.

She is a global leader in raising awareness of the importance of women in tech, raising standards across the tech industry, and was the founder of a campaign to save Bletchley Park (home of WWII code breakers) in 2008. Her work was recognised in the 2016 Queen's New Year's Honours List with an OBE for services to technology.

Congratulations Sue!



Professor Claire O'Malley signing the MoU with Universiti Malaysia

Durham strengthening global connections with Malaysia, Singapore and India

We are incredibly proud to be a global University and we are pleased to be developing our ties with India and Malaysia.

In Malaysia, we've entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Universiti Malaysia. This aims to strengthen collaboration in research and education between Durham and Malaysia's oldest and most prestigious university. In addition to our partnership with Universiti Malaysia, we also have a MoU with Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin in Malaysia to support joint work in Libraries and Collections.

In the wider Southeast Asia region, our Centre for Sustainable Development Law and Policy at Durham Law School recently signed a MoU with the Centre for International Law at the National University of Singapore. And our partnership work has been further bolstered by the appointment to our International Office of Audrey Kon as Durham's Director for Southeast Asia, based in Singapore.

We have developed long-term partnerships with top Indian institutions, including Amrita University and Indian Institute of Technology, to address some of the major challenges facing the world today, through innovative and pioneering research. Our partnership with Amrita University supports key foundation industries in India and the UK to decarbonise, using the latest thermal energy innovations.



Waylon Cunningham in Durham

US journalist joins Durham as first Sir Harry Evans Global Fellow

Following a rigorous selection process, we welcome Waylon Cunningham from Texas to Durham as the first recipient of the Sir Harry Evans Global Fellowship in Investigative Journalism. The Fellowship will see Waylon benefit from academic support from our Institute of Advanced Study while pursuing an investigative reporting project from the Reuters newsroom in London.

The Fellowship was launched in honour of the late Sir Harry Evans who had a celebrated career in journalism and publishing after graduating from Durham in 1952.

Waylon said he was "honoured" to win the Fellowship. He added: "It's an honour to be selected for this phenomenal opportunity. Reuters' data-driven investigations are unmatched, and Durham University offers world-class expertise and resources. I'm eager to learn as much as I can."

Waylon, 29, has published his work in the Los Angeles Times, the Austin Chronicle, the Texas Observer, the Liberty Hill Independent and the Maryville Daily Times. His current beat at the San Antonio Report is business and technology. He studied data science and new media storytelling at the University of Southern California's Annenberg School of Journalism, where he was the 2020 Selden Ring Fellow for Investigative Journalism.

Professor Anna Rowlands



Durham University theologian seconded to process that will shape future of Catholic Church

Professor Anna Rowlands has been selected for a secondment that will see her spend two years working with the General Secretariat of the Synod, and the Dicastery (Department) for Integral Human Development of the Holy See (Vatican).

Her role includes working closely with the team managing the global Synod process established by Pope Francis.

The Synod is the largest grassroots listening process undertaken by the Catholic Church and aims to renew processes of participation, governance, and mission in the life of the Church.

It will result in two major world meetings in Rome in October 2023 and October 2024, and will examine key global realities that will help to shape the future of the Catholic Church.

In addition, Professor Rowlands will work to support the core research work of the Holy See department that speaks on matters of politics, economics, climate, and migration.



Dr Fiona Hill,
Chancellor, Durham University.

US Presidential adviser Dr Fiona Hill announced as new Chancellor

Dr Fiona Hill, an acclaimed foreign affairs specialist and authority on Russian and European geopolitics, has been installed as our new Chancellor.

As Chancellor, Fiona is the ceremonial head of Durham University. It is a high-profile role to include official, pastoral, scholarly and ambassadorial duties. The Chancellor is responsible for presiding over degree congregations, helping the University to promote its achievements and to enhance its profile regionally, nationally and internationally. She will host and participate in a number of the University's activities with students, staff, alumni and other stakeholders.

[Click here to watch the video introducing our 13th Chancellor](#)

"It is an honour to appoint a Chancellor with such an extraordinary and deep understanding of global affairs.

"Fiona's outstanding career as an exemplary public servant will resonate strongly amongst our University community, especially in light of her beginnings in the North East of England. We are truly honoured she has agreed to be our next Chancellor."

Professor Karen O'Brien

Fiona, who grew up not far from the University, has advised US Presidents George W. Bush, Barack Obama, and Donald Trump on foreign affairs.

In becoming our Chancellor, she follows in the footsteps of the opera singer Sir Tom Allen, author Bill Bryson OBE, and prima ballerina Dame Margot Fonteyn.

Fiona's appointment was the result of an inclusive selection process which involved all our community: staff, students, alumni, retired staff, and members of University Council and Senate. Community members were invited to submit nominations for the successor for Sir Tom Allen, who stepped down in summer 2022 after 10 years in the role.

Fiona is, and will remain, a senior fellow in the Center on the United States and Europe, in the Foreign Policy Programme at the Brookings Institution, a non-profit public policy organisation based in Washington DC.

Fiona is the daughter of a coal miner who attended Bishop Barrington Comprehensive School in Bishop Auckland, County Durham. From an early age, she was a high achiever academically with a thirst for learning, telling BBC Radio Four's Desert Island Discs how she would sit on the stairs at home reading encyclopaedias.

She pursued her degree studies at St Andrew's University, Scotland, graduating with a Master's in Russian and Modern History. She holds a Master's in Soviet Studies and a Doctorate in History from Harvard University, USA, where she was a Frank Knox Fellow. She became a US citizen in 2002 and is married with one daughter.

Fiona served on the US National Intelligence Council from 2006 to 2009, and was a member of the US National Security Council under President Trump.

Having, in her words, moved "literally from the coalhouse to the White House", she is passionate about social mobility. She visited her former school in June 2022 to give a talk to pupils, inspiring them to grasp "every educational opportunity" they are given and spoke of her desire to "give back" to the area where she grew up.

"It is an immense privilege, surprise, and honour to be selected as the next Chancellor of Durham University in the county where generations of my family have deep roots and where I spent my formative years."

Dr Fiona Hill

First University engagement

Fiona presided over her first engagement at the Chancellor's Circle Members' Dinner before her official installation in June. Vice-Chancellor and Warden, Professor Karen O'Brien, warmly welcomed Dr Hill and expressed how she was looking forward to working with her. Dr Hill paid tribute to the generosity of Chancellor's Circle members and the impact they are having across diverse University projects, including research, scholarships, student experience and heritage.

Guests heard first-hand experience of the positive impact that scholarships have on students from Beth Henderson (English Literature, Josephine Butler College, 2017-20) who was awarded the Robert Young Scholarship during her time at Durham. She said: *"The Robert Young Scholarship changed the entire narrative for me. It empowered me to apply for, and attend Durham, where I achieved a First Class Honours in English Literature and enabled me to embrace university life, both socially and academically."*

(Left to right)
Chancellor Fiona Hill,
alumna Beth Henderson
and Vice-Chancellor Karen O'Brien



Champions



University Challenge Champions 2023

In May 2023, some of Durham's brightest minds showcased their intellectual prowess and teamwork as they emerged triumphant in the thrilling Grand Final of the prestigious quiz competition, BBC's University Challenge. Against tough opposition, Durham prevailed with a final score of 155 points, defeating Bristol University, who put up a commendable fight with a score of 120 points.

The exhilarating clash marked Durham's first University Challenge victory since 2000, following their previous triumph in 1977. It seems that history has a pattern, as the 23-year gap between victories has become somewhat of a phenomenon. The team's success not only demonstrates their brilliance but also highlights the academic excellence offered by Durham.

Watching alongside the students at Collingwood College, Vice-Chancellor and Warden, Professor Karen O'Brian said: "I had the nail-biting excitement of watching University Challenge with the students at Collingwood - I am thrilled and delighted! I am overawed by your brilliance and extremely pleased for Durham."

Meet the team

The team is made of:

- **Harry Scully** (College of St Hild and St Bede), studying Physics and Chemistry in his final year
- **Chloe Margaux** (Josephine Butler College), studying Sociology in her final year
- **Alex Radcliffe** (College of St Hild and St Bede), graduated with a Masters in Maths last year and is now doing PhD at King's College London
- **Bea Bennett** (College of St Hild and St Bede), studying English in her final year
- And reserve **Tom Haines-Matos** (Trevelyan College), studying Philosophy, Politics and Economics in his second year

Scully, Margaux, Radcliffe, and Bennett proved their tenacity throughout the competition, demonstrating their diverse areas of expertise. Their journey to victory was one of dedication and preparation as they spent time together watching previous episodes and studying books of past questions from the show, getting to know each other's strengths, and filling the gaps in their collective knowledge.

Harry made excellent use of flash cards especially as he was tasked with addressing the team's weakness on anatomy and the human body, whilst Bea found a set of playing cards featuring all the UK prime ministers.

They all describe the joy of being able to dredge up nuggets of niche information or things they'd studied at school but never imagined would be useful, and equally the frustration of wading through hundreds of psychological experiments and never being asked a single related question.

It's clear that the five students, who hadn't met before, have built a strong friendship

and as Chloe explains about the time they spent across at the BBC in Manchester, 'it was really like a friendship holiday with some quizzing on the side'.

The victorious Durham team was presented with the coveted stainless steel book award by the renowned author Jung Chang, adding to their well-deserved accolades. Their impressive average score of 170 and average age of 21, demonstrates their exceptional abilities.

As Durham celebrates this remarkable achievement, the University looks forward to future series of University Challenge, confident in the academic excellence and intellectual brilliance of its students. The journey of the Durham University Challenge team serves as a testament to the importance of the wider student experience at Durham, nurturing well-rounded individuals who excel both inside and outside the classroom.

We extend our immense congratulations to Harry, Bea, Alex, Chloe, and Tom on their stellar performance throughout the competition. Their victory will be remembered as a testament to the intellectual skill and unwavering spirit of Durham's exceptional students.



A packed College of St Hild and St Bede watching the live final

Research to empower and inspire

We conduct innovative and impactful research to transform lives and make a difference, globally and locally: research to empower and inspire.

Among our scientists, social scientists, business, arts, and humanities scholars we have some of the world's leading authorities in their field. From our psychologists studying child development and human memory to our bioscientists tackling the spread of tropical disease. From our chemists crafting, understanding, and controlling molecules to our physicists reaching further into space and time than ever before; we are shaping the world, from the intimate to the infinite.

We are focused on sustainable development and actively contributing to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Our geographers are identifying the effects of climate change on our world's ice sheets, while also exploring how nature-based responses could be part of the solution to the biggest threat facing society today. Our engineers and earth scientists are pioneering the transition to a post-carbon economy, whilst our law experts are exploring the legal frameworks for sustainable development, and our hazard, risk and resilience experts are investigating how we adapt to the changing world around us.

We are a university dedicated to pursuing social justice. We undertake fearless research that leads to policy and societal change and reform. Our sociologists and legal experts are pursuing gender equality

and our educationalists are working for fair access and opportunities for all. Our management and finance researchers are working for ethical workplaces and social purpose in corporate reporting, and our sport and exercise specialists are working towards inclusivity across multiple areas where discrimination still remains.

We have one of the strongest arts and humanities faculties anywhere in the world, with world leaders in history, literature, philosophy, theology and more, furthering our knowledge of moral injury, the philosophy of epidemiology, and language and writing. We are at the heart of Durham's UNESCO World Heritage Site, a place of learning for over a thousand years, and home to internationally significant libraries and collections, with one of the world's largest and most diverse concentrations of medieval and early modern studies. We practise transformative humanities, where our research shapes and changes lives – through environmental humanities, digital humanities, medical humanities, and creativity, culture and heritage.

We believe that inspiring our people to do outstanding things at Durham enables Durham people to do outstanding things in the world. We offer the inspiration, they achieve the outstanding.

Fetus in womb showing the "laughter-face" response

Fetuses react to taste and smell in the womb

Our psychologists have shown the first direct evidence that babies react differently to various smells and tastes while in the womb, by looking at their facial expressions.

Durham's Fetal Neonatal Research Lab led on the study, which took 4D ultrasound scans of 100 pregnant women who had taken either carrot or kale capsules beforehand. The researchers then looked at how the fetuses reacted.

Other studies have suggested that babies can taste and smell in the womb, but they are based on post-birth outcomes while our study is the first to see these reactions before birth. Fetuses exposed to the carrot flavour showed more "laughter-face" responses while those exposed to the kale flavour showed more "cry-face" responses. Exposure to just a small amount of carrot or kale was enough to stimulate a reaction. Humans experience flavour through a combination of taste and smell. In fetuses, this happens through inhaling and swallowing the amniotic fluid in the womb.

The researchers also believe that what pregnant women eat might influence babies' taste preferences after birth and potentially have implications for establishing healthy eating habits.

Researchers in Antarctica



New study indicates worrying ice loss in West Antarctica

Two major glaciers in West Antarctica may be losing ice faster than they have in at least the last 5,000 years. The study, involving Dr Pippa Whitehouse from our Department of Geography, investigates the recent history of two rapidly melting glaciers that could contribute to major sea level rise over the next several centuries.

Over the past few decades, the West Antarctic Ice Sheet has retreated and thinned at accelerated rates. The Thwaites and Pine Island glaciers, that extend deep into the heart of the ice sheet, are of particular concern. These glaciers are susceptible to rapid melting because they sit on an inland-sloping bed where warm ocean water can flow underneath floating parts of the glacier tongues and erode the ice sheet from its base, which can lead to runaway ice loss.

Runaway retreat of these two glaciers could reduce the size of the West Antarctic Ice Sheet, potentially contributing as much as 3.4 metres to global sea level rise over the next several centuries.

The study set out to explore whether it is possible to recover from such runaway ice loss.

The results showed a steady fall in relative sea level over the last 5,000 years. This pattern is consistent with relatively stable glacier behaviour with no evidence of large-scale glacier retreat or advance. The team also found that the rate of relative sea-level fall recorded by the shells was almost five times lower than that measured today. The most likely reason for such a large difference is recent rapid ice loss in the region.

These glaciers are susceptible to rapid melting because they sit on an inland-sloping bed...



Teacher and pupil

How the first year at school can boost earnings in later life

Children who start school in the most effective classes can expect to earn more than their peers in later life, according to a new study by Durham University and the Department for Education.

Research by Durham University has previously shown that children who are taught well in their first year of primary school go on to achieve better GCSE results in Maths and English, making the case for schools putting their best teachers in those classes. This latest study reveals that the top 2.5% performing reception classes of 27 pupils in England could add between £50,000 and £200,000 in value to the UK economy, which is the equivalent of between £2,000 and £7,500 per pupil.

The analysis, which looked at pupils' progress, shows that future earnings are influenced by teachers when children are as young as four years old, and that education plays a significant role in earning outcomes. In addition to the potential boost in earnings, the social and economic returns from investments in high-quality classes when pupils first start school may also be much larger than the study estimates, especially for disadvantaged pupils.

For the report, the team linked estimates from two studies to predict changes in later earnings, associated with progress during the children's first year at school. By assessing children at the beginning and end of the first year, the team was able to identify classes as 'effective', which is where children made significantly more progress than average.

The researchers took account of a range of social and economic factors that could have skewed the results including children's age, term of starting school, sex, ethnicity, special needs, English as an additional language, deprivation, and school/class membership.

Professor Peter Vickers



Identifying Future-Proof Science

A new book from Professor Peter Vickers from our Philosophy Department, 'Identifying Future-Proof Science', presents an argument that we can confidently identify many scientific claims that are future-proof, or simply 'established scientific facts'.

Professor Vickers contends that the best way to identify future-proof science (that will last forever, so long as science continues) is to avoid any attempt to analyse the relevant first-order scientific evidence, instead focusing purely on second-order evidence. Specifically, a scientific claim is future-proof when the relevant scientific community is large, international, and diverse, and at least 95% of that community would describe the claim as a 'scientific fact'. In the entire history of science, no claim meeting these criteria has ever been overturned, despite enormous opportunity for that to happen.

Surprisingly, this means that the skills of the scientist are not the skills necessary to identify scientific facts. Instead, the skills required are those of the philosopher-sociologist.

The book will provide vital insights for policymakers as it is essential for them to know when something is or isn't an established scientific fact, and to ensure that all policies are based on known scientific facts. When a scientific claim can't be verified, Professor Vickers suggests that policymakers can sensibly base policies on scientific ideas that meet most of the criteria for being a scientific fact.

In such commonplace scenarios, the criteria for future-proof science are still highly relevant, since a claim may not yet be a fact, and yet be close to becoming one.



Students celebrate Holi Festival

In March, a celebration of cultures and traditions from across the world took place in our first 'Durham Global Week'. With the aim of recognising, celebrating, and learning from Durham's role as a global university, the week saw over 40 international-themed events for staff, students, alumni, and the local community. The week also highlighted the international impact of Durham's academic and cultural activities.



Lord Darroch and Dr Patrick Kuhn

Brexit, Trump, and the War in Ukraine: Democracy in Turbulent Times

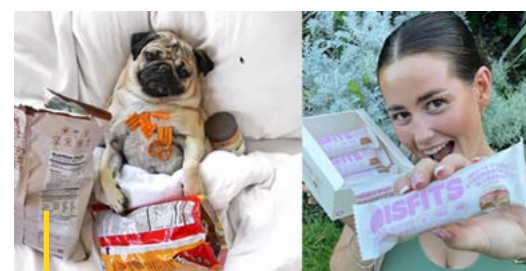
We were delighted to welcome Lord Darroch of Kew (Zoology, Hatfield College, 1972-75) to the School of Government and International Affairs on Monday 6 March, as part of Durham Global Week.

The UK's former Permanent Representative to the EU, National Security Adviser, and British Ambassador to the United States, joined Dr Patrick Kuhn, Associate Professor in Comparative Politics and the Deputy Head of School (Education) to share his views on three of the most influential political situations of recent times.

Durham Inspired Live - Doug the Pug and the Anonymous Gym Girl: The Secret Psychology of Influencer Marketing with Professor Mike Nicholson

Professor Mike Nicholson, from our Department of Management and Marketing, delivered an insightful virtual presentation to discuss influencers and the tactics they employ to create successful global brand content. From investigating how an American family dog became a social media icon, to what made over a million people watch an ordinary Dutch pensioner open a shiny new iPhone box, this highly relevant talk piqued the audience's interest – demonstrated by the flood of questions for Professor Nicholson at the end.

Over 250 event registrants from 36 countries around the world joined for this highly relevant talk in an age where the internet bristles with all manner of influencers.



Doug the Pug and the Anonymous Gym Girl



World Fest painting activity



Alumni in Singapore

World Fest

The International Students' Association (ISA) and Durham University Student Volunteering and Outreach (DUSVO) hosted World Fest on Sunday 5 March. Celebrating diversity at the University, over 20 cultural stalls represented 70+ countries and cultures from around the globe to educate, inspire, entertain, and promote mutual understanding through arts and crafts, quizzes, traditional games, and networking.

Interactive sessions ran throughout the afternoon, from Bollywood Dance to Taekwondo, and visitors could also sample a vast range of international cuisines, from Egyptian to Portuguese, provided by alumni-run catering service Hey! Food is Ready.

Over 800 members of the local community, students and staff visited this joyful celebration, filling the Fonteyn Ballroom in the Students' Union with colour, laughter, and a sense of community.

Holi Festival

Holi is the Indian festival of colours and signifies the victory of good over evil, the end of winter and the arrival of spring. It's a festive day to meet family and friends, play, laugh and forgive.

The Oriental Museum hosted its annual Holi celebrations on Saturday 11 March. Over 300 members of the public braved the unseasonably cold weather, flocking to the Museum to enjoy a raft of family-friendly craft activities, including interactive storytelling, face painting and henna hand painting. Students from the Bollywood Dance Society provided entertainment with stunning routines and encouraged visitors to try out a few steps too.

"It was great to have so many student volunteers involved this year, who all brought their energy and enthusiasm to the events. Seeing the museum galleries full of children dancing and creating crafts, and families chatting really made the Oriental Museum buzz and brought our Holi Festival celebrations to life."

Charlotte Spink (Learning Coordinator, University Library & Collections)

Alumni Meet-up in Singapore

Alumni and friends made the most of Durham Global Week by hosting a get together in Singapore.

This was the first volunteer-led event in Singapore following a successful visit by Vice-Chancellor and Warden, Professor Karen O'Brien last year, and discussions centred firmly on future happenings and inspiring the growth of the Singapore network to contribute towards building a stronger global alumni community.

"Our team did a fabulous job of meeting and greeting fellow alumni and we all came away with additional personal and professional contacts. I was delighted to meet members of my education cohort from 18 years ago! It was stimulating to learn how our Durham degree has supported each of our professional journeys. Thank you, Durham, for the opportunity to pay forward the wonderful support and educational experience received. Looking forward to our next event."

Dr Margaret Alvarez (EdD Education, St Mary's College, 2004-13)

Palatine Kitchen Takeover

International academic talent comes together at Durham, resulting in incredible thought leadership and research. A rather tasty by-product of this is authentic food from all four corners of the globe.

The Palatine Kitchen Takeover shone a spotlight on the culinary talents of staff and students over three days, giving them rightfully deserved recognition.

After intensive preparatory training, three takeover teams worked in a real commercial kitchen setting alongside a professional Durham chef to plan and serve menu items. Circolo Café Assistant Ozden Oksuz highlighted traditional Turkish food, raising funds for the UNICEF Turkey / Syria Earthquake Appeal. Students Nick Fung and Ben Jones followed, serving dishes from a variety of world cuisines, with proceeds going to the RSPCA. The takeover was rounded off by Zing Café Assistant, Blandine Smith, who prepared a mouth-watering array of French treats in support of Heel & Toe Children's Charity in Pelton / Chester-le-Street. Over £400 was raised and queues for the Café snaked out of the Palatine Centre doors.

Durham Global Awards

Durham Global Week wrapped up in style at the Durham Global Awards, held at Stephenson College on Friday 10 March. Nine awards celebrated our University community for its contribution to Durham's global research, partnerships and reputation, as well as furthering international collaboration and understanding across the University.



The winners were chosen by an independent panel and the recipients were:

- **Award for Global Professional Services**
Gill Ramsay
- **Global College Award**
St Aidan's College
- **Lifetime Achievement Award**
Mary Fender
- **Local to Global Award**
Dr Penelope Johnson
- **Respect, Fairness & Equity Award**
Sam Dale and Katie Stobbs
(joint winners)
- **Global Experience Award**
Durham University Student Volunteering and Outreach
- **Global Volunteering Award**
Alexandra Hart
- **International Partnership Award**
Dr Markian Prokopovych
- **Global Curriculum Award**
Department of Archaeology team (including Professor Mike Church, UNESCO Professor Robin Coningham, Professor Rebecca Gowland, Dr Kristen Hopper, Dr Mark Manuel, Dr Dan Lawrence and Professor Karen Milek).

My Durham story

Nikoleta Stoyanova

(Accounting and Finance,
Stephenson College, 2015-18)



Nikoleta Stoyanova

Durham is undoubtedly a stunningly beautiful city with a real sense of its own historical importance. Even though I studied Accounting and Finance at Durham, I spent a great deal of time in the history department and in the history section in the library. Durham's rich history and sense of place inspired me so much that I went on to study a master's degree in history at University College London.

By the time I had graduated, I knew that I wanted to become my own boss and create my own business. Growing up fascinated by the elegance and timelessness of silver-screen icons, I always knew I wanted to create a fashion label inspired by the sophistication and elegance of the 'Golden Age of Hollywood', bringing its timeless glamour to the modern woman in a way that feels fresh and makes use of sustainable practices. 'Santinni' has, at its core, the values of British tailoring and traditional craftsmanship, using fine natural fabrics and immaculate detail-focus. The pieces celebrate the value of classic beauty using

the finest natural materials such as wool, cashmere, organic cotton, silk, and exquisite vegan-fur. These materials ensure not only the sublime quality of our pieces, but also their sustainability.

I created my company, 'Santinni' over three and a half years ago and consider myself extremely fortunate to see how much the brand has grown internationally and how much of what I am doing is resonating with women of all ages. We are delighted to have clients ranging from the age of 7 up to the age of 84! It really goes to show that every woman wants to feel elegant and glamorous, irrespective of their age, and they have every right to do so! We sell our pieces all over the world and they are stocked in both Harvey Nichols and Galleries Lafayette in Doha, as well as many boutiques around the globe.

I work with a brilliant team consisting predominantly of women and I am looking to moving on to the next phase of our development by building a team of marketing, promotional and public relations professionals to further support our growth.

My time at Durham inspired me deeply; the focus on tradition and ceremony had always fascinated me and I believe that there is a lot of wisdom in the accumulated knowledge of the past. It was always very important to me to anchor my brand in tradition.

What's more, my time at Durham taught me the value of hard work, determination, and perseverance, which have been indispensable to me in building my own business, especially in a field in which I had no previous experience.

If I could offer one piece of advice to someone considering studying at Durham, it would be to join as many of the incredible societies as you can- Durham has so much to offer, both academically and as a wider student experience. The friendships, skills, and knowledge you will pick up from your like-minded fellow students will serve you for life! Durham has such a brilliant global network, which makes me feel so connected to a beautiful time in my life that was so pivotal in shaping who I am today. Connecting with fellow students, of past and present, and sharing our experiences has always been a truly enriching and enjoyable experience for me.

Visit www.santinni.com for more details.



"I think it's important to share our stories to demonstrate that our routes are not always straightforward, in fact a varied and alternative journey can be enormously rewarding. I studied Accounting and Finance at Durham, yet have gone on to create a fashion brand, with no prior design experience!"

Nikoleta Stoyanova

[Click here to visit The Hub for more stories](#)

Rosemary Coogan



Rosemary Coogan – selected as one of only five career astronauts within the ESA Class of 2022.

Last year, the European Space Agency chose 17 new astronaut candidates from more than 22,500 applicants from across its Member States. This class of 2022 is the first in 13 years and includes Durham alumna Dr Rosemary Coogan.

Within this class, ESA has selected the first five candidates to become career astronauts. These career astronauts will soon begin their year of basic training in Cologne. Their training will equip them with survival and language skills, and they will then embark on an exciting exploration programme followed by their first mission. The remaining astronauts selected will remain close to the programme as members of the Astronaut Reserve.

Rosemary holds two degrees from Durham. She spent her time as a student at University College and completed her undergraduate degree in Physics



European Space Agency

“We welcome the 17 members of the new ESA astronaut class 2022. This ESA astronaut class is bringing ambition, talent and diversity in many different forms – to drive our endeavours, and our future.

“The continuous exploration in low Earth orbit on the International Space Station, going forward to the Moon – and beyond,”

ESA Director General Josef Aschbacher.

in 2013 which focused on physics, mathematics, computer programming and astronomy. In 2015, she completed her Master's degree in Astronomy, where she conducted research on gamma-ray emission from black holes.

After working in industry for software and robotic companies, in 2019 Rosemary started a postdoctoral research fellowship in astrophysics at the Max Planck Institute for Extra-terrestrial Physics in Munich, to study the evolution of galaxies with astronomical data from space and ground-based telescopes.

After completing her postdoctoral work in 2022, Rosemary joined French space agency CNES in Paris, France, as a research fellow in space science, where she worked on upcoming ESA/CNES missions such as EUCLID and the analysis of James Webb Space Telescope observations.

Rosemary holds awards for telescope observation time at international observatories ALMA and NOEMA and for her PhD thesis from the University of Sussex Astronomy Centre.

In 2009, during her time at Durham, Rosemary joined the Naval Reserve base HMS Calliope and its vessel HMS Example as an Officer cadet and was later promoted to Midshipman in the Royal Naval Reserves.

We very much look forward to following Rosemary's exciting journey from the training programme to her first mission into space. We are proud of her connection to Durham and of playing a small part in her story.

A positively thriving environment!



Nestled in a highly biodiverse environment, the University is committed to enhancing the local ecosystem to ensure that wildlife can thrive and staff, students, and the community can live, work, and study within a healthy and engaging environment.

Recently, we published our Biodiversity Strategy, which will run from 2022 until 2032. The strategy is the result of years of hard work by staff and students from the Department of Biosciences and the Estates and Facilities Team, who have worked tirelessly to bring this vision to life.

Durham University's estate spans an impressive 251 hectares, encompassing a nearly continuously connected landscape with many areas of high biodiversity value and potential. The estate is primarily divided between woodland scrub covering 112 hectares and the built environment spanning 51.5 hectares. The remaining landscape includes farming and grazing land and some additional amenity grassland.

With the release of the Biodiversity Strategy, we aim to build upon its existing efforts to create a sustainable and thriving environment for all. The plan outlines a comprehensive approach to enhancing biodiversity across the estate, including measures to protect existing habitats, enhance connectivity between different areas of the estate, and introduce new habitats where possible.

As we move forward, our commitment to creating a sustainable and thriving environment is more critical than ever. By working together, we can help to protect and enhance the natural elements that make up such an important part of our campus for years to come.

Our resident animals

Nature thrives on campus, with an impressive array of wildlife calling it home. With around 24 mammal species, including eight species of bat, and a healthy population of roe deer, foxes, badgers, and otters breeding along the river, it's clear that our campus is a sanctuary for animals.

We are pleased to announce that we have been awarded the coveted Gold Award as a Hedgehog Friendly Campus for 2022/23 from the Hedgehog Preservation Society. This recognition is a testament to the hard work of our staff and students, who have participated in a range of campaigns, events, and initiatives to support hedgehog

conservation. From placing hedgehog crossing signs across campus to conducting hedgehog surveys with the local community, and hosting a hedgehog house opening event, our community has come together to make a real difference.

Our campus is also home to over 100 species of birds, many of which have experienced a rapid decline in recent years. Our woodlands support woodland species such as Woodcock, Jay, and Sparrowhawk, while Tree Sparrows and Buzzards are both breeding species that are important to monitor. We also have several breeding warbler species, including local rarities like Grasshopper Warbler, in the areas of scrub and hedges.

Amphibians are a vital indicator of water quality, and our campus has recorded populations of Common Frog, Common Toad, and Smooth/Palmate Newts. Additionally, we have a high diversity of insects, including nationally and locally rare species. Our woods are home to several moth species that are rarely recorded elsewhere in the country, as well as specialist woodland butterflies such as the White-letter Hairstreak and Purple Hairstreak.

Global Recognition

We are thrilled to announce that we have been ranked 53rd out of 700 universities in the QS World University Rankings for Sustainability 2023. This impressive placement recognises our ongoing efforts to tackle some of the most pressing environmental, social, and governance challenges that society faces today.

As a founding member of the Nature Positive Universities Alliance, we are dedicated to prioritising nature on our campus and throughout our supply chains. This exciting global alliance brings together universities from around the world

to drive positive change and promote environmental sustainability. Led by the University of Oxford and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Nature Positive project aims to transform the way universities approach nature and biodiversity.

Our Biodiversity Strategy is a critical component of our pledge to the Nature Positive alliance, as we strive to introduce more environmental sustainability into our research agenda and teaching curriculum. We are committed to using our platform to make a positive impact on the world, and we believe that this new alliance provides an incredible opportunity to work together towards a more sustainable future.

Telling the stories of the ocean

Rebecca Daniel

(Biological Sciences, St Mary's College, 2014-17)

Studying at Durham definitely inspired me to get to where I am today, running a conservation organisation. My BSc in Biological Sciences gave me a solid foundation and understanding of biology, which was massively helpful when I went on to complete a MSc in Marine Biology. It was whilst at Durham that I got my first taste of conservation fieldwork. On my course's field trip to a safari park in South Africa, I learnt how to collect field data, track animals, and identify different species. It was a fantastic way to see conservation in action. Through Durham, I was also able to gain experience during my summer holidays; volunteering with sea turtle conservation in Greece and working on bio-pesticides in the University's biology lab.

There is a strong entrepreneurial spirit at Durham - from the students who run club nights to the large student-led events, such as the DU Fashion Show, PalatinAlps, and Aggression Sessions. It really showed me what is possible, and that running a business isn't just for those who are already well established in their careers or industries.



“Many of us have lost our connection to nature. When was the last time you walked outside without texting on your phone? Or stopped to listen to birdsong, or went outside to watch the sunset?”

Rebecca Daniel

Two like-minded marine biologists and I founded The Marine Diaries in December 2017. It's a not-for-profit organisation on a mission to connect people with the ocean. We communicate ocean science using storytelling and digital media - bridging the education gap between the scientific community and the general public. Information alone rarely changes attitudes, beliefs, or behaviours. But stories have been around for the whole of human history. They are more engaging and memorable than facts and figures, and crucially, tap into our emotions.

In western society, a trend of industrialisation and urbanisation, combined with the rise of online and virtual entertainment has led to us spending almost all our time indoors. And, given more than half of the world's population lives in urban areas, our 'outdoors' is increasingly man-made.

We have forgotten that we are part of the natural world, not separate from it.

This disconnect is a major barrier to environmental conservation because people tend to only protect what they care about; research shows that people without a connection to nature and an understanding of how we directly depend on (and influence) it, are less likely to take positive action on the environment.

Our team of voluntary storytellers (who are also scientists, journalists, and filmmakers) are dedicated to sharing science-based and action-led stories to change the hearts and minds of the public on key issues and inspire positive ocean action. Through our campaigns, projects, events, articles, and social media, we provide free, accessible resources to people of all ages and backgrounds - connecting people with the ocean, wherever they may be.

Collaboration is central to our philosophy. We work closely with strategic partners who share our vision, and collaborate with other ocean-friendly organisations, businesses, and individuals to deliver our projects. The Marine Diaries also acts as a platform to elevate the voices of others working towards ocean conservation.

To date, our largest project has been the Marine Ecosystem Diaries. Launched in 2021, this nine-month ocean literacy project



“Staying connected to the wider alumni community is really important to me. Not only is it encouraging to see others working towards similar goals, but there is such a wealth of knowledge and experience across Durham alumni and I hope that some of those individuals or businesses may be interested in helping The Marine Diaries succeed.”

Rebecca Daniel

highlighted the importance, threats, and conservation of nine different marine ecosystems - from coral reefs to mangrove forests. Through short films, illustrated posters, articles, social media, and digital events, we shed light on vital topics such as blue carbon, biodiversity, and the blue economy. With more than 130 collaborating artists, researchers, videographers, and NGOs, we provided educational materials to over 50,000 (and counting) students, educators, and organisations around the globe. The films have also been screened internationally at seven festivals and are in two travelling programmes.

Now, we are working with one of our '1% for the Planet' partners to turn this project into an e-learning course. We are also looking for partners to translate the materials into different languages, and funding to distribute them on the ground to communities in the Global South.

It's incredible to see how many new initiatives regularly come out of Durham, and more and more of these businesses are focussed on climate and the environment. Recently, I had the chance to meet some fellow founders through the Entrepreneurs Network. There are relatively few young founders in the environmental space, so knowing a group of people that are also just starting out themselves is a useful support network.

[Click here to visit The Hub for more stories](#)

How can I get involved?

One of the greatest gifts you can give is your time, which is why we appreciate each one of our committed volunteers. Whether you have 1 hour or 100 hours to give, want to get involved virtually or in-person, there are many ways you can volunteer your time and expertise to support our students, the wider alumni community, and enhance the reputation of the University globally.

Sharing your story

As a graduate of Durham, your journey can inspire others to follow in your footsteps. Your experiences and achievements since earning your degree can showcase the value of a Durham education and motivate both prospective and current students to pursue their dreams. From writing a testimonial to speaking at a recruitment event, there are many ways you can share your story.

Mahnoor Tariq (Politics, University College, 2017-19) spoke at a virtual Postgraduate Open Day in May 2022. She shared her insights on her experience at Durham and how it has helped shape her career. Mahnoor emphasised the importance of seizing every opportunity that came her way during her time at university.



“Through sharing my journey, I hope to offer incoming students a chance to build on the pleasant experiences I had at Durham, both academically as well as personally. I wish to translate my learnings into opportunities for growth for all prospective students. I find great joy in welcoming all incoming students to become part of our wider community at Durham - sharing valuable lessons and experiences I learnt along the way, in order to support them in becoming the best versions of themselves.”

Mahnoor Tariq

Connect with your global community through Chapters

Chapters are volunteer-led alumni groups that help you stay connected to Durham, no matter where you are in the world. Chapters are formed based on shared geography, industry, and interests and are a welcoming group of alumni and supporters with a passion for Durham!

They provide numerous opportunities for you to connect with like-minded alumni and support your lifelong learning. Whether you are looking to network with fellow graduates in your industry, explore new interests, or simply stay in touch with the Durham community, there is a Chapter for you.

Volunteer Sebastian Marland (Finance and Investment, University College, 2019-21) tells us why he established the Netherlands Chapter in September 2022:

“I started the Netherlands Alumni Chapter because I wanted to bring the magic of Durham to the Netherlands and enable Durham graduates to find like-minded people to chat with and have a wonderful time”.

Sebastian Marland



Alumni in the Netherlands

Offer your expertise

Sharing your knowledge, industry insights, and connections with current students helps them navigate their way through different career options and inspires them to achieve their ambitions. You were once in their shoes which makes you very relatable!

Work placement and internship opportunities, speaking at our careers events, and mentoring are some of the ways you can offer your expertise and resources to current students.

A mentee and mentor from the MBA Mentoring Programme at Durham University Business School tells us from their perspective what they get from participating in the programme.

“My mentor was excellent. He was always willing to engage with me about any subject I saw fit, pointing me in the right direction and making introductions to people that could both benefit my work and career. I hope we stay in touch long past the MBA programme. He has a wealth of knowledge that is so beneficial to MBA students.”

Stephen Mills (student – mentee)

“It was a pleasure to support my mentee through his Durham MBA journey. I hope that we will continue to stay in touch as he is a brilliant young professional with incredible promise. I have been a mentor through various programs, both academic and professional, and this was one of the best experiences I have had. Much of that is owing to the MBA student himself, as well as the programme administrators at Durham. Thank you for this opportunity.”

Colin Savage (alumni – mentor)

In addition to employability events, we also run alumni events online, in the UK and internationally, that would benefit from your knowledge, experience, and skill sets. If you are interested in being a keynote speaker or joining a panel of speakers, we'd love to hear from you.

Volunteering is a great way to stay close to Durham after you graduate. Not only does it give you opportunities to expand your network and develop new skills, but it also makes our community a vibrant, supportive, and exciting one to be part of.

Click here find out more on how to get involved

From Durham to Delhi, we are a global community

Sahil Kumar in Durham



We took the opportunity to catch up with Sahil Kumar (MBA, University College, 2019-20), the lead volunteer of the Delhi Alumni Chapter. In our Q&A, Sahil reflects on his time at Durham, why he volunteers his time and his hopes for the Chapter going forward.

What have you been up to since you left Durham?

I am currently based in New Delhi, India and I am working in a fast-paced yet caring consulting and professional services environment, where we provide professional, audit and advisory services to not-for-profit organisations and corporate foundations. I am also currently in the midst of curating an interesting curriculum to aid in the professional and personal transformation of students who have had limited or no exposure to quality support services and want to be prepared for the future world of work.

On a more personal level, I have started learning music and playing the ukulele, resumed my motorbike trips to travel to different places and learn about the diverse cultures in India, and started researching as I have plans to write and publish a book – fiction or non-fiction, I haven't decided yet!

How did you get involved in volunteering with Durham?

I've been eager to stay connected to Durham and the University since finishing my MBA programme in 2020. Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, I knew there had to be ways to contribute or remain involved. I began contacting the University's alumni teams and learned about the opportunity to volunteer with the Delhi Alumni Chapter. Fortunately, I had the pleasure of organising the Dunelm Days event in New Delhi, India in 2022 and met some great alumni members. We had a wonderful dinner, reminisced about Durham and the University experience from different years, discussed our professional and personal paths since graduating from the University, and even clicked some wonderful pictures.

Overall, volunteering with Durham has been a fantastic way to stay connected to the University and the city. I'm grateful for the opportunity to give back and contribute to the continued success of the institution that has given me so much.

Why did you want to volunteer with the Delhi Alumni Chapter?

I am someone who greatly values community and connection and when presented with the opportunity, hence, I was eager to get involved. Having benefitted so much from my time in Durham, the city, the university, and the MBA program, I wanted to give back and help build a strong alumni network in my city, not just for the members to stay connected but also to help prospective students to understand Durham better. The chance to collaborate with other like-minded individuals who share a passion and a connection to the city and the University also excited me extensively.

One of the main reasons I wanted to volunteer with the Delhi Alumni Chapter was to help foster connections and create opportunities for alumni to engage with one another. I knew from my own experience that the relationships and networks formed during my time at Durham have

been invaluable both personally and professionally, and I wanted to help facilitate similar connections for other alumni.

How do you see the Delhi Alumni Chapter growing?

I strongly believe that the Delhi Alumni Chapter has immense potential for growth and development, and I am excited to be a part of this journey. In the short term, we plan to reach out to more alumni in the city and surrounding areas in the region to create a strong and engaged community. We will be regularly organising events, both virtual and in-person, that cater to a diverse range of interests and preferences.

In the long term, we aim to collaborate with other alumni chapters in India and even across the globe to create a strong global network of Durham University alumni. We hope to leverage the collective knowledge, expertise, and experience of our alumni to create opportunities for personal and professional growth and to give back to society through various initiatives.

We are also exploring the possibility of collaborating with the University to create opportunities for current and incoming students to engage with our alumni community in New Delhi and gain valuable insights and mentorship.

What advice would you give to alumni thinking about volunteering?

My advice to fellow alumni considering volunteering would be to take the leap and get involved. Volunteering is a wonderful way to reconnect with your alma mater, engage with other alumni, and make a positive impact in more than one way. There are numerous ways to contribute - from organising events to mentoring students, and it's important to find an area that aligns with your passions and skills. Volunteering can also offer opportunities to learn new things, broaden your horizons, and form new relationships.

Global Durham alumni winners and finalists in the Study UK Awards

Earlier this year, six Durham alumni from across the globe were announced as finalists in the prestigious Study UK Alumni Awards for 2023. We are thrilled that two alumni went on to win in their categories. Hosted by the British Council, the Study UK Alumni Awards celebrate the outstanding achievements of alumni and highlight the impact and value of a UK higher education. The finalists are leaders in their fields who have used their experience of studying at a UK university to make a positive contribution to their communities, professions, and countries.

Alumni who reach the finals benefit from increased PR and press opportunities to raise their profile and share their success with international audiences. Winners of the global awards will be celebrated on an international scale and invited to the UK for a networking and professional development opportunity.

Meet the winners and finalists

WINNER – lynna Halilou
(International Relations,
Van Mildert College, 2010-13)



lynna is the winner of the Business and Innovation award in the USA and has been selected as a Global Finalist.

She invests in young start-ups that have little traction but are

led by teams with relentless drive to succeed and are looking for the right partner to finance and support their growth. With all her accomplishments in the Venture Capital industry in the United States, lynna was recognised as a Top Rising Star VC in 2021 by Business Insider.

lynna has said that studying at Durham has helped her develop critical thinking and communication skills, and that studying International Relations allowed her to develop a deep understanding and appreciation of the diverse cultures around her. lynna hopes that she will continue to drive impact by redirecting flows of capital into those opportunities and founders she cares the most about. Her vision is to bridge the socio-economic gap by ensuring that opportunities are being distributed fairly.

WINNER – Sugandha Yadav
(Law, St Mary's College, 2014-17)



Sugandha is the winner of the Social Action award in India. Sugandha has said that while studying Law at Durham, she was encouraged to question the status quo and think critically, which is what

led her to becoming an advocate at the Supreme Court of India.

In just over five years of legal practice, Sugandha has specialised in environmental and human rights law. She has drafted, argued, and advised on over three hundred cases, including the case to decriminalize homosexuality, the Right to Privacy case, and the case against the Indian government's deployment of Pegasus. Sugandha will commence a Master's Degree in Environmental and Human Rights Law this year.

Finalists

- **Chris Boyd** (Archaeology, Ustinov College, 2009-10) was a finalist in the Culture and Creativity award category in the USA
- **Eithar Alangari** (Arabic/English Translation, Ustinov College, 2013-15) was a finalist in the Culture and Creativity award category in Saudi Arabia
- **Philippe De Raet** (MBA (Distance Learning), 2004-10) was a finalist in the Business and Innovation award category in the USA
- **Sakib Anim** (PhD in Economics, Ustinov College, 2011-16) was a finalist in the Science and Sustainability award category in Bangladesh



From left to right: Scott Bush, Natasha Boulding and Phil Buckley. Founders of Low Carbon Materials.

Durham Alumni start-up named as a finalist in prestigious Earthshot Prize 2022

The Earthshot Prize was founded with The Royal Foundation in 2020 by HRH Prince William. Designed to find and nurture solutions that will repair the planet in the next 10 years, it calls upon the collective power of human ingenuity and innovation.

Fifteen finalists were announced in November 2022. All were recognised as an accomplished group of entrepreneurs and innovators spearheading ground-breaking solutions to the biggest environmental challenges faced by planet Earth.

Durham University start-up, Low Carbon Materials, was announced as one of three international finalists in the Fix Our Climate category, but unfortunately missed out on winning the prize. Even without a win, it is testament to their drive and determination to change the building industry that saw them shortlisted for this prestigious award.

Durham alumni Natasha Boulding, Scott Bush, and Phil Buckley graduated from their Chemistry PhD studies at St Mary's College in 2019 with a passion for saving the planet and an idea formulated as part of a mini-MBA innovation challenge run by Peter Allen at Durham University Business School.

With a vision to recycle plastic waste by converting it into aggregate for concrete, their business Low Carbon Materials (LCM) was born, with the creation of OSTO – a carbon-negative building aggregate for concrete blockwork.

Their company has gone from strength to strength since their original idea took flight, accumulating a series of award wins, substantial media coverage, growing a team of 18, and a move to much larger, new business premises at Jade Business Park, Seaham. Their vision is to be a world leader in low-carbon and environmentally friendly building materials – and they're off to an impressive start!

CEO Dr Natasha Boulding commented: "It is such an honour for LCM to be recognised in The Earthshot Prize and to be included alongside such pioneering organisations and individuals who are engaged in truly astounding environmental initiatives."

"The Earthshot Prize has catapulted LCM onto a global stage, given us notable kudos, and presented many opportunities, providing a real head-start as a business. We are working closely with manufacturers to scale our solution, which will be available soon. It will go some way to helping the construction industry lower carbon emissions and achieve net zero".

We are enormously proud of LCM for what they have achieved so far, and we are looking forward to what the future holds for them.

[Click here to visit the LCM website](#)

My Durham story

Yuk Chi Chan

(Law, College of St Hild & St Bede, 2016-19)



Before he started studying law at Durham, Yuk Chi had already served as a commissioned officer in the Singapore Army. He was a battalion logistics officer in the 1st Army Maintenance Base, under the Maintenance and Engineering Support formation, responsible for the upkeep, repair, maintenance, and sustainment of armoured and tracked vehicles across all three branches of the Armed Forces.

Whilst at Durham, Yuk Chi founded the Krav Maga Society and was its president from 2016-2019. He led the Society's community initiatives to teach hundreds of students from all walks of life self-defence, focusing in particular on marginalised and vulnerable groups. He was also the elected president of the Pro Bono Society from 2018-19 and expanded its scope with new projects, talks, and activities. Under his stewardship, the Society continued to enjoy its title of Best Law Society in terms of Contributions to Society in Durham.



After graduating, Yuk Chi used his background in logistics and space law to join and help found a satellite start-up company developing novel in-space propulsion technology with others he had met while at Durham. He led them to pitch for and win the grand prize for Durham University's Blueprint Startup Challenge. They also interviewed for Y Combinator and won a place at the Westcott Business Incubator, located at the UK's National Space Propulsion Test Facility.

Yuk Chi also trained as a solicitor with Donaldson & Burkinshaw LLP, the oldest law firm in Singapore, and led the effort to establish a space law practice there. He published a paper at the 8th European Conference on Space Debris with the European Space Agency, and a book chapter on space law in 'Assessing a Mars Agreement Including Human Settlements' (Springer Nature, 2021). He was the youngest Singaporean lawyer ever to speak at the United Nations on space sustainability law, and has advised the Government of Uganda on their national space legislation and space policy as part of his work with an international non-governmental organisation, the Space Generation Advisory Council.

"I first heard about Durham through a family friend who works at a reputable Singaporean law firm. Durham has a fantastic reputation in the Singaporean legal industry and, after doing some research, I found I preferred the look and feel of Durham Law School above and beyond others, so without even visiting I decided to take a leap of faith and apply."

Yuk Chi Chan

In October 2021, he founded Charter, a venture-backed start-up building an engineering management software platform called Ubik. This software enables companies to streamline the building of

spacecraft and other complex systems. In December 2022, Charter became the first British space company to receive investment and graduate from the prestigious Techstars Space Accelerator programme, generally considered the world's leading programme for start-ups in the space sector, with an acceptance rate of less than 1.7% and only 12 companies accepted from a pool of over 700. Techstars is one of the space industry's most prolific and experienced investors, with storied alumni and an incredible list of partner organisations including the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, the US Space Force, Northrop Grumman, and Blue Origin. Charter has since launched a collaborative pilot with the NASA Jet Propulsion Lab to investigate how Ubik can help support the development and maturation of a robotic technology concept to explore Ocean World environments like Saturn's moon Enceladus, raised an oversubscribed

"The amount of luck one enjoys generally correlates to the frequency with which one takes risks."

Yuk Chi Chan

venture funding round, and expanded its presence to the United States. Charter was recently recognised on the market map for the space industry compiled by one of the world's largest venture capital firms, Andreessen Horowitz.

Durham has always remained close to Yuk Chi's heart and has been an invaluable influence in his work. He has fond memories from his time as a student of walking along the river and basking in the summer sun on the college lawns at Hild Bede. As an alumnus, he continues to benefit from the support of Durham's Venture Lab, and remains closely involved with them, the alumni office, and Durham Law School. He has returned to the Law School as an invited speaker to lecture on space law and spoken in invite-only sessions with emerging tech start-ups at Durham. Charter has also advertised job openings through the Careers & Enterprise team.



Yuk Chi Chan at Jet Propulsion Lab, September 2022

For further information about Charter visit www.charter.space

College news



Blue plaque placed on Neville House

Ustinov College

A Durham building that has stood for 101 years and now houses part of our postgraduate college, Ustinov, has had its historical importance recognised with a blue plaque.

Neville House was founded by Durham County Council in 1921 as a woman only teacher training college, Neville's Cross College.

Over the next century, it changed its educational purpose, name and stewardship several times but always retained its role as a college.

In 2017, following an extensive renovation project, Neville House reopened as part of Ustinov College on the Sheraton Park site in Neville's Cross.

Now, its rich history has been recognised with a blue plaque unveiled at an event that brought past and present college residents together.

St Aidan's College



St Aidan's College

To celebrate St Aidan's 75th anniversary, the College has been running a cultural project to capture its history as 'the Rainbow College'. Alumni, past and current staff members, and other friends of the College have been invited to share their stories to help St Aidan's map out the ways in which the College has engaged with the world through some of the key events of the 20th and early 21st centuries. These stories will bring the past to life in a book entitled *Over the Rainbow: A New History of St Aidan's College*.

This project connects, collects, and reflects on old and new stories that have helped shaped the College and sustained its identity as diverse, open and questioning, from its origins in a small group of pioneering women, through its growth and transformation into a global community. Stories and images of creative exploration, life lessons, good and hard times, sporting spirit, first steps on the career ladder, the enthusiasm of participation, and the lasting bonds of belonging will structure this participation history, which will be available in early 2024.



Zillah and a fellow Johnian outside Cruddas

St John's College

St John's College has been celebrating 50 years of women being admitted to study!

Over the course of this anniversary year, the College has shared stories, interviews and portraits of remarkable women in the history and present of St John's, including Jane Newsome (née Whitehead), who was part of the first intake of women in 1973; and a tribute to Principal Ruth Etchells by former JCR President Joëlle Warren.

Models at Van Mildert's charity fashion show



Van Mildert College

In March, Van Mildert College's annual charity fashion show was a night to remember. The theme was 'Dusk till Dawn', and the Ann Dobson Hall was transformed with a catwalk and 250 guests. Directed by Niamh Holford (2nd year Natural Sciences undergraduate), it was a showcase of creativity and inclusivity, raising funds for two charities – Centrepoin, which addresses youth homelessness, and Mildert's own Young Persons' Project, which supports underprivileged pupils in the North East to build self-confidence and aspirations.

The show featured 130 models thanks to Mildert's inclusive non-auditioned approach, and displayed clothes from students and local brands.

The evening was made more exciting by a raffle and performance from Mildert's Dance Society.



University College's North Terrace

University College

As part of Durham Castle's 950th anniversary, the North Terrace is currently being restored. The North Terrace runs along the north-eastern perimeter of the Castle walls, from Principal's House, around the Keep, and all the way over to the Chaplain's Suite, where it overlooks the Viaduct. It once formed part of the historic promenade for Prince Bishops of Durham, and its redevelopment will create a unique 'Journey of Discovery', allowing students and visitors to admire both the Castle and the wider Durham cityscape from a unique perspective.

Paving will be introduced at one end of the Terrace, allowing for gatherings, events, and receptions. A less formal walkway and reading garden for students will make up the rest to provide a unique space for quiet reflection.

Thanks to a generous alumnus legacy gift, completion of the restoration is anticipated in the summer of 2024.



Collingwood College

Throughout the 2022-23 academic year, students, staff and alumni have been celebrating 50 years of Collingwood College.

After kickstarting with a London launch in September 2022, Collingwood has hosted a series of reunion dinners in Durham, covering all alumni cohorts. There was also a 50 Years of Collingwood formal dinner for current students and members of the University community; a Manchester drinks reception; and a special London event for former Presidents, Vice Presidents and Bar Stewards. The year culminates in a family-friendly Summer Garden Party for staff, alumni, and College friends in July.

Around 1,000 alumni will have attended one of these events, gathering to reminisce and recognise the deep and lasting sense of friendship and community at Collingwood. When returning to College, many alumni marvelled at its physical transformations, but noted its atmosphere and energy remains familiar.

When Collingwood was founded in 1972, it was the first Durham college to be fully mixed from the outset. It was also the first UK student residence to assign corridors to men and women together. Whilst considered controversial at the time, it created the familial atmosphere which persists to this day. In parallel, Collingwood has always enjoyed great, non-hierarchical, informal staff-student relationships, which are evident when observing daily life in College.

The College has created a commemorative *50 Years of Collingwood* brochure, which contains a potted history of Collingwood, memories and stories from staff and former students, as well as a snapshot of College life today, and future plans.



Professor Tammi Walker (left) with Professor Karen O'Brien

St Cuthbert's Society

Vice-Chancellor and Warden, Professor Karen O'Brien opened St Cuthbert's much anticipated new building, the Tom Percival Annexe. Together with Principal of St Cuthbert's Society, Professor Tammi Walker, the Annexe was opened in front of an audience of staff, students, SCR members and alumni.

Located within the College's Parson Field site, the Annexe provides a new flexible social space for up to 100 people. It was commissioned by Pro-Vice-Chancellor Jeremy Cook to enhance the wider student experience and can be used to host performances, meetings and social events. Its features include a state-of-the-art sound system and the College's Steinway grand piano. There is also new a gym and Junior Common Room area for students.

The building is named for Tom Percival who refounded St Cuthbert's. After serving in the Merchant Navy in World War 2 and spending time as a prisoner of war, Tom joined Durham to study History in 1945. He didn't join one of the Colleges however, and by Epiphany 1946, he was joined by a further six 'unattached' students.

After together deciding to refound St Cuthbert's (which had declined until there were no students by 1941), in Michaelmas 1946, Tom was elected President of a new committee of St Cuthbert's Society and in May 1947, University Council decided that the male unattached students would henceforth be known as 'St Cuthbert's Society'.



Students celebrating Lunar New Year

Stephenson College

Stephenson students have been volunteering in local schools sharing the culture and traditions of Lunar New Year through art, food, dance and music with local primary school pupils.

Organised in partnership with Durham County Council, Lunar New Year created a focal point which enabled this outreach project to promote intergenerational friendship and intercultural understanding within County Durham. It gave University students and school pupils an international experience in a local setting, and allowed Stephenson students to make a positive impact in their north-eastern home and feel truly integrated.

The project culminated in a fantastic Lunar New Year event in Durham Town Hall, welcoming the Year of the Rabbit alongside the local community. The school children loved learning from the College's East Asian students and performing a range of songs and dances to local community members, and the students enjoyed getting to know the local community through the promotion of their culture.

"Stephenson College was thrilled to be shortlisted for the Global Volunteering Award at the inaugural Durham Global Awards in March 2023 for this project. Our partnership with Durham County Council and Durham Global Schools Project is an important one, providing a key platform for promoting global citizenship in County Durham and enabling our students to share their culture as they find their feet in the UK. We are very proud of our students' dedication and commitment to the project and we look forward to working with more primary schools next academic year."

Katie Stobbs
(Vice-Principal, Stephenson College)



South College

South College

The end of the 2022/23 academic year marks the graduation of the first full cohort of South College alumni. Founded in 2020 and situated on Mount Oswald alongside other hill colleges, South is the University's 17th and newest College, with over 1,200 student members.

South College is a friendly, diverse and ambitious community of undergraduate and postgraduate students. It is fortunate to have inherited many of Durham's excellent collegiate traditions and to have added new traditions of its own. These include Oswald the College mascot - a carved wooden owl -

and College values of liberty, equality and global citizenship.

South's beautiful modern architecture is accompanied by superb social, sporting and cultural facilities, tremendous student accommodation, and large green spaces. Southies, as South students call themselves, are encouraged to participate in societies, teams and student representative groups throughout their studies. They have helped South College to write the first chapters of its history and to create a proud and distinctive identity as the newest College of Durham University.

We look forward to welcoming the first South alumni to our global community.

Hild Bede female firsts

A blue plaque is a permanent historical marker displayed in a public place to commemorate notable people, events, or buildings. Blue plaques across the UK were inspired by the original scheme in London, founded in 1866 by English Heritage.



Blue plaque at The College of St Hild and St Bede

Three female firsts for Durham

A new blue plaque commemorates the first three female graduates from the University in 1898 - Winifred Hindmarch, Mary Gibson, and Dora Heslop. The women were part of The College of St Hild, now part of the College of St Hild and St Bede. The plaque was unveiled in November of last year.

Two St Hild & St Bede students, Courtney Power and Laura Wildgoose, researched the history of the three graduates in the wider context of the women of St Hild's College.

In August 1858, the Durham Diocesan Female Training School was opened with only six students, the first female teacher

training college in North East England. The school became a training college in 1870, later becoming the College of St Hild in July 1896. Also in this year, the first chapel of St Hild's was founded.

In 1895, a supplementary charter of Durham University enabled women to obtain degrees for the first time; in 1898, Winifred Hindmarch, Mary Gibson and Dora Heslop became the first women to be awarded degrees from Durham.

Courtney and Laura created information displays on their findings which were launched at the unveiling on 19 November. The College of St Hild & St Bede is planning a further display and exhibition of artifacts associated with St Hild's College in 2023.



The installation of the plaque was instigated by the Women's Banner Group, formed in 2017 with a view to providing a space for women in the historic Durham Miners' Gala.

Their research highlighted many female firsts at Durham, including:

1881

Women admitted to Durham for the first time

1895

Ella Mary Bryant is the first female graduate to receive a degree, but her matriculation is not allowed

1899

First all-female college opened

1914

Kathleen Lambley becomes first female lecturer

1936

First female PhD awarded to Clara Enid Robinson

1971

Rosemary Cramp becomes first female Professor and first female Head of Department. Born in 1929, she is still an active emeritus professor in the Department of Archaeology

1973

Durham appoints first female Dean, Mary Holdsworth

1981

Dame Margot Fonteyn becomes first female Chancellor

2022

Professor Karen O'Brien appointed as the first female Vice-Chancellor and Warden

In 2018, the Women's Banner Group embarked on a mission when they discovered there were no blue plaques commemorating women in County Durham, but over 30 for men and buildings. Thanks to them, today there are now eight blue plaques remembering women, with more to come.

Welcome to our FOUR new College Heads...



Dr Sonia Virdee,
Principal of Grey College
and Associate Director, Strategic
Planning and Insight



Professor Gillian Hampden-Thompson,
Principal of Josephine Butler College and
Professor in the School of Education



Mr Nathan Sempala-Ntege OBE,
Principal of John Snow College
and Associate Pro-Vice-Chancellor Colleges
& Student Experience



Professor Jolyon Mitchell
Principal of St John's College

This year we had exciting news for four of our Colleges as it was announced that new College Heads have been appointed at Grey College, Josephine Butler College, John Snow College, and St John's College.

Dr Sonia Virdee is Principal of Grey College and Associate Director, Strategic Planning and Insight. Sonia is a Fellow of the Association of University Administrators, a founding member of the Higher Education Strategic Planners Association, and is active in sustainability and equality networks. For the last three years, she has been Director of Strategic Planning Integration at University College London. As Director of Strategic Planning and Change at the University of Essex, she facilitated strategic plan delivery which prioritised student experience alongside research excellence. Sonia holds a degree in Ecological Sciences from Edinburgh, as well as a PhD in Evolutionary Genetics and a PGCE from the University of East Anglia. She serves on the governing body of the Royal Veterinary College.

Professor Gillian Hampden-Thompson is the new Principal of Josephine Butler College and holds the post of Professor in the School of Education.

Gillian is an academic with 25 years of experience working in higher education, both in the UK and USA and holds three degrees in the field of Education, including a PhD in Educational Theory and Policy from the Pennsylvania State University, USA. She has spent her whole professional career working with young people and students as a secondary school teacher, a sports coach, a college governor, a university lecturer, and a researcher. Since 2014, Gillian has been at the University of Sussex serving as Head of the School of Education and Social Work.

Mr Nathan Sempala-Ntege OBE has taken up the roles of Principal of John Snow College and Associate Pro-Vice-Chancellor Colleges & Student Experience. Nathan comes to the University from the British Army where he was most recently Head of People Strategy at Army Headquarters. He was commissioned into the Royal Artillery after reading German and Russian at Exeter University, subsequently serving on training exercises and military operations in many locations, including North America

and the Middle East. Nathan was awarded an OBE in 2017 for his services to the British Army and a US Legion of Merit in 2020. Promoted to Brigadier in 2019, Nathan then served as Deputy Commanding General of the US Army's 82nd Airborne Division in Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Professor Jolyon Mitchell will join Durham as the new Principal of St John's College. Jolyon studied for his Master's at Cranmer Hall, St John's College, following a degree from Selwyn College, Cambridge, later going on to the University of Edinburgh to study for his PhD. Having trained at Cranmer Hall, he is ordained in the Scottish Episcopal Church and is a former President of the National Association for Theology and Religious Studies in the UK. He is also a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts (FRSA) and a life member of Clare Hall, University of Cambridge. Professor Mitchell's research and teaching focuses on religion, violence and peacebuilding with particular reference to the arts. He is a former producer and journalist with the BBC World Service, and has written and published extensively in his areas of expertise.

“Each (new College Head) brings a wealth of experience and leadership skills which will contribute to the continuous improvement of our scholarly and pastoral communities.”

Jeremy Cook,
Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Colleges and Student Experience



Lifelong learning

Graduate with his children

Are you looking for your next challenge? Are you considering options for further study, retraining or career advancement?

We've got a wide range of postgraduate study options, whether you're looking to extend your learning in a familiar subject area, pursue a new passion or push yourself in a completely new direction.

Even better, as a valued member of our alumni community, you can take advantage of our alumni scholarship, providing a contribution towards tuition fees for all taught Master's Programmes offered by Durham, across all faculties.

With so many options available, take your first step on the next stage of your extraordinary journey.

Some most popular departments and programmes... [\(click title to discover more\)](#)

MSc Energy Engineering Management

Play a pivotal role in the Net-Zero energy revolution.

School of Education

Our Masters programmes offer a number of different pathways, giving you the option of a range of career opportunities.

Department of Engineering

Take advantage of our rich research background, with our wide range of postgraduate options.

English Studies

Study and research across the spectrum of English Studies with support from world-leading scholars and an excellent research environment.

Master of Data Science

Data is playing an increasingly significant role, and impacting all areas of our lives - study with us to have real world impact.

School of Modern Languages and Cultures

Join a lively, welcoming and supportive student community, with postgraduates working on a vast range of topics and participating in a variety of school and University activities.

School of Government and International Affairs (SGIA)

As a research-intensive School, we ensure that teaching and scholarly enquiry go hand in hand with our postgraduate offer.

Department of Sociology

We offer postgraduate taught masters programmes in Sociology, Criminology, Social Work and Social Research Methods.

TESOL and Applied Linguistics

The MA in TESOL and Applied Linguistics programme offers excellent opportunities for those starting out in the field, and both inexperienced and experienced language teachers.

Alumni Fee Scholarship

If you are considering options for further study, retraining, and career advancement, we can help.

We are keen to support you with the Durham University Alumni Fee Scholarship. This Scholarship will contribute part of the cost of tuition fees.

15% fee discount is available for MSc Economics and MSc Finance (all routes) and 10% fee discount for all other postgraduate programmes.

(Available for programmes commencing in 2023-24)

[Click here for more information](#)

Ogden Centre celebrates 20 years!

Our Ogden Centre for Fundamental Physics has celebrated its 20th anniversary.

Since opening in 2002, the Centre has built an international reputation for its research into the nature, contents, and the origins of the Universe.

It is home to our Institute for Computational Cosmology and Institute for Particle Physics Phenomenology, and houses 160 researchers from over 20 countries around the world.

The research from the centre is helping to answer questions about the nature of ordinary and dark matter, dark energy, and the formation of galaxies like our Milky Way, while challenging our understanding of the laws of physics.

On large scales, this has involved creating the most realistic simulations of the growth of cosmic structure and, on small scales, providing the theory and analysis behind the experiments that led to the discovery of the Higgs boson. Investigating the formation of the Moon, as a stepping stone towards understanding the origin of life, is another strand of their research.

To mark the anniversary, Nobel Prize laureate Professor Jim Peebles from Princeton University delivered the keynote lecture at a celebratory symposium held in late November, which also explored the five "Physics Questions" posed by Sir Peter Ogden when the Ogden Centre was created. These questions concern the nature of dark matter, dark energy and neutrinos, tests of General Relativity and the origin of life in the Universe.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Karen O'Brien and Ogden Centre supporter Damon de Laszlo unveiled the sculpture 'Journey', by John Robinson, as an anniversary present to the Centre. The sculpture was donated by Damon and Robert Heffner III.

"We would like to say thank you to our fantastic alumni who have contributed to the milestone of celebrating 20 years of the Ogden Centre, including Sir Peter Ogden, whose generous gifts have made our unique facilities possible. The anniversary was an excellent opportunity both to celebrate the achievements of the Centre so far, but also look to the future and what we hope to achieve in the coming years and beyond."

Ogden Professor of Fundamental Physics, Carlos Frenk



The new Ogden Centre during Lumiere

Pupils from Woodham Academy in County Durham, representing 152 North East of England Ogden Trust partnership schools, also took part in a day of activities including the launch of a collaborative artwork by digital artist Petra Szemán.

The Trust was set up by Durham Physics alumnus and entrepreneur, Sir Peter Ogden, and its generous donations have helped fund the development and growth of the Ogden Centre.

At the anniversary, we also remembered Professors Mike Pennington and James Sterling who, together with Emeritus Professor Alan Martin and Ogden Professor Carlos Frenk, created the Ogden Centre.

During the event, Sir Peter Ogden and Professor Carlos Frenk spoke about the biggest successes of the Ogden Centre, Sir Peter's passion for enabling more young people to pursue a career in physics, and what the future might hold for the Ogden Centre.

The sculpture, 'Journey', by John Robinson, was unveiled as part of the Ogden at 20 celebrations by Vice-Chancellor Professor Karen O'Brien (centre). The sculpture was donated by Ogden Centre supporter Damon de Laszlo and Robert Heffner III.



For a **Video Interview** between Sir Peter Ogden and Professor Carlos Frenk, symposium videos and further information on legacies, donations and the Ogden Centre, please visit durham.ac.uk/ogdenat20

Visiting our alumni community in Asia



When our Vice-Chancellor and Warden, Professor Karen O'Brien, joined us back in January 2022, she planned to start travelling as soon as possible to visit our alumni and friends' communities all over the world.

As part of that commitment, she joined Professor Claire O'Malley, our Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Global) and several colleagues from the Alumni and Supporters Engagement team earlier this month for receptions with the alumni communities in Singapore and Tokyo.

The trip began in Kuala Lumpur, where 42 of our alumni and supporters were welcomed by Professor Claire O'Malley and Dr Katie Harland-Edminson (Director of Philanthropy and Operations). Professor O'Brien joined by video link and together they shared some of highlights of the last year and some insight into the vision for Durham over the next few years, including plans to support our growing alumni network in Malaysia.

Amongst the inspirational alumni on that evening was Dharnesha Inbah Rajah (Economics & Politics, Josephine Butler College, 2012-15). Dharnesha works as an early career researcher for the Lancet Commission on Breast Cancer. Her ultimate aim is to support improvements into breast cancer management and access to personalised treatment for women in Malaysia.

The second reception was held at The Villa at Singapore's Botanical Gardens, where alumni and friends were welcomed by the Vice-Chancellor. Professor O'Brien's address was followed by a lecture from Professor Petra Minnerop, the Academic Lead of Durham University for UNFCCC engagement and climate change. Professor Minnerop provided an update on the current stage of the Global Stocktake (GST) of the Paris Agreement and expectations of COP27 and COP28 for this process, as well as on exciting collaborations in Singapore and the new Durham University Centre for Sustainable Development Law and Policy, of which she is a founding member.

The final evening reception was held at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Tokyo, where alumni guests joined the Vice-Chancellor, whose address gave an update on Durham news and her vision for the future before formally awarding alumnus Michael Shearer OBE with his 2022 Dunelmensis Award.

After a period when overseas travel was restricted, this trip to celebrate our community in three beautiful capital cities not only reinforced that Durham really does inspire the extraordinary, but also that our alumni continue to share their extraordinary inspiration throughout their individual journeys.

Behind the scenes...

Behind every successful trip there is months of hard work to make it happen. Two colleagues from our Alumni and Supporter Engagement team, Louise Strong (Campaign Events Manager) and Mellissa Abdu (Volunteering Engagement Manager) shared some insights about how they planned and delivered the trip.

Q: How did you find the experience of engaging with alumni within different environments and from a number of different cultures?

Louise - 'I have delivered events all over the world. One thing you can be sure of is that when you are finally able to lift your head, the planning is complete and all that's left is the delivery, you are going to meet a group of really interesting people, with fun stories to tell of their Durham days as well as fascinating stories of their careers and current roles. Massively enjoyable and very much the best part of the job!'

Mellissa - 'I absolutely love it. I have always been fascinated by different cultures and relish any opportunity to learn more. Alumni are always very happy and grateful to see us and provide such a warm and friendly welcome. I have been fortunate enough to experience things that I wouldn't have had access to if it was not for this job. It's such a rewarding feeling when you finally get the opportunity to meet alumni, especially those you have been in contact with for many years, in-person.'

Q: What was the most challenging aspect of the experience for you - and why?

Louise - 'This was the first time I had planned and delivered events in Asia. The language barrier in Tokyo could have been an issue but luckily, with the superb team at the Mandarin Oriental, we delivered a great event. That and the lack of sleep when travelling on long haul flights and trips!'

Mellissa - 'We visited three countries in ten days, as well as keeping on top of things in Durham, with an eight hour time difference. However, the experience and outcomes from the trip far outweighed any tiredness!'

Q: What was the most rewarding experience of the trip - and why?

Louise - 'Gathering alumni to meet our Vice-Chancellor, finding volunteers to help with our work, and securing donations to help fund scholarships, research and buildings. Always very rewarding.'

Mellissa - 'Feeling the energy and excitement at events and being asked when the next one is! Being kept busy by alumni offering their time, knowledge, and networks to support Durham University. Alumni are fantastic ambassadors for the University and a great and willing resource. We brought back some great testimonials from alumni to promote Durham. In addition to helping us raise our global profile, alumni can really enrich the student experience and support employability.'

Alumni reception in Singapore



Alumni reception in Kuala Lumpur



Michael Shearer OBE receiving his Dunelmensis Award from the Vice-Chancellor

Silicon Valley and the Big Apple; USA 2023



Professor Karen O'Brien continues her mission to engage with alumni and supporter communities worldwide and she embarked on a journey to the United States in April this year, visiting alumni, friends, and colleagues in San Francisco, Seattle, and New York.

The trip commenced on the vibrant West Coast, home to global high-tech corporations and thriving technology start-ups. Two informal evening receptions were held at prestigious locations: The City Club in San Francisco and the Space Needle in Seattle. These events provided the perfect opportunity for reconnecting with old friends and making new acquaintances. Accompanied by senior University colleagues, Professor O'Brien began each evening with an update on recent initiatives and shared insights on Durham's forward strategy. She also introduced Glen Whitehead, Director of Development and Alumni Engagement, who joined us in February.

During the receptions, Professor Gordon Love, the former Head of the Computer Science Department, discussed the future

of computer science at Durham. Professor Love was Head of Department for five years, during which time the department has tripled in size – in the number of staff, in degree programmes, in the number of research groups, and, of course, the number of students. This growth has been supported by an external advisory board containing quite a number of influential alumni who have helped and advised along the way.

At Durham we pride ourselves on our research work having global impact, and computer science is no exception;

"Just to mention a couple of research highlights: firstly, we have a big team working on Computer Vision related to security and I'm really pleased to say that work done by Durham scientists is now in use at many international airports spanning five continents. And secondly, in theoretical computer science we are working on an application whose algorithm can match up a patient with a potential kidney donor"

Professor Gordon Love

Alongside the excellence in teaching within computer science, there are two areas which the University can be particularly proud over the last few years. Firstly, the University focuses on nurturing student

and alumni entrepreneurial skills alongside their academic pursuits through the Hazan Venture Lab, named after alumnus Jonathan Hazan. The Venture Lab delivers a number of programmes, such as *Game Changer* which is aligned with the UN sustainable development goals and the Venture School which is a talent-led accelerator. A key element of the latter programme involves visiting the West Coast to meet founders, alumni, and entrepreneurs, which provides students with invaluable inspiration.

Secondly, is the increase in the ratio of female students in computer science. We aim to equip young women with the necessary skills, confidence, and ambition to excel in the field. We now have several cohorts of the Anne Marie Imafidon Scholarship as ambassadors for Women in Tech – this was all made possible by alumni support.

The future for the department is bright with further growth in numbers, plans to support even more students from different backgrounds and embracing the challenge of the AI revolution. Research and teaching continue to be pivotal, and the whole Durham experience continues to be enhanced by the invaluable contribution from our alumni community.

The two West Coast receptions provided great opportunities for reminiscing, sharing ideas and looking to the future. Entertaining Durham tales and inspiring journeys were shared by those connected by their experiences of the University.

Nigel Ellis (Computing and Computer Science, University College, 1988-94) shared some reflections of his experiences.

"Studying Computer Science led to an opportunity at Microsoft in Seattle where I worked for 22 years on Microsoft Access, SQL Server, and the first generations of Azure. My last role was leading engineering for Azure SQL Database as a Distinguished Engineer. After Microsoft I spent seven years at a small start-up called Coda, and for the past year, I've been working at Stripe, a global payments company."

I am a keen supporter of Computer Science scholarships because I felt that I just wanted to give something back. When I went to Durham my family had very little money and I struggled financially during that time. I wanted to help others to make the most of their Durham experience. This is why I also support the Castle Hardship fund. I like to keep in touch with the alumni community because I find it both interesting and useful to know what's going on in Durham, and about latest developments in the University, department and my college, (Castle)."

Nigel Ellis

We also caught up with Dr Rashmi Misra (Computing, St Mary's College, 1989-92) at the reception in Seattle. Rashmi's current role is General Manager AI and Emerging Technologies at Microsoft, where she has been for five years in related positions. A keen advocate of the Durham community, Rashmi has been on the Computer Science Advisory Board since its inception in 2015 and actively supports Women in STEM/PhD Studentships.

"Whilst burning the midnight oil on my final year dissertation on a lisp theorem prover, I certainly never expected that 30 years later, I'd be leading business development in AI for Microsoft, forging arguably the most pivotal partnerships that are changing the course of AI, our industry, and ushering in profound changes in the way humans use knowledge, data and insight to deliver a better future for us all!" **Rashmi Misra**

And on to New York

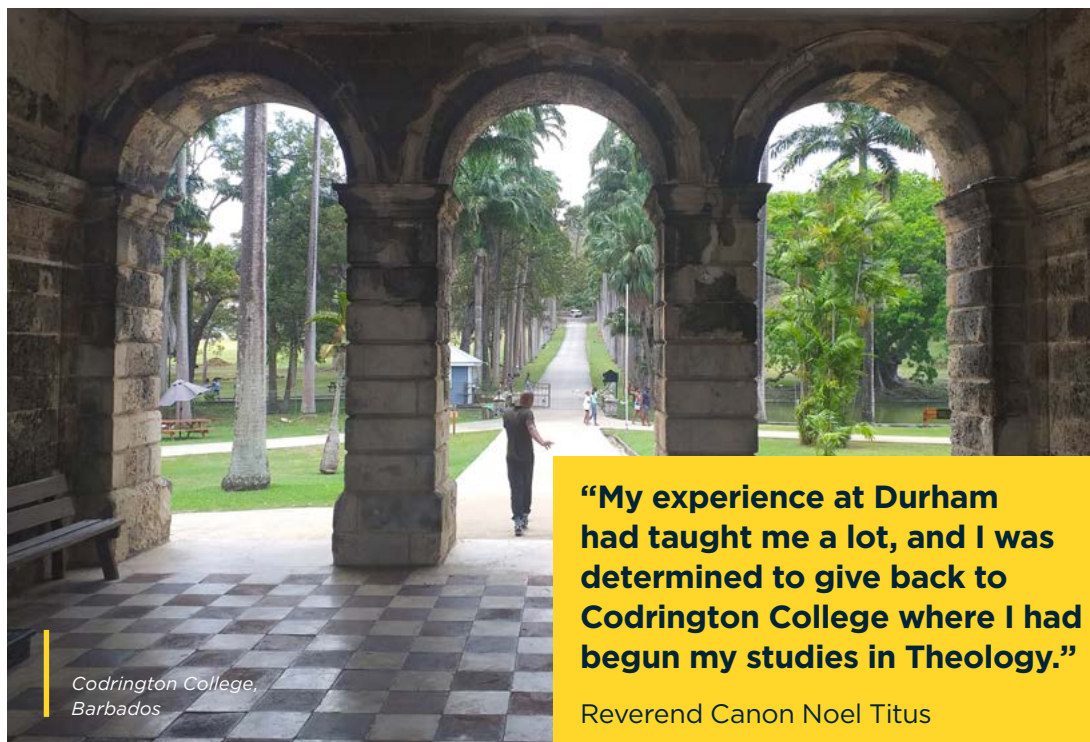
The final reception on the trip was an evening reception at the Yale Club in New York, where Professor O'Brien was joined by our Campaign Chair, Guy Wheldon, who shared his thoughts on our Campaign principles with the alumni and supporter audience and spoke warmly of his time at Durham.

The evening closed with a special treat – Durham student a cappella group, Northern Lights gave a fabulous vocal performance on the eve of competing in the International Finals of the ICCA (International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella), held in New York on the following day.

My Durham story



Reverend Noel Titus
(Theology, St Chad's College,
1961 - 63)



Codrington College,
Barbados

“My experience at Durham had taught me a lot, and I was determined to give back to Codrington College where I had begun my studies in Theology.”

Reverend Canon Noel Titus

As our University approaches its bicentennial anniversary, we are immensely proud of our alumni community and their outstanding achievements, both within their years at Durham and beyond. Our people have shaped our history and will always remain part of the fabric of the University.

One such alumnus is Reverend Canon Noel Titus, who came to Durham from the Caribbean to study over sixty years ago.

Codrington College is an Anglican theological college in St. John, Barbados, now affiliated with the University of the West Indies at Cave Hill. It is one of the oldest Anglican theological colleges in the Americas. It was affiliated to the University of Durham from 1875 to 1965.

1957 was an interesting year for me: that was the year of the World Scout Jamboree held at Sutton Coldfield in Warwickshire. Because of available travel times, by steam liner, the Trinidad and Tobago contingent arrived early in England. En route to the UK, the ship called at Barbados, and a short trip took us to Codrington College. As the contingent arrived and toured various parts of England, we came to Durham. I will never forget how awestruck I was at the sight of the Cathedral and its surroundings. Two years later, in 1959, I entered Codrington College, and two after that Durham University to complete the second and third years of the BA Theology. My preparation for that programme was severely limited (no member of the Mirfield fathers was a graduate in Theology) but native ability with languages helped me considerably with Greek and Hebrew.

My impression of Durham, apart from its sheer physical beauty, was formed in part by my early experiences. Two professors invited all freshmen to receptions at their homes. The hospitality thus displayed enabled persons like myself to meet others who were reading Theology, as well as persons in other disciplines. I felt at home; for me it was both a surprise and an example. As far as I was able, I have sought to make hospitality an important part of my ministry. I was also impressed with the department's care for its students, having profited from tutors in both my first and second years. My tutors encouraged my interest in postgraduate studies when I had no prospect of teaching at Codrington College. However, the enthusiasm and discipline never left me.

During my two years at Durham, I was impressed with the vitality of the University. I well remember public lectures on the Anglican/Methodist Unity Report, Honest to God, the New English Bible, and other subjects. I also remember the various Societies: I.V.F., S.C.M., and the Photographic Society, in the last two of which I was a member.

Resources at the Codrington College were extremely limited when I joined the staff in 1972, leading me to threaten to read every book in the library. I did not succeed. On becoming Principal in 1983, I encouraged staff to build up acquisitions in their own area of specialisation; and they did. I am grateful to them for their contribution to the continuing growth of the institution.

My experience at Durham had taught me the importance of research for the BA programme. It is with that in mind that I promoted postgraduate studies at the

College for the MPhil and MA, and, before I retired, for the PhD. With this activity, the College acquired Journals in microform, particularly historical material on the Churches in the West Indies. Together with material at the Public Library, the Department of Archives, the Museum and Historical Society, and the University of the West Indies, the base for West Indian Church History is sound. My own writing has, I hope, contributed as well; before retirement, I was named Professor of Church History in 2003.

The College has contributed to the preparation of candidates for the ordained ministry, some of whom have made great contributions to the leadership of the Churches. It has accommodated a range of non-Roman personnel, and at post-graduate level at least, one Roman Catholic. In so doing, it has fulfilled one aspect of the testator's desire. The medical aspect has been overtaken by the formation of the Medical Faculty of the University of the West Indies. However, the exposure of the clergy and others to medical issues in Pastoral studies was started and is ongoing.

Codrington College is ideal for study. Looking out to the sea on the north-east, it offers great relaxation. The main road on the southern border of the compound is so distant that one can spend an entire day without hearing a vehicle. The topography, with many trees and a small lake, is truly idyllic. Yet all of this only serves to remind us of the work that still needs to be done. In the current era, reflecting on the slave trade and slavery, we are always reminded that the magnificent edifices on this site were built by the labour of enslaved persons. The Church of England cannot withdraw from its responsibility in this regard. The first person of colour became Principal in 1971; the fourth is now in office – since 1745; and the struggle continues to find the resources necessary to meet changing demands in our world.

“Music was my great love, so I patronised programmes of the Durham Light Opera, the Choral Society, and successfully auditioned for the University Chapel Choir in which I served during both years. That experience was challenging, but I never regretted it.”

Reverend Canon Noel Titus

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Does loving your country hinder international collaboration?

Having a positive attitude towards your home country is more likely to stop you from collaborating internationally, according to new research undertaken by Professor of Experimental Economics Jason Shachat, alongside colleagues from Chapman University, USA, and Wuhan University, China.

The study used the Prisoner's Dilemma – a popular game scenario used in game theory to determine why two rational people may not cooperate, even if it is in their best interests to do so – on an international scale. Using a dataset of 321 participants from the United States and 306 from China, participants took part in the game, and were only informed whether or not their counterpart was someone from their own country, or someone from the other country.

Findings using game theory

The study discovered that having a less positive attitude to your country of origin means you're more likely to engage in international collaborations and that women were more likely to collaborate than their male counterparts – sparking calls for greater inclusion of women in international affairs roles.

After participating in the Prisoner's Dilemma, the researchers asked participants to complete two further tasks, assess the likelihood of whether their counterpart would choose to cooperate, and fill out

a survey that asked questions on their attitudes towards their home country, their overseas partner's country and their own personal characteristics.

Not only did the research find that a high opinion of a participant's home country made them more likely to not cooperate internationally, and that women were more likely to cooperate internationally than men, but it also highlighted that American participants in general were slightly more likely to internationally cooperate than their Chinese counterparts.

Professor Shachat says: *"As the two largest economies in the world, the combined GDP of the United States and China comprises 37% of the world's GDP, and bilateral trade between the two countries accounts for more than 10% of total international trade. Collaboration between the two countries has a huge effect on the world, and can dramatically benefit both the organisations involved, and also society as a whole."*

However, the researchers also found that American participants overestimated the likelihood of Chinese participants' cooperation, whereas Chinese participants correctly estimated the cooperation likelihood of American participants, suggesting greater understanding between countries is needed.

Professor Shachat says, *"Technological advances, globalisation, and increasing worldwide prosperity all contribute to growing international interactions and*

joint participation in projects. The success of these relies upon individuals' abilities to engage cooperatively without formal institutional enforcements.

"With China's unique culture and recent ascension to the world's second-largest economy and the United States' long-standing hegemony, there will be an ever-growing incidence of such multi-person efforts between individuals from these two cultures."

What a second study revealed

Having carried out the initial study in December 2020, the subsequent study carried out in March 2022 identified that, in the second wave of the research game, Chinese participants had increasingly negative opinions towards the American ones in comparison to the first wave, likely reflecting geopolitical events unfolding at the time of the research. Not only does the study illustrate the factors that can affect international cooperation, especially between China and the United States, it also provides guidance for overcoming such barriers.

The researchers suggest policy initiatives that can help overcome these barriers to cross-collaboration on an international scale, with one such initiative being to increase the number of women who work on international projects.

Group of colleagues working together



Celebrating our female entrepreneurs

Dame Alison Rose



In 2019, alumna Dame Alison Rose (History, St Aidan's College, 1988-91; Honorary Doctorate, 2021) published her report, the Rose Review, which reviewed female entrepreneurship in the UK. The report highlighted the disparity that exists between female and male entrepreneurs, in that for every 10 male UK entrepreneurs, there are fewer than five female. There is unrealised potential for the UK economy because, if the UK achieved the same average share of women entrepreneurs as best-in-class peer countries, this would add £200 billion of new value to the UK economy. From her findings and recommendations, Alison hoped the report would assist in breaking down barriers for our future female entrepreneurs.

In February this year, Alison published a progress report following the Rose Review. Despite the immense economic uncertainty within the UK, there were some positive developments. Over 150,000 new all-women

led companies were founded in 2022, which is more than ever before, and 20.5% of new incorporations last year were all-female led, rising from 16% in 2018.

Another key finding, which highlights the positive strides young women are making in business, is that the biggest leap was among 16-25-year-old female founders, which rose by almost a quarter in 2022.

At Durham, entrepreneurship ambition is prevalent with so many of our students and alumni. In celebration of the above statistic, we would like to take the opportunity to focus on some inspirational Durham female entrepreneurs and their exciting business ventures. It is tremendous to see these innovative female entrepreneurs emerging from our programmes and inspiring others to follow in their footsteps. This is starting to gain traction, with seven of the 12 Blueprint Startup Challenge finalists from the past two years having females in their founding teams.



Dr Natasha Boulding (PhD Chemistry, St Mary's College, 2019)

Dr Natasha Boulding is the co-founder and CEO of Low Carbon Materials (LCM), an award-winning speciality materials company focusing on construction material alternatives. LCM's products include a carbon negative lightweight material designed to be used in concrete.

Natasha is quickly being recognised for her entrepreneurial leadership with a number of awards and accolades under her belt already. Since LCM won Durham's Blueprint Startup Challenge and Bright SCidea Challenge in 2019, she has spoken at COP26 on a panel of next-generation scientists, won Innovate UK's Women in Innovation Award, was one of nine companies chosen globally for Holcim Accelerator 2022, and was a finalist in the prestigious Earthshot Prize 2022 (read more on page 18).

If all that wasn't enough, Natasha was named on the Forbes 30 under 30 list for 2023 – a monumental milestone in her career.

Natasha has spoken fondly of her time at Durham saying that 'Durham University has a great reputation for developing highly skilled graduates with enquiring minds'.



Yuru Guo (right) with co-founder, Frankie Docker

Yuru Guo (MSc Management (Entrepreneurship), Trevelyan College, 2022)

Yuru Guo is the Co-Founder of Hey! Food is Ready, an online marketplace for cooks to sell their culturally inspired dishes at events across the UK. The business is more than just an event catering service, it aims to promote diversity through food and showcase food cultures from minority ethnic groups. The social mission is at the heart of Hey! Food is Ready, giving opportunities to refugees, immigrants, stay-at-home parents, and retirees to share their native cuisine and generate a meaningful income.

Since being founded, Hey! Food is Ready has gone from strength to strength and has already catered for some big organisations such as Google, Barclays and the Department for International Trade. It was also crowned winner of Durham's Blueprint Startup Challenge for 2022.

Yuru Guo has been awarded a Young Innovator Award by Innovate UK for 2021/22 and is focusing on growing and expanding her business.



Saffron Gilbert-Kaluba (Law, Van Mildert College, 2021)

Saffron is the Co-Founder and CEO of The Corporate Law Journal, one of the first digital newspapers which specifically looks at the political, technological, financial and environmental regulatory shifts in the changing world of business and their subsequent influence on international deals.

With a membership tally of over 165,000 people and having worked with over 100 organisations, The Corporate Law Journal is fast becoming an indispensable news outlet for aspiring and practising lawyers. Their content has included exclusive interviews with the Norwegian Ambassador and Deutsche Bank Managing Director.

Saffron truly is a rising star in her field having been invited to speak at Reuters Legal Leaders USA in New York (May 2022) and Reuters Legal Leaders Europe in London (November 2022) with over 40 of the world's top General Counsel and Chief Legal Officers to an audience of 200+ legal professionals. On top of these high-profile appearances, Saffron was named in the Forbes 30 under 30 list for 2023, which is sure to propel her and her business towards continued success.

Hazan Venture Lab

– dedicated support for entrepreneurship

Back in 2019, Durham University embarked on a mission to deliver an elite-level student and graduate enterprise service with a focus on purpose-driven innovation. This is when the 'Venture Lab' brand was born.

Hazan Venture Lab opened in September 2021 - thanks to a generous donation from alumnus, Jonathan Hazan, we now have a dedicated space for entrepreneurship on campus. Venture Lab runs a variety of initiatives and programmes designed to help students and alumni explore their business ideas and provide sector-leading support to assist with the development of these ventures. The core offering includes start-up coaching sessions, workshop programmes, grants, networking sessions, and start-up Visa endorsement. Students and alumni have leapt at the opportunity to work with the Venture Lab, as seen by the 127% increase in the number of start-ups created and the £15.1 million raised by those start-ups accessing Venture Lab support.

With the support of the Venture Lab, students and alumni are creating innovative and ambitious start-ups that positively impact the world. They have developed innovative concepts aiming to tackle some of the world's biggest problems, such as plastic pollution, hunger caused by climate change, health and wellbeing, and sustainable consumption.

Almost 1,000 students participated in the Venture Lab activity in the last academic year, and we supported the creation of more start-ups than ever before.

Below is a selection of inspirational founders who have received Venture Lab support for their start-ups and are currently making their mark in their respective industries.



Luke Young and Rory Hornby of Alora

Alora was built to solve world hunger and is evolving to create the sustainable future of food. It achieves this by creating crops that can grow in high salt conditions, such as salt soils in the Mekong Delta or in coastal saltwater on their floating ocean farms.

Luke and Rory started their journey while they were studying at Durham, creating Alora to solve all the sustainability restrictions seen in traditional agriculture.

They have developed truly sustainable farming systems that use no freshwater, no chemical fertilisers, and less land. To achieve this, Alora modifies plant callus tissue using a particle bombardment system to activate a plant's salt tolerance mechanism, enabling them to grow floating on our oceans or in high salt soils.

- External finance raised to date: > £2 million
- Key achievements: Graduated from IndieBio Accelerator, featured in Forbes and Wired, first full-scale pilot launched in Singapore (August 2022), Food Planet Prize Runner Up 2021, and Future Food Asia Finalist 2020, Highly Commended Award at Durham University's Blueprint Startup Challenge 2019

"I've had first-hand experience of the dedication of the Venture Lab team to support students towards solving the world's greatest problems. Venture Lab supported Alora in our earliest days as we set out to solve world hunger, now we are a multi-million dollar company at the frontier of science with a network that spans the globe." - Luke Young



Mark Wong of IMPOSSIBREW

IMPOSSIBREW has a mission to create the world's most complete alternative to alcohol, that offers an experience beyond taste. It brews top quality, enhanced non-alcoholic beers developed for relaxation to offer a real alternative for those who don't want to drink alcohol, but still want to unwind with a pint.

Mark developed IMPOSSIBREW after developing a health condition and being advised not to drink alcohol. After finding none of the available alcohol alternatives satisfactory, he enlisted the support of Dr Paul Chazot, a world-leading biosciences professor at Durham University, to develop a non-alcoholic beer using functional herbs known for their various beneficial effects, including relaxation, and anxiety and stress relief. Following a very impressive pitch by Mark on BBC's Dragon's Den, sales have grown considerably over the past year. As more people seek healthier alternatives to alcohol, the market for non-alcoholic beer is expected to grow considerably. Future plans for IMPOSSIBREW include additional beer styles and draught across the UK, and expansion into international markets.

- External finance raised to date: > £1 million
- Key achievements: hailed as 'the most credible 24 year old' to appear on BBC's Dragon's Den, first and only non-alcoholic beer to be awarded the Gold Medal at London Beer Competition 2022, Entrepreneurial Impact Award at Blueprint Startup Challenge 2021

"Venture Lab has provided great support for IMPOSSIBREW since the beginning, from validating the idea to growing the business. Being part of the entrepreneurial community at Durham has been fantastic."

- Mark Wong



Will Smith and Peter Kirby of Tred

Tred is a consumer fintech whose mission is to make money work for people and the planet. It has created and launched the UK's first green debit card that lets you track and offset your carbon footprint as you spend, and plants trees with profits.

Tred makes tracking and understanding your carbon footprint effortless by calculating it automatically from your spending, then showing you a breakdown of what activities are driving your carbon footprint. Customers can also opt to offset their carbon footprint easily within the Tred app. Tred offers customers tips to reduce their carbon footprint, using data on their spending to help drive smart recommendations of simple switches to lower carbon alternatives. Finally, it devotes 10% of revenue from transactions made on the Tred debit card to tree planting, so customers help tackle climate change as they spend, without having to do anything differently.

- External finance raised to date: > £3 million
- Key achievements: Accepted onto Tech Nation's Net Zero 2.0 accelerator, Co-founder Will Smith selected for 'Forbes 30 under 30', commercial deal secured with Mastercard, pilot launched in 2022

"Changing the world doesn't happen overnight. It takes a lot of hard work, dedication and support. Venture Lab provides incredible support to ambitious graduates who want to make a difference."

- Will Smith

My Durham story

Jakobi Bonner

(Management Studies,
Ustinov College, 2020-22)



In my first few weeks in Durham, I thought there was no way I would survive. I was surrounded by unfamiliar accents, and I thought people were joking with me when they said I had to walk a mile to the nearest store!

Needless to say, I did survive – and here I am, stronger than ever!

I moved to Durham during Covid-19. I felt out of place – and was homesick from the start. But as I continued to work throughout the year and meet others when we were finally allowed to, I met lots of people from literally all over the world. They all had similar goals, aspirations, and struggles. My connections gave me perspective and I began to appreciate just how globally connected a small town like Durham really is. I felt inspired to encourage and support others facing similar challenges.

My career since leaving Durham has been primarily as a professional basketball player. I have been under contract to play in London, Montenegro and now Albania, and I have started my own basketball camp in America to operate in the off-season. Inevitably, I have had injuries and often feel sore after games, but the sport has repaid

me in so many ways. Basketball really is part of my identity and has helped to show me who I am as a person. It has taken me to many wonderful places, taught me so much, and most importantly, connected me with a wide-ranging and very supportive network.

Jakobi playing basketball



Jakobi playing basketball



Although I still love basketball, I also have other passions to pursue. I am keen to continue my learning and expand my skills further. The next phase in my journey is to explore a different career path within financial technology – an industry that is growing and evolving rapidly, and I'm excited to play my part in it.

But even with this in mind, one thing remains certain about who I am as a person and what I want to do above all, and that is to travel. Over the last few years, I have travelled extensively and my drive to inspire others through my own journey has resulted in my work being published as a travel writer – I hope to continue to write for larger travel publications as I see different parts of the world.

In short, after leaving the United States to study for my master's in a town that was relatively unfamiliar, I quickly realised that what we have in common is more important than any physical or cultural differences and I will take this learning wherever I travel. I am ready for what the future holds, whether that be expanding my basketball brand, travel writing, or working in an evolving industry, I am ready for it all.

My time at Durham was an invaluable part of my journey. My advice to any new student would be to really sit down and think about *why* you want to study at Durham and what you want to get out of it. Your weeks, months, and hours will then become more purposeful and will lead you in a clearer direction.

Staying connected with people you meet at Durham is so important because working together is far more empowering than working alone. The alumni network has been so generous to me in many ways. I have shared zoom calls with fellow alumni where I have benefited from others' advice and experience and bouncing ideas about has been great too. When I'm on my travels, I meet and make friends with Durham alumni in the most unexpected places.

Most importantly, stay connected to Durham. Through the community, I have shared so many stories about specific places on campus that took place over different periods of time. Durham connects us all.

[Click here to visit The Hub for more stories](#)

Heritage, historic urban infrastructure, disasters and sustainable development

Professor Robin Coningham in support of Series 4 of the Durham Global Lecture Series

Professor Robin Coningham is UNESCO's Chair on Archaeological Ethics and Practice in Cultural Heritage, the Chair of Early Medieval Archaeology and is Associate Director (World Heritage) in Durham's Institute of Mediaeval and Early Modern Studies (IMEMS) and Co-Director of Durham's MA International Cultural Heritage Management programme. Here, Robin discusses the role of archaeology in urban infrastructure, climate change, disaster and risk, which formed a recent talk as part of Durham's Global Lecture Series.

At Durham, we have been working internationally with partners to develop methods and best practice for the protection of heritage in response to, and in anticipation of, humanitarian crises. Working with UNESCO, government, and NGO partners in Nepal, we have undertaken assessments of monuments damaged during the 2015 Gorkha Earthquake and its aftermath, and co-developed novel methodologies for first responders to record, salvage and protect heritage within a post-disaster context.

These approaches have been translated to Northern Sri Lanka and implemented for the conflict damaged heritage of Jaffna Fort with the Central Cultural Fund of Sri Lanka and the University of Jaffna. More recently, this approach has been shared with partners in the Iraqi city of Mosul.

Lessons from the past for the future

During these evaluations, it became clear that archaeology was not a passive tool for recording the past but offered relevance to the development of policy and rehabilitation of historic urban infrastructure and monuments within the present, and disaster preparedness in the future.

From science-based archaeological evaluations within the Kathmandu Valley, the identification of indigenous technologies, such as flexible mud mortars and engineered soil fills within foundations, as well as a damp course formed from copper sheets, pointed towards forgotten adaptations that had been developed to mitigate local threats of earthquakes and monsoon rains.

Rather than the imposition of untested modern materials and hybrid interventions, information from these re-discovered indigenous technologies was reintroduced by engineers, architects and craftspeople during the reconstruction of the medieval Kasthamandap – Kathmandu's eponymous monument.

From short-term shocks to long-term threats

These indigenous technological adaptations are not just relevant to short-term shocks, such as earthquakes, but also long-term and accelerating climatic threats. Archaeologists have the unique ability to review the process of environmental change and resilience from much deeper timescales, as well as the responses and adaptations of communities to these challenges.

It has been acknowledged, within the IPCC, UNESCO and ICOMOS International Co-Sponsored Meeting on Culture, Heritage and Climate Change (ICSM CHC), that archaeology can aid future policy and planning by identifying successful past adaptations that can be integrated with interdisciplinary scientific methods alongside local communities to aid the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

A key example of this is the supply of water within the hinterland of the city of Anuradhapura in Medieval Sri Lanka, where mega-infrastructure of large

artificially-created reservoirs sustained large populations. However, in the eleventh century CE, the elaborate and complex hydraulic system created could not cope with social and political developments that coincided with changes within Monsoon patterns. Increased droughts and cyclonic storms, combined with reduced access to labour for regular maintenance, caused the irreversibly complex system to decline, reaching 'system collapse'.

Such lessons are important to heed, as international donor agencies often prefer to target development through the creation of massive irreversible infrastructure, when more localised solutions may provide greater longer-term sustainability. This is now being explored by Durham's UNESCO Chair team and partners in the Kathmandu Valley, where the benefits of revitalising the city's Medieval canal system are being considered for low-cost solutions to the population's acute and worsening water supply issues.

From the field to the classroom

These findings and approaches are now contributing to research-led learning at Durham, contributing to the new Level 3 module entitled 'Archaeology and Global Sustainable Development', which recently won the University's 2023 Global Curriculum Award.

This module aims to critically investigate, evaluate and discuss the intersection of the study of the past and cultural heritage, and how archaeology and heritage can positively contribute towards the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

Unfortunately, future disasters are a given, however, risks can be mitigated if we look to our past for lessons, because it embodies practices, challenges, strategies, successes, and failures from which we can help devise sustainable solutions.

Our Department of Archaeology is a leading centre for the study of archaeology and is ranked 10th in the world

(QS World University Rankings by subject 2023).



Professor Robin Coningham,
Professor Karen O'Brien, UNESCO's
Representative to the European Union,
Ms Louise Haxthausen and UK's
Ambassador to the European Union,
Mr Lindsay Croisdale-Appleby CMG

We are honoured!

It's been an honour and a privilege to welcome these remarkable individuals to our community within the last year. They are outstanding in their own fields and inspirational role models to our graduates as they embark on the next phase of their journey.



Professor Edith Hall
- Doctor of Letters (Classics)

Professor Edith Hall is a scholar of classics and cultural history. Known for her humorous style of lecturing, she broadcasts frequently on radio and television, has published over thirty books, works as a consultant with professional theatres, lectures all over the world, and publishes widely in academic and mainstream journals and newspapers.



Maggie Bosanquet
- Doctor of Science (Earth Sciences)

An environmental campaigner since 1989, Maggie Bosanquet has led Durham County Council's Climate Change and Sustainability Team for 27 years. She has built up a nationally renowned team of experts, working with them and partners to deliver a multi-million-pound programme of climate emergency related sustainability, energy, and carbon initiatives.



Henry Timms
- Doctor of Letters (Music)

Henry Timms is the President and Chief Executive Officer of Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. He is the creator of the largest global philanthropic movement in history, #GivingTuesday, which has raised over \$7 billion in donations for good causes.



Simon Croft
- Doctor of Science (Biosciences)

Simon Croft is Professor of Parasitology at London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM). Having read Zoology at Durham University, he gained a PhD at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine. He has worked on the discovery and development of drugs for Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in academia, industry, and public-private partnerships, and advanced two treatments for leishmaniasis.



Lorna Goodison
- Doctor of Letters (English)

The first female Poet Laureate of Jamaica (2017-2020), Lorna Goodison has won many awards for her work, including the 2019 Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry and the Musgrave Gold Medal from Jamaica.



Jill Black
- Doctor of Law (Law)

Jill Black is a Durham Law School graduate from Trevelyan College. Specialising in family law, she took silk in 1994. She was appointed a High Court judge in 1999, also becoming a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire (DBE).



Dame Sara Thornton
- Doctor of Civil Law (SGIA)

Dame Sara Thornton graduated from Durham University with a BA in Philosophy and Politics. She is the UK's Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, served as the Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police for eight years, and was the first Chair of the National Police Chiefs' Council from 2015 to 2019.



Sir Mark Waller
- Doctor of Civil Law (Psychology)

The Rt. Hon. Sir Mark Waller is a tireless advocate for the awareness, understanding, support, and treatment of mental health challenges. After his son Charlie, like his father a Durham graduate, took his own life while suffering from depression, he co-founded the Charlie Waller Memorial Trust. This is now one of the UK's most respected mental health charities and works closely with the Counselling Service at Durham University.



Claire Malcolm
- Doctor of Letters

Claire Malcolm is the founding CEO of New Writing North, an agency for reading and creative writing in the North of England, and has helped to promote hundreds of writers to local, national, and international readerships. New Writing North has been contracted by Durham County Council since 2011, and works in partnership with Arts Council England and Durham University to produce the Durham Book Festival.

The gift of a brighter future

Many alumni and other supporters of the University have kindly made provision for a gift to Durham University after their death. These gifts represent a profound gesture of support with a far-reaching impact. Legacy gifts strengthen our University community and generate wide-ranging opportunities.

The Janet Stevens Studentship in Biosciences

A wonderful example of this is the Janet Stevens Studentship in Biosciences.

Janet Stevens (Botany, St Mary's, 1956) pledged a legacy gift to Durham University with the aim of leaving a meaningful impact on causes that she cared about. Janet studied Botany at Durham and dedicated her career to microbiology, having worked at Rothamsted Research and Thames Water Authority. The impact of her gift will be felt by many and has formed the ultimate expression of her lifetime of support.

Janet was a trailblazer, passionate about the sciences and took a particular interest in medical science and public health. Janet's legacy has been used to establish a postgraduate scholarship in the Department for Biosciences for lab-based microbiological research of medical or public health significance. This scholarship will inspire and empower budding researchers to find new solutions to some of the major challenges that society faces today, meaning that the Janet Stevens Studentship in Biosciences will help build a brighter future for all.

We are delighted to share that the first Janet Stevens Studentship recipient has been selected and will be joining the Biosciences Department in the next few months.

It is always a pleasure to see our alumni's wishes be fulfilled, especially when they have such a positive impact on our students and our wider community. We are extremely grateful to all of those who choose to pledge a legacy to the University, no matter its shape or size, as it enables us to provide outstanding opportunities for research which benefit our academic staff, current students, and future generations to come.

"Arthur was a much-respected supporter of the University. He was not only valued for his generosity but for the spirit in which he approached his giving, with a down-to-earth, kind-hearted attitude that made looking after him and his donations a pleasure for my colleagues and me."

Louise McLaren, Senior Development Manager (Legacies & Planned Giving)

A Tribute to Arthur Browne

Last autumn, highly valued alumnus and talented physicist, Arthur Browne, sadly passed away. Arthur (University College, 1953) studied Physics at Durham and remembered his time here very fondly. He spent his second year living in Lumley Castle, which at the time had joined Durham Castle as part of the residence for University College.

After graduating, he joined the National Service between 1953 and 1955 and then led a successful career in applied physics, which included measuring equipment for an observatory at Narrabri, Australia and developing a reading aid for the partially sighted. After retiring, Arthur remained an active board member on a number of charities and committees and an engaged member of our alumni community.



From left to right: Ms Louise McLaren, Professor Martin Ward, Mr Arthur Browne and Dr Paula Chadwick during one of Arthur's visits to Durham



Student working in a lab

Throughout the decades, Arthur maintained a good relationship with the University, which led to him pledging a legacy gift for the benefit of future students. Arthur's aim was to support talented Physics students to excel in their studies and establish promising careers.

Having initially planned to make a gift through his will, circumstances allowed Arthur to bring part of his gift forward into his lifetime to establish the Arthur Browne Scholarship for Physics. He, therefore, had the opportunity to meet his first two scholars virtually and learn more about their research and the impact of his gift on their personal development, which gave him a great deal of pleasure.

Sadly, Arthur was unable to meet the two current Arthur Browne Scholars who are now benefitting from his generosity just as his previous scholars did. His gift will continue to benefit scholars in years to come and will leave a lasting legacy in the field he was so passionate about.

"I am excited to be diving into the world of cosmological simulations. This is an area in which Durham excels, with many leaders in the field working here, not to mention the COSMA supercomputers that the department hosts running many cutting-edge simulations for research groups up and down the country."

Alexander Brook, Arthur Browne Scholarship for Physics Recipient

[Click here](#) if you want to learn more about leaving a gift in your will, please email louise.mclaren@durham.ac.uk.



Alumni and supporters in Delhi

Alumni and supporters in Orange County



Alumni and supporters in The Hague

Connect, reminisce, and celebrate - Dunelm Days 2022

Dunelm Days is the annual events programme that brings together our global alumni and supporter community to connect, reminisce, and celebrate. Launched in 2014, this annual programme is planned and organised by volunteers from the alumni community around the world. It's an opportunity for Durham graduates to come together and celebrate their shared connection with the University. The alumni community's enthusiasm and support make Dunelm Days possible, with 41 events taking place in 20 countries across five continents.

The global celebration returned to in-person events in 2022, offering a fantastic way to renew your Durham pride, make new connections, and take a trip down memory lane. It didn't matter how long ago you graduated, as the range of alumni participating in events ranged from 21 to 84 years old. The events were a great success, with over 400 alumni, supporters, friends,

and family coming together to participate in the 41 in-person and online events that took place.

According to feedback from attendees, over 75% felt that their relationship with their local alumni community and the University had been "strengthened" by the Dunelm Days celebrations. The success of the events can be attributed to the incredible support and enthusiasm of the global alumni volunteering community. Dunelm Days is an excellent opportunity to celebrate the shared experience of attending Durham University and to connect with alumni all around the world.

"Lovely people, good atmosphere, and many generations of Durham alumni were represented." (Community member, Zürich)

Make sure you keep an eye out for the next Dunelm Days celebration. Whether you attend an in-person or online event, it's an opportunity to continue your relationship with Durham and to catch up with old friends and make new ones.



Alumni and supporters in Hangzhou

The local hosts planned some great activities; there was crazy golf in Cambridge, frisbee, BBQ and live music in Shenzhen, and even a tour of a whiskey distillery in Dublin - but not only were there some fantastic events, as a result of Dunelm Days we have brand new Alumni Chapters in Rome, Delhi, and Santiago.

"Great opportunity to connect with other alumni - especially when living outside the UK. I have very fond memories of my time at Durham, so it was lovely to continue that sense of community." (Community member, Washington DC).

In 2023, we are looking forward to lots more global events - if you would like to host or attend an alumni event near you, we would love to hear from you.

[Click here to discover an Alumni Chapter near you](#)

Thank You!

We are incredibly grateful for every donation we receive

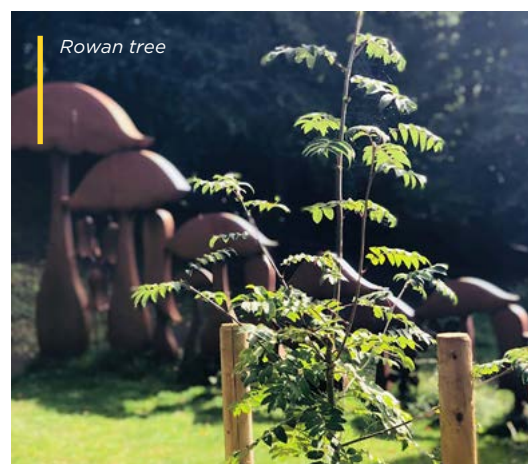
Your gifts have transformed buildings, supported world leading research, and enabled students to discover their potential by enriching their experiences or providing a helping hand during difficult times.

We are sincerely grateful, thank you!

Telephone campaign success

In June 2023, our telephone campaign really reinforced the connection across our University community when our fantastic team of current students contacted our alumni. The campaign was a huge success as the callers explained how the generous gifts and donations positively impact the students that receive them. Beth, one of our student callers, said: "I would recommend looking into the Student Opportunities Fund as I cannot stress how much of a difference this makes to the lives of students, ensuring that they are able to have the same incredible experiences as you did."

We would like to take this opportunity to thank so many of the alumni who helped make our telephone campaign a huge success, helping to give the gift of education to so many.



Rowan tree

Celebrating 30 years of giving

This year, we are celebrating our first three '30 year' continuous donors! We are recognising their incredible support by planting a Rowan tree in their honour in the Botanic Garden. The trees will be accompanied by a plaque to mark the occasion with the names of the three donors.

The trees will grow and flourish in the years to come to signify the lasting impact of their giving.

The power of scholarships



Donor-funded scholarships are transformative for the students who receive them. Grace Purnell, who received the Brian Cooper Scholarship, said that the scholarship has "allowed me to explore academically in order to find an area that I'm really passionate about in a University that is on the cutting edge of research".



Alumnus Joel Donovan KC, founder of the Joel Donovan KC Law Scholarships, has the aim to tackle under-representation of black and minority ethnic students who study Law. The scholarship enables young scholars to meet their aspirations by removing the economic obstacles that stand in their way.

Hollow Drift redevelopment



Durham sport

Thanks to a growing team of generous donors, we are getting closer to achieving our vision for redeveloped rugby facilities at Hollow Drift. So far, we have raised a total of £500,000 from a range of generous donors who share our passion and enthusiasm for sporting excellence at Durham. Their support is fundamental to our desire to build upon the University's reputation as a centre for sporting excellence, in line with Durham recently being named Sports University of the Year 2023.

Students at St Chad's College



College bursaries

Our colleges are at the heart of student life at Durham and provide a home-from-home for the years they are with us. Many of our colleges offer scholarships, development opportunities and hardship support to their students. The Hatfield Bursary Scheme is one example of how students from low-income households can be supported. This bursary covers the costs of the Junior Common Room levy so that they can immerse themselves fully in college life. This was founded by a gift from generous alumni and has been in operation for three years, during which time a total of 145 bursaries have been awarded.

Donor support enables crucial dementia trial

A generous donation has allowed scientists at Durham to initiate the first UK trial of a game-changing treatment for Alzheimer's disease. Following a very successful US pilot study, it is hoped that this donor-funded UK trial will pave the way for a larger trial in the UK and beyond, and encourage adoption by health services including the NHS. Dr Paul Chazot, Associate Professor in the Department of Biosciences, said that the donation has been crucial to initiating the first UK trial.



Dr Paul Chazot,
Tracy Sloan &
Dr Gordon Dougal

[Click here to learn more about regular giving, gifts and legacies](#)



1926 - 2022

Remembering Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and Celebrating King Charles III



Our University community pays tribute to Her Majesty The Queen following her death early in September. An extraordinary woman and a unique monarch; through multiple decades of world change, conflict and development, our Queen provided a vital constant and comfort. Her kindness, compassion, and duty will never be forgotten.



King Charles
when he visited
Durham

We offer our warmest wishes to His Majesty King Charles III for a long and successful reign and are proud to have close associations with His Majesty.

It was our pleasure to award him an Honorary Doctorate in Civil Law in 1998 and, more recently in 2018, to welcome him to the University to unveil a commemorative plaque in honour of his ancestor Dame Elizabeth Bowes.

In His Majesty's first New Year Honours List, we were proud to see our Pro-Vice Chancellor, EDI, Dr Shaid Mahmood, recognised for his contribution to Higher Education. We would like to congratulate and celebrate the achievements of all the alumni, current staff and students, and friends who have been honoured.

The individuals celebrated below represent the inspiration and leadership that characterises Durham's vibrant community the world over.

We are inspired by their success and honoured by their affiliation with our institution.

His Majesty The King's New Year Honours 2023

Catherine Elizabeth Belton MBE (*Modern Languages, Van Mildert College, 1992-96*), for services to Journalism

Victoria Browning OBE (*Natural Sciences, College of St Hild & St Bede, 1984-87*), for services to the Charity Sector

Sir Ian Trevelyan Chapman (*Natural Sciences, College of St Hild & St Bede, 1984-87*), for services to Global Fusion Energy

Dame Nicola Whitmont Dandridge DBE CBE, for services to Higher Education

Matthew Robert Field OBE (*Theology, Van Mildert College, 1996-99*), for services to British foreign policy

Dr Janice Victoria Gorlach MBE (*Physics, Trevelyan College, 1978-81*), for services to Education

Ruth Ann Kerry MBE, for services to Victims

Lieutenant Colonel Rachel Joanna Limbrey OBE (*Sport in the Community, Collingwood College, 1998-2001*), Royal Corps of Signals

Benjamin Lindsay OBE (*Currently undertaking a PhD in Sociology and Social Policy, College of St Hild & St Bede, 2022-25*), for services to the community in South East London

Major Thomas Lloyd-Jukes MBE (*Ecology, University College, 2003-06*), Royal Tank Regiment

Dr Shaid Mahmood MBE, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion at Durham University, for services to Further Education in Leeds

Sophie Clare Milliken MBE (*Currently undertaking a PhD in Management with Integrated Studies, St Mary's College, 2022-30*), for services to Business and to Education

Dr Catherine Eve Poole OBE (*Theology, Trevelyan College, 1990-93*), for services to Education and to Gender Equality

Professor Colin Brian Riordan CBE, for services to Higher Education

Sir Luke Philip Hardwick Rittner CBE (*Honorary Doctorate, 2006*), for services to Dance and the Arts

Nigel Trevor Rix BEM (*Politics, Hatfield College, 1974-77*), for services to the community in Clitheroe and the Ribble Valley, Lancashire

Nigel Rhyl Robson MBE (*Member of Council of St John's College*), for services to Education

Dame Alison Rose DBE (*History, St Aidan's College, 1988-91, Honorary Doctorate, 2021*), for services to Financial Services

Dr Philip Frank Souter OBE, for services to Medical Research

Bethan Louise Stimpson BEM (*Anthropology, St Mary's College, 2013-16*), for services to Young People

Peter Laurence Taylor LVO (*Music, University College, 1985-88*), for services to the Platinum Jubilee of Her Late Majesty The Queen

Henry Thomas Deason Timms OBE (*History, Collingwood College, 1995-98; Honorary Doctorate, 2022*), for services to the Arts and to Philanthropy

Jenifer Jane White MBE, for services to Heritage and to Historic Parks and Gardens

Alison Wilson OBE (*Executive MBA, 2004*), for Public Service

Marcia Doreen Zondervan MBE (*Business Administration, Graduate Society (now Ustinov College), 1997-2000*), for services to the prevention of blindness overseas

Class Notes

We're proud of everything our alumni have achieved over the past year. Here are some of the highlights.

Dr Elizabeth Ashton (Education, St Mary's College, 1987-89; staff member 1992-98) published *'The Role of Metaphor and Symbol in Motivating Primary School Children'* in December 2022.

Dr Anthony Auffret (Botany & Chemistry, Grey College, 1970-73) penned his first thriller, *'The Death of a Smoker'* in June 2022.

Mel Ayton (MA (Ed) History & Comparative Education, School of Education, 1985-87) released his 11th American history and true crime book *'The Man Who Killed Martin Luther King: The Life and Crimes of James Earl Ray'* in March 2023.

Dinah Bennett OBE (Entrepreneurship, 1999-2000) featured in Forbes article *'10 Inspiring Founders of Startups Focused on Women'* as founder of International Consultants for Entrepreneurship and Enterprise.

Rod Bolitho (German, Grey College, 1963-67) published *'Language-Sensitive Teaching and Learning'* including activities involving analysis of audio, video and written texts in January 2023.

Andrew Buchan (Modern Languages, St Cuthbert's Society, 1997-2001) starred as Col McHugh in five-part BBC One crime drama *'Better'*, exploring the complexities of (dis) honesty, corruption, loyalty and family bonds.

Emma Chapman (Theoretical Physics, Josephine Butler College, 2006-10), **Dr Gillian Foulger** (Geophysics, Graduate Society, MSc 1976, PhD 1985), **Dr Simon Parson** (Zoology, Van Mildert College, 1984-87), and **Dr Chris Terrill** (Geography & Anthropology, Collingwood College, 1972-75) took on rivals in the BBC's University Challenge Christmas Special in December 2022.

Paul Ellis (Modern Languages, Grey College, 1991-95) co-authored *'Neurodiversity and Education'*, focusing on neurodiversity's definitions, history, and how to make teaching, learning and assessment more inclusive.

Ed Gamble (Philosophy, Hatfield College, 2004-07) & **Nick Mohammed** (Geophysics, St Aidan's College, 1999-2003) discuss enduring Durham food memories in comic podcast *'Off Menu'*.

Theophilos Giannopoulos (Theology, University College, 1983-95) known as the Patriarch of Jerusalem, His Beatitude Patriarch Theophilos III consecrated the Chrism oil used to anoint His Majesty The King on the occasion of his Coronation on Saturday 6 May 2023.

Natalie Hiller (Natural Sciences, Van Mildert College, 2010-13) was recognised on the Disability Power 100 List again in 2022 for her work in increasing disability inclusion in the accountancy profession.

Mohamed Huballah (International Studies, Ustinov College, 2007-08) followed up his book *'Beyond Your World, The Manifestation of Wishes'* by launching online platform and podcast BeeYouPod.com.

Miles Hudson (Physics, College of St Hild & St Bede, 1988-91) continues his series of dystopian future novels with *'The Times of Malthus'* in April 2022.

Dr John Ingham (History, University College, 1977-80) published his debut novel *'Blood-Eagle Saga'*, a Viking saga written in the style of Beowulf.

Craig Lappin-Smith (Business Management, John Snow College, 2013-16) opened Coarse, a tasting menu restaurant, in Durham in October 2022.

Bex Lindsay (Law, St John's College, 2005-08) was awarded Silver medal in the BullsEye Award category of the British Podcast Awards for *'Getting Emotional'*; a podcast about obscure emotions you may have felt, but had no idea there was a name for.

Jack Little (Politics, Collingwood College, 2006-09) published a full selection of poems in *'Slow Leaving'*. "Jack Little has a talent for combining everyday words in new ways, creating something completely original here in Slow Leaving".

Peter McAuley (Engineering 2008-11, Business Administration 2017-19, St Chad's College) created specialist watch brand, Nomadic, a timekeeping tribute to Belfast's seafaring and heavy engineering past.

Felicity McDowall (Archaeology, St Mary's College, 2012-15) was video-interviewed by global teaching and learning resource institution Twinkl about her career in Archaeology and Anthropology as part of their International Day of Women and Girls in Science campaign.

James McGrath (Theology, Graduate Society, 1995-98) released a pioneering open textbook, *'The Bible and Music'* in January 2023. Offered digitally, it features interactive video and audio clips.

Dr Guy Middleton (Classics & Ancient History, 2001-09) penned *'Women in the Ancient Mediterranean World: From the Palaeolithic to the Byzantines'* in February 2023, exploring the lives of women from queens to prostitutes.

Ruth Millington (Combined Arts, Trevelyan College, 2007-10) published her first book *'Muse'* in April 2022, telling true stories of those who have inspired art history's masterpieces.

Stephen Murphy (Institute of European Studies, University College, 1975-76) released *'Abiding Conviction'* in July 2022. The novel is the third in a series of legal thrillers about lawyer Dutch Francis.

Alice Oseman (English Literature, St John's College, 2013-16) creator of the million-copy bestselling *'Heartstopper'* books, saw her uplifting LGBTQ+ drama released as an eight-part Netflix series.

Sheehan Quirke (Law, Van Mildert College, 2015-18) launched *'The Cultural Tutor'* - a website and Twitter account spreading cultural literacy (appreciation for history, art, architecture, classical music, literature, and philosophy).

Hannah Ryley (English Literature, St Cuthbert's Society, 2008-11) debuted *'Re-Using Manuscripts in Late Medieval England: Repairing, Recycling, Sharing'* in August 2022, presenting a fresh appraisal of late medieval manuscript culture in England.

Zenia Selby (Classics, St Cuthbert's Society, 2012-15) released *'Breaking into Factual TV: Your Career Companion'* in May 2023 for those starting careers in the television industry. Contributions from other Durham alumni feature alongside her own experience.

John Sills (Combined Arts, St John's College, 1968-71) released two books, *'Passionate: The Psychology of a Passionate Life'* and *'Attached to Coventry City'* under the pen name of James Adams.

Roger Spitz (Corporate and International Finance, Graduate Society, 1991-92) launched a series of books, *'The Definitive Guide to Thriving on Disruption'* on making sense, decision-making, and responding to our complex world.

Margaret Webster (Botany & Chemistry, Trevelyan College, 1970-73) published her first novel, *'The Façade'* in November 2022 under the pen name of Maggie Shepherd.

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touch

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