



The  
University  
Of  
Sheffield.

Office  
Of the  
The  
Vice-Chancellor.

## The Council, 20 April 2015

### Report of the Honorary Degrees Committee

Held on 12 March 2015

Professor Paul White, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, in the Chair

#### 1 **The Committee has agreed that the following Honorary Degrees should be conferred:**

##### **Dr Aileen Adams, CBE (MD, Medicine, Dentistry & Health)**

An alumna, graduating with an MBChB in 1945, she was an early female pioneer of medicine and was at the forefront of the development of neuroanaesthesia in the 1960s and 70s. She has had a highly distinguished career in the field of anaesthetics, an interest she originally developed during her time at the Sheffield Royal Infirmary. Having worked in the UK and overseas, her professional standing was recognised both nationally and internationally when she was appointed Dean of the Faculty of Anaesthetists at the Royal College of Surgeons from 1985-88, the first female to hold this post. Prior to this she was Consultant Anaesthetist at the Addenbrooke Hospital in Cambridge, where she was closely involved in the development of its new neurological unit. Within the Royal Society of Medicine she has been President of the section of Anaesthetists and also the section of History of Medicine. She was awarded the CBE in 1988.

##### **Robert Adams (LittD, Social Sciences)**

A leading practitioner in both the architecture and planning professions, he became senior partner at one of Sheffield's most important architectural practices Hadfield, Cawkwell, Davidson and Partners. A major national figure in both of his professions, he has served the national councils of both the Royal Town Planning Institute and the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA), where he also served as RIBA's Honorary Treasurer. His foresight played a major role in the establishment of the University's department of Town and Regional Planning (TRP), leading the case alongside academics of the need for an academic department of planning. Once TRP was formally established, he continued to play a major role in the life of the department and was instrumental in securing government funding to set up the Sheffield Centre for Environmental Research. This became the initial cornerstone of TRP's major achievements in planning research and in the effective dissemination of research outcomes to those in practice.

### **Dr Amal Al-Qubaisi (LittD, Social Sciences)**

An Architecture alumna who became the first female ever to be elected as a member of the United Arab Emirates' Federal National Council (FNC), she is now a leading advocate for women's issues in the UAE. She is a representative of the FNC in the Steering and Executive Committee for Developing the National Strategy for Motherhood and Childhood and is Chair of the Advisory Committee of Woman Workforce in the UAE. Prior to her political career she was a distinguished architect with a focus on preserving the architectural heritage of the UAE. She has been responsible for saving some of the country's most historical sites, a number of which are now protected by national and international law. As deputy speaker for the FNC (the first woman ever to have this role) and Director General of the Abu Dhabi Education Council, she continues to play a key political role in the UAE.

### **The Rt Hon David Blunkett (LittD, Social Sciences)**

An alumnus of the University with a BA in Politics, he is also a Visiting Professor to the Department of Politics. Whilst studying at Sheffield, he became the youngest ever councillor in Britain, aged just 22. He served Sheffield City Council from 1970 to 1988, as Leader from 1980 to 1987. He was then elected as an MP for Sheffield Brightside, serving on the shadow cabinet. Following the Labour election win in 1997, he was appointed as Secretary of State for Education and Employment, rising to Home Secretary, and finally Secretary of State for Work and Pensions. Since leaving government he has undertaken numerous major reviews and shaped several major White Papers in the areas of anti-poverty, education and social mobility. He has also worked with several youth volunteering initiatives helping young people into education and training. He is currently a Vice President of both the Royal National Institute of Blind People and the National Alzheimer's Society, as well as several other Sheffield charities.

### **David Childs (LLD, Social Sciences)**

A highly successful law graduate, he retired in 2014 as Global Managing Partner of Clifford Chance, one of the world's top law firms and part of London's "magic circle" of elite law firms. In a career spanning 40 years with the company, he worked his way up from partner to head of global corporate practice, then as Global Chief Operating Officer before spending eight years as Global Managing Partner. During this time he guided the firm into new growth markets, opening new offices in Bucharest, Casablanca, Istanbul, Jakarta, Doha and Seoul, merging with two Australian practices and the first firm to open an approved branch in Saudi Arabia. The first from his family to go to university, he also established a number of pioneering widening participation initiatives at the firm such as a "CV-blind" recruitment policy, and the award winning UpReach programme, which "seeks to promote access to the professions for undergraduates from less-privileged backgrounds". Now holding a senior position on the Board at the Financial Reporting Council, he is Chair of their Conduct Committee.

### **Professor Roderick Flower (DSc, Science)**

A Physiology alumnus, he has spent the majority of his career working in the area of inflammation and anti-inflammatory drug mechanisms, where he is recognised as one of the leading scientists in inflammation. He was a major contributor to the 'Cox inhibitor' concept of 1971 that explains the action of aspirin and other non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs. His most significant work concerns the mechanism of action of the anti-inflammatory glucocorticoid steroids and (later) the cromone anti-allergic drugs. His achievements and research has resulted in several national and international awards, including a 'Lifetime Achievement Award' of the International Association of Inflammation Societies. He has worked at the Wellcome Trust, the University of Bath and St. Bart's Hospital Medical School and co-founded the William Harvey Research Institute, Queen Mary University of London, where he served as its director for four years. A Fellow of the Royal Society, he was also President of the British Pharmacological Society.

### **Andrew Hall, QC (LLD, Social Sciences)**

An alumnus of the School of Law with a Masters in Criminology, he is consistently named as a leader in his field as a criminal Silk, and has a busy and high profile practice in serious crime. Highly regarded within his profession, he has a particular reputation for the tenacious defence of more complex cases, in recent years having been instructed in a significant number of high profile terrorism cases. The author of several books on criminal justice issues, he is a member of the Editorial Board of the International Journal of Evidence and Proof, and regularly lectures on advocacy and other legal topics, including terrorism and human rights. He has longstanding involvement with professional training and with legal sector capacity building projects overseas, particularly in Africa, and is a winner of the Bar Pro Bono Award for this work. Human rights work overseas has included missions to Syria, Sudan and Burma. He has served as a member of the Bar Council and Chairman of the Remuneration Committee and was also Chairman of the Criminal Bar Association. Since 2010 he has been Chairman of the Kalisher Trust, a charity providing scholarships and other awards to talented Criminal Bar entrants who need financial support.

### **Emeritus Professor Mary Hayes (LLD, Social Sciences)**

A distinguished scholar of national and international standing, she was the University of Sheffield's first female Professor of Law and is its first female Emeritus Professor of Law. She was the leading author of one of the major texts on Child and Family Law, widely used by both students and practitioners. Her writings and research on law have been highly influential at all levels of the judicial process, including the House of Lords. She has been a visiting professor at the Universities of Christchurch, Auckland and Victoria in New Zealand and Swansea in the UK. Renowned for her work in Family Law, she has been at the forefront in changing judicial attitudes to child protection and continues to give free advice and guidance to members of the community who are denied legal aid in child cases.

### **Professor Wei Huang (DSc, Science)**

President of the Nanjing University of Technology, he is a noted Chemist and highly regarded academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. An expert in Organic Optoelectronics, he is a leader in the development of this discipline. His major contributions include developments in the area of polymer light-emitting diodes emitting blue electroluminescence. With a distinguished record in developing research and higher education in China, he is a Chief Scientist for the National Basic Research ("973") programme, which is a major initiative to organise and implement basic research in China. He is also a leader in teaching where he is Vice-Director of the National Teaching Guidance sub-committee in materials physics and chemistry of China. This role is performed on behalf of the Ministry of Education in China, where he is also a member of their Teaching Steering Committee. He developed his career at the National University of Singapore, where he was a founding member of the IMRE Institute of Materials Research and Engineering, and is still a visiting professor there, as well as honorary professor and part-time professor of Peking University and the Chemistry Institute of the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

### **Clive Humby (DEng, Engineering)**

An alumnus of the University in Applied Maths and Computer Science, he is a leading marketing analyst and a pioneer in data analytics. A co-founder of dunnhumby, the company behind Tesco's clubcard and other loyalty programmes around the world, he helped grow the company to an organisation of 1500 people reaching 350m customers in 25 countries. His work is deeply rooted in data, ever since he began his career as a programmer in Bermuda for the geo-demographics firm CACI, innovating in what has become the site location industry. Quickly rising to be CEO of CACI's UK business, he soon saw the power of using data to inform relevance and personalisation for the customer. After co-founding dunnhumby in 1989, he was

responsible for customer strategy, from analysis through to the implementation of client merchandising, store operation, marketing and communication strategies. He is currently Chief Data Scientist for Starcount, a new social media platform and Director of Purple Seven, an arts sector data analytics company. A Patron of the Market Research Society, he is an Honorary Life Fellow of the Institute of Direct Marketing.

### **Richard Leafe (LittD, Social Sciences)**

A Geography alumnus, he is the current Chief Executive of the Lake District National Park, a position he has held since 2007. He has had a highly successful career initially in coastal management with English Nature, where he was Head of the Coastal Initiative & Coastal Geomorphology Maritime Team before becoming Head of External Relations and then Regional Director for the East Midlands. In 2006 he was appointed Executive Director of the North West Region for Natural England before taking up his current post leading the Lake District National Park. A fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, he has risen to the top of his profession leading a National Park that has an estimated 16 million visitors a year, whilst retaining his link to Geography. He was appointed to the Board of the Environment Agency in 2012.

### **Professor Bill Leatherbarrow (DSc, Science)**

A retired Professor and distinguished Russianist at the University of Sheffield, he was a highly respected member of the University with outstanding leadership within the Faculty of Arts and his own department. Alongside his disciplinary membership of the British Association for Slavonic and East European Studies, he has pursued a personal interest in astronomy where he has been an active and highly successful member of the British Astronomical Association (BAA). His achievements in this field were honoured when he served as President for the BAA, the ultimate accolade in amateur astronomy, leading a 125 year old body that is highly regarded by professional and amateur astronomers alike. Now a Vice-President of the association, he is also their Director of the Lunar section, his specialist field.

### **Norman Ling (LittD, Social Sciences)**

A German and Economics graduate, he has had a highly distinguished career as a diplomat, serving a series of appointments at the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in a career spanning over 30 years. He built up a wealth of experience in the Middle East and Africa, with a series of postings in Tripoli and Tehran, before becoming Deputy Consul-General in Johannesburg and Deputy Head of Mission at Ankara. His career progressed to become High Commissioner to Malawi where he was both effective and high profile in the effort to combat corruption in the country. Following a period back in the UK as Director of Change for the FCO, he returned to Africa in 2008 as Ambassador to Ethiopia, Djibouti and the African Union, where he was responsible for strengthening British ties with the African Union, before retiring from government service in 2011.

### **Professor William JT Mitchell (LittD, Arts & Humanities)**

A leading international figure in the field of critical theory and literary analysis, he is a highly distinguished scholar and theorist of media, visual art, and literature. Editor of "Critical Theory" since 1978, he is associated with the emergent fields of visual culture and iconology and known especially for his work on the relations of visual and verbal representations in the context of social and political issues. He is the Gaylord Donnelley Distinguished Service Professor of English and Art History at the University of Chicago, where he has been based for most of his career following a period teaching English at Ohio State University. He has lectured at universities and art museums throughout the US as well as in Europe and the Middle East and has received fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the American Philosophical Society. A recipient of numerous academic prizes, he is an icon in the field of literary criticism.

### **Helena Muller (LittD, Arts & Humanities)**

A former High Sheriff of South Yorkshire, she has made a highly significant contribution to the charity and voluntary sectors both locally and nationally. A member of the Dementia Action Alliance she is also a member of the Older People's Mental Health Priority Group, The Dementia Prevention Group and The Health Network and is a Trustee for the Sheffield branch of Emmaus, a charity supporting and housing the homeless. Her most recognised achievement is as founder and chief executive of "The Lost Chord", a charity she established in 1999 providing music therapy sessions in residential homes and day care centres for people in the early stages of dementia. From its earliest beginnings in Rotherham with 11 residential homes, the charity has now expanded across South Yorkshire, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire with satellite schemes in Wales and London, providing 1300 interactive musical sessions in over 130 care homes each year. Patrons of Lost Chord include Lesley Garrett, Cliff Richard, and the distinguished concert pianist Benjamin Frith, who all pay tribute to the huge impact her charitable work is having on people's lives.

### **Dr Irina Prokhorova (LittD, Arts & Humanities)**

A prominent publisher, literary critic and cultural historian of international standing, she is the founder and editor-in-chief of the first independent academic literary journal in Russia and the biggest academic publishing house in Moscow, the New Literary Observer. She is highly regarded as one of the women who form the country's leading elite. She has been awarded prestigious prizes including, the independent Liberty Award for outstanding contributions to Russian and American culture, the Laureate of the Andrey Belyi prize for literature (Russian Federation, 2006) and the Chevalier de l'Ordre national de la Légion d'honneur (France, 2012). She is a founding director of the Mikhail Prokhorov Foundation, which supports the development of new cultural institutions and initiatives in Russia and promotes Russian culture in the global intellectual community, including at this University. As Chair of the Executive Board of Russia's Civil Platform Party, she has also had a significant role in the evolving political development of Russia.

### **Dr Chas Sims (DEng, Engineering)**

An Electronic and Electrical Engineering graduate, he has forged a highly distinguished career in engineering product design and business development. Following spells in both the UK and US, he was one of the founders of The Technology Partnership (TTP), which has now grown into Europe's leading independent technology and product development group. In 22 years at TTP, he led and built the engineering side of the business serving as a Director, then as Deputy Managing Director. He built a team of experts spanning engineering and design, and established unique in-house facilities and capabilities. This scale and engineering excellence enabled TTP to become a partner of choice for many global brands with its engineering design and innovation incorporated in well-known products across sectors such as telecommunications and printing. As TTP Group Business Development Director he led the growth of its business globally, by 2008 70% of its turnover was from exports, an achievement recognised with a Queen's Award for Enterprise for export performance. Since leaving TTP in 2009, he continues to be a leader in growing technology businesses and supporting start-ups and has played a prominent role in promoting and drawing together the UK electronics industry.

### **Dr Richard Summers (DSc, Science)**

An alumnus of the University with a PhD in Genetics, he is currently the European Cereal Breeding Coordinator for RAGT Seeds Ltd in Cambridgeshire, one of Europe's leading seeds businesses. He is responsible for the company's wheat, durum, triticale and winter barley breeding programmes, molecular marker, analytics and breeding support teams (based in UK, France, Germany and Czech Republic). He also oversees trialling and the development of breeding lines in non-core geographies in Europe and elsewhere in the world. He is currently Chairman of the British Society of Plant Breeders (BSPB), a National Institute of Agricultural Botany board member and a member of the John Innes Centre Science Impact Advisory Board. He is a key impact partner and collaborator in Sheffield's food security research strategy.

### **Professor Tilli Tansey, OBE (MD, Medicine, Dentistry & Health)**

Brought up in Sheffield, she is a highly distinguished alumna of the University with a BSc and PhD in Zoology and a DSc. She worked as a neuroscientist in several research and academic institutions before changing career path. She is now an eminent and renowned medical historian, specialising in the history of 20th and 21st century medical sciences, particularly physiology, pharmacology and the neurosciences. Having developed an internationally renowned programme in the history of contemporary biomedicine, she is currently Professor of the History of Modern Medical Sciences at Queen Mary University of London. A Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences (only the second professional medical historian to be so honoured) and an Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, she was awarded an OBE in the 2014 New Year's Honours List for services to research in the medical sciences and to the public understanding of science.

### **Professor Sir John Tooke (MD, Medicine, Dentistry & Health)**

President of the Academy of Medical Sciences, Vice Provost (Health) and Head of the Medical School at UCL and Academic Director of UCL's Academic Health Science Centre, UCL Partners, he is amongst the foremost figures in British medicine. His clinical and research interests have focussed on diabetes and its vascular complications and he is a recipient of the European Association of Diabetes Camillo Golgi Award. At the University of Exeter, where he became the inaugural Dean of their new Peninsula Medical School, the University was awarded a Queen's Anniversary Prize for his work on the pathogenesis of diabetic microangiopathy. In 2007 he led the Inquiry for the Secretary of State for Health into Postgraduate Medical Education and Training. His report had a profound influence on medical training, leading to the move of the oversight for all postgraduate educational supervision to the General Medical Council and the establishment of Medical Education England, the forerunner of Health Education England. He was knighted in 2007 for services to medicine.

### **Alex Turner (DMus, Arts & Humanities)**

Born and raised in High Green, Sheffield he is the lead vocalist, guitarist and principal songwriter of one of the most critically acclaimed and globally successful bands of the last decade – Arctic Monkeys. The band's first album, "Whatever People Say I Am, That's What I'm Not" became the fastest-selling debut album in British music history. All of the band's albums have reached number one in the charts and as chief songwriter he is widely acclaimed as being one of the most talented lyricists of his generation. His intricate and often rapidly delivered lyrics, sung in a distinctive, strong Sheffield accent, are a key part in the band's sound that translates across their whole discography. He has led the band to headline the world famous Glastonbury Festival twice in 2007 and 2013 and performed at the 2012 Summer Olympics opening ceremony in London. The band have received an impressive 37 awards thus far including the highly prestigious Mercury prize and he has been the recipient of the NME's Hero of the Year award for two consecutive years running.

## **2 Any Other Business**

A review of engagement with Honorary Graduates of the last five years was discussed and the need for departments to regularly engage with their Honorary graduates.

Mrs Claire Rundström  
Development, Alumni Relations & Events