



## Newswire July 2025

### Do we have the correct details for you?

Current postcode:

Current professional position:

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### Your alumni newsletter

Thank you to everyone who completed our 2025 alumni survey. The survey is now closed. Your experiences and feedback as a member of our global alumni community are incredibly important to us. The insights you share will help shape how we support and engage with alumni like you in the years ahead.

We're improving the alumni portal for a smoother user experience, with quicker and easier access to benefits and profile updates. Look out for your invite over the next month.

Explore our latest news below.

With regards,

Glen Whitehead (Director, Development and Alumni Engagement) and Lucian Hudson (Executive Director, Communications and External Affairs)



### World top 100 every year since 2010

Since 2010, we have ranked in the world's top 100 in the QS World University Rankings. We are firmly placed in the UK's top five universities. We ranked 64th in the world for employer reputation - meaning our graduates are among the most sought after by employers around the world.

[Read more](#)





## His Majesty The King's Birthday Honours list 2025

We're celebrating the achievements of our alumni, staff, students and friends who have been honoured by The King.

[Read more](#)

## Our Chancellor joined the University community to discuss US global leadership

Our Chancellor, Dr Fiona Hill, met with staff, students and friends of the University as part of a panel discussion on recent influences on global order.

*Pictured from left: Professor Anoush Ehteshami, Dr Fiona Hill, Professor Janet Stewart, Professor Barbara Keys*

[Read more](#)

## We are supporting the launch of the UK's first university network for women entrepreneurs

We're part of a group of leading UK universities supporting women entrepreneurs through the launch of the UK's first WE Innovate National network, an initiative supported by alumna Dame Alison Rose.

[Read more](#)

## Research to empower and inspire

We conduct innovative and impactful research to transform lives and make a difference globally and locally.

difference globally and locally.



New research has cast doubt on the long-held theory that our galaxy, the Milky Way, will collide with its largest neighbour, the Andromeda galaxy, in 4.5 billion years-time.

[Read our latest research](#)

## Our Community



### Inspiring future students to help shape the world

Politics alumnus and teacher, Keith Wood, accompanied a group of A level students to meet our Chancellor, who said: "It's vital that we continue to open the doors to university and inspire young people to see themselves shaping the future".

[Read more](#)



### Our Summer honorary graduates include award-winning actors and leaders in their field

Acclaimed actors Mark Gatiss and Gina McKee are among the leading figures from the Arts, broadcasting, law and science receiving honorary Durham degrees this summer.

[Read more](#)



## Durham alumnus is awarded prestigious award in physics

Alumnus Professor George Efstathiou was awarded the Shaw Prize, worth \$1.2m, for his pioneering research in cosmology.

[Read more](#)



## Professor Simon James

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of the former Head of our English Department, Professor Simon James.

Simon was an inspirational lecturer and teacher, and an illuminating supervisor, mentor, and friend. He was a leading authority on H. G. Wells, late-Victorian literature, and the modern novel. He served our university for 25 years and was a great supporter of the Durham Book Festival, Hullabaloo Theatre organisation, the Durham Commission on Creativity and Education, and Durham Student Theatre, of which he was Honorary President.

He will be greatly missed.

## Class Notes

We're proud of the achievements of our alumni. Read on for this month's round-up.

**Hannah Brennan** (English Literature, College of St Hild and St Bede, 2011-14)

**Humphrey Dobson** (Music, Grey College, 1997-2000)

**Caroline Harvey** (Psychology, St Mary's College, 2004-07)

**Matt Jaworski** (Van Mildert College, Law 2017–2020) and **Katherine Keddie** (Grey College, Politics 2017–2020)

**Maryna Paul** (Combined Arts, St John's College, 1976-79)



***Marcus Paul*** (Combined Arts, St John's College, 1970-73)

***Sijie Tan*** (Finance, College of St Hild and St Bede, 2019-22)

**Why not share your own news with us?**

[Read more](#)

## Lifelong learning

We have a wide range of postgraduate study options for you to continue your education and programmes for working professionals.

You can also browse a range of scholarships, including our alumni fee scholarship and new postgraduate student support scholarship.

[Read more](#)

## Get Involved



### Student exhibitions in Durham: open and free to visit

Two new exhibitions exploring the art and history of storytelling are now open for the summer. 'Beasts and Legends' at Palace Green Library and 'Telling Tales' at the Oriental Museum are curated by MA Museum and Artefact Studies students.

[Read more](#)

## View all upcoming events

Check our events pages regularly for all the upcoming alumni events across the world, and how you can join in.

[Events calendar](#)

## Colleges





## University College

The annual Castle vs Hatfield Day took place on Saturday 3 May – Castle students were victorious, but a huge amount of fun was had by all involved.

[Read more](#)

## Read more from our Colleges

Explore our College pages to discover the latest news.

[Read more](#)

# Retail



## Celebrate your Durham connection

Treat yourself to a cap and wear your Durham connection with style this summer - ordering and collection of the updated range is simple.

[Shop now](#)

## Want to read more?

If you liked these stories, take a look at the latest Durham news, featuring current research and thought leadership, student news, alumni and more.

[Explore more](#)

Durham University takes pride in the achievements and contributions of its 230,000 alumni and supporters.

Stories that cite views, talks and published work reflect the individual's contribution in their personal or professional capacity and do not represent the University's position or endorsement.

Newswire is curated by Editorial Group members Lucian Hudson (Chair), Glen Whitehead, Claire Whitelaw, Vicky Fisher and Debbie Mayne, and assembled by Jess White and Jo Coombs.

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✉ [alumni.office@durham.ac.uk](mailto:alumni.office@durham.ac.uk)

Durham University, Development & Alumni Relations  
Office, Palatine Centre, Stockton Road,  
Durham DH1 3LE



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