



## The Council, 16 April 2018

### Report of the Honorary Degrees Committee

Held on 8 March 2018

Professor Gill Valentine, Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor, in the Chair

- 1 The Committee agreed that the following Honorary Degrees should be conferred. No objections were raised by the Officers' Informal Group, who were in receipt of detailed due diligence reports:**

#### **Lisa Burger, (LittD, Arts & Humanities)**

Music alumna Lisa Burger is the Executive Director of the National Theatre, the country's leading theatre. She has been at the National for over 15 years, notably leading its £80 million capital refurbishment project and a study which resulted in the NT Live cinema broadcast programme. Becoming the theatre's finance director in 2001, Burger was appointed chief operating officer in 2010 until 2014 when she became Executive Director. During her time at the National Theatre she has overseen not only its huge capital refurbishment project, but also other impactful initiatives such as a new project which will see the National Theatre working with partners in six areas of low arts engagement over the course of the next three years. She has also been instrumental in helping to take National Theatre productions overseas.

#### **Emeritus Professor Ian Cooke (MD, Medicine, Dentistry & Health)**

A former member of staff Emeritus Professor Cooke spent almost 30 years at the University as Chair of Obstetrics and Gynaecology before his retirement in 2000. A world-leading expert in his field, he spent his career combining laboratory reproductive endocrine research with clinical gynaecology and infertility. Cooke was the first sub-specialist in Reproductive Medicine in the UK. He created the Harris-Birthright Unit of Reproductive Medicine in the Jessop Hospital for Women with a substantial research output, particularly related to both female and male infertility. Cooke was famously part of the medical team that supported Diane Blood in her ground-breaking legal case to have the right to use her dead husband's sperm to fall pregnant. He has worked and continues to work for the World Health Organisation and remains the CEO of the Low Cost IVF Foundation, working to bring affordable infertility services to the developing world.

#### **Ciara Eastell, OBE (LittD, Social Sciences)**

Librarianship alumna Ciara Eastell is a leading figure on a national scale for British libraries. With over 20 years' experience as a Chartered Librarian she is currently Head of Libraries for Devon County Council and is the first Chief Executive of Libraries Unlimited South West, a role she has had since 2016. In a voluntary role Eastell was also President of the Society of Chief Librarians. In her time as President, she was a member of the national Leadership for Libraries

Taskforce; a member of the British Library's Advisory Council and led the Society of Chief Librarians' work on developing the Universal Offers - a series of offers around reading, health, digital, information and learning aimed at encouraging more library use within local communities. Eastell received an OBE in 2017 for her national contribution to public libraries.

### **Wayne Garvie (LittD, Social Sciences)**

Alumnus Wayne Garvie, who completed his PhD in Economic and Social History, is one of the most prominent and highly respected figures in international television. Currently President of International Production at Sony Pictures Television (SPT), he oversees SPT's global network of production companies outside the US, covering Europe, Asia, Latin America and Australia. Previously, Garvie spent over a decade at the BBC. His final role there was managing director for Content & Production at BBC Worldwide, responsible for establishing the corporation's global network of production companies and overseeing its international formats business. During this time he was responsible for developing Strictly Come Dancing, and the popular US version Dancing With The Stars - two of the biggest entertainment shows ever produced.

### **Stuart Green (DEng, Engineering)**

Stuart Green is a technical innovator who has shown substantial leadership in developing digital industries in the Sheffield region. In 1989 he co-founded LightWork design, which creates software for the computer aided design market. During 11 years there as technical director, the company grew to become a key software house in the Sheffield region. In 2001 Green founded ZOOtech Ltd., a software company that specialises in technology for video post-production and DVD production. Since 2006 he has been CEO of ZOOtech's parent company, ZOO Digital Group plc. ZOO's software is now used by five of the six largest film and TV studios in the US. Green has played a leading role in developing a creative digital industries (CDI) strategy for Sheffield.

### **Professor Sir Simon Lovestone, (MD, Medicine, Dentistry & Health)**

Microbiology alumnus Professor Sir Simon Lovestone is a highly prominent and successful clinical researcher who was knighted last year for his services to neuroscience research. Currently Professor of Translational Neuroscience at the University of Oxford, he works with colleagues in disciplines ranging from neurodegeneration, neuroscience, through drug development and therapeutics, to computer science and the use of informatics and 'big data'. His research interests pursue translational goals in neurodegeneration, seeking new targets for therapy in Alzheimer's disease from an understanding of basic mechanisms, disease modification trials and experimental medicine, and developing biomarkers for early diagnosis. A national leader in dementia, Lovestone led the National Institute for Health Research's (NIHR) Translational Research Collaboration in Dementia (TRCD) - a network of experimental medicine sites across the UK and is theme lead for Informatics and Digital Health at the NIHR Oxford Health Biomedical Research Centre.

### **Piet Oudolf (LittD, Social Sciences)**

Designer Piet Oudolf is a highly influential and world renowned Landscape Designer, recognisable to those within and outside the field. He has worked on many high-profile projects across Europe and North America but is best known as the key partner in the team that designed the High Line in New York, one of the most famous Landscape Architecture projects globally. He has revolutionised the discipline of vegetation and planting design over the past 30 years, where he spearheaded an international movement, referred to as 'The new naturalism', that rejected tiered conventional landscape planting for a looser and more natural character. This is now the dominant method by which contemporary landscape architects work. Working in partnership with other disciplines such as architects and engineers, Oudolf has received recognition and many awards for his achievements including becoming an Honorary Fellow of

RIBA and The Maaskant prize for exploration of the possibilities of landscape architecture over 30 years. Highly influential, having worked on some of the world's most famous and iconic landscapes, Oudolf has inspired new generations of designers around the world.

### **Steve Peat (LittD, Social Sciences)**

Sheffield born Steve Peat is a highly decorated downhill mountain bike rider whose record is unparalleled in men's downhill. With his roots in Sheffield he has been instrumental in creating the city's thriving riding scene. Starting his professional career in the 1990s, Peat was crowned World Cup champion in 2002, 2004 and 2006 and also won the Lisboa Downhill held in Lisbon 8 times. Peat's biggest career successes came when he joined the Santa Cruz Syndicate team in 2006, finishing first overall that season. In a record-breaking season in 2009 he made history by recording the highest number of World Cup round wins at that time, making him the most successful male downhill mountain bike racer ever. Peat retired in 2016 having had 17 World Cup wins, 52 World Cup podiums, one world championship, two European Championships and nine British Championships - a record which is yet to be matched.

### **Michael Vaughan, OBE (LittD, Social Sciences)**

Former England cricket captain Michael Vaughan, who spent much of his childhood in Sheffield, famously captained the England team to victory in the 2005 Ashes series against Australia, regaining the trophy 18 years since their last victory. He captained England in 51 tests between 2003 and 2008, winning 26 of them (a national record at the time). Following the Ashes in 2002/03 Vaughan was ranked one of the best batsmen in the world having scored 633 runs, including 3 centuries. England won all 7 home tests of the 2004 summer under Vaughan, with the pinnacle of his career winning the 2005 Ashes. It was following this that he received the Freedom of the City of Sheffield and an OBE. Now enjoying a highly successful career in broadcasting, Vaughan maintains strong links with the city as a charitable patron of Sheffield's Children's Hospital.

### **Dan Walker (LittD, Social Sciences)**

History and Journalism alumnus Dan Walker is an award winning journalist and television presenter best known for presenting BBC Breakfast and one of the BBC's most watched football programmes, Football Focus. His journalistic career began on Sheffield's Hallam FM Radio, before moving to Manchester's KEY103 radio station. From there he went to Granada TV and BBC North West Tonight before eventually moving to BBC Sport. Reporting regularly for Final Score and Match of the Day, Walker has also covered most of the major sporting events of the last ten years including Wimbledon, three successive football World Cups, the Open golf, racing at Aintree and Ascot, the Six Nations championship and the 2012 and 2016 Olympics. Walker presented the afternoon show on Radio 5 Live from Mondays to Thursdays up until his move to BBC Breakfast in February 2016.

### **Chris Watson (DMus, Arts & Humanities)**

Born and brought up in Sheffield, Chris Watson is one of the world's leading recorders of wildlife and natural phenomena. However, he began his recording career in 1971 as a founding member of the influential Sheffield-based experimental music group Cabaret Voltaire. His sound recording career began in 1981 when he joined Tyne Tees Television. Since then he has developed a particular and passionate interest in recording the wildlife sounds of animals, habitats and atmospheres from around the world. He is best known for his work with Sir David Attenborough, with whom he has collaborated for over two decades on programmes including The Life of Birds, The Life of Mammals, Life in the Undergrowth and Life in Cold Blood.

## **2 Any Other Business**

The criteria for awarding Honorary Degrees to former members of staff and to high profile 'celebrity' names were reviewed. The values for both were discussed and it was agreed that the criteria should remain the same so that the committee can review each on a case by case basis. The committee will be the critical eye, ensuring that the values of the University are met.

It was reported that the impact on Honorary Degree processes of the new GDPR requirements had been considered and steps had been taken to ensure that it is compliant.

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