A celebration of excellence

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ROYAL VISIT

HM The Queen is seen here wearing a pair of virtual reality glasses during the ground-breaking ceremony at the University’s Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre

page 6
In 2005, to celebrate the University’s Centenary, Sheffield artist Joe Scarborough (Hon LittD 2008) painted Our University, generously funded by the Sheffield University Association of former students. Sales of the limited edition signed prints raised over £18,000 for undergraduate scholarships. The University has now commissioned Joe to paint a sister work entitled Our Students’ Journey which hangs in the Students’ Union. It depicts all aspects of student life including the RAG boat race and parade, student officer elections and summer activities in Weston Park. We are delighted to be offering 500 limited edition signed prints. All proceeds will again provide scholarships for gifted students in need of financial support, and to help the University’s Alumni Foundation which distributes grants to student clubs and societies.

Our Students’ Journey
Limited edition signed prints, measuring 19” x 17”, are unframed and priced at £40.00 (incl VAT).

Our University
A very limited number of these prints (unsigned) are still available. Measuring 19” x 17”, they are unframed and priced at £15.00 (incl VAT).

Delivery: UK £2.00; by airmail (Europe) £3.00; by airmail (rest of world) £4.50

Watch a short video of Joe Scarborough discussing his painting at www.sheffieldtelegraph.co.uk/lifestyle/joe_scarborough_unveils_latest_work_watch_the_video_1_3379371

To place your order please visit www.sheffield.ac.uk/alumni/merchandise or call +44 (0)114 222 5592.
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 Catching up with our alumni

Welcome to the 2011 issue of Your University magazine.

FUNDING FOR HIGHER EDUCATION
in the UK has never been far from the headlines this year and we are very pleased that the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Keith Burnett, addresses this issue and its impact on the University of Sheffield in this year’s magazine (see page 4). Elsewhere, we report on a discussion between two Union Presidents (page 20) and commemorate the Sheffield Blitz through the eye-witness accounts of our alumni (page 18). I am sure you will find something to interest you in the following pages – the range of activities undertaken by current students and staff as well as our alumni never ceases to amaze me.

Miles Stevenson
Director of Development

Lost alumni?

We know that we are not in touch with all our former students. If you have friends or family who went to the University, please ask them if they hear from us. If not, please encourage them to get in touch and we will be happy to include them on the mailing list to receive future copies of Your University.

The Development and Alumni Relations Office is your contact point for the University. If you have any questions or feedback, please contact us:

DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI RELATIONS OFFICE
The University of Sheffield, 267 Glossop Road, Sheffield S10 2HB, UK
Tel: +44 (0)114 222 1071
Fax: +44 (0)114 222 1044
Email: alumni@sheffield.ac.uk
Website: www.sheffield.ac.uk/alumni
IN THE YEAR SINCE I LAST WROTE A PIECE FOR OUR ALUMNI magazine, UK universities have experienced unprecedented change in government policy and public funding. I know from alumni events, both in the UK and all over the world, that our wonderful graduates are passionately concerned about the wellbeing of current students in Sheffield and what these changes mean for their University. So I’d like to tell you something about a year which included both the ‘best of times and the worst of times’, and what I believe the future holds for us.

Looking back, I see a year in which – despite headlines about rising fees, reduced funding and passionate protest – the real work of the University has never been stronger. In November we welcomed Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh to the University to celebrate our strengths in medical and engineering research as well as the success of our student volunteering projects. It was a high profile recognition of work which impacts our world for the good, a theme which is relevant across all our faculties.

Yet this past year has also been one of real challenge. The Browne Review into the funding of higher education – and the reduction in public funds and increase in tuition fees which followed – triggered wholesale change in the public funding of UK universities and a revaluing of their meaning against an economic model. So it was that in April the University found itself in the unenviable position of a decision regarding our proposals on UK and other EU undergraduate tuition fees and a related package of support which placed standard fees at the University of Sheffield at £9,000.

Convocation supported this recommendation ‘with a heavy heart’. Local MP David Blunkett acknowledged that the University found itself between ‘a rock and a hard place’. Even the President of the Students’ Union, Josh Forstenzer, who felt honour bound to vote against the increase, acknowledged the difficult position of the University given wider public policy, and applauded our efforts to widen participation in the most challenging of circumstances.

All had the sense that a new chapter was beginning in the story of UK higher education, but what would be written over the coming years was far from clear. And yet, I have repeatedly been moved by an atmosphere of common cause between our staff, students, alumni and others involved in education. It is this shared belief in the value and importance of what we do which will be crucial to what happens next. This is what gives me faith in the future, just as our founders felt justified in building a university which would, a century later, have a global reputation for outstanding research and teaching. Our strength lies in the authenticity of what we do and who we are as a community.

This is something our students also feel, and which I know means so much to our graduates. We reached our funding decisions through an inclusive and thorough process, and this must be only the beginning of how we move forward. Students must be – and wish to be – deeply involved in the development of

Rising to the challenge

The importance of philanthropy

Miles Stevenson, Director of Development, reflects on how our alumni can support the University in these challenging times.

IT’S BEEN ANOTHER BUSY AND PRODUCTIVE YEAR for the Development and Alumni Relations Office. From the Royal visit in November to our ever-growing programme of alumni events and reunions at home and abroad, we’ve been working harder than ever to strengthen relationships between the University and its alumni and friends.

As a graduate, your support is more important than ever before in the new climate of changing funding and questioning the value of a University education. You can help by:

1. being an ambassador for the University (and for the importance of universities in general) by sharing our success stories, and your experiences of your own time here, with friends, family and business contacts

2. getting involved with supporting student and/or graduate recruitment at Sheffield
Our endeavour must be to make a clear case for the value of the University experience

I recognise that we are striving for what the war poet Henry Reed called ‘the point of balance’, in which we accept the challenges of our new environment, strengthened by the values of what has gone before and confident of the relevance and necessity of education to our world.

The President of the Students’ Union expressed this beautifully this year:

“We all know that our generation faces increasingly complex global problems with the potential to cause immense human suffering. It is in times such as these that we need to invest in our youth and educate them to become the problem solvers of the future... education is not only a social good and a fundamental economic asset – it is vital to the future of our world.”

I believe our University will continue to be inspired by these values as we seek to discover and understand, and to share what we learn with capable students from all backgrounds, even in the face of significant challenges. I would like to sincerely thank all those who have offered us both encouragement and practical support in ensuring that these ambitions can and will be achieved.

PROFESSOR KEITH BURNETT CBE, FRS, VICE-CHANCELLOR

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We’re delighted and extremely grateful that this year we received our 10,000th individual donation

1. volunteering your time and expertise by providing careers advice to current students, either through an in-person talk or online via our Careers Service
2. enhancing and developing the University’s links with business, industry and schools
3. supporting the University by making a donation to the area in which you would most like to make a difference.

One of our most important fundraising priorities is increasing the amount of financial support we can offer to bright students from less well-off backgrounds in order to encourage them to develop their academic ability. To date, our scholarship fundraising programme has helped over 500 students by allocating over £1 million in scholarships.

One of the main reasons the University came into being in 1905 was “so that the highest education can be brought within the reach of the child of the working man”. We are tremendously proud of this heritage and want to be able to maintain the tradition by ensuring all those with the ability and desire to study are not deterred by financial reasons. The scholarships funded by your donations provide real inspiration and support to gifted students whose potential might otherwise go unfulfilled.

Whether you can give £10, £100, £1,000 or more, every donation has a real and far-reaching impact on someone’s life. We’re delighted and extremely grateful that this year we received our 10,000th individual donation since we began fundraising in 2003 – your gifts have helped transform all aspects of the University from scholarships to buildings to life-saving research. I hope that if you are not already part of our worldwide donor community, you might consider making a contribution to support the life and work of our University and its students this year.

The Alumni Office is here as your point of contact for the University, so please do get in touch with us. We hope to be able to welcome you back to Sheffield during the coming year.
A celebration of excellence

The University hosted a visit by Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh on 18 November 2010. This was an opportunity to share some of the most significant current areas of achievement in medicine, student volunteering and engineering.

The Queen officially opened the Sheffield Institute for Translational Neuroscience (SITrAn), an international centre for research into neurodegenerative disease, which is situated close to the Royal Hallamshire Hospital. As well as meeting the institute’s staff, The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh were introduced to the patrons of the Sheffield Institute Foundation for Motor Neurone Disease – whose fundraising activities and support have made SITrAn possible. “We are truly privileged that Her Majesty opened SITrAn,” said the institute’s Director, Professor Pamela Shaw. “We intend to make our patrons and supporters proud of their investment.”

The Queen then visited Sheffield Cathedral to see a selection of projects from the award-winning SheffieldVolunteering and Sheffield RAG (Raising and Giving). Stella McHugh (BA English Literature 1995) is Volunteering Manager at the Students’ Union and she introduced the Flourish project, where students work with people with traumatic brain injuries, and the Lego Club, which helps children to engage with parents through imaginative play sessions. “It was such a big deal to all of us that the University was proud to showcase the projects – a real endorsement of what the students do,” Stella said.

Following lunch in Firth Hall, prepared by staff from Accommodation & Commercial Services, the visit concluded with a drive to the Rotherham site of the Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre (AMRC) with Boeing. Here, The Queen officially launched building work on the new Nuclear AMRC by donning a set of virtual reality glasses to remotely activate a digger. Professor Keith Ridgway OBE said, “We were very proud to welcome Her Majesty to the AMRC at this very exciting time. The Nuclear AMRC will take our technological excellence into new markets, and help British companies supply the new generation of power stations worldwide.”

For further details of the three highlighted projects visit:
www.sheffield.ac.uk/sitran
www.sheffield.ac.uk/union/get-involved/volunteering
www.amrc.co.uk
Outshining the Sun

THE MOST MASSIVE STARS YET DISCOVERED HAVE BEEN found by an international team of astronomers led by Paul Crowther, Professor of Astrophysics from the Department of Physics and Astronomy. Located within two young star clusters, NGC 3603 and RMC 136a, the stars weigh up to 300 times the mass of the Sun, a figure which doubles the previously accepted limit of solar mass. The team used the ESO Very Large Telescope in Chile and data from the NASA/ESA (European Space Agency) Hubble Space Telescope for their research, which was funded by the Science and Technologies Funding Council.

NGC 3603 is located 22,000 light-years away from the Sun, and is a cosmic factory within which stars form quickly from the nebula’s ring of gas and dust. RMC 136a (more commonly known as R136a), another cluster of young, hot stars, is found within the Tarantula nebula, itself within the Large Magellanic Cloud, a neighbouring galaxy to the Milky Way. The most massive star ever found, R136a1 within the R136a cluster, has a current mass of 265 solar masses, and it is thought its birth weight was as much as 320 times that of the Sun. It is also the most luminous star ever found, close to ten million times that of the Sun.

Professor Crowther said, "Unlike humans, these stars are born heavy and lose weight as they age. Being a little over 1 million years old, the most extreme star R136a1 is already ‘middle-aged’ and has undergone an intense weight loss programme, shedding a fifth of its initial mass over that time, or more than 50 solar masses. Owing to the rarity of these monsters, I think it is unlikely that this new record will be broken any time soon." He has recently been approved for additional observing campaigns with the same ESO telescopes to continue the search.

www.eso.org/public/news/eso1030

Support for students from Santander

FOLLOWING THE SIGNING OF A THREE-YEAR AGREEMENT, SHEFFIELD IS NOW THE 39th UK university to be welcomed into the Santander Universities network, which supports over 650 universities in Spain, Latin America, Portugal, Russia, China, the USA and the UK. Financial support from Santander has resulted in five University of Sheffield Santander Postgraduate Scholarships in 2010–11, each worth £5,000.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Keith Burnett said, “We are grateful of the support Santander has pledged to the University of Sheffield and believe it will have a great impact on our students. In addition to support for scholarships, the financial assistance will also allow more staff and students to research overseas, and help support our students in developing their business ideas.”
Support for elite student athletes

WORLD CHAMPION HEPTATHLETE AND GRADUATE JESSICA
Ennis MBE (BA Psychology 2007, Hon LittD 2010) launched the Elite Sport Performance Scheme (ESPS) at the University in October 2010. The scheme, of which she is patron, provides financial and non-financial support to talented student athletes who represent England, Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland in one of Sport England’s recognised sports.

Thanks to generous donations from alumni and friends of the University, as well as local businesses and organisations, 28 students are benefiting from the scheme this year. Jessica said, “I am delighted to be the first patron of ESPS. Studying at the University of Sheffield enabled me to get my degree whilst balancing my training and competition commitments. I hope that I can help to inspire the next generation of Sheffield students to become World or Olympic champions.”

First-year Economics and Social Policy student and international hockey player, Hollie Webb also received a year’s free accommodation at the University’s Endcliffe Village, worth £4,360, courtesy of Catalyst Higher Education (Sheffield) plc, plus a complimentary eatwithUS card from Accommodation & Commercial Services, worth the equivalent of £3,000. Table tennis champion David Wetherill, a third-year Biological Chemistry student, received the Registrar’s Award of £1,500.

LONDON 2012
We would love to hear from alumni who are taking part in the London 2012 Olympics or Paralympics. Are you hoping to represent your country? Are you part of the construction team? Are you a sports journalist? Please email us with your details (to alumni@sheffield.ac.uk) as we are planning to cover the contribution made by Sheffield graduates to the Games during 2012.

TOP-CLASS STUDENT EXPERIENCE
The Students’ Union, social life, library facilities and accommodation were voted best in the country in the Times Higher Education Student Experience Survey. The University came second overall in the annual survey of the UK’s universities.
TWO MECHANICAL ENGINEERING PHD STUDENTS HAVE recorded a video of the Earth from the edge of space, using homemade equipment and on a shoestring budget of just £350. Alex Baker and Chris Rose sent a helium-filled balloon with two video cameras and a tracking device up into the atmosphere, filming video and taking pictures as it went. It is thought that, at its maximum height, the balloon reached an altitude of 37km.

Dr Edward Hanna, from the Department of Geography, said, “It’s a spectacular video. You can see the sky darkening as the balloon ascends, due to less molecular scattering as the atmosphere becomes thinner. In addition, the video also shows the curvature of the Earth, which becomes more apparent the higher the balloon climbs, and amazing cloud formations which we can see from above.”

View the video on YouTube – search under ‘How to film the Earth from space’.

PROFESSORSHIP FOR POPULAR POET
Poet Simon Armitage CBE is the University’s first Professor of Poetry. He is also a patron of the Sheffield Poetry Festival; the inaugural festival took place in April 2011.

Uncovering the Sheffield Jungle

THE FASCINATING HISTORY OF THE SHEFFIELD JUNGLE – an Edwardian magical menagerie of exotic animals and circus acts run by Frank Bostock – is being revealed by researchers from the National Fairground Archive. Making its home in the city for seven months from November 1910, the show featured animals from all over the world including a drum-playing elephant, trained mice, llamas, camels and no fewer than 100 lions. It occupied a building on Hawley Street, which became available as part of the slum clearance in the city.

Angela Greenwood and Ian Trowell are uncovering the physical and cultural environment of the Sheffield Jungle. The research project looks at the changing space of Sheffield, the social history associated with the slums, and the cultural history linked directly to the forms of entertainment that the Jungle included: exotic animals, human feats and wonders. The Daily Independent described the sensation as the “greatest zoological garden in the entire world”.

Visit the project’s website at www.nfa.dept.shef.ac.uk/jungle

How to film the Earth from space

Image taken from the video footage, at an altitude of around 35km.

Win

OUR STUDENTS’ JOURNEY

A signed limited edition print by celebrated Sheffield-born artist Joe Scarborough (Hon LittD 2008).

Answer the following question:
Which river was the venue for the annual Boat Race, organised by Sheffield RAG?

Email your answer to alumni@sheffield.ac.uk, citing ‘Journey competition’ in the Subject line.

Deadline: 28 October 2011

We will inform the lucky winner by email.

(Also see page 2 for more details of the new print.)
Sheffield Solar Farm

The Sheffield Solar Farm is part of Project Sunshine. The 70m² photovoltaic panels on the roof of the Hicks Building provide both the University and photovoltaics researchers and developers around the UK with the technology to field test their experimental photovoltaic cell designs. Photovoltaics is the science of using semiconductors, such as silicon, to create energy. The Solar Farm, officially opened by Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg and supported by the Higher Education Innovation Fund, provides a benchmark for the use of photovoltaics in northerly latitudes. In addition, it provides electricity to the Hicks Building and the National Grid.

www.sheffield.ac.uk/solarfarm

Entrepreneurial students

ENTERPRISING STUDENTS FROM SHEFFIELD REPRESENTED the UK at the semi-finals of the Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) World Cup 2010, after impressing international judges with their community-orientated business ventures. The team competed against 40 other university teams, each from a different country, at the event in Los Angeles.

During the three-day competition, Sheffield SIFE presented the results of their community outreach projects, including their World Kind project model, which aims to help poor, rural communities locked in a cycle of poverty. The project specifically focused on supporting widowed women with children to start tailoring businesses and, following the success of this project in Ghana, Sheffield SIFE have since used their model to work with communities in India and Bangladesh.

Through social and commercial projects, the society – which is part of an international organisation in over 1,500 universities and 50 countries – aims to harness students’ entrepreneurial and volunteering spirit to make a difference in the Sheffield community.

www.sheffield.ac.uk/shine

PROJECT SUNSHINE IS A UNIVERSITY of Sheffield initiative that unites scientists in finding ways to harness the power of the sun as part of a bid to meet the increasing food and energy needs of the world’s population.

Led by the Faculty of Science, the project builds upon extensive achievements in areas such as plant and microbial science, environmental biology, organic electronics and optoelectronics, and solar physics research.

The project brings together over 40 scientists (biologists, chemists, physicists and mathematicians) and draws upon the complementary skills of groups of engineers, social scientists and economists. Their focus is the development and deployment of new technologies and systems that use the sun’s energy more efficiently and more extensively to increase food production and provide renewable energy. At the same time, they are concerned with reducing carbon emissions, decreasing environmental degradation and stabilising atmospheric CO₂ levels.

The first international Project Sunshine conference, Shine, takes place from 13–14 September 2011 at the University.
Business degree in Shanghai

THE UNIVERSITY HAS BEEN GRANTED A LICENCE BY THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT to deliver a Business Management degree at the Sino-British College. The college is a joint venture between the Northern Consortium of Universities, of which Sheffield is a founder member, and the University of Shanghai for Science and Technology.

Students will spend the first two years of the degree in Shanghai, and then complete the programme in Sheffield. Vice-Chancellor Professor Keith Burnett said, “The Sino-British College is one of only three institutions in China to have been awarded a licence by the Chinese Government to deliver full UK degrees taught entirely in English in their country. The University has a long-term commitment to developing stronger academic relations with China.”

Former Chair of the School of East Asian Studies and Sheffield alumnus Professor Ian Gow CBE, FRSA (PhD Japanese Studies 1986) is the Principal of the Sino-British College. He said, “We are delighted that the University of Sheffield has agreed to offer its degree to be taught in Shanghai. We look forward to working closely with its internationally recognised Management School and to providing further support to Sheffield in its teaching and research strategy for Shanghai and for China.”

Explore the Sino-British College’s website at www.sbc-usst.edu.cn

Entrepreneurial students impress at World Championships

In Brief

COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH
The Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre (AMRC) with Boeing, and its sister facility the Nuclear AMRC, are part of a consortium of seven UK research centres appointed to run the government-backed Technology Innovation Centre for High Value Manufacturing.

FORMAL LINK WITH TAIWAN
The University has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with National Chung Hsing University, Taichung, Taiwan. Vice-Chancellor Professor Keith Burnett said, “We are looking forward to developing closer academic relations in a range of areas and seeing our staff and students working and studying together.”

CANCER RESEARCH BOOST
Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research has named Sheffield as a Centre of Excellence. The national blood cancer charity has £1.7 million currently invested in five projects at the University.

PRAISE FOR LANGUAGE CENTRE
The English Language Teaching Centre (ELTC) has been internationally recognised as a Centre of Excellence in a survey published in the leading education newspaper El Gazette. The ELTC joins only eight other institutions in the country to have received this status, and Sheffield is one of only two universities to be included.

CONTRACT SUCCESS
The EPSRC National Centre for III-V Technologies, based in the University’s Centre for Nanoscience and Technology, has received a £10 million renewal contract from the Energy and Physical Sciences Research Council.

SCREENING EXPERTISE
The £1 million Sheffield RNAi Screening Facility, funded by the Wellcome Trust and the Department of Biomedical Sciences, is only the second such unit in the world and screens for genes involved in diseases and breakthrough biological processes.

DENTAL ANNIVERSARY
The building housing the School of Clinical Dentistry, next to the Charles Clifford Dental Hospital, celebrates its 20th anniversary this year. Dentistry has been taught in Sheffield since 1898; the Sheffield dental degree was introduced in 1922. Today, the School is ranked among the top five dental schools in the country.

The School will soon relaunch their Alumni Association for former students with plans for a reunion event in the near future.

Please email dental.alumni@sheffield.ac.uk for further details.

impress at World Championships

and around the world. Sara Pates, Enterprise Business Manager for University of Sheffield Enterprise, said, “We are so proud of the Sheffield SIFE team. The projects they run really do change lives, not only for the people they help, but also the SIFE team members. They set themselves really tough challenges and have worked hard to achieve them, epitomising the attributes of a ‘Sheffield Graduate.’

ABOVE LEFT: The Sheffield SIFE team representing the UK in the SIFE World Cup. LEFT: Sheffield SIFE members Rob Avery-Phipps and Jahaan Abdurahman with children in Lesotho where a SIFE project – Tomorrow’s World – targeted mass deforestation and extensive soil erosion. The students worked with communities and plantation managers to stabilise the soil through the planting of specialist trees and the implementation of a special tree harvesting technique.

Visit www.sheffieldsife.org for information about Sheffield SIFE and http://enterprise.shef.ac.uk/success-stories to see photos and a video of their success at the World Championships.
The University of Sheffield offers a range of services, benefits and events exclusively to our alumni.

**Services**

**FREE ANNUAL YOUR UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE.**

**SHEFFIELD REUNITED**
Our online alumni directory.

**REUNIONS AND EVENTS**
We can help you with your reunion in a variety of ways, from offering advice on the type of event and venues, to publicising the event and putting you in touch with old friends.

**FIND A FRIEND**
If you’d like to get in touch with an old University friend, we may be able to help.

**SHEFFIELD ALUMNI BULLETIN**
A quarterly e-newsletter with the latest news and events.

**CAREERS SERVICE**
The University's Careers Service can provide recent graduates with a range of careers advice. Visit [www.sheffield.ac.uk/careers](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/careers)

**UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD ENTERPRISE (USE)**
Alumni may access USE and their free business services up to five years after graduating. Visit [www.sheffield.ac.uk/alumni/services/enterprise](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/alumni/services/enterprise)

**FIRTH COURT WEDDINGS**
A stunning venue for your special day. Phone 0114 222 8999 for details.

**INTERNATIONAL ALUMNI LOYALTY DISCOUNTS FOR FURTHER STUDY**
The University is committed to rewarding the loyalty of our international alumni who have graduated with undergraduate degrees and intend to pursue further studies at this University. Rewards worth £1,000 per year of study are available for up to three years of study. An additional £500 is available for University of Sheffield graduates who have received a first-class honours undergraduate degree. For further details and the application form, visit [www.sheffield.ac.uk/international/enquiry/money/alumni](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/international/enquiry/money/alumni)

**Benefits**

Take advantage of a range of Sheffield Alumni offers that we have negotiated for you. These include library access, University sports facility offers, Students' Union lifetime membership and a range of hotel and cottage discounts.

For some of the benefits you may need to show your Alumni Membership Card. If you have not received your membership card, please contact the Alumni Relations team and we will be happy to send you one. For further details and to keep up to date with the latest range of services and benefits available please visit [www.sheffield.ac.uk/alumni/services](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/alumni/services)

Remember – we can only keep you informed of what’s on offer if you stay in touch! So please tell us your current address and email by completing the enclosed questionnaire, update online at [www.sheffield.ac.uk/alumni/keepintouch](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/alumni/keepintouch), email alumni@sheffield.ac.uk or call 0114 222 5590.

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**Calendar of events**

**OUR REUNIONS AND EVENTS**

section at [www.sheffield.ac.uk/alumni/events](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/alumni/events) includes a guide on how to plan a reunion. We can also add your event online, so that we can promote it for you. We’d then like to hear how it went, so we can include a report. The Reunion and Events pages have a full calendar of events, so it is the place to go to ensure you are kept up to date with all the reunions and events of interest to you.

There are also links to the University’s Conference Office, who can help with booking accommodation or function rooms. Visit [www.withus.com](http://www.withus.com), email conferences@sheffield.ac.uk or call 0114 222 8822.

Many of our events are advertised by email, so please ensure we have your up-to-date email address if you wish to be invited to events. If you do not have access to the internet or email and would like to be informed of our alumni events, please contact us (on 0114 222 5592) and we will add you to our events’ mailing list.
The following events are currently planned for the forthcoming year:

**ALUMNI RECEPTION, ENGINEERING SHEFFIELD: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE**
Thursday 8 September 2011, Western Bank Library
Watch out for more details on our website or email alumni@sheffield.ac.uk

**ANNUAL ALUMNI REUNION INCORPORATING THE CONVOCATION AGM**
Saturday 10 September 2011, on campus

All alumni are welcome to return to the University, especially those from the anniversary years of 1971, 1981 and 1986. Tours and activities during the day will be followed by a black-tie dinner in Firth Hall, with guest speaker BBC Newsnight Economics Editor Paul Mason (BA Music and Politics 1981). As part of the morning activities the Convocation AGM will take place with an address from the Vice-Chancellor. This is open to all alumni to attend (although only members of Convocation are allowed to vote). This will be followed by lunch for everyone attending the reunion and AGM on campus.

Email alumni@sheffield.ac.uk or call 0114 222 1079 for further details.

**POP TARTS REUNITED**
Saturday 10 September 2011, Fusion and Foundry, Students’ Union
Relive all your best memories from your University days at the one and only alumni Pop Tarts Reunited.
Email alumni@sheffield.ac.uk

**CONVOCATION NW BRANCH ANNUAL LUNCH**
Sunday 25 September 2011, Old Hall Hotel, Buxton
Call Branch Secretary Joan Evans on 0151 334 1299 if you wish to attend.

**HOUSE OF LORDS ALUMNI RECEPTION**
October 2011 (details TBC)

We are delighted to hold a third alumni reception at the House of Lords, hosted by Lord Hattersley (Hon LittD 1998).
Email alumni@sheffield.ac.uk or call 0114 222 5592 for further details.

**LAW ALUMNI DINNER**
Friday 14 October 2011, Firth Hall
Dinner for former students of the School of Law.
Email Lisa Burns at l.k.burns@sheffield.ac.uk for further details or visit www.sheffield.ac.uk/law/alumni/alumndinner

**VISIT TO A DEPARTMENT**
October/November 2011, on campus (details TBC)
Watch out for more details on our website or email alumni@sheffield.ac.uk

**ALUMNI RECEPTION, GEORGE DEVEY: FORERUNNER OF THE ARTS AND CRAFTS MOVEMENT EXHIBITION**
December 2011, Western Bank Library (details TBC)
Watch out for more details on our website or email alumni@sheffield.ac.uk

**HERITAGE CIRCLE LUNCH**
Friday 21 October 2011, Firth Hall
For those alumni who are interested in leaving or have left a gift in their Will.
Email David Meadows at d.meadows@sheffield.ac.uk or call 0114 222 1073.
The inaugural Heritage Circle Lunch in Firth Hall.

**60TH AND 50TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION LUNCHEON**
Saturday 23 June 2012, on campus
If you graduated in 1952 or 1962 why not return to Sheffield for a special reunion lunch to celebrate 50 and 60 years since your graduation?
Email alumni@sheffield.ac.uk or call 0114 222 5592.

**DINNER FOR FORMER STAFF AND FRIENDS**
Thursday 5 July 2012, Firth Hall
Drinks’ reception in the Quadrangle (weather permitting!) followed by dinner in Firth Hall.
If you’re a retired member of staff and would like to receive an invitation, please email alumni@sheffield.ac.uk

**ANNUAL ALUMNI REUNION INCORPORATING THE CONVOCATION AGM**
Saturday 8 September 2012, on campus
If you’re from the class of 1972, 1982 or 1987 you’ll be celebrating 40, 30 and 25 years since completing your studies.
We invite you and all alumni to join us in Sheffield, catch up with old friends and see the changes on campus. Celebrate in style with a drinks’ reception and dinner in Firth Hall. The Convocation AGM will also take place during the day which will be followed by lunch for all.
Email alumni@sheffield.ac.uk or call 0114 222 1079 for more details.

For further details of alumni events and to see the latest calendar please visit: www.sheffield.ac.uk/alumni/events
For Convocation events please visit: www.sheffield.ac.uk/convocation/social
Appointment of new PVC International

Professor Rebecca Hughes is the University’s Pro-Vice-Chancellor International: “Internationalisation at home and abroad forms two halves of the same coin. I’m looking forward to working with partners across the University and tackling issues around internationalisation from both perspectives. We’ll be assessing what it means to be an international student at Sheffield, whilst engaging with the city and the local community to develop a strong, well-rounded, international strategy embedded within the University’s values.”

Professor Rebecca Hughes, Pro-Vice-Chancellor International

The University’s historical roots may be in Sheffield, but our identity is global and the impact of what we do reaches out to benefit all the places our students and staff also call home. It is this truly international perspective which makes our University a place of rich cultural and educational exchange: we have students from over 125 countries taught by academic staff from 87 countries.

We asked a group of our international alumni what their University of Sheffield degree means to them.

25% Overseas Students as Percentage of Total Student Population

Spreading the word
Dr Jamshed Irani (MMet Metallurgy 1960, PhD Metallurgy 1963, Hon DMet 1993), India
In the late 1950s, it was my aspiration to join India’s effort in steel. Naturally, given the prominence of Sheffield in this field, I picked on the University to further my career prospects. I was not to be disappointed. When I returned to India I joined the Tata Iron and Steel Company in the Research and Development Department, moved on to Operations and ultimately finished as the Managing Director. I have recommended some friends to send their children/relatives to the University; once they get there, they realise the advantages, and do not want to move away!

Nicoletta Kythreoti Dubey (BEng Civil and Structural Engineering 2000), Cyprus
Sheffield is a well-reputed university all around the world. Year by year it gets higher and higher reviews and goes up the ladder of league tables. It is very important when you look for a job to say the name of your university without feeling ashamed – when someone asks me where did I graduate from, I take great pride while replying ‘The University of Sheffield’. If Sheffield was not so good would my parents have sent all three of their daughters there for their studies? [Nicoletta is a technical engineer with the Sewerage Board of Nicosia as well as a representative of the University in Cyprus.]

Etay Katz (LLB Law 1997), Israel
Sheffield was my first destination in the UK – it was without a doubt love at first sight. It was only when I moved to London years later that I really got to appreciate how hospitable the place is. I retain such fond memories of my university life that I tend to get emotional when I speak of Sheffield. I always praise the academic excellence but emphasise the friendliness and helpfulness of the staff and the city itself. [Etay is a partner at Allen & Overy, London.]

Susanna Chiu (BA Economics 1982), Hong Kong
I have definitely benefited from studying at the University of Sheffield. Apart from teaching me knowledge, it also taught me a way of learning and a way of life. The teachings are dynamic and encourage one to think and rationalise rather than ‘cut and paste’. The Students’ Union offers a place for students coming from different countries to socialise and network, to cultivate understanding of different cultures. Hence I was able to experience international multicultural interactions and this has benefited me a lot in my subsequent career. [Susanna is a Director of Li & Fung Development (China) Ltd.]

Sylvia Tande (BEng Aerospace Engineering 2005), Kenya
The University featured in the Top 10 rankings for Engineering and it was highly regarded by many of my teachers. One other aspect that ‘sealed the deal’ was that Sheffield as a city was very student-centric and made me feel like part of a community and put me at ease, particularly considering I was an international student. Obtaining a degree from Sheffield has definitely benefited my career in many ways [Sylvia now works in the financial sector]. The University is one of the most respected higher education institutions: this always fares well with employers.

Zhen Tan (LLM Commercial Law 2000), China
Many subject areas of the University of Sheffield are recognised and awarded with the grades of ‘excellent’ in accordance with the surveys conducted by authoritative organisations in the UK and abroad. The local people are very friendly and international-orientated, and always extend their support to overseas students. The University of Sheffield has turned out to be part of my life experience which laid down the foundation for my career endeavours. I am in a better position to deal with cross-border transactions in the context of multi-national cultures and business practice. [Tan is General Counsel, China, at SAP in Shanghai.]

Steve Munn (MBA Business Administration 2009), Canada
The first time the prospect of attending the University of Sheffield entered my mind was when I was being recruited to play ice hockey for the Sheffield Steelers. They had a relationship with the University and presented the chance to attend whilst playing. Balancing the MBA schedule with playing professional sport wasn’t the easiest of endeavours! I think the highlights were meeting so many interesting people from all over the world and the satisfaction of handing in my dissertation.

Dr Mona Mabrouk El-Gamal (PhD Animal and Plant Biology 1997), Egypt
Four of my colleagues and two relatives were postgraduates at the University and I discussed it with them. I chose to attend Sheffield because it has all the facilities a student needs for advanced and complete research; and it offers a friendly and supportive atmosphere. I’m sure choosing to study at Sheffield has been one of the best decisions I have ever made. I learned how to think, design experiments, write and publish. I am currently a research fellow and a professor in aquaculture at Tanta University in Egypt.

Guilherme Guimarães (MSc Sport and Recreation Management 2008), Brazil
Sports marketing is a very new area of knowledge, especially in Brazil. To have the opportunity to get in touch with all the content and the thinkers I had while in Sheffield was and still is a big differential in my CV [Guilherme is the Olympic Sports Director at GEO Eventos]. The University has an amazing environment and structure, the professors are good, they listen to you, the city is very versatile (you can party and study, it’s up to you), the weather is not that cold, and the country is used to foreigners and they treat you as equals.

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Children from Monteney Primary School, Sheffield, in the playground: (clockwise from top left) pretend play – Horses; football; clapping; skipping; counting out or dipping to see who will be ‘It’; pretend play – Aargh.
Are playground games and songs still a part of children’s lives in this digital age? What does this oral tradition borrow from television, films and new media? A major national research project has been investigating this fascinating aspect of childhood.

**The Two-Year Project, Which Was Carried Out by** researchers from the Universities of Sheffield, London and East London, and the British Library’s National Sound Archive, involved updating, analysing and re-presenting the British Library National Sound Archive’s recordings of children’s games and songs gathered during the 1960s and 70s by collectors Iona and Peter Opie. It was supported by an authoritative expert advisory panel of academics, game industry representatives and specialists in children’s oral culture, including the former Children’s Laureate, Michael Rosen.

Professor Jackie Marsh, Head of Sheffield’s School of Education, said, “This project has been very important in outlining contemporary children’s playground culture and identifying how there is both continuity and change in the games children play and the ways in which they draw on media culture in this play.”

The findings reveal that television and films are a major source for fantasy play amongst children, including newer genres of television programmes such as talent competitions (Britain’s Got Talent) and reality television programmes (The Jeremy Kyle Show). Television advertisements, popular music and dance, and children’s computer virtual worlds also influence playground games. Some kinds of play popular in the mid-20th century, such as skipping, ball bouncing and singing games, are less popular in contemporary playgrounds, but other kinds of play have blossomed, such as clapping and dance routines, or remain popular, such as chasing games. Another difference from the Opies’ time is that boys as well as girls take part in pop singing and dancing in the playground.

As part of the project, material from the Opies’ collection was digitised and an interactive website was designed. The website, which is hosted by the British Library and co-curated by children participating in the project, breaks new ground in the exhibition of children’s culture. In addition, a study of playground culture was carried out in two primary schools, one in London, one in Sheffield, to explore how games, songs and rhymes are used by children and how they relate to children’s experiences of popular media such as comics, TV, film, the internet and computer games.

Another element of the project explored the relationship between playground games and computer games, involving the development of an innovative prototype computer game using Wii and Kinect technology (Game Catcher). This allowed children to record the moves of their games before playing them back to see them performed by an on-screen avatar. This also created an archive of games usable by researchers. The final part of the project was a documentary film on children’s playground culture called Ipi-Dipi-dation My Generation. It features children from the two schools talking about their play and games.

Researchers, teachers and primary school pupils took part in a special event held at the Showroom in Sheffield on 15 February 2011 to celebrate the conclusion of the project. The children were able to watch excerpts from the documentary, share their experiences of recording play and games, try out the British Library playground games and rhymes website, and play with the Game Catcher videogame. Special guest, poet Ian McMillan involved the pupils in a series of poetry workshops to explore their own playground games and rhymes.

Professor Marsh commented, “We have found that children’s play is as vibrant and imaginative as ever and the project has been very successful in actively involving children in researching this area and disseminating their own findings. We intend to continue our work on identifying the rich variety of activities in which children engage in the digital age and exploring the inventiveness and creativity of their play.”

**The project – Children’s Playground Games and Songs in the New Media Age – was funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, as part of the Beyond Text programme. For further details, visit the project’s website at** [http://projects.beyondtext.ac.uk/playgroundgames/](http://projects.beyondtext.ac.uk/playgroundgames/)

**The British Library website – Playtimes: 100 years of children’s playground games and rhymes – can be found at** [www.bl.uk/playtimes](http://www.bl.uk/playtimes)
Eye-witness accounts by alumni of the Sheffield Blitz bring this devastating episode of the city’s history to life. The worst bombing of Sheffield by the Luftwaffe took place on 12 and 15 December 1940, with considerable damage inflicted across the city centre and the steel works in the Don Valley. In total over 660 people were killed, 1,500 injured and 40,000 made homeless.

Dr Aileen Adams CBE, FRCS, FRCA
(MB ChB Medicine 1945)

I was due to sit a Chemistry exam on Friday 13 December 1940; there wasn’t much sleep the previous night as we huddled in Crewe Hall basement shelter. Friday dawned with the knowledge and thankfulness that we had survived a near miss – houses had been destroyed in nearby Westbourne Road. As I approached Western Bank, passing gushing water mains and gas mains ablaze, one dared expect that the exam might have been cancelled. Firth Hall had lost most of its windows and there was no heating. Our Chemistry lecturer, Emily Turner, was not one to be daunted by a mere air raid and we sat at our desks clad in pullovers, overcoats and gloves and plying with cups of coffee and much sympathy at intervals. It was certainly not the way I had expected to sit my first examination at Sheffield.

Cliff Ashall OBE (BSc General – Chemistry, Geography and Zoology 1943, BSc Zoology 1949)

I had a part-time job sorting Christmas mail at the Post Office. I went straight there from University on the night of the Blitz and was doing some sorting when the siren went. We were sent downstairs to a room below street level. We all talked and gasped at every screech of a bomb and then sighs of relief until the next one. Eventually there was the All Clear. My vivid memory on going outside was of moonlight on rivers of water running down the street. There were lots of hosepipes and dark uniformed figures. I started to walk home and was directed away into safe streets with ‘Not that way, love’ – and eventually I found my way home to Walkley.

G Audrey Pollard (née Cocking) (BSc Zoology 1941)

I was a first-year student living in Endcliffe Hall when the first blitz struck Sheffield. The cellar under the ‘old house’ which formed part of the hall had been reinforced to provide an air raid shelter and when the sirens sounded in the early evening we all trooped down to it. We spent the night there, uncomfortable but in good spirits. We were diverted from revision every so often to take a turn on the strange air-conditioning system. This was worked via a prototype exercise bicycle on which we pedalled away keeping our eyes on a
spirit level which had to be kept in a steady position. Every so often we heard bangs up above and speculated as to what we would discover when we emerged. What we did find was an intact residence but with many windows shattered including the one in my own room.

Margaret Wooldridge (BA History 1943, Cert Education 1943)

As I lived at home, in Rotherham, I travelled each day by tram to Sheffield with my pal Alan. A major disruption happened in December 1940. We reached Templeborough on a Rotherham tram and walked from there to St George’s Square to find that all University activities were suspended until further notice. As we passed the Wicker arches, it was clear that a bomb had passed right through them and blown a huge crater in the road below, into which a tram had tumbled. As a budding engineer, I could not help speculating how this tram could be pulled out. Trams are HEAVY!

Dr Robert Yorke (BEng Electrical Engineering 1943)

We also ‘did our bit’ for the war. I spent every Monday evening and night at the local Red Cross Centre where we were taught to treat casualties by a nurse and a St John Ambulance man. This earned me a smart uniform and an ARP [Air Raid Precautions] badge. I was returning from an evening class on 12 December when the Sheffield Blitz began. At about 7.30pm the drone of planes overhead was heard and from then on to 4am it never ceased, and gunfire and the rattle of machine guns. Bombs fell with a rattle, a shriek and a thud all round – some extremely close. Once there was a lull of ten minutes during which time we saw several huge fires extending across town – fumes and smoke rising high. Roofs gleamed white in the frost. What a target!

Joan Bowman (née Hartley)
(BA English 1942, Dip Education 1943)

A group of Sheffield’s ‘Women of Steel’ have shared their stories with students from the University’s School of English to keep alive their memories of working in the city’s steelworks during World War II. The recordings were part of a wider campaign, led by the Sheffield Star in partnership with Sheffield City Council, for recognition for these women whose efforts in the workshops of the steel industry sustained Britain during the war. The recorded memories are also linked to the School of English’s Storying Sheffield project, which encourages students to work with the local community to collect, record and produce stories about life in Sheffield.

A film using the recordings is now available on YouTube; search under ‘Sheffield Women of Steel’.

Further details of Storying Sheffield are available at www.storyingsheffield.com
A bigger and better Union

A new entrance for the Students’ Union is a dramatic addition to this well-loved building. Visitors now enter a light-filled, double-height atrium space, which provides a real ‘wow’ factor. This latest development was ready to welcome students at the beginning of the 2010 academic year.
“I AM VERY GRATEFUL TO THE UNIVERSITY FOR THEIR commitment to the student experience,” said Union President Josh Forstenzer, “which is illustrated by their funding of this landmark new space for students.” Vice-Chancellor Professor Keith Burnett commented, “The new refurbishment of the Students’ Union is a demonstration of the University’s commitment to providing our students with the very best facilities, to ensure they have a first-class University experience.”

The new look entrance opens out into the Activities and Sports Zone – the one-stop student activities resource centre, and starting point for information about sports clubs, societies, Give it a Go and SheffieldVolunteering – which also received funding from the Alumni Fund and the University of Sheffield in America Alumni Fund. The atrium also now links the Students’ Union building with University House more effectively. In addition, the Union shop has been enlarged and new eateries included in the layout.

The Students’ Union has continued to receive national recognition for their achievements during 2010–11. In addition to its ranking as the top students’ union in the Times Higher Education Student Experience Survey, the Union is only the second in the country to receive a Gold Award in the national Student Union Evaluation Initiative. In their review, the audit team highlighted the positive comments they received from all students they interviewed at Sheffield.

A tale of two presidents

We invited former Union President Andrew Palazzo (BSc Biochemistry 1979) to visit the Union and meet the current President, Josh Forstenzer (BA Politics and Philosophy 2006, MA Political Theory 2007). Their discussion highlighted the contrasts between the role of a students’ union in the 1970s and today.

ANDREW PALAZZO
There were two big differences between the 1970s and now. One is cross-generational respect. I think this is much greater now, in terms of willingness within the Union to accept that people in the University are sufficiently competent. We felt that the University didn’t see the world as we did; there were many academics who saw students as a necessary inconvenience. The second difference is the financial one. Now if you want to go to university, you have to finance yourself. I’m one of seven children who went to university and we were all eligible for full student grants. We had greater financial independence and with that came personal freedom. We confronted the University – to us, the University implemented and represented government policy and we held them responsible for it.

JOSH FORSTENZER
The Union is a charity, just like the University, and we have strict rules that we have to work within. In terms of our relationship with the University, we play the role of critical friend. In your day, you fought against bigger boundaries – today we are more elaborate in the ways in which we push. On the big issues, like funding, I put a lot of blame on your generation and the Thatcher years. Now, the system in Britain links education to economic output, rather than education for its own sake and self discovery.

The University experience has changed very substantially. We produced an alternative prospectus to tell prospective students what we felt to be truthful about departments and the academic staff. Now, you have a common purpose I don’t think we had at that time. When you come into the Union now, it is a massive commercial operation. My generation lived in the Union, and it was nothing like as splendid. The Union wasn’t as big a selling point then. Now, you are giving a student experience that the University cannot give itself. It is difficult to see how you can be in opposition to each other.
Legislation makes it difficult for us to campaign on party political issues; we have to be so specific, so targeted. There is definitely a growth in student activism following the 2010 General Election; I’ve been here for eight years and the mood has really changed. We can express views on many things but we can only campaign on issues that affect students as students. So we have to be very careful.

But now you are listened to. However, my time marked the beginning of the change from the Union being an organisation for students run by students into one that said there are more important things we should be doing. We had committee meetings that decided the colour of the paint on the walls. Students did absolutely everything – it was mad! We started the process to ‘professionalise’ the Union. I’m also proud that the students of the 1970s successfully lobbied for the creation of the Nursery [the Nursery is now jointly run by the University and the Union] and also for a counselling service, which were both major achievements for the University as a whole.

The main theme of my presidency has been the promotion of widening participation, making it an institutional priority. I’ve also been deeply involved in Project 2012 [the University’s response to the new funding regime which lays out clearly the value of what Sheffield offers to its students], advocating an increase in outreach spending and bursaries. We led a huge campaign called ’Cuts are Nuts’, which was the largest students’ union campaign in the country, organised in response to the government’s proposals to cut higher education funding and lift the cap on fees. I believe there has been a shift in gear – in previous years, the Union, as an organisation, had forgotten how to campaign at that level. And our national campaigning is also helping us locally; as we develop relationships with local MPs, we gain a more even footing with the leaders of the University.

This is the politics of participation. I was engaged in a period of opposition. We were living in a still industrialised Britain. Students thought of themselves as being part of the trade union movement. The period between 1974 to the turn of the decade was difficult for relationships between students and universities across the country, not just Sheffield. However, anti-apartheid and anti-racism activism were particularly strong, and I can see our legacy now with greater diversity in universities. Things have changed massively for the better. We struggled for change – but our tactics weren’t the most sophisticated. But it’s not to say that all students felt that way; there was a strong group who didn’t take a radical view.

I think the current student population at Sheffield generally feels that careful consideration and collective decisions are the way forward. I think that’s really reflected in the elected student representatives and particularly the sabbatical officers of recent years. Our strength is that 80 per cent of students are seriously engaged with the Union. The Union gives them the space to create something out of nothing; they have a major role in making things happen that would not happen otherwise, through societies, committees and volunteering.

Andrew Palazzo was Union President 1977–78 and Union Treasurer 1979–80. He grew up in the East End of London: “The most important thing was to have the independence that university gave. Choosing a university then was very hit and miss – you just had the prospectuses to help you make up your mind. I got involved with the Students’ Union as it gave you the opportunity to develop skills outside your experience.” He came north to study in Sheffield. I fell in love with the city. I would also have loved to benefit from the opportunities offered now by the Students’ Union and the fabulous Information Commons.

Andrew went on to train as a solicitor after spending a year as a research officer at the National Union of Students: “The Union at Sheffield made me unemployable; I’d been given so much responsibility that it made it very difficult for me to move into work, being told what to do!” He is now Practice Director of McCormacks Law, one of London’s leading criminal law defence firms. His wife, Linda Miller (BSc Biochemistry 1978), was Union President 1978–79.

Josh Forstenzer was a PhD student in the Philosophy Department before his term of office as Union President in 2010–11; he will return to his studies later this year. He was born in the USA and grew up in France: “I thought I would follow in my father’s footsteps and study at Stanford but soon realised how expensive it would be! So I looked at universities in the UK as this was a much cheaper option.” Josh came to Sheffield as an international student in 2003 as it had excellent departments in both Politics and Philosophy. He had also heard good reports of the Students’ Union and the quality of life in the city.
Exploring the diverse group of people associated with the University of Sheffield

A lifelong fascination

THE FIRST PERSON TO INTRODUCE MOSQUITOES INTO a laboratory at the University, Professor Janet Hemingway (BSc Genetics 1978, Hon DSc 2009) is now Director of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM). A centre of excellence in tropical international health, LSTM has been engaged in the fight against infectious, debilitating and disabling diseases for over 100 years.

A clash with a head mistress who believed that girls didn’t do science led Janet to take an odd mix of A levels – Biology, Chemistry and Religious Studies. Not the most promising set of qualifications for a genetics degree. Luckily, Sheffield allowed her “in by the back door” as the Head of Genetics, Professor Alan Roper, advised her to apply for zoology and then switch after the first year if she displayed any aptitude. “The small Genetics Department at Sheffield was where I was most at home,” she explained, “and I remained fascinated by the subject as classical genetics rapidly morphed into molecular biology. For my final-year project, it struck me that mosquitoes rather than the fruit fly might be a much more fulfilling subject. My tutors were supportive as long as I arranged access to all the mosquito material.

“The fun bit was bringing in the mosquitoes – nobody in Sheffield had ever worked with a mosquito and certainly had no idea how to raise them. The occasional hungry stray escaped and either bit the staff and students or, as the species Anopheles and Aedes are dawn or dusk feeders, they bit the cleaners on the early morning shift. The arrival of the larger Toxorhynchites caused a stir and the cleaners decided that I would have to clean the lab myself. No end of telling them that Toxorhynchites didn’t bite could persuade them otherwise. The project set off a lifelong fascination with mosquitoes.”

During the final phase of her PhD (taken at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine), Janet spent a month in Sri Lanka and saw the enormous need for better malaria control on the ground, and the lack of direct impact that any form of research publication had on this or the people struggling to contain and treat malaria. She said, “The next 25 years have really followed this trajectory, so that today I have two jobs – one running the LSTM of around 600 people, with an annual £55 million budget, and the other running the world’s only product development partnership (PDP) for vector control products – the Innovative Vector Control Consortium (IVCC) – with a $228 million budget over nine years, predominantly supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

“Having the Foundation active in this area has emphasised to other donors and governments the discrepancy of the funding base for these neglected diseases. For example, it is a sad reflection that the global value of insect control for golf greens is substantially larger than the market for malaria mosquito control. IVCC has demonstrated that the PDP business model is effective in unlocking the latent enthusiasm of our partners in both the global pest control industry and research institutions for development of new public health insecticides.”

Honours

FELLOW OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY, 2011
HONORARY FELLOW OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR MICROBIOLOGY, 2011
FOREIGN ASSOCIATE OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCE, ONE OF THE HIGHEST SCIENTIFIC HONOURS IN THE US, 2010
HONORARY FELLOW OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS, 2008
FELLOW OF THE ACADEMY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, 2006
MERSEYSIDE WOMAN OF THE YEAR 2003
WELSH WOMAN OF THE YEAR 2000

www.sheffield.ac.uk/alumni : your university : 23
LIFE AS AN MP IS A SIGNIFICANT CONTRAST TO PAUL’S time at the University, where he was in charge of an organisation with 900 staff and an annual turnover of £11 million. Now, with the support of a small staff team, he represents almost 100,000 people across Sheffield and is quick to point out: “It is a great honour to represent a constituency which covers the heart of the city, with a hugely diverse population.”

Paul joined the Students’ Union in 1978 as a research officer on a two-year contract. He liked it so much he stayed, taking on a number of roles before becoming General Manager in 2003, following John Windle. “The Union is now widely recognised as the UK’s leading students’ union and has played an increasingly central role in the life of the University. While always providing an independent voice for students, our partnership with the University was an important part of our success.”

Active in local politics throughout his time at the University, Paul was selected as the Labour candidate for Sheffield Central in February 2008; the constituency includes both of the city’s universities, with around 20 per cent of the electorate being students. “Back in 1978, universities could exist in isolation, but not now. I believe that the future of Sheffield revolves around the combination of traditional skills and expertise in industry with the innovation and research of its universities. This gives the city a unique opportunity.”

Paul is able to bring his experience of higher education to bear in his role in Parliament. He is Secretary of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Universities, sits on the Business, Skills and Innovation Select Committee and has been deeply involved in the debate on the funding of universities. He is also the Parliamentary Private Secretary to Hilary Benn, the Shadow Leader of the House of Commons.

“It is an extraordinary privilege to be speaking up for my city, but it has its frustrating moments – it took six hours of bobbing up and down to catch the Speaker’s eye before I was called to deliver my maiden speech. I receive anything up to 200 emails and letters a day, seeking my support on an incredibly wide range of issues. My office team are fantastic in making sure I can respond effectively. Confidence in MPs was eroded following the expenses scandal, so I spend as much time as I can meeting people, and working to build trust in democratic politics.”

A voice for Sheffield

Familiar to many across the University community from his time as General Manager of the Students’ Union, Paul Blomfield has been the Member of Parliament for Sheffield Central since May 2010.

www.paulblomfield.co.uk
The passionate volunteer

Volunteering is an integral part of Rachel Colley’s life. The History graduate (BA 2010) joined the Activities and Events Committee in her first year, leading to a role on the Sheffield Volunteer Advisory Board. Her dedication was recognised by her peers when she was named Student Unionist of the Year in the National Union of Students’ Awards 2010.

Rachel was elected as Communities Liaison in 2009, as well as being on the Sheffield Volunteer Advisory Board. She was Raising and Giving (RAG) Publicity Officer before her election to RAG Chair in her final year. She said, “We donate 85 per cent of RAG money to local charities – Sheffield is where we live for at least three years and you have an opportunity to see where the money goes and how it is used.” Towards the end of her second year, Rachel decided she wanted to do something more: the following year, she successfully stood for election as Activities Officer 2010-11. Her passion for student activities and societies shone through and she was a popular winner.

Rachel commented, “It’s been such an honour to work with the other sabbaticals this year. We’ve bonded over issues like the fees campaign and worked successfully as a team. I’m going to miss all the people in the Union and their dedication. You never have a typical day in this role – it’s so exciting and diverse. It’s been a brilliant journey, and I’m going to cry a lot when I leave!”

Meeting the challenge

Speech and Language Therapy was the perfect career choice for Professor Joy Stackhouse as it combined her loves of science, drama and teaching: “When the ability to communicate does not develop or is taken away it can be devastating for all involved. Working to support clients, their families and teachers is a rewarding occupation and certainly one in which you never get bored!”

Joy has just finished a second term as Head of the University’s Department of Human Communication Sciences (HCS). It was during her first period in office, in 2000–05, that she contacted Miles Stevenson, Director of Development, to discuss fundraising for work with children and adults with communication difficulties: “When it was decided to make the Centenary Tall Ship Challenge a sponsored voyage, the committee focused on helping socially disadvantaged children in Sheffield and also children with cleft palate, both key research and teaching areas for us in HCS.”

The challenge attracted 48 alumni, staff and students to take part in an exhilarating week-long voyage around the Balearic Islands in April 2005. They raised over £32,000 in sponsorship. Joy explained, “The funds have allowed a number of projects to happen right across the school years. The first involved working with staff and parents in 12 schools in a socially disadvantaged area of Sheffield to promote the language and communication skills of their nursery and reception-age children. The second focused on therapy for children with cleft palate and persisting speech difficulties. Current Tall Ship projects include examining schools’ experience of working with children and parents from Romany, Gypsy and Traveller backgrounds, and the communication and literacy skills of disadvantaged teenagers and young offenders.

“I hope that the alumni who took part in the Challenge feel really satisfied with their fundraising efforts. HCS was represented on the voyage by Dr Judy Clegg who has maintained a key role throughout. Another key person was our patron Vanessa Lawrence CB (BA Geography 1984, Hon DSc 2001) of Ordnance Survey. She said to ‘aim high’ and we tripled the initial sponsorship amount and have added to it subsequently. Working with my Tall Ship colleagues, Miles Stevenson and our collaborators in education, health and social services has certainly been a highlight of my time at Sheffield.”

Find out more about the Tall Ship projects at www.sheffield.ac.uk/hcs/about/tall_ship
TIM KEY (BA RUSSIAN STUDIES 2000) HAS TEAMED UP with a string quartet to create an album – initially on vinyl, though now also available as a CD – of his poetry, set to music. And it was recorded on a boat. Helpfully, it is called Tim Key. With a String Quartet. On a Boat. The review in the NME concluded: “If you haven’t chucked your entire speaker system through the bay windows by track five, then his words will never leave you.” Tim seems equally ambivalent about his appeal as a performer: “Some people really like it. Some people really don’t. So the people who like it try to find me live and the people who don’t, know not to bother.”

The Drama Studio became very familiar to Tim during his time at the University and he successfully auditioned for The Birthday Party and Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead. “That was a great experience,” he said. “I was a bit of a square in my first year as I studied hard to learn Russian, but I was quite open minded and wanted to do something else as well.” Tim spent some time teaching English in Kiev during his gap year, and then again in his year abroad in St Petersburg, and toyed with returning to Russia once he graduated (with a First). However, a chance audition for a pantomime with the Cambridge Footlights led to his first performance at the Edinburgh Fringe in 2001. It was at that point that he began to write sketches – fantastic preparation for further Edinburgh shows, and television and radio appearances. The poems came later. He started writing them five years ago, filling up little notepads. Those who have seen Tim as resident poet on BBC Four’s Newswipe with Charlie Brooker will know what to expect. His quirky mix of poetry, performance art and film struck the right note with the judges of the Edinburgh Comedy Awards 2009 as his show The Slutcracker took the top prize. “The win meant that the show had an afterlife,” he explained. “I’ve performed it in Sydney, Melbourne and Montreal, finishing my latest tour at the Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue. I’ve also performed it at the Crucible in Sheffield. It takes time to get established – you build up a following and momentum. I keep on trying to be creative, keep it interesting, and I’ve managed to turn a hobby into a job.”

Follow Tim on Twitter: @timkeyperson

Kaleidoscope

Barry gets his kicks

A LOVE OF THE WIDE OPEN SPACES AND DESERT regions of the southern United States has led Barry Orr MBE (BEng Mechanical Engineering 1952) to undertake a series of epic motorcycle rides, covering thousands of miles – and all since his retirement in 1994. He used his first motorcycle – a 350cc Royal Enfield – to travel to and from the University as “it was all I could afford.” Now, Barry is the proud owner of 15 classic motorcycles, which he displays at home and regularly rides. His ‘shopping bike’ is a 1999 Heritage Softail Classic Harley.

Barry achieved his long-held ambition of riding Route 66 in 2003, at the age of 74. The highway stretches 2,448 miles from Chicago, Illinois, to Santa Monica on the Pacific coast. Barry rode a second-hand Harley that he bought in Texas (where he still stores it in between trips) and travelled with two friends. Unfortunately, Barry’s euphoria at finishing the 11-day ride was curtailed by an accident he had in Los Angeles at rush hour. He skidded on gravel and came off his bike, skinning his hands and legs and suffering a massive haematoma on his left hip. The police shut the six-lane Interstate down within a few minutes so an ambulance could reach him; he allowed the paramedics to patch him up before heading off again – on the bike. A few days later he rode the remaining 2,500 miles back to Texas, following the Mexican border.

Barry returned to the US last year to attend the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally in the Black Hills of South Dakota, which attracted 850,000 bikers. He rode 1,650 miles from Texas in 110 degrees heat, travelling part of the way with a group of Vietnam veterans, to meet up with friends he had met on the Route 66 trip. On his second day at the rally, gravel caused another dramatic accident, which resulted in 24 stitches in his right knee, a dislocated shoulder and fractured shoulder blade. Needless to say, Barry was back on his bike for the ride back to Texas after four days as a pillion passenger – a very painful journey!

Now 82, Barry is planning his next ride, which will take in the Hoover Dam, Mammoth Lakes, Yosemite National Park and the Pacific Coast Highway; a “relaxing”, three-week, 5,500-mile tour. And he is finally considering the purchase of a trike and bringing his beloved Texan Harley home to his collection in South Yorkshire.

Barry Orr takes a break from riding pillion in Wyoming, with the Devil’s Tower in the background.
What are the highlights of your time at Sheffield?
The fun started in the second year when I got involved in student politics and got dragged into supporting the steelworkers’ strike. I was at Hadfield’s on 14 February 1980 at 5am. Look it up. The ultimate highlight was sitting in the Hallamshire House pub, having a heated ‘studenty’ conversation about Marxism when a 90-year-old guy in a flat cap turned round and said: “No, the dictatorship of the proletariat is not the goal; the goal is the negation of the negation”. He’d been a communist in the engineering industry in 1919.

Why did you make the switch from music to economics journalism?
I’d written quite a bit of neo-romantic ‘classical’ music but all that was getting performed were fairly schmaltzy bits distilled into popular musical theatre. I moved to London to try and break into writing – I mentioned to somebody that I was working on an opera based on the movie Gilda and as a result I still have a cherished fax from Columbia Pictures ordering me to stop. At this point I realised the teaching jobs I was doing to pay the rent had taken over my life. So I went into page design and sub-editing. Suddenly I was in a world I liked and it liked me, as the saying goes.

And then what prompted the move from print to broadcast journalism?
Quite simply, I applied for a job and they accepted me. As deputy editor of Computer Weekly, we were doing a lot of exposés that were getting us on TV. I think Newsnight picked the most unorthodox person they could find in the sheaf of applications.

Can you remember your first appearance on Newsnight?
My first live appearance was on 11 September 2001. Hard to forget. I was stoked with adrenaline but the strangest thing was that – because the BBC had only offered me a three-month contract – I hadn’t bothered telling some of my friends. So it was a bit of a surprise for them to have me pop up in what must have been the most-watched edition of Newsnight of the decade, analysing the ability of the world economy to survive the shock. “Two weeks ago you were writing about Microsoft SQL Server and now you’re covering Armageddon,” one former colleague emailed me.

What do you enjoy most about the job?
Covering action, as it happens. It’s not exactly the stock in trade of a programme like Newsnight but when you find yourself in the middle of a total political and environmental disaster like Hurricane Katrina, or standing outside Lehman Brothers in New York on the day people leave with the contents of their desks in cardboard boxes, you can at least say you’ve had a go at writing the first draft of history.

And what would you like to be doing in five years’ time?
Covering free, multi-party elections in China.
Emeritus Professor Gerald Newton

Emeritus Professor Gerald Newton has retired after 39 years as a member of staff of the Department of Germanic Studies. Professor Newton has researched Luxembourgish and Luxembourg since 1968, and is the leading British scholar in this field. He established the Centre for Luxembourg Studies at the University in 1995, and was appointed a Commandeur de l’Ordre de Mérite du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg in 1999. The department organised a Luxembourg Studies Symposium in Professor Newton’s honour in July 2010.

After qualifying as an architect, Emeritus Professor Bryan Lawson completed a PhD in Psychology, which equipped him for essential research both into how buildings work and how designers go about conceiving them. He joined the University as a lecturer in 1974 where, as an early pioneer of computer-aided design, he developed the Gable system. He progressed to a Chair and appointment as Director of Research by 1985 and took on the Headship of the School of Architecture in 1991. He held this position for eight years, instigating a new emphasis on research which resulted in success in the national Research Assessment Exercise. He was also active in University affairs, becoming Dean of the Faculty of Architectural Studies and serving on many committees.

Dr Martyn Whyte joined the then Department of Geology in 1974, moving to the Unit of Earth Sciences in 1990, and finally Geography in 2001 when the subjects merged. He ran the Natural Environmental Science undergraduate programme for a number of years. He continues his research and is the lead member of the Sorby Geology Group.

While Dr Whyte’s retirement means that Geography no longer has staff left from Geology, geological themes still run strongly through teaching and research. Chris Clark is the latest Sorby Professor of Geoscience, and students are exposed to sediment-related field skills and taught how geology, landscape and society interact through Environmental Issues and Management modules. Geoscience is alive and well within Geography.

Dr Kristine Horner is the new Director of the Centre for Luxembourg Studies; she is developing the provision of Luxembourgish at undergraduate and postgraduate level and would like to get in touch with alumni who studied the subject at the University. Please contact her by emailing k.horner@sheffield.ac.uk.
Honours and awards

Staff and students from the University continue to be recognised nationally and internationally for their expertise.

Adrian Allen (Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre), Professor Chris Franklin (Dentistry) and Emeritus Professor Geof Tomlinson (Mechanical Engineering) were awarded OBEs in the New Year’s Honours list.

Professors Paul Brakefield (Animal and Plant Sciences) and Peter Horton (Molecular Biology and Biotechnology) were elected Fellows of the Royal Society.

Mr Jim Catto (Oncology) was awarded the European Association of Urology’s Crystal Matula Award, which is given to the most promising European urologist under the age of 40.

Dr Andrew Chantry (Medical School) was awarded the Research Medal Award for Haematology by the Royal College of Pathologists.

The Film Unit was named Best Student Society by the British Federation of Film Societies.

Samantha Warrington, a postgraduate student (Biomedical Science), won the ‘close-up category’ in the Society of Biology’s photographic competition for her picture of an embryo of a fruit fly.

The refurbished Western Bank Library received the Renovation Award at the Sheffield Design Awards ceremony hosted by Sheffield Civic Trust.

Christopher Jesson (BA Urban Studies and Planning 2010), now a Master’s student (Town and Regional Planning), received the Chancellor’s Medal 2010 for his work campaigning for students with disabilities at the University.

A team including Professor Noel Sharkey (Computer Science) received the Royal Academy of Engineering Rooke Medal for their Walking with Robots project.

Shane Smith, a Law and Criminology student who volunteers as a special constable, was named Special of the Year for his work with Greater Manchester Police’s Bolton division.

Professor Paul Speight (Dentistry) appears in the 2011 edition of Who’s Who.

Qi Wang, a PhD student (Electronic and Electrical Engineering), was awarded one of only 35 Chinese Government Awards for Outstanding Chinese Students Abroad.

Emeritus Professor Peter Wright (Materials Science and Engineering) received the Galileo Galilei Award for Energy Conversion by Ion Induction at the 12th International Symposium on Polymer Electrolytes.

Professor Will Zimmerman (Chemical and Biological Engineering) received the Brian Mercer Award for Innovation from the Royal Society for his work creating a new device for the energy-efficient production of alternative biofuels.
I didn’t know they did that at Sheffield...

With over 350 academic staff and one of the largest postgraduate research populations in the UK, the Faculty of Social Sciences provides a rich and vibrant research environment. The Interdisciplinary Centre of the Social Sciences (ICoSS) is its ‘centre of centres’, supporting evidence-based interdisciplinary research to inform social policy and critical thinking at regional, national and international levels. Twelve of the research centres associated with ICoSS are introduced here. [www.sheffield.ac.uk/icoss](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/icoss)

1. **Centre for Criminological Research (CCR)**
   **Lead:** Professor Stephen Farrall, School of Law
   CCR is a focal point for criminology and criminal justice research in the UK. Many of our projects have national and international policy relevance. We also host a series of seminars which are open to all. [www.sheffield.ac.uk/law/research/clusters/CCR](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/law/research/clusters/CCR)

2. **Centre for Energy, Environment and Sustainability (CEES)**
   **Lead:** Professor Lenny Koh, Management School
   We work with colleagues in Engineering and Science to demonstrate the impact and benefits of the University’s environmental research. CEES has close links with the Centre for Low Carbon Futures and the Logistics and Supply Chain Management Research Centre. [www.sheffield.ac.uk/lscm](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/lscm)
Centre for Health and Well-being in Public Policy (CWiPP)

Lead: Professor Aki Tsuchiya, Department of Economics

We look into defining, measuring and improving health and well-being in ways that help policymakers determine the best use of scarce resources. We also investigate the determinants of well-being where these are relevant to policy formulation.

www.sheffield.ac.uk/cwipp

Centre for Regional Economic and Enterprise Development (CREED)

Lead: Professor Colin Williams, Management School

CREED’s focus concerns regional development and entrepreneurship. One theme we are investigating is the extent and nature of cash-in-hand work throughout the world, and how it might be tackled using various preventative and curative measures.

www.sheffield.ac.uk/creed

Centre for the Study of Childhood and Youth (CSCY)

Leads: Professor Allison James, Department of Sociological Studies, Dr Penny Curtis, School of Nursing and Midwifery

CSCY is one of the UK’s leading centres for the study of children and young people. We explore their perspectives on social issues with a view to informing policy and practice.

www.sheffield.ac.uk/cscy

Centre for the Study of Journalism and History

Lead: Professor Martin Conboy, Department of Journalism Studies

We use journalism as a source for understanding the past, and for clarifying ideas about the public sphere, language and discourse. We are also developing methodologies for exploiting digital archives of journalism content.

www.journalism-history.dept.shef.ac.uk

Interdisciplinary Research in Socio-Digital Worlds (IRiS)

Lead: Dr Bridgette Wessels, Department of Sociological Studies

IRiS addresses the ways in which people and technology interact in economic, political, social and cultural life. We also assess new, hybrid and established socio-technical forms in their cultural context, and run a successful seminar series.

www.sheffield.ac.uk/icoss/streams/iris

Interdisciplinary Social Science Gender Research Network (GRN)

Leads: Professor Georgina Waylen, Department of Politics, Dr Victoria Robinson, Department of Sociological Studies

GRN hosts seminars, workshops and networking events – with a particular focus on men and masculinities – to facilitate information and skill sharing among its members.

www.sheffield.ac.uk/gendernetwork

Political Economy Research Centre (PERC)

Lead: Professor Colin Hay, Department of Politics

Current research concerns two main topics: Towards a New British Growth Model explores growth strategies following the financial crisis; and The Rise of the BRICs and the Political Economy of Development assesses the position of the BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India and China) economies.

www.sheffield.ac.uk/politics/research/centres/perc

Public Services Academy (PSA)

Lead: Professor Jean Grugel, Department of Geography

PSA is the Knowledge Exchange Hub for Social Sciences. We form a bridge between public, private and third sector organisations and the Faculty, matching the needs of external partners with research expertise to promote collaborative working.

www.sheffield.ac.uk/psa

Sheffield Centre for International and European Law (SCIEL)

Lead: Professor Duncan French, School of Law

We stimulate research, academic enquiry and knowledge transfer into international and European Union law, human rights and the study of foreign legal systems. We hold a programme of events including the annual James Muiruri International Law Lecture.

www.sheffield.ac.uk/law/research/clusters/sciel

Sheffield International Development Network (SIDNET)

Lead: Professor Jean Grugel, Department of Geography

SIDNET is a network of staff and postgraduate students across the Faculty and beyond. Our work covers the developing world, including sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and Asia and the Pacific. Topics include transformative justice, and citizenship and human rights.

www.sheffield.ac.uk/internationaldevelopment
Brian Wrigley, Chairman of Convocation, gives his personal assessment of the higher education funding debate.

**HISTORY IS A WONDERFUL THING; WE KNOW WHERE WE HAVE BEEN; WE KNOW WHAT WE HAVE DONE; WE KNOW WHAT IT WAS LIKE. BUT THE FUTURE?**

In many walks of life, there are clear rules, regulations and policies which enable you to be fairly certain of what the future holds. In higher education, there are different expressions of policy from politicians, the civil service and the relevant quango.

By definition in Convocation, we have all graduated and we all know what it cost us to graduate. I am not alone in being able to say that it cost me nothing. Nationwide that applies to millions of us – without regard to religion, race, creed or gender, but most importantly of all, without regard to social class.

The current calculations are that graduates of the future – the class of 2015 – will walk off the stage at graduation with their degree certificate and a personal debt approaching £45,000 (and that is at 2011 rates). A degree is no longer an automatic passport to an immediate high paid job for life (was it ever?) and I have no time for the government's pious protestations that graduates who immediately start in a job of £50,000 per year can afford to repay the loan and those who start on less than £21,000 per year will not be repaying anything. The problem is the graduates who are on £25,000 per year, either on leaving university or within the three or four years thereafter and who are struggling to establish a home and maybe also a family, will find that their student loan hangs round their neck like an albatross.

Even by the time this article is published, the government may still not have properly decided on the level of tuition fees. And this is despite the fact that it is fairly common knowledge in the higher education sector that if tuition fees cannot be a minimum of £8,000 per year a number of institutes of higher education may well find themselves in very serious financial difficulty.

Within Convocation, we recognise the practicalities of the situation and the democratic result of the General Election in 2010. We leave others to express a view on written promises given prior to Election Day and torn up the day after. We fully support the Vice-Chancellor’s tactics in dealing with the question of tuition fees at Sheffield and we have full confidence that it will work out in the best way possible. Our University’s finances are in a position where we can deal with the current government policy (whatever it is) and I think you will be aware that, when it comes to access arrangements for undergraduates entering this University from disadvantaged areas and low income family units, we are at the top of the league. Justly so – and rightly proud to be there.

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**We fully support the Vice-Chancellor’s tactics in dealing with tuition fees**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 10 September 2011**

**Guest speaker:** Vice-Chancellor Professor Keith Burnett CBE, FRS

Please visit our website, [www.sheffield.ac.uk/convocation](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/convocation), for further details or see page 13.
Your notes & news

We are always interested to discover what our alumni are doing now. Here is a small selection of news from people who have been in contact with us or we have spotted in the media.

1930s

B Joan Lumley (née Whitworth)  
(BSc Geography 1938, Dip Education 1939)  
“Female students were required to live in University Hall unless they were able to live at home and travel in daily. There were residential halls for male students too, but they could also live in private ‘digs’ – at least one professor’s wife ran a small boarding house.”

BELOW: Residents of the University Hall for Women, some time in the 1930s; the hall was opened in 1934 with rooms for about 60 women.  
PHOTO: B Joan Lumley (née Whitworth)  
(BSc Geography 1938, Dip Education 1939)

1940s

Dr Wesley S Hydes (BEng Civil Engineering 1947)  
“In July 1942, we were offered a ‘war’ degree or alternatively we could leave and return after the war to complete our honours studies. I chose the latter option and after a period with Civil Engineering Contractors, I joined the army, was commissioned and saw service in India and Burma.”

Frank Vivian FIET, CEng (BEng Engineering 1948)  
“In 1948 graduates were either recruited to the armed forces as officer material, or to work in the coal mining industry as Bevin Boys. However, I was appointed as junior, later graduate, trainee electrical engineer, in the recently nationalised Yorkshire Electrical Board, and after a few years’ experience of part-time teaching, moved to a full time career in further and higher education, finally retiring from the post of Principal of Grimsby College of Technology and Art in 1988.”

To have the chance of appearing in Your Notes and News, please complete the section on our Update Your Details form at www.sheffield.ac.uk/alumni/keepintouch or email alumni@sheffield.ac.uk with the subject ‘Your Notes and News’.
1950s

**John Cook** *(BEng Mining 1962)*
Has joined the board of directors of EurOmax Resources Ltd.

**Emeritus Professor Frank Bates** *(LLB Law 1966, LLM Law 1969)*
Has retired from his position as Professor of Law in the University of Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia.

**Deidre Sanders FRSA** *(BA English 1966)*
Is the agony aunt at *The Sun* where she has worked for 30 years.

**Gerry Woodcock** *(BSc Zoology 1966)*
Received the lifetime contribution award at the CN Group Business Awards 2010 for his involvement with the business community in West Cumbria.

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1960s

**Roger Croft** *(BA Economics 1955)*
His latest novel, *The Wayward Spy*, was published by Createspace.

**Brian Fearn** *(BSc Botany and Zoology 1959, MSc Botany 1969)*
Received the Brickell Award at the Hampton Court Palace Flower Show for excellence in plant conservation; he has researched the plant genus *Lithops* for 50 years.

**Olga Furby (née Woolley)** *(BSc Zoology 1959, Dip Education 1960)*
Recognised a photo we included in the feature on Ranmoor Hall in last year’s issue of *Your University*: “The photograph number 9 was of my husband [Jim Furby BEng Mechanical Engineering 1960, PhD Mining 1963] riding his Scott motor bike up the steps there... I still feel my time at Sheffield made my life.”

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1970s

**Professor John Wood OBE, FREng** *(BMet Metallurgy 1971)*
Has been made an Officer of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany in recognition of his outstanding service to international scientific cooperation and in appreciation of his contribution to the advancement of Germany’s research status.

**Bill Wilkinson OBE** *(BA Business Studies and Economics 1968)*
Clerk and Treasurer of South Yorkshire Police, he received the Outstanding Contribution to Governance and Accountability Award at the Police Training Authority Trust Awards for his work to improve efficiency in the force.
Alumni and friends of the University may submit obituaries – for alumni or former members of staff – to the Development and Alumni Relations Office for inclusion on our website. Please email alumni@sheffield.ac.uk.

We have been informed of the following deaths in the past year:

Emeritus Professor Geoffrey Bownas CBE
The Centre for Japanese Studies, the precursor to today’s School of East Asian Studies, was established in 1963 in response to national moves to create centres for non-European ‘area studies’. Following the appointment of Geoffrey Bownas, who has died aged 88, as Professor of Japanese Studies in 1966 the Centre focused on promoting the combined study of the language with social sciences. The Centre created a generation of scholars of Japanese on a scale which had not been seen before. By the time of Professor Bownas’ retirement in 1980, it was the largest department of its kind in the country. His achievements were recognised by the award of the Order of the Sacred Treasure with Sun’s Rays, a Japanese honour, in 1999; and he was appointed CBE in 2003, marking a lifetime’s contribution to education, scholarship and the improvement of Anglo-Japanese relations.

Linda Davis (BDS Dentistry 1968)
Lecturer in Restorative Dentistry in the School of Clinical Dentistry from 1973, Honorary Clinical Lecturer from 2001, and Chief Invigilator with the Examinations Team, Student Services

Dr Alec Daykin (CertArch Architecture 1938, DipArch Architecture 1940)
Senior Lecturer in the School of Architecture and a member of staff from 1947–83

Emeritus Professor Bill Galbraith
Professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy and a member of staff from 1947–87

Roger Grace
Technician in the Department of Civil and Structural Engineering and a member of staff from 1979–2005

Dr William James Hitchens (Hon LittD 1996)
Member of University Library staff from 1957, Deputy Librarian 1963–89, Hartlib Research Fellow until 1997

Trevor Smith (BA English, French and Latin 1943)
A member of staff in the University Library from 1958–83

www.sheffield.ac.uk/alumni/obituaries

Dr Jeffrey Wadsworth (BMet Metallurgy 1972, PhD Metallurgy 1975, Hon DEng 2004)
Chief executive of Battelle Memorial Institute, he has been appointed to the Board of Trustees of Ohio State University.

Alan Walsh (LLB Law 1972)
Has retired from law firm Russell and Russell after 37 years; he continues in his role as deputy coroner of Bolton.

Has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society.

Paul Thurston (BA Business Studies and Economics 1975)
Is the chief executive of the global retail banking and wealth management division of HSBC.

Anne Minors FRSA, RIBA (BA Architecture 1976, DipArch Architecture 1979)
Is the principal designer of Anne Minors Performance Consultants; the company deals with all the theatrical aspects of putting on a concert, opera or play.

Sir Nigel Knowles (LLB Law 1977, Hon LLD 2011)
Is joint chief executive of DLA Piper.

Professor Tolu Oluokayode Odugbemi (PhD Microbiology 1978, Hon DSc 2011)
Has been appointed Vice-Chancellor of Ondo State University of Science and Technology, Okitipupa, Nigeria.

Paul Tipton (BDS Dentistry 1978)
Was voted eleventh most influential figure in the UK dental profession by readers of Dentistry magazine.

Dr John Canning (MB ChB Medicine 1979)
Is Treasurer of the General Practitioners Defence Fund.
Your notes & news

1980s

An Intro Bazaar held in the Octagon Centre, 1980s.

Peter Kelson (LLB Law 1980)
Has been promoted to a full-time circuit judge and is now known as His Honour Judge Kelson QC.

Frank Worrall (BA English Literature 1980)
Is a journalist and author; his latest book, Walking in a Fergie Wonderland, is a biography of Sir Alex Ferguson.

Dr Simon Eden (BSc Zoology 1982, PhD Zoology 1986)
Is chief executive of Winchester City Council.

Michael Killoran (BA Geography 1982)
Is finance director of housebuilder Persimmon.

The Most Revd Dr John Hiang Chea Chew (PhD Biblical Studies 1983)
Is the Metropolitan Archbishop and Primate of the Province of Anglican Church in South East Asia as well as Bishop of Singapore.

Dr Tony Kilcoyne (BDS Clinical Dentistry 1983, MMedSci Clinical Hypnosis 2001)
Is a member of the Council of the General Dental Council.

Mark Parsons (BA Economics 1983)
Is Barclays’ deputy chief executive of UK retail banking.

Tony Wray (BSc Geology 1983)
Is chief executive of Severn Trent Water.

Dato’ Ir Radin Umar Radin Sohadi (MEng Civil and Structural Engineering 1986)
Has been appointed Vice-Chancellor of Universiti Putra Malaysia.

Is chief financial officer at Sparrows Group, a global provider of oilfield engineering services.

Paul Fraser (BA Business Studies 1987)
Is marketing director of Dairy Crest.

Peter Jalowiczor (BSc Physics 1988, PgDip Astrophysical Sciences 1989)
Is the co-discoverer of four new ‘exoplanets’ (planets outside the Solar System); he analysed thousands of figures of space data in his spare time, which provided the clues for researchers from the University of California to establish the existence of the planets.

Dr Liam O’Toole (PhD Zoology 1988)
Is the chief executive of Arthritis Research UK.

Andrew Helm (BA Geography 1988)
Is the founder of Revolutions Brewing, a micro brewery based in West Yorkshire.

1990s

Simon Jarman (BA Accounting and Financial Management 1990)
Is managing director of home improvements’ firm Everest.

Professor Fionn Dunne FREng (PhD Mechanical Engineering 1991)
Fellow of Hertford College, University of Oxford, has been elected as a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering.

David Erickson (American Year Abroad student 1991–92)
Is a writer and producer whose credits include the television series Sons of Anarchy.

Martyn Lewis (BA Modern Languages 1991)
Is group business development manager for the Goodfellow Group of Companies.

Dr Anthony Millais (BSc Biochemistry and Microbiology 1991)
Is principal environment consultant at Xodus, the international energy consultancy.

Mark Lilley (BA Business Studies and Economics 1995)
Is founder of Abokado, a chain of food bars.

Rob Rouse (BSc Geography 1995, PGCE Education 1996)
Performed at Sheffield’s Grin Up North comedy festival in October 2010; he was on tour across the UK earlier this year.

John (Jack) Williams (BSc Chemistry 1995, PGCE Education 1996)
Is head of Hillcrest Grammar and Preparatory School in Stockport.

Karen Ritchie (BA Social Policy and Sociology 1996)
Is manager of Home-Start Sheffield, the charity that provides support and friendship for families.

Alumni honours

BIRTHDAY HONOURS 2010, NEW YEAR HONOURS 2011

Dr Anthony Bethell
(PhD Medical Physics 1970, MB ChB Medicine 1975)
Awarded an MBE for services to the community in Dronfield, Derbyshire.

Dr Jill Bethell (née Strongman) (MB ChB Medicine 1967)
Awarded an MBE for services to the community in Dronfield, Derbyshire.

Professor Michael Cooke (MB ChB Medicine 1980)
Awarded a CBE for services to mental healthcare.

Adrian Coles (MA Economics of Finance 1977)
Awarded an OBE for services to the financial services industry.

Professor Christopher Franklin (PhD Oral Pathology 1977)
Awarded an OBE for services to healthcare.

Captain Stuart Furness (BSc Mathematics 1980)
Awarded an OBE: Military Division.

James Gale (BA Town and Regional Planning 1968, Dip Town and Regional Planning 1970)
Awarded an OBE for services to the horseracing industry.
WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE A NEW AWARD FOR alumni of the University in honour of the late former Vice-Chancellor, Professor Bob Boucher (Hon DEng 2009).

Professor Boucher had a great interest in alumni relations and appreciated the important contribution that alumni play in the life of a university. He set up the Development and Alumni Relations Office in 2002 and always enjoyed the interaction he had with former students. It therefore seemed very fitting to name these special awards after him.

The Professor Robert Boucher Distinguished Alumni Awards will be awarded to former students as an acknowledgement from their University of their achievements and success. Nominations will be considered under the following categories:

1. alumni making an outstanding contribution to business/industry
2. alumni making an outstanding contribution to society/community life
3. alumni making an outstanding contribution to culture/media/sport
4. alumni who have given a dedicated service to promote the importance of alumni relations.

All alumni are eligible to receive the award, and we expect to make a maximum of two awards each year, which will then be presented at an annual alumni event.

To nominate one of our alumni for this annual award, please submit their biographical information and a letter of nomination (of no more than 500 words) to:

Miles Stevenson, Director of Development, The University of Sheffield, Development and Alumni Relations Office, 267 Glossop Road, Sheffield, S10 2HB

or email alumni@sheffield.ac.uk with the subject ‘Professor Robert Boucher Distinguished Alumni Award nomination’.

The deadline for nominations to be considered for an award in 2012 is Friday 25 November 2011. Vice-Chancellor Professor Keith Burnett, Miles Stevenson, Director of Development, and Claire Rundström, Head of Alumni Relations, will review the nominations and make the final decision on who will receive each award. Further details can be found at www.sheffield.ac.uk/alumni/distinguished_alumni_awards

Zoë Speakman (BA English Literature 1996)
Is the Society Development Coordinator in the Students’ Union. Her first novel, Not Quite There, was published by Jumping Fish.

Dewi Davies (BSc Environmental Geology 1998)
Is the Partnership Officer at Cwm Idwal, Wales’ first National Nature Reserve.

David Vieira (BSc Chemistry 1998)
Is the head of marketing at Jersey Finance Ltd.

Katherine Gow (BMus Music 1999)
Is President of Brits Abroad in Shanghai and Honorary Secretary of the Royal Asiatic Society China in Shanghai.

Dr Spiros Kitsinelis
(MChem Chemistry 1999, PhD Chemistry 2003)
His book Light Sources: Technologies and Applications was published by Taylor & Francis.

Richard Hunting (BEng Mechanical Engineering 1968)
Awarded a CBE for services to the arts and heritage.

Dr Anthony Lewis
(BSc Mathematics 1964, MSc Probability and Statistics 1966)
Awarded an MBE for services to mathematics and cricket (he developed the Duckworth-Lewis method of target re-setting for one-day cricket with Frank Duckworth).

Dr David Long (BSc Botany 1970, PhD Botany 1974)
Awarded an MBE for services to the hospitality industry.

Lesley Longstone (BSc Probability and Statistics 1986)
Created a Companion of the Order of the Bath.

Stephen Markey (BSc Biochemistry and Microbiology 2000)
Awarded an MBE: Diplomatic and Overseas List.

Professor Guy Rutty (MD Forensic Pathology 2002)
Awarded an MBE for services to the police.

Dr David Stone (Hon LittD 2009)
Awarded a CBE for services to healthcare.
2000s

Henry Nicholls (PhD Evolutionary Ecology 2000)
His book The Way of the Panda: a curious history of China’s political animal was published by Profile Books.

Dr Helen Crudgington (PhD Evolutionary Ecology 2001)
Is a partner in an interior landscaping business, Plantation, which supplies plant and floral displays to the University; they provided the plants for the Royal visit in November 2010.

Ben Eavis (BA Geography 2001)
Is Head of Corporate Responsibility and Ethical Trading at Sainsbury’s.

Cassandra Greenidge (MSc Information Systems 2001)
Is an information technologist at the University of the West Indies and has received a Principal’s Award for Excellence.

Claire Henry (BA Prehistory and Archaeology 2001)
Is a member of the Interpretation Unit at English Heritage, creating visitor exhibitions at properties all over the country.

Kat Banyard (BA Psychology 2003, MA Politics 2004)
Is the author of The Equality Illusion and the founder of UK Feminista, an organisation supporting grassroots feminist activism. The Guardian named her ‘the UK’s most influential young feminist’ in 2010.

Faye Burtenshaw (BSc Geography 2003)
Has launched her first app, called Penguin Peril, for the iPhone/iPod.

Antony Blackmore (BA Sociology 2005, PGCE Education 2009)
Is a joint founder of the charitable organisation The Future Found, which aims to build a primary and secondary school in the Nkhata Bay district of Malawi.

Martha Kendall (BA Philosophy 2005)
Is a member of the finance team at Glastonbury Festivals.

2010s

George Dinsdale (MEng Mechanical Engineering 2010)
and Philip Turnock (MEng Mechanical Engineering 2010)
Took part in the Mongol Rally, a charity challenge in which participants travel a third of the way around the world in a car costing less than £1,000 with an engine smaller than 1.2 litres.

Alex Nicholson (LLB Law 2009, PgDip Legal Practice 2010)
Won the Sheffield Law Society’s Sidney Herbert-Clay Prize; he is a trainee with DLA Piper.

Robert Setchell (BA Journalism Studies 2010)
Was named Broadcast Journalist of the Year in the 2010 Guardian Student Media Awards.

Dr Sir Mark Walport (Hon DSc 2006)
Has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society.

Lieutenant Andrew Campbell (BA History and Politics 2007)
Is a platoon commander in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, 5th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland.

Mike Griffin (BSc Psychology 2007, PGCE Education 2009) and Ollie Kilvert (BA Geography 2007)
Have launched a travel company, Be Travellers, that takes people to some of the most remote parts of Central Asia.

Jennifer Needham (BA English Language and Linguistics 2007)
Is a UK communications executive for MTV Networks, London.

Tristan Britland (BA Biblical Studies 2008)
Based in the UK, he works for China English, an educational company providing products and training to kindergartens all over China.

Sarah Cooper (BA English Literature 2009, MA Broadcast Journalism 2010)
Won the National Council for the Training of Journalists’ Johnston Prize for the best court reporting exam; she is a broadcast journalist at Hallam FM.

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Working with the Careers Service

Whether you are a graduate looking for help with your career, or an employer seeking to recruit, the University of Sheffield Careers Service is here to help.

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Sabine had £5,000 Business Funding and support from USE, which helped her gain exposure for her business.

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OnE WAY YOU CAN MAKE A REAL difference to the lives of students studying at the University is by leaving a gift in your Will.

Students from the Medical School are now benefiting from a generous legacy from the estate of the late Dr Anne Walker (MB ChB Medicine 1959, MD Medicine 1965). Dr Walker made her intentions clear to the University that her gift should give a financial ‘helping hand’ to students studying Medicine. We have therefore used her legacy to help students on the Sheffield Outreach and Access to Medicine Scheme (SOAMS), which encourages school children to consider a medical career.

Former SOAMS’ participant Karl Boulton is now a University medical student: “The scheme conveyed to me how anyone, from any background, can shape their path into higher education. The help you can provide with your donation will allow students to realise their potential and become the professionals of the future.”

A legacy for medical research or to help the next generation of doctors has the potential to help thousands of people. After you have safeguarded the future of your family and loved ones, please consider leaving a gift in your Will to the University of Sheffield.

To talk through your ideas in confidence or to request a copy of our Legacy Brochure, please contact: David Meadows, Development Officer for Legacies and Individual Giving, Development and Alumni Relations Office, The University of Sheffield, 267 Glossop Road, Sheffield S10 2HB Tel: +44 (0)114 222 1073 Email: d.meadows@sheffield.ac.uk www.sheffield.ac.uk/alumni/friends