Rag renaissance
applying creativity to fundraising

Understanding our ageing world
research unravels the facts

A creative heart for the campus
explore the Jessop development

WIN
a Henderson's Relish gift box.
See page 11.
I have now had opportunities to meet many of our alumni – some in positions of high responsibility on the international stage, others working in challenging jobs that have a direct impact on many lives. One question that recurs in our conversations is what the current economic situation means for the University and its students. I would therefore like to share my views on how we can work together to protect the world-leading quality education and first-class experience for all our students here in Sheffield.

Wherever University graduates and students live in the world, very few of you can be immune from the economic challenges currently being experienced. Each of us is working in our own context to respond to these challenges to secure the things we value and to adapt for future success.

The past year has seen some wonderful successes here in Sheffield. We have again won accolades for teaching and the inspiring volunteering carried out by our students. The national Research Assessment Exercise demonstrated yet again the wonderful quality of educational endeavour taking place here every day.

However, I am very mindful of how the economic recession may affect the employment prospects of the newest members of Sheffield’s alumni family – our recent graduates. For this reason, academic departments and University professional services are working hard to boost their chances of employment in the short and longer term. Teaching has an increasing focus on how knowledge might be applied in the work place, with many students taking up opportunities to gain real-life work experience related to their degrees. Our Careers Service is also extending its commitment to provide timely information and advice beyond graduation to new alumni who still require support in the crucial first months of finding a career. You can read more at www.sheffield.ac.uk/careers/students/recession.

But the advice is not just theoretical. Older and more experienced alumni already established in their careers are taking part in mentorship schemes and occupational talks, translating the concept of an alumni network into practical support at a difficult time. To all those who have undertaken this kind of work, my sincere thanks. And to those who feel you might have something valuable to offer, please get in touch. Your involvement is just one illustration of how our alumni have an important role to play within our community.

Our wider family now numbers many thousands of people across the globe. One thing we all have in common is a deep interest in the continuing success of the University of Sheffield. I can assure you that we are working hard to repay your interest with the delivery of excellent teaching and research to new generations of students. I thank each of you for your ongoing interest in and support of this work.

Professor Keith Burnett
Vice-Chancellor
If you haven’t been back to Sheffield for a while you are bound to notice changes throughout the city: new buildings, a Cultural Quarter, public spaces. The University campus has also changed dramatically – even in the seven years that the Development and Alumni Relations Office has been in existence. This really is a dynamic northern city. I encourage you to use the opportunities offered by one of our alumni reunions to come back and see how Sheffield has been transformed.

I hope that you also take the time to visit our new office at 267 Glossop Road. The additional space is allowing us to develop the range of services we offer our alumni. Our website contains news and information about our fundraising activities, and regular e-newsletters keep you in touch throughout the year. We are arranging an increasing number of events abroad and I am always impressed by the strength of affection for Sheffield shown by our international alumni.

It was with great sadness that we heard of the death of Professor Bob Boucher, the former Vice-Chancellor, in March. He was instrumental in the establishment of this office and would have been known to many of you through his enthusiastic support of our alumni reunions and events, as well as his attendance at many degree congregations.

We received our 6,000th donation last December. These gifts help the University to provide the best possible support for its students and staff. For the next three years we have a great opportunity to access extra funds through the government’s new Matched Funding Scheme so I encourage you to make the most of this chance by making a donation – and help to make our great University even better. The smallest gift can make a difference.

Miles Stevenson
Director of Development
The University of Sheffield featured strongly in the latest national Research Assessment Exercise (RAE), a peer review process to evaluate the quality of research in UK higher education institutions. Announced in December 2008, this assessment informs the selective distribution of funds by the UK higher education funding bodies.

Sheffield was placed among the top ten in the Russell Group, the association of leading UK research-intensive universities. “The results reflect the University’s international standing in the research community and will further strengthen our reputation for leading edge research that brings benefit to society at large,” said Vice-Chancellor Professor Keith Burnett. “The strong performance in the RAE has placed us in the top ten for total Higher Education Funding Council for England research funding for 2009/10, an increase of 1.27 per cent over our funding for 2008/09.”

Sheffield’s quality, breadth and volume of research activity is further demonstrated by the fact that research carried out by 93 per cent of academic staff submitted is internationally recognised and in many cases world-leading. The University is also one of only ten universities in the country that submitted more than 40 units of assessment, with over 90 per cent of eligible staff included in the RAE.

The subjects of Information Studies, Politics, and Town and Regional Planning came first amongst other UK higher education institutions for the quality of their research. A further 11 subjects were ranked in the top five – Architecture, Automatic Control and Systems Engineering, Biological Sciences, Clinical Dentistry, French, Human Communication Sciences, Landscape, Mechanical Engineering, Music, Philosophy, and Russian and Slavonic Studies.

The 2008 RAE results contributed to a successful year. The University was awarded five prestigious Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council Centres for Doctoral Training. Sheffield will lead two of the Centres and will partner with other UK universities in three. The Centres represent a bold new approach to training PhD students, creating communities of researchers working on current and future challenges. In securing five of the 44 centres, the University has confirmed its reputation for research excellence in the fields of energy research, metallurgy, nuclear energy and advanced engineering for the water sector.

The National Student Survey (NSS) 2008 ranked Sheffield third within the Russell Group for its excellent learning experience. Many of the highest performing research departments also topped the NSS subject tables, demonstrating the University’s strength in providing a stimulating teaching environment. And the Times Higher Education’s annual Student Experience Survey placed Sheffield fourth overall.
25 years and counting

Degree ceremonies, gigs, Senate meetings, conferences, exhibitions, concerts, dances, exams – the Octagon Centre has been integral to campus life since opening in 1983.

The government’s University Grants Committee agreed to provide funding for a new building in the late 1970s, the much-needed extension for the Students’ Union. The proposed hall at its heart was much larger than any venue already available at the University and would provide considerable revenue from concerts, conferences and other functions. The University and the Union shared event management and letting rights from the start.

Built next to University House on the former Clarkson Street car park, the Octagon offered the best facilities of any other Union in the country at the time – although the possibilities seemed daunting. An Ents report of 1983 noted “[There is a chance that] the sweaty semi-crowded atmosphere of the existing discos would be lost, leaving us with a small crowd of self-conscious dancers in the middle of the floor …”

They needn’t have worried. Over the years, the Octagon has become a major music venue in Sheffield, with excellent facilities and service. With a capacity of 1,600 standing and 1,000 seated, the central hall is regularly packed out. Twice a year it takes on a different atmosphere for the degree congregations. These were first held in the Octagon in 1984, moving from the City Hall where they had been held from 1947.

The volcanic early warning system

Many millions of people around the world live in the shadow of an active volcano, at risk of sudden eruption. Dr Andrew McGonigle (Geography) is developing a reliable way to predict eruptions, using an unmanned, small-scale helicopter to measure gases that escape from the volcanic vent. He received a prestigious Rolex Award for Enterprise in 2008, one of only five recipients chosen from nearly 1,500 applicants from 127 countries.

Funding from the award has allowed Andrew to develop AEROVOLC II, which is equipped with gas sensors and analytical software designed specifically to measure the volcanic gases in Etna and Stromboli. His aim is to accurately calculate the flow rate of volcanic CO2, which provides clues to the state and position of the magma deep in the volcano – advance notice that something is going on. “It is a very desirable measurement for us to make,” he explained. “Up until now the only way to do it was for a person to use an instrument from the crater’s edge.”

Using GPS navigation and on-board robotics, the helicopter can take off, fly and land itself according to a pre-determined flight plan. Or, using an onboard video camera, it can be guided manually at any stage of a flight extending up to around 20 kilometres. This makes the technology usable with minimal training. Measurements can be taken safely, cheaply and frequently.
Wanted: theatrical memories

The Theatre Archive Project is shedding new light on British theatre’s golden age, between the end of World War II in 1945 and the abolition of theatre censorship in 1968. Led by Professor Dominic Shellard, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for External Affairs, the research focuses on the perspectives of both the theatregoer and the practitioner.

The five-year project is a collaboration between the University of Sheffield and the British Library, funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council. The website (www.bl.uk/theatrearchive) now includes a unique oral history of British theatre, with over 100 transcripts, images and sound extracts, as well as a description of the British Library’s theatre archives of key post-war figures, such as John Gielgud and Cedric Hardwicke.

“We have interviewed over 200 people, mainly Londoners,” said Professor Shellard, “and now want to develop a local thread. In our experience, the contributors enjoy the experience of being interviewed and develop a real affection for our project. We’d love to hear from any of our alumni who have memories of British theatre between 1945 and 1968.”

Please contact Lada Price (email: lada.price@sheffield.ac.uk, tel: 0114 222 8493) if you would like to take part.

Taking the initiative

The Sheffield Executive MBA is proving to be popular with managers and professionals based in Sheffield and the local region. Delivered part-time over two and a half years, the programme is designed to fit around work commitments without the need to take a career break.

“I’m investing in my future,” said Dr Derek Marriott (BSc Computer Science 1992, PhD Computer Science 1996). “I’m a self-employed technical consultant working on software projects. I deal with managers on a day-to-day basis and want to be able to communicate with them effectively. The Executive MBA will boost my credibility and also give me a range of options for my future career development.

“The staff in the Management School are used to dealing with people in business and are very supportive. With my science background, it’s taken a bit of time to get into the social science content but I’m enjoying the reading. The networking opportunities are fantastic. The other people on the course are from a wide range of sectors – public funded, social enterprise, financial, manufacturing. We’re learning from each other.”

The Sheffield Executive MBA looks at management from an operational and strategic point of view covering the core functions of business and not-for-profit organisations. The programme has been accredited by the Chartered Management Institute; graduates achieve an Executive Diploma in Strategic Management as well as the Executive MBA. The next start date is January 2010. University of Sheffield alumni are eligible to receive a scholarship to help with tuition fees: visit http://emba.group.shef.ac.uk for further details.
A large steel sculpture, Ingots, has been specifically designed for the new student residences at Endcliffe Village, consisting of two fluted columns standing three metres tall and leaning together. Its title recognises the student process as being the forging and tempering of intellect and also links the University with the city’s steel industry.

“I am thrilled to have been given the chance to design a sculpture for such a wonderful parkland setting,” said artist Mark Firth (Hon LittD 2006), the great-great-grandson of the University’s first benefactor, Sheffield steel magnate Mark Firth. “When seen from above, it reflects the sky. It is mirrored in the nearby pond and can be appreciated from all angles on the ground. Whilst there are many intended references within the sculpture, I hope that students and members of the public will take the time to interpret the piece in their own way.”
Exposing threats to global media freedom

The University has launched a new Centre which aims to expose ways in which media freedom is undermined or abused, and to examine news media standards of independence and truthfulness.

Based in the Department of Journalism Studies, the Centre for Freedom of the Media (CFOM) will study issues of media freedom and standards in the UK and worldwide. For the first time, journalists, experts and scholars of the media have been brought together with public figures and newsmakers to research and evaluate the role of free and independent news media in building and maintaining political and civil freedom.

The Centre was officially launched with the conference ‘Twenty Years after the Fall of the Berlin Wall: what became of press and political freedoms?’ Sir Tom Stoppard, the celebrated British playwright and patron of the Centre, attended the event and said, “Without organisations like CFOM, the fallback will always be towards a diminution of freedom in the media and thence to the diminution of freedom in everything else.”

Professor Jackie Harrison (Journalism Studies) is Chair of the Centre. She is joined by journalist and campaigner for freedom of the media Jock Gallagher, and journalist and former BBC foreign correspondent William Horsley. The new Centre will host a number of public events and debates. It will also conduct original research investigating key issues such as improving Freedom of Information rules, the sometimes damaging effects of harsh national security-related laws, and the media’s performance in countries where political freedoms are restricted.

Major funding boost for medical advances

Work is underway to establish two Biomedical Research Units in musculoskeletal and cardiovascular disease, following the award of multi-million pound grants from the National Institute for Health Research.

The aim behind this national funding is to support research leaders and their teams in priority research areas.

The units are operating in partnership with Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, and will drive innovation in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of ill health, translating advances in medical research into benefits for patients.

Professor Richard Eastell and Professor David Crossman led the successful bids. Professor Eastell, Head of the Academic Unit of Bone Metabolism, said, “Having these two biomedical research units based in Sheffield is a major coup for the city and will firmly place us at the forefront of research. So many people will benefit as they will enable us to be even stronger in these areas.

“I was drawn to Sheffield 19 years ago because of its long history of excellent research and am proud that our bid recognised this expertise and the quality and volume of world class osteoporosis research that has gone before. We are thrilled to be able to keep this tradition going as a team.”

Professor David Crossman, Head of Cardiovascular Science, explained, “I am delighted with the investment in cardiovascular research in Sheffield. This will allow us the opportunity to launch new programmes of work designed at bringing our basic research to our patients with coronary artery disease.”

A celebration of all things astronomical

Dark Sky Yorkshire is a series of public events organised by Dr Richard de Grijs (Physics and Astronomy) with colleagues from the University of York and the Yorkshire Planetarium. They mark the International Year of Astronomy 2009, a celebration of astronomy and its contributions to science, society and culture.

The roadshow is travelling around the county, visiting a series of venues throughout the year. It offers a mix of practical workshops, mainly aimed at children, including air rocket construction and space origami where visitors can create and test their own rockets and models. Talks are given on photography and how images of space are taken, along with tips on photographing the night sky. There are also venue-specific lectures, night sky presentations and, weather permitting, various night sky observations.

The first Dark Sky Yorkshire event took place at the Yorkshire Air Museum at Elvington, near York. Richard commented, “It is great to be involved in a project such as this. It’s a really good chance for us to take astronomy to the public and show them through interactive workshops and events the truly magical nature of the skies.

The most popular activity was the launch of the air rockets which really travelled a long way across a field. I gave several lectures on our place in the Universe, and a solar telescope allowed visitors to see solar flares visible against the sharp edge of the sun.”

www.yorkshireplanetarium.co.uk/darkskies
Milestone for Animal and Plant Sciences

The University's excellent reputation for research and teaching in animal and plant sciences was established over 100 years ago. Celebrations were held in July 2008 to mark the centenary of the creation of separate departments of botany and zoology, which were united in 1988 to form the Department of Animal and Plant Sciences. This is now one of the largest departments in the UK devoted to the study of whole organism biology and has an outstanding reputation for both teaching and research, being ranked seventh in the world for environment and ecology (Times Higher Education Supplement).

"I am extremely proud of colleagues, past and present, who through their commitment to excellence and enthusiasm deliver teaching and research of the highest quality," said Professor Lorraine Maltby, Head of the Department. “Everybody plays a vital role in our success and the community spirit, support and mutual respect exhibited by colleagues has been a hallmark of the department over many years.”

The latest addition to the department’s facilities is the Arthur Willis Environment Centre, housing specialist research teams studying the biology of plants and insects in order to understand the ecological effects of climate change and to improve crop production in developing countries. The £4.4 million facility, named after the late Emeritus Professor of Botany, is one of the most advanced centres for studying global environmental change in the country.

Darren Rose, Laboratory Superintendent, commented, “Reaction so far has been impressive and appears to be generating a lot of potential new research directions.” David Beerling, Professor of Palaeoclimatology, added, “This is a wonderful new large-scale research facility that further enhances our capacity for cutting edge ecological research in animal and plant sciences.”

Focus on world cultures

The University and the Students’ Union celebrated World Week in March 2009, raising awareness about culture, issues and the mindset of international students within the University.

Each day was devoted to a different region, with national societies celebrating their different nationalities and cultures in a spectacle of art, theatre, film, food, music and dance. There were also opportunities for language learning and careers advice.

Mina Kasherova, a member of the International Students’ Committee, said, “It is great that we have been able to bring a festival of culture and diversity to the University. It gives a great opportunity for staff members and home students to learn how to get involved with international activities and events as well as to develop a better understanding of what interests international students.”
A creative heart for

Visitors to Sheffield have a surprise waiting for them on the Brook Hill roundabout. This well-known landmark at the foot of Western Bank is now overlooked on its east side by Jessop West, a £21.2 million development which is the new home for several departments in the Faculty of Arts and Humanities.

The building sits on the west corner of the former Jessop Hospital for Women site, and provides facilities for the Department of History, the School of English Literature, Language and Linguistics, and the School of Modern Languages and Linguistics (SOMLAL).

Designed by Berlin-based architects Sauerbruch Hutton, the building is based around a central atrium with three wings, one for each department. The ground floor focuses on public and student activities and includes a cafe and Visitor Centre. The upper floors contain offices, teaching spaces and research facilities. The three wings, ranging in height from three to five upper floors, reflect the architects’ desire to provide distinct identities for each department within a centralised building. This idea is reinforced by colour-coding the building internally and externally – blue for English, red for SOMLAL and green for History. Central hub space on each of the upper floors encourages communication between staff and students from the various departments.

Jessop West demonstrates innovation in sustainable design with many features maximising energy efficiency. It is naturally ventilated and makes the best use of natural light throughout, and the concrete soffits have been left exposed to take advantage of thermal mass for night cooling. The sound insulation is impressive, especially on the façade facing the Brook Hill roundabout and Upper Hanover Street. Living roofs on the fourth and fifth levels enjoy impressive views over the city centre.

The Grade II listed Victorian wing of the original Jessop Hospital has been carefully refurbished and now houses the Department of Music. The Jessop Building (pictured on page 10) contains lecture/ensemble spaces, a small music library, staff offices and a number of dedicated spaces for music psychology, ethnomusicology and music technology teaching and research. A short distance down Gell Street from the Jessop Building is the Soundhouse, a striking ‘box of musical delights’. This innovative music practice and studio facility allows students to rehearse, practise and record music in an insulated, soundproof environment. The black, rubber-quilted cube, designed by careyjones architects and Jefferson Sheard Architects, uses a construction method never used before in the UK.

The new buildings associated with the Jessop site are in close proximity to other departments from the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, including Biblical Studies, Philosophy, Archaeology and the Humanities Research Institute. “We have now established a creative hub for the Faculty,” said Professor Phil Powie, Pro-Vice-Chancellor – Arts & Humanities.

Attention now turns to the Edwardian wing of the Jessop Hospital. Plans include a new Learning Hub, to be completed for the 2011/2012 session.
What do we think?

"Departments formerly scattered across the campus are now co-located hard by the Humanities Research Institute, Soundhouse and Interdisciplinary Centre for the Social Sciences. An exhibition centre and (already hugely popular) cafe are amongst the excellent facilities we share. Graduation parties are being planned for the roof gardens! Clean and eco-efficient, Jessop West is a pleasant working environment where colleagues are already networking across corridors, floors and landings. Its distinctive exterior glass panels make a colourful statement opposite the award-winning Information Commons. Efficient soundproofing means you can't hear the trams, whilst the colour-themed plaster and concrete interior is lifted by a generous deployment of woods and light-borrowing 'bloids'. A new interdisciplinary seminar series recently inaugurated this new Arts and Humanities quarter – of which we're all extremely proud."

Professor Peter Ainsworth, Department of French

"I worked for nearly 20 years in the English Literature department in an old converted Victorian house in which the staff common room was the delivery ward of the old private hospital for women. But as English more than doubled in size we could no longer teach in our offices and our seminar rooms seemed to be getting smaller every year. We really had to move, even if it was to the site of another maternity hospital! I like the principle and design of the new building: angular corridors spinning off a central hub to give a mix of offices and open-plan work and meeting spaces. Staff from across the relocated departments have already begun to meet and speak in ways they hadn't been able to do before."

Dr Matthew Campbell, School of English Literature, Language and Linguistics

"I think that long-standing staff in Music were a little apprehensive about moving from the buildings in Tapotville Road which – despite their inconveniences – had a friendly atmosphere much valued by our students. But we need not have worried. We're all revelling in the spaciousness of our magnificent new home, and the nearness to our colleagues in the University, as well as to library and other facilities. It feels absolutely right that Music should be at the geographical centre of the University. All we need now in order to make our facilities the best in the UK is a performance and recording space, and we have our eye on a redundant church next to the Soundhouse. It'll cost around a £1 million to restore and convert to our purpose, and any offers of help from alumni would be hugely welcome. I do hope our alumni will come and visit us in our new building: we'll be most happy to see you again and to show you round."

Professor Peter Hill, Department of Music

"The move to Jessop West brings all History staff and postgraduate students into the same building for the first time since the department moved from the Arts Tower 30 years ago. In contrast to our previous separate 'campus' located across the road from the Hallamshire Hospital, our new location places us at the heart of the University, next to the other arts departments and across the street from the Humanities Research Institute. We are still settling in, but over the coming years we expect numerous synergies to develop with our colleagues in cognate disciplines."

Professor Bob Shoemaker, Department of History
The Sheffield Hospital for Women opened on Figtree Lane in 1864, with six in-patient beds. It rapidly became apparent that more space was needed: the hospital moved to purpose-built accommodation on Leavygreave Road in 1878. Named after its generous benefactor, local steel magnate Thomas Jessop, the new hospital quickly assumed an important role in training local midwives and doctors.

Expansion followed during the 20th century. The Jessop Hospital for Women officially became associated with the University of Sheffield in 1909, with medical students becoming part of its regular life. The Edwardian wing opened in 1901; work on a new block next to St George’s Church started in 1938 but, as a result of World War II, was not completed until 1943. The Victorian building was damaged during the first night of the Sheffield Blitz in 1940, resulting in the removal of the central spire.

Following the closure of the site in 2001, maternity services moved to the new Jessop Wing at the Royal Hallamshire Hospital. The University acquired the site from the Sheffield Teaching Hospitals Trust, providing the opportunity to complete the ‘Portobello link’ between Western Bank and Portobello.

As joint author of *Born in Sheffield: A History of the Women’s Health Services 1864-2000*, Dr Helen Mathers (BA 1974, PhD 1980) is pleased that the Victorian building has survived. “The building is important to Sheffielers and it’s important that the name isn’t lost. I’m not surprised that the large 1940s block has been demolished – but that is where thousands of people were born, one of my children included.

“The Victorian wing now provides a fantastic home for the Music Department. It was in a terrible, derelict state. The workmanship displayed in the refurbishment is impressive; the original layout of the rooms has been retained and the building has been restored externally to an excellent standard. Indeed, the project reinstated the grand staircase that was ripped out when the whole of the ground floor was turned into a staff cafeteria. And the old antenatal clinic, next to the Brook Hill roundabout, has been demolished for the Jessop West development. It will be interesting to see how the Edwardian wing is developed over the coming months.”
The students of Sheffield have always been great supporters of the brand.

Henderson’s has many well-known fans including David Blunkett MP (BA 1972) and musician Richard Hawley. Sean Bean (Hon LittD 2007) asked his agent to send a bottle out to a film set in India saying how much they missed Henderson’s; he sent them some of their favourite sauce to keep them going.

The students of Sheffield have always been great supporters of the brand. New products and merchandise have been developed, satisfying their love of all things ‘Hendo’s’. T-shirts bearing the company’s logo and the legend Strong & Northern are very popular in the Students’ Union shop. The latest development is the addition of Henderson’s Yorkshire Sauce flavour to the Yorkshire Crisps’ range – now on sale in Fortnum & Mason’s.

Not just confined to the city, Henderson’s Relish now provides a taste of Sheffield across the globe for people who have lived and studied here. And the company continues to do what it has always done – produce a quality local product for local people.

Visit the Henderson’s Relish website at www.hendersonsrelish.com to access the mail order service.
Alan Walker, Professor of Social Policy and Social Gerontology, is director of two major research projects that are advancing our understanding of the new dynamics of ageing. He has been researching and writing on aspects of ageing and social policy for over 30 years, and was given Lifetime Achievement Awards by both the Social Policy Association and the British Society of Gerontology in 2007. Professor Walker discusses the aims of the programmes.
Our ambitions are very high – not just to generate new knowledge and create new approaches to ageing research, but to help raise the quality of later life.

Everyone is aware that societies are ageing. During the last century it was Europe that led the way in population ageing but, in the first half of the present one, it will be the countries in the global south and east that age most rapidly. For example, in Asia and Latin America the proportion aged 60 or over will nearly double by 2025, to 15 per cent. Although this total will be below those of Europe (28 per cent) and North America (26 per cent) the increase is greater and, in many cases, coincides with challenges created by low levels of economic development.

Ageing then is a global phenomenon: by 2050 one-fifth of the world’s population (2,000 million people) will be aged 60 or over. While the causes of population ageing are well known – increased longevity coupled with declining birth rates – it is also a dynamic process that changes from generation to generation. For example, as people live longer they do so, generally, in a better state of health than previous generations. Yet the ways that societies respond to ageing tend to lag someway behind these changes: the common insistence on retirement at fixed ages is a case in point.

Research at the University of Sheffield is leading the search to both understand the new dynamic nature of the ageing process and to provide the evidence necessary for policy makers, practitioners and product manufacturers to ensure a better old age for everyone. The Sheffield Institute for Studies of Ageing (SISA) is one of the UK’s largest multidisciplinary ageing research centres. Under the SISA umbrella two major initiatives are pooling UK and European scientific expertise in the ageing field.

The New Dynamics of Ageing (NDA) Programme is funded by five UK research councils spanning all relevant disciplines from biology to arts and humanities. It is the biggest research programme on ageing ever mounted in the UK and is unique in Europe, with funding of over £20 million. NDA has commissioned 33 separate projects, including 11 very large multi-site ones, to study the changing nature of ageing, the various influences shaping its new dynamic form and how to maximise the benefits of this new knowledge for both older people and society. The main research themes covered by the programme are as follows:

- **Aging Well Across the Life Course**
  - active ageing
  - autonomy and independence
  - later life transitions
  - the oldest old

- **Aging and its Environment**
  - resources for ageing
  - locality, place and participation
  - the built and technological environment
  - the global dynamics of ageing

The path-breaking aspects of the programme lie not only in its scale and scope but also in its multidisciplinary approach. It is obvious that people do not age within disciplinary boxes but the vast bulk of ageing research is mono-disciplinary. The NDA Programme emphasises the necessity of collaboration between and across disciplines to understand, holistically, the ageing process and its personal and societal consequences. Our ambitions are very high – not just to generate new knowledge and create new approaches to ageing research, but to help raise the quality of later life.

The second, related, major initiative is the European Research Area in Ageing (ERA-AGE) which brings together research programmes in 14 European countries under the University’s coordination. Like the NDA Programme, ERA-AGE is dedicated to multidisciplinary science and ensuring that high quality research is translated into policy and practice designed to improve quality of life (its by-line is ‘research for a better old age’). What the ERA-AGE consortium would like to do, ideally, is to replicate the NDA Programme at a European level, thereby adding cross-country comparisons. As a stepping stone towards this goal of a joint programme, ERA-AGE launched Europe’s first cross-national ageing research initiative in 2007. The Future Leaders of Ageing Research in Europe (FLARE) post-doctoral programme is a collaboration between eight ERA-AGE members. Together they have funded 16 three-year fellowships with a unique element: six months of each fellowship must be spent researching in another country and within a different discipline from the fellow’s own one.

These are two high profile research initiatives based in Sheffield that are helping us to understand better both the nature of ageing and how to manage its consequences in order to maximise its individual and societal benefits. When so many scare stories are written about the impact of population ageing, usually of a negative kind and usually lacking evidence, it is vital that scientific knowledge is brought to the forefront in this field and that is what Sheffield researchers are striving to do.

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**Track the programmes’ progress via their websites:**

New Dynamics of Ageing: [www.newdynamics.group.shef.ac.uk](http://www.newdynamics.group.shef.ac.uk)

European Research Area in Ageing: [http://era-age.group.shef.ac.uk/](http://era-age.group.shef.ac.uk/)
The ‘thank you’ song

Aid worker Alice Gilbert (MA 2005) describes some of her experiences in the refugee camps in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

I wanted to work abroad for a long time. I’d done a lot of travelling, to South America and Southern Africa – and first went to Zimbabwe when I was four. You soon come to realise that parts of the world aren’t as lucky as us – their way of life isn’t as easy. I know it sounds ideological, but I wanted to make a difference.

I wanted to make a difference.

I saw the MA in International Studies at Sheffield as a means to an end, to help me get jobs working for NGOs. The academic work made me realise that you really can achieve what you want to achieve if you put your mind to it, something that I’ve reflected on in the camps.

I started off as an administrator at Merlin, an international charity that works within existing health systems. My first overseas posting was to DR Congo, working in the Rutshuru territory, the area most affected by the civil war with 400,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs). I was given plenty of preparation and so had quite a good picture of what to expect. I must say, though, what shocked me most initially was the beauty of the region, very green with huge volcanoes (active and extinct). I was based in the city of Goma for six months and then a year in Rutshuru.

Rutshuru is two hours’ drive north of Goma and it was full of IDPs. We were there to support the local health centres, provide training for the nursing staff and organise mobile clinics. What I’ve discovered is that I survive on adrenaline – I like working in a fast-paced environment. I was juggling funding, the expectations of donors, staff liaison, working within a network of other agencies. And in the middle of it all we had to deal with a cholera outbreak. You don’t panic, you have no choice – you can’t panic in front of staff! To get through what you’re seeing around you, you develop the ability to focus on the area you are working on, such as one health project. You can’t think about the bigger picture.

Fighting broke out just as I got to the end of my contract in October 2008. I was in Goma but most of my team were still in Rutshuru and couldn’t evacuate for several days. When I got back to the camps, there were scenes of complete devastation. It was shocking to see a place that used to hold 6,000 people destroyed. Thankfully, the project is now running again.

One wonderful experience that stands out for me from DR Congo was when we came across a new camp. The people had rudimentary shelters and nobody providing help. We organised a mobile clinic and they were really grateful. I went to their camp committee meeting, and the head of the group sang me a ‘thank you’ song – things like that happen so rarely.

Alice is now in Chad, working for the International Rescue Committee on a project helping refugees from Darfur.
What do you consider to be the main changes in the History Department in the time that you have known it?

I joined a good department, but I felt it needed reshaping in some ways. We needed to expand in size, to place more emphasis on research, to extend the curriculum both thematically and chronologically (through more attention to more recent and to international history), to internationalise our personnel, and to improve research excellence while not diluting the quality of teaching.

You oversaw the introduction of international history into the curriculum. Was this an important development?

This was extremely important and extended our research and teaching into altogether new areas. We acquired welcome expertise on southern Africa, the white Dominions, the Indian sub-continent, and the history of imperialism.

How did the expansion in the number of students through the 1990s change the character of the department?

We moved from being a small, close-knit community into a big concern. As numbers rapidly grew, increased bureaucracy, complexity of administration and – as affected universities generally during this period – the often irritating superimposition of a ‘control culture’ inexorably followed. On the other hand, increased numbers of talented students were admitted, academics found innovative ways of working with them, the level of professionalisation was sharpened, and we were able to expand into new, often exciting, areas of teaching and research.

How do you think the practice of history has developed?

The main development over the past two decades or so has been the growth of ‘cultural history’, by which is meant not the history of fine arts, but the influence of cultural determinants on behaviour and mentalities. However, a hallmark of trends in the past quarter of a century has been the proliferation of approaches with some fragmentation of the discipline itself.

What projects do you have in the pipeline?

I am currently working on the last months of the war in Germany, asking how and why the Nazi regime was able to fight on to the bitter end. I then hope to turn to writing the volume on the 20th century for the *Penguin History of Europe*. There’s enough to keep me off the streets!
“It is the best and the worst of times to be human” contends Maureen McTeer (MA 2004, Hon LLD 2008), a leading expert in one of the most significant frontiers to impact society – the balance between science and ethics.

A catalyst for action in her native Canada and on the international stage, Maureen has spent two decades studying how the laws surrounding science and technology affect our health and life decisions. She came to Sheffield in 2003 to study Biotechnology, Law and Ethics: “I’m a medical law specialist but I wanted to focus on patents and this seemed to be the place to come. You have some leading world experts in patents, like Margaret Llewelyn and Peter Odell, as well as experts in regulatory and trade arrangements. I wanted to see how the Europeans were handling some of these questions.”

Maureen found time to write her autobiography, In My Own Name, while she was studying. This is a fascinating look at Canada’s recent political past, as seen from the inside – she is married to former Prime Minister Joe Clark and is the only spouse of a Canadian prime minister to have run for political office herself.

A popular and proficient speaker, Maureen focuses on the complicated issues of modern medical research, such as stem cell research, cloning, organ donation and genetic technologies. She took the opportunity, when delivering the 6th Roberts Lecture at the University, to explore some of the questions fundamental to the future of life as we know it. What are the changes each of us will need to make in order to survive and prosper as humans in the 21st century?

“The development of IVF was a most exciting and controversial period. Human embryos were now visible and available. The traditional roles in the family changed – for example, a grandmother birthing a grandchild. How does this affect us being human? New reproductive technologies have severed traditional family ties. A child may never know its genetic heritage.”

She cites reprogenetics – the marriage of reproductive technologies and research agendas – as a “new and potent power”, the 21st century equivalent of the Industrial Revolution. “Mapping the human genome started as a public enterprise and governments decided that the results had to be shared. Now commercialisation has taken over. The debate is between two fundamentally different views. One is the shared heritage; the other is a financial goldmine. Our parliaments have to exclude all human life forms from patent law, and address the growing privatisation of research. I believe that the human genome is a public treasure, not a private treasure trove.”
Adventure on the ice

A member of the first British team to cross Greenland’s ice cap via the original 490-mile Nansen route, medical student Phylip Scott has experienced one of the world’s great journeys.

The nine-man team of Regular and Territorial Army (TA) soldiers followed the route pioneered by Norwegian explorer Fridtjof Nansen in 1888, east to west across the world’s largest island. They completed the expedition in 27 days on 2 September 2008, and raised funds for Help for Heroes, a charity which supports those who have been wounded in Britain’s current conflicts.

“Ski touring and ski mountaineering all stem from the early explorers like Nansen,” said Phylip, who was an Army captain and is currently a serving TA officer with 299 Para Squadron RE. “Nansen is an iconic figure. The spirit of adventure was amazing at that time, with people like Shipton, Tillman, Scott and Shackleton.” He finds this type of adventure addictive: “Ski mountaineering is such a rewarding activity and this expedition was special not least because Nansen’s route was last done over 30 years ago. In such environments teamwork and communication skills are fundamental – particularly when the going’s hard. I have been really fortunate with the Army to have fallen in with like-minded people, which has led me to mountaineer all over the world, including several Himalayan expeditions.

“If you’re going to be serious about such undertakings a lot of planning and training is required,” Phylip explained. “We trained for over a year, with trips to Norway, the Swiss Alps and Scotland. It’s hard to gauge quite how much training is required, but of prime importance was camaraderie. We had an international ‘strength and conditioning’ coach as well as a team doctor.

“The scenery in Greenland is stunning with vast icebergs, seals, mountains and huge skies. We planned on 35 days’ worth of food and fuel, which we pulled in sleds the whole way – each weighing in excess of 70kg. Once beyond the glaciers and crevasses, the ice cap proper is a vast undulating plain, and when the wind blows there’s nowhere to hide. Temperatures drop to -35ºC. There were a few topics of conversation which were voluntarily banned: most notably girlfriends/wives and food!

“It was hard, but I’m very glad of the experience. In the end it was the team effort that saw us through, not least because we were operating at the limits of our endurance. My highlight was a week of skiing through the night, when snow conditions were becoming increasingly difficult during the day, and seeing the aurora borealis.

"Sighting land for the first time on the west coast was particularly euphoric. The skipper of the ship that picked us up brought out a few slabs of chilled Danish beer – delicious! How do I feel about it all now? I hope the experience helps me to keep things in perspective. Not having to contend with freezing blizzards, sleeping on the ice in a cramped and damp tent, smelly clothes, and the same company too! Yes, life at Sheffield University is actually pretty good, what with chairs to sit on, hot water on tap, my girlfriend not far away, and of course fresh food.”
The words ‘Boat Race’, ‘Rag Parade’ and ‘Pyjama Jump’ will conjure up many memories for past students of the University. Up until the 1990s they formed the backbone of the traditional programme of fundraising events for charity. Recent years have seen the development of new events to meet the needs of the latest generation of students, with a greater emphasis on challenges and endurance activities.

We’re raising our game and developing our vision of what Rag can achieve.

Rag renaissance

Gone is the ‘Rag – Bad for a good cause’ slogan with the logo showing devil’s horns. The new design reclaims the ‘Raising and Giving’ strapline, and the fresh image has had a positive effect in encouraging other societies, including faith groups, to work with Rag on fundraising ideas. The Students’ Union appointed a Community Fundraiser in April 2008 to liaise closely with the Rag committee. “We wanted to make sure the infrastructure is there to encourage students to apply their creativity to fundraising,” explained Stella McHugh (BA 1995), Manager of SheffieldVolunteering. “Rag had gradually become overshadowed by other initiatives such as the Bummit challenges. The potential was there – it just needed positive commitment from the Union and resulted in Emma Damian-Grint (BA 2006) taking up the Community Fundraiser post. We’re raising our game and developing our vision of what Rag can achieve.”

The beneficial effect of the new structure became immediately apparent. The amount of money raised by Rag in the first semester of 2008/09 exceeded the entire total of the previous year with involvement in fundraising events increasing across the Union. Emma offers support and advice to student groups, making the Union better able to deal with emergency appeals – students raised over £10,000 in four days following the Chinese earthquake in May 2008.

Rag’s main focus is now on fundraising for local causes. Emma said, “Reviewing the charities we supported in previous years, it was obvious that the majority were national and international. Students had little or no understanding of local charities, where often a small amount makes a huge difference. To buck this trend, we contacted all the staff in the Union and University asking them to nominate organisations in South Yorkshire. We now have a list of 50 charities that students can choose to support.” One example is Cavendish Cancer Care, who received £20,000 from Rag to fund their rent and bills for a year. “We encourage our students to visit their named charities so they can see what a difference their efforts make,” added Emma.

The students involved with the Rag committee, chaired by Marcus Hyett, in his third year of a maths and physics degree, are highly motivated and there is a waiting list of people wanting to join. “The team is really enthusiastic,” said Marcus. “Students want to help out, they are concerned citizens, and they want to give something back. Some get involved to improve their CVs, but I genuinely feel that the majority really care about the charities we support.”
“Our main aim is to raise huge mountains of cash for really worthy causes, while never forgetting that we are students after all and are obliged to act accordingly! We’ve identified a niche market of challenge events that meets student demand. They want to get their money’s worth when they pay their sign-up fees – yet at the same time they’re raising money for charity.”

“We’ve got a great Rag committee together this year and I’m looking forward to seeing how they develop the programme in the future. Personally, I like the idea of the Boat Race and Rag Parade making a come-back – and maybe the Treasure Hunt can go beyond Europe. There are so many opportunities for fundraising and there’s so much enthusiasm and ability amongst our members.”

The Rag programme consists of around ten major events, including the Get Rag’d Bar Crawls, Firewalk, Rag Week, Bungee Jump, Give As You Rent with a Big Sleep Out, the perennially favourite Spiderwalk and an Army Challenge Assault Course. Smaller events occur throughout the year. Union club nights are proving popular as fundraising opportunities, with societies selling merchandise and raising £200-300 a night. And the ‘Rag mag’ has been given a new lease of life this year with the launch of mini-mag Tat, designed to raise the committee’s profile across the University and city.

First organised in 2003 by a sub committee of Rag, Bummit is an annual epic adventure that involves 300 students making their way across Europe to a named destination – with only £15 spending money each. In 2008 their goal was Tallinn, the capital of Estonia, via Leipzig in Germany. Talking their way on to trains, buses, trams, ferries and good old-fashioned hitch-hiking saw them raise £63,000 for a range of charities. The destination in 2009 was Zadar in Croatia and the participants raised over £70,000.

An exciting addition to the programme for 2009 is Treasure Hunt Europe. Armed with InterRail passes, teams of students followed a trail through five countries by answering a set of cryptic clues. Each participant had to raise sponsorship of at least £175, and the winning team won £1,000. “We’re aiming for this to become our flagship event,” explained Marcus.
The ‘Rag mag’ has had a chequered career at Sheffield.

Its first incarnation – The Star – was launched in 1926. Two years later it was integrated into the Sheffield Morning Telegraph as a pull-out supplement and sold 50,000 copies. The most famous and long running version, Twikker, was started in 1930. Rag was halted in 1941 but returned after World War II in 1946. The content of Twikker became ‘racier’; there was an attempt at a clean version in 1948, but the following year the magazine was banned. Most of the copies had been sold and the lucky buyers made up to a £1 profit when selling them on. Twikker reappeared in 1951. Sales took off in 1973-74 after the Rag committee persuaded Scottish & Newcastle breweries to offer a free pint for every 25 copies sold. The magazine was the biggest fundraiser during this decade. There were no pin-ups included after 1975, following protests from the Women’s Liberation group, although the jokes and advertisements continued in the established tradition. In 1988, Twikker sold out so fast that appeals went out for people to return their copies so that they could be sold again. Following the cancellation of Pyjama Jump in 1997, Rag gradually began to play less of a part in Sheffield student life. This year sees the launch of Tat, the new Rag magazine. Initially small and perfectly formed, it is hoped that Tat will go on to achieve the same levels of popularity as Twikker.
The Tinsley Towers no longer hold a commanding position over the M1 as the gateway to the North. Either loved or loathed, their demolition in August 2008 removed them from the Sheffield skyline which they had dominated for the last 70 years.

**Farewell to a Sheffield icon**

As the city and her industry expanded during the 20th century, so the need for electricity grew. A second, replacement, generating station was opened on Blackburn Meadows, in the Lower Don Valley, in 1933. This took over from the 1921 station which had reached its production capacity. The Towers were built between 1937-38 by engineering company LG Mouchel and Partners, and were over 250ft high, with a girth of 165ft at the base.

The Towers were built in a radical new style, very different to the square wooden towers which preceded them. The use of poured reinforced concrete and the distinctive hyperbolic curve of these towers had been pioneered in the Netherlands in 1915. The banding and the diamond-shaped perforations at the tops of the Towers were unusual, and may have been experimental design features.

The Towers survived World War II, perhaps helped by the fact that they did not properly appear on Ordnance Survey maps until the 1960s. In 1968 the Tinsley Viaduct was completed a few metres from the Towers, bringing the M1 and the A631 across the Don Valley. This two-tier bridge was the first of its kind in the UK.

The generating station was nationalised after the war and closed and largely demolished in the 1970s. The Towers were left standing for safety reasons, and a campaign in recent years sought to turn them into an art installation. However, a decision was finally made by owners E.ON to demolish them. This involved the closure of the M1; the Towers came down at 3.00am on 24 August 2008. Plans are now underway to build a biomass power station on the site.

A booklet, *Inside Tinsley Towers*, and a set of ten postcards have been produced to mark the passing of this landmark (£5.00 each). Written by Anna Badcock, Assistant Director, ARCUS, all proceeds go to Rotherham Hospice and Neurocare.

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Evelyn Kind

Evelyn is undoubtedly the oldest person attending classes at the University. The 96-year-old has been a regular student in the Institute of Lifelong Learning (previously the Division of Adult Continuing Education) since 1994. “Following the death of my husband,” she explained, “I felt it was time to catch up on my education. I missed out on a lot when I was younger – although I had my first poem published in a school magazine when I was 11. I am now studying poetry, philosophy and creative writing. I enjoy the fact that there is a mixed age group, and I enjoy passing on my experience – and using it for my pieces of work.”

Evelyn’s tutor, Liz Cashdan, is full of praise for her student: “Her accounts of her life really form a sort of history of the 20th century. She has written some wonderful pieces about her childhood in Cornwall, school in Sheffield, her first job, WW2, her marriage and family. She has always contributed to class discussions and been a support to other students. We all enjoy reading her work.”

Evelyn celebrated her 96th birthday by attending a ceremony in Sheffield Town Hall, organised to praise the hard work and commitment of learners across the city. She said, “The highlight was having my birthday cake surrounded by friends. It made my day.”

Professor Bob Boucher

Professor Bob Boucher (Hon DEng 2009), who was Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sheffield from 2001 to 2007, died on 25 March 2009, aged 68. He began his long association with Sheffield in 1970, when he joined the Department of Mechanical Engineering. His rise to headship of the department was matched by a change in its fortunes, so that by the early 1990s it was in the top tier of UK mechanical engineering departments.

In 1992 he was appointed a Pro-Vice-Chancellor, first for academic affairs and then research. Within three years he was installed as Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology. He received a CBE in 2000 for services to higher education and the engineering profession.

Professor Boucher returned to Sheffield in 2001 and put in train a programme of capital projects that was to transform the campus. Student accommodation was revolutionised with new student villages for Ranmoor and Endcliffe. He oversaw the strengthening of the University’s research infrastructure and its teaching excellence was recognised by the Quality Assurance Agency and other professional bodies. There was also a significant growth in student numbers, major investment in alumni relations and a focus on knowledge transfer.

In retirement, Professor Boucher continued his work with the local community by becoming Deputy Lieutenant for South Yorkshire and chairing Museums Sheffield.

Ruth Carney

Phase one of the redevelopment of the Crucible Theatre is now complete, with plans well under way for phase two and the gala re-opening in November 2009. Ruth Carney (BA Sociology and Social Policy 1997) has taken up the new post of Creative Associate of the Lyceum, Crucible and Studio theatres at this exciting time.

“I always wanted to come back to the city. Sheffield Theatres has an amazing reputation; there’s so much to be done with three fantastic spaces, and I’ve got a very long ‘to do’ list! The main thing I want to achieve is to animate the buildings as a whole, not just focus on the stages. I want to see music, cabaret, art and literature embedded in what we do.”

Ruth studied sociology at the University with a view to becoming a barrister. But involvement with the Sheffield University Theatre Company and the Drama Studio soon gave her other ideas. “It was set up like a professional theatre so you could get lots of experience backstage, of acting and directing. I realised in my third year that I wanted to be a director.” An MA in Theatre Directing from the Russian Theatre Academy, Moscow, and Middlesex University and a place on the Directors’ Course at the National Theatre further prepared her for her chosen career.
Dr David Fletcher

This year sees the retirement of David Fletcher (BA History 1969, PhD History 1972) as the University’s Registrar and Secretary. Born in Sheffield, he has a real affection for the city, the Blades and his alma mater. He took up the senior administrative post a decade ago, following appointments at the Universities of Manchester and Loughborough.

“I was keen to come back to Sheffield because of the quality of the institution and the leadership of Gareth Roberts, who was Vice-Chancellor at the time. I think that my main achievement has been involvement in the re-development and transformation of the estate. The capital programme is £0.5 billion in total over ten years. I’m especially proud of the Information Commons and the Student Residences Project, the largest of its kind in the UK. We raised £160 million of private finance to re-build the residential estate.

“Ten years on, I believe that the University has a management structure better able to implement strategy. We offer confident and high-quality professional services, and our relationship with the city is excellent and works to our mutual advantage. The University is unquestionably in the top ten nationally, with notable achievements in the National Student Survey and Research Assessment Exercise, and we are developing international ties. I’ve thoroughly enjoyed my involvement with the institution and look forward to seeing what happens next!”

Stella McHugh

As manager of SheffieldVolunteering since its launch in 2002, Stella (BA English Literature 1995) has been central to the outreach programme’s success. Committed to a career in community development work, she jumped at the opportunity to establish a new model for volunteering activities in the Students’ Union.

Stella is passionate about working with student volunteers and providing them with activities that fit in with their academic commitments: “Students are very aware of their investment in their degrees and attitudes to study are changing. Gone are the days of ‘I’ll skip that lecture’. We offer volunteering opportunities that accommodate the time they want to give. Over 1,200 students take part each year in a range of community initiatives that have a hugely positive impact on the region. They bring so much energy into the Union.

“We develop the programme in response to student and local demand. I regularly review our progress, asking how we can be more effective as we want to keep things fresh. The feedback I get is very positive. A colleague from one of our local charities commented that they were keen to be involved as they were investing in tomorrow’s ‘change-makers’. It’s also great to hear from our volunteers once they graduate – it’s inspiring to hear how volunteering has affected them and what they have gone on to achieve.”

Andrew Grant

Coming up with a successful character for a series of thrillers is a challenge for any writer. Following a 15-year career in telecommunications, Andrew (BA English Literature 1989) struck gold when he created David Trevelyan, a Royal Navy intelligence operative. The first instalment in his story, Even, was published by Macmillan in July 2009.

“I wanted to write about someone with a credible background, someone with specialist training and a need to travel around the world. I like to read thrillers myself and had thought about the reasons they were successful: a strong, sufficiently plausible character, humour, drama and action. I’m well through the second novel now and it’s a special challenge to keep the different strands going, especially as I keep it all in my head!”

Andrew formed a theatre company – Cut Back Theatre – with five like-minded people after graduating, and spent 18 months touring original shows around the country. The highlight was performing at the Edinburgh Festival in 1990. “Storytelling interested me throughout my degree and I gradually moved from focusing on drama to novels. I took redundancy from BT so that I could start writing full time. I knew from the theatre that it’s the people who watch plays who are important. The audience are the only people who count. I took the same approach to thrillers.”
A unique theatrical event took place at the University when a performance of *Nimrod* was staged before the play’s author, His Highness Sheikh Dr Sultan Bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, the Ruler of Sharjah. The cast included Sheffield students from Iran, South Africa, India, Jordan, Spain and Malaysia who were joined by University staff and alumni. *Nimrod* is a parable on unrestricted power and dramatises the rise of King Nimrod and the construction of the Tower of Babel.

The Sheikh was in Sheffield to receive an honorary degree (Hon LittD) in recognition of his distinguished contributions as both a statesman and a scholar. He is widely credited with having transformed the fortunes of Sharjah, the third largest emirate of the United Arab Emirates, and masterminded its growth into a vibrant, modern state.

The University has co-developed a new degree course in biotechnology with the University of Sharjah. The four-year course covers the basic elements of science with an emphasis on areas of research that have an impact on the region’s post-oil economy. The mutually beneficial programme involves staff from the Department of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology working closely with their counterparts in Sharjah.

The Sheikh commented, “We look forward to the exchange of students and staff, and the implementation of creative ideas to enhance students’ learning and the generation of new scientific knowledge.”
Dutch celebrations

The University celebrated 60 years of teaching Dutch with a special event attended by Nick Clegg, MP for Sheffield Hallam and Leader of the Liberal Democrats (who is fluent in the language), and the Netherlands Ambassador, Pim Waldeck. The event was sponsored by the Netherlands Embassy and the Representative of the Flemish Government in London. Mr Waldeck also donated a £2,000 birthday gift to the Department of Germanic Studies.

Dutch started modestly as an option for students of German in 1948, but Sheffield is now recognised worldwide for its expertise in Dutch Studies. Dutch is spoken by more than 20 million people, not only in the Netherlands but also in Flanders, the northern region of Belgium. Both countries are important trading partners with the UK.

Dr Roel Vismans, Head of the Department of Germanic Studies, said, “We are delighted with the excellent turnout for our celebrations. It was great to see so many of our alumni here. The support we get from the Dutch authorities and our Dutch colleagues in the UK is really wonderful and evidence that the University of Sheffield is an important centre for the study of the Low Countries.”

Japan Centre offers exciting benefits

Students in the School of East Asian Studies are being given the opportunity to deepen their understanding of Japanese language and culture through a new partnership between the University and Doshisha University in Kyoto, Japan.

Undergraduate students in Japanese Studies will be able to carry out their ‘year abroad programme’ at the new University of Sheffield Doshisha Centre based on the Imadegawa Campus of Doshisha University. They will study Japanese language and culture and benefit from the opportunity to take Doshisha modules and become part of campus life.

The two universities signed their first International Exchange Agreement in 1997. President Eiji Hatta of Doshisha University commented, “It is a great honour and pleasure for us that the University of Sheffield has chosen us out of 760 national, public and private four-year universities in Japan to establish their study centre.”

The University of Sheffield in America

Around 2,000 Sheffield alumni live in the United States and this community is enthusiastic about their links with the University. The ‘University of Sheffield in America’, our charitable sister organisation, was established in 2004. Since then, US alumni have raised over $195,000 for student support and facilities in Sheffield.

The Development and Alumni Relations Office now has a full-time presence in the US. Helen Rey (née Scarlett) (BA Law 1996) recently moved to Washington State to get married and said, “I hope this new base will open up more avenues of cooperation and collaboration between our American alumni and Sheffield.”

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International boost for PhD training

A number of PhD students at Sheffield have the opportunity to carry out their studies in Singapore as part of a new partnership agreement between the University and the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR). Both institutions have signed an agreement to establish a landmark partnership programme for PhD education in the areas of biomedical and physical sciences, and engineering.

The partnership allows PhD students enrolled at Sheffield to receive half their training at Singapore at A*STAR laboratories and they will spend approximately two years each at A*STAR and the University. They will be jointly supervised by staff from both institutions.

Commenting on the agreement, Vice-Chancellor Professor Keith Burnett said, “We welcome the opportunity to send our brightest students to the world-class research facilities that have been established in Singapore. I’m positive that the Sheffield students who are given the chance to further their research skills with A*STAR will benefit from this international dimension to their studies.”
First, congratulations and a warm welcome to our 2009 graduates. You became members of Convocation upon graduation and here are glimpses of what we do.

“The only constant is change” wrote Einstein and there has been much change in the University and for Convocation during the last 12 months.

Our primary duty is to take part in University governance by appointing 40 members to the University Court, which is made up of University stakeholders. Convocation’s purpose is to be the University’s critical friend from a positive and supportive perspective. The Vice-Chancellor regards us as valuable support in these difficult times.

Student employment is always a major matter for Convocation and at a visit to the Yorkshire Employment Fair in October a number of firms were offering jobs; some attended for the first day only and other companies were available to attend the second day. There was a feeling of moderate confidence. The Director of the Careers Service keeps me up to date with developments. Opportunities for the immediate future are tightening, but jobs are becoming available for the autumn. Please remember, University of Sheffield graduates can continue to use the Careers Service for up to three years after graduation.

We continue to enlarge our knowledge of the University by briefings from senior members of the University and the Students’ Union. The Union President for 2007-08, Mark Willoughby, explained how we could be involved in Union projects. During the current University session, key briefings have been made by Neil Pepper, Environment & Business Services Manager; Professor Peter Cole, Journalism Studies; Dave Hurst, Union President 2008-09, on student volunteering; and Sajeev Jeganathan, International Students’ Officer, on worries among international students about employment.

We had a very detailed account of University finance at our January meeting which was very helpful.

The University continues to appear well in league tables and the result in the recent Research Assessment Exercise has been a boost to all, while the continued successes of the Students’ Union continue to place it among the best in the country.

Our links with the Students’ Union continue to strengthen; we were all members once and we can all be proud to have been members. Our links with the Development and Alumni Relations Office remain strong and we support their special mission as they support ours.

Dr David Bradshaw OBE
Chairman of Convocation
Honours and awards

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

Sinan Al-Bermani, a PhD student in Engineering Materials, won the 2008 Young Persons’ World Lecture Competition, organised by the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining.

Professor Paul Griffiths (Radiology) has been elected a fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences.

Professor Barry Hancock OBE (Oncology) was awarded a Pfizer Excellence in Oncology Award in recognition of his lifetime contribution to cancer research.

Professor Neil Hunter (Molecular Biology and Biotechnology) was elected a fellow of the Royal Society.

Dr Munitta Muthana (Medicine and Biomedical Sciences) won the AstraZeneca Young Scientist Frank Rose Award from the British Association of Cancer Research.

Nina Pell, a Mathematics student, won The Times sudoku championship for the second time.

Professor Ian Philp (Primary Care and Ageing) has been awarded a CBE for services to healthcare.

Professor David Owens (Automatic Control and Systems Engineering) has been elected a fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering.

Marie Reaveley, an Urban Studies and Planning student, won the Association of Women in Property National Student Award 2008.

Elena Rodriguez-Falcon (Mechanical Engineering) has been made a senior fellow of the Higher Education Academy and has received an ExxonMobil Excellence in Teaching Award, in association with the Royal Academy of Engineering.

SheffieldVolunteering was recognised as the Volunteering Team of the Year at the Higher Education Volunteering Awards 2008, and received a High Sheriff Badge in recognition of its positive impact on the local community.

Two University spin out companies won awards at the Yorkshire Post Excellence in Business Awards 2008: Simcyp won the Innovation of the Year award and Graduates Yorkshire picked up the University Spin-Out accolade.

Professor Maurice Skolnick (Physics and Astronomy) was elected a fellow of the Royal Society.

Professor Paul Speight (Clinical Dentistry) was awarded the 2008 Oral Medicine and Pathology Research Award by the International Association for Dental Research.

The Union of Students was named the Higher Education Union of the Year 2008 at the first National Union of Students’ Awards, and was named The Best Students’ Union in the UK by trade magazine Club Mirror.

Professor Roger Watson (Nursing and Midwifery) received a fellowship of the Royal College of Nursing.

Dr Georgina Waylen (Politics) received the American Political Science Association Victoria Schuck Award for the best book on women and politics.

Professor Tony West (Engineering Materials) received the 2008 Griffith Medal and Prize from the Council of the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining.

Professor Yorick Wilks (Computer Science) was awarded the 2008 Zampolli Prize for Outstanding Contributions to the Advancement of Language Resources and Language Technology Evaluation with Human Language Technologies, the Association for Computational Linguistics Lifetime Achievement Award, and the British Computer Society's Lovelace Medal for his significant contribution to the development of information technology.

Professor John Yates (Mechanical Engineering) was awarded a Higher Education Academy National Teaching Fellowship.
Alumni services and benefits

The University of Sheffield offers a range of services and benefits 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.
- **Viglen Sheffield Alumni Programme**
- **Sports facilities**
- **Library services**
- **We will be happy to send you one.**
- **Contact the Alumni Relations team and received your membership card, please**
- **benefits you may need to show your**
- **negotiated for you. For some of these**
- **You can take advantage of a range of**
- **• Free annual Your University magazine.**
- **• Sheffield Reunited – our online**
- **• Reunions and events – we can help**
- **• Find a friend – If you’d like to get in**
- **• Sports facilities**
- **• Library services**
- **• Alumni services and benefits**
- **Visit www.sheffield.ac.uk/alumni/keepintouch or contact alumni@sheffield.ac.uk, tel: 0114 222 1043.**
- **Remember – we can only keep you informed of what’s on offer if you stay in touch! So please keep us informed of your current address and email by completing the enclosed questionnaire, update online at www.sheffield.ac.uk/alumni/keepintouch or contact alumni@sheffield.ac.uk, tel: 0114 222 1043.**
The Alumni Relations team organise a number of events throughout the year. We can also help you plan and promote your own reunions and help you trace friends from your time at the University.

Our Reunions and Events web pages – www.sheffield.ac.uk/alumni/events – include a full calendar of events. There is also a guide on how to plan a reunion. We can add your event online to help you promote it: we’d then like to hear how it went so we can include a report.

There are also links to the University’s Conference Office, who can help with booking accommodation or function rooms. Visit www.sheffield.ac.uk/conferences, 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 1043) and we will add you to our events’ mailing list.

Unless stated otherwise, please email alumni@sheffield.ac.uk or call 0114 222 1043 for further details of the following events:

• Annual Alumni Reunion, Saturday 12 September 2009, on campus
  All alumni are welcome to come back to the University, especially those from the anniversary years of 1969, 1979 and 1984. Tours and activities during the day will be followed by a dinner in Firth Hall.

• Convocation, Lunch at Buxton with North West Branch,
  Sunday 27 September 2009
  Email Mike Bennett at mikeb@mgbhome.demon.co.uk if you wish to attend.

• House of Lords. Alumni Drinks’ Reception,
  Thursday 1 October 2009, London
  Alumni reception hosted by Rt Hon the Lord Hattersley in this prestigious venue.

• Alumni Reception in Paris. Wednesday 14 October 2009

• Convocation, Visit to the Department of Music, November 2009, on campus
  An evening tour to visit the department’s new premises. Email Mike Bennett at mikeb@mgbhome.demon.co.uk for further details.

• Pop Tarts, winter 2009, London
  Get back to the good old student days with a cheesy Pop Tarts night to remember. Visit www.poptartslondon.co.uk for further details.

• Convocation Annual Christmas Lunch, Saturday 5 December 2009, Tapton Masonic Hall, Sheffield
  Email Mike Bennett at mikeb@mgbhome.demon.co.uk for further details.

• 60th and 50th Anniversary Reunion, July 2010
  If you graduated in 1950 or 1960 come back to Sheffield for a special reunion lunch in Firth Court to celebrate 50 and 60 years since your graduation.

• Dinner for Former Staff and Friends, Thursday 15 July 2010, Firth Hall, Sheffield
  Drinks reception in the Quadrangle (weather permitting!) followed by dinner in Firth Hall. Please contact us (see details above) if you’re a retired member of staff and would like to receive an invitation.

• Annual Alumni Reunion, Saturday 11 September 2010, on campus
  If you’re from the class of 1970, 1980 or 1985 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.

• Alumni Reception/Dinner, October 2010, London
  Following on from the success of previous alumni receptions and dinners in the Houses of Parliament and House of Lords, we are planning another occasion at a prestigious London venue. Watch out for more details on our website or email alumni@sheffield.ac.uk.

For further details of alumni events please visit www.sheffield.ac.uk/alumni/events. For Convocation events please visit www.sheffield.ac.uk/convocation and click on the Social Activities link.
Your Notes and News

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

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’.

1940s

William Woollen (BEng Electrical Engineering 1941)
Was involved in Students’ Union activities as chairman of the Rag Committee, 1939-40, and fire watching at the University on both Sheffield Blitz nights in 1940.

1950s

Alfred Raper (BSc Fuel Technology 1954, PhD Fuel Technology 1958)
Is chief executive and vice chairman of Davy Corporation, non-executive director of Vosper Thornycroft and chairman of Projecta Consultants.

1960s

John Hopkins (BA Economics 1960)
Raised over £5,100 for the Sheffield Family Holiday fund by cycling east to west across Britain in 15 days. He started near Lowestoft on the Suffolk coast and finished at the tip of the Ardnamurchan Peninsula.

John Cook (BEng Mining Engineering 1962)
Is president and chief executive officer of San Anton Resource Corporation and chairman of Premier Gold Mines Limited.

Is known for his pen and watercolour vignettes of buildings.

Dr Tridibesh Mukherjee (MMet Metallurgy 1965, PhD Metallurgy 1968, Hon DMet 2008)
Received the 2008 Bessemer Gold Medal from the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining for outstanding services to the steel industry. He is a non-executive director of Tata Steel.
1970s

Graham Harding (BEng Civil and Structural Engineering 1971)
Retired as executive director for environment for Lancashire County Council in 2008.

Keith Attfield (BEng Civil Engineering 1972)

David Childs (LLB Law 1972)
Is global managing partner of law firm Clifford Chance.

Clive Humby (BSc Applied Mathematics 1975)
Is chairman and co-founder of dunnhumby, an international marketing company, and a visiting professor at Cranfield University Business School.

John Pattinson (MA Town and Regional Planning 1975)
Is head of planning for the West Midlands Regional Assembly.

Caroline Taggart (BA French and Spanish 1976)

Dave Wickett (MA Economics 1976)
Received a special award for his outstanding contribution to the promotion of real ale in Sheffield from the local Campaign for Real Ale.

Berlie Doherty (PGCE Teacher Training 1977)
Is a novelist, poet, playwright and screenwriter and has twice won the Carnegie Medal, for Granny was a Buffer Girl (1986) and Dear Nobody (1991).

Heather Morris (née Denton) (BMus Music 1977, BEd Education 1978)
Is a music teacher and composer based in the San Francisco area; her pieces, The Quangle Wangle’s Hat and Halloween Happenings, were placed first and second in the 2008 California State Composers Today competition.
Annual Alumni Reunions

Saturday 12 September 2009 – Special anniversary years: 1969, 1979, 1984

For all alumni of the University of Sheffield
Have you booked your place yet?
To see if places are still available and to join in the celebrations, email alumni@sheffield.ac.uk or call +44 (0) 114 222 1043.

The perfect venue for a memorable wedding day

Celebrate your wedding reception within the magnificent walls of Firth Court at the heart of the University of Sheffield.

- Unique facilities including the prestigious Firth Hall and Quadrangle
- Award-winning catering
- Individually tailored packages
- Partnerships with wedding ceremony venues and accommodation providers
- Expert support and advice from our wedding coordinator

For more information, please contact Deborah Tilbrook, tel: +44 (0) 114 222 8991, email: d.tilbrook@sheffield.ac.uk.
Air Marshall Sir Stuart Peach KCB, CBE (BA Geography, Economic and Social History 1977, Hon Littb 2007) is the new Chief of Joint Operations at the Permanent Joint Headquarters, Northwood.

Professor Janet Hemingway (BSc Zoology and Genetics 1978, Hon DSc 2009) is director of the School of Tropical Medicine at the University of Liverpool, and chief executive officer of the Innovative Vector Control Consortium, which is working towards combating malaria.

Julietta Patrick CBE (BA Ancient History and Classical Civilisation 1978) is director of NHS Cancer Screening Programmes.

Professor Martin Price (BSc Natural Environmental Science 1978) is the director of the Centre for Mountain Studies at the UHI Millennium Institute.

Ruth Reed (BA Architecture 1978, DipArch Architecture 1981, MA Landscape 1982) has been elected to become the first female president of the Royal Institute of British Architects in September 2009.

Andrew Rose (BA Japanese 1979) is Japanese Equity Fund Manager for the Schroder Tokyo Fund.

Neil Williamson PLI, FLI (MA Landscape Design 1979) is president of the Landscape Institute.

Alison Gomme (BA Psychology 1980) is governor of the Isle of Man Prison.

Paul Hobson (BSc Environmental Science 1980, PGCE 1981) was highly commended in the bird behaviour section of the Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2008 competition, run by the BBC and the Natural History Museum, for his image of an osprey.

Mark Bradshaw (BMus Music 1983) is an ethnomusicologist based in Swaziland and is a member of the band Blissful Virtuous: Mbira Post, their first album of experimental global fusion, was released in 2004.

Julia Hodson (LLB Law 1982) is the first woman chief constable of Nottinghamshire.

Angus Thirlwell (studied French Language and Literature 1983-85) is managing director of chocolatier Hotel Chocolat.

Dr Paul Waring (MEng Control Systems 1983, PhD Marine Project Simulation Techniques 1992) is vice president of business development for the construction management company Hill International in their Abu Dhabi office.

Dr Vanessa Lawrence CB, HonFREng (BA Geography 1984, Hon DSc 2001) is chief executive of Ordnance Survey and has been elected an honorary fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering.

Professor David Leigh (BSc Chemistry 1984, MSc Chemistry 1986, PhD Chemistry 1988) has been elected a fellow of the Royal Society.

Members of the University lacrosse team after a victory in the Iroquois Cup Final in May 1982. Their counterparts in 2009 are the British Universities & Colleges Sport champions.


1990s

Fr Peter Scally
(BA Philosophy and Politics 1990)
Runs Jesuit Media Initiatives, with its pray-as-you-go website.

Jason Binks (BA Modern History and Politics 1991)
Is vice-president of digital and new media at ITV Global Entertainment.

Crispin Chambers
(MA Japanese Studies 1991)
Is head of Japanese at Tavistock College, Devon.

Dr Gabriel Yip
(MB ChB Medicine 1992)
Is associate professor in the Division of Cardiology, Department of Medicine and Therapeutics, Prince of Wales Hospital, Hong Kong.

Has a growing reputation as a specialist public arts project manager and has worked on projects in Glasgow’s Gorbals area and Ancoats in east Manchester.

Clare Mulley
(BA Social and Political Studies 1991)
Is the author of The Woman Who Saved Children: a biography of Eglantyne Jebb which won the Daily Mail Biographers Club Prize 2007 for a forthcoming book. It was published in 2009 by OneWorld Publications, with all royalties donated to Save the Children.

Dr Cindy Sughrue FRSA (PhD English Language 1993)
Is chief executive officer and executive producer of Scottish Ballet.

Anthony Wysome
(BA Accounting, Financial Management and Economics 1993)
Is head of convenience for Waitrose.

Felix Kariuki (MSc Software Systems Technology 1994)
Works in management for Tetra Pak Eastern Africa.

François Barker
(Legal Practice Course 1995)
Is national head of pensions and a partner of law firm Hammonds.

Kerry Daynes (BSc Psychology 1995)
Is a consultant forensic psychologist and was the host of the Crime and Investigation Network’s programme Making of a Monster.

David Harmon (BA Archaeology and Prehistory 1988)
Is a commentator for Eurosport.

Gillian Taylor (BA Archaeology and Ancient History 1988)
Writes western novels, with 11 published so far; she is also a quiz fiend, taking part in 15 to 1 and Mastermind.

Helen Richardson
(Dip Applied Social Services 1995)
Is working in psychiatric rehabilitation services in New Zealand and studying Te Reo (Maori).

Dr Wael Kafienah
(PhD Human Metabolism and Clinical Biochemistry 1998)
Is the winner of the Garrod Prize 2008, awarded by the British Society for Rheumatology.

Evelyn Adfield
(LLB Law 1999)
Has joined law firm Boyes Turner as an associate solicitor.

Luke Barclay
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David Harmon
(BA Archaeology and Prehistory 1988)
Is a commentator for Eurosport.
Jennifer Eardley  (BA Archaeology and Prehistory 2000)  
Is a paramedic with East Midlands Ambulance Service.

Dr Gary Campbell  (PhD Animal and Plant Sciences 2001)  
Is dean of science and technology at UHI Millennium Institute.

James Grieve  (BA English Literature 2001)  
Is artistic director of Nabokov, the theatre company dedicated to backlash theatre, and associate director of the Bush Theatre.

Paul Scriven  (PgDip Health Economics and Management 2001)  
Is the leader of Sheffield City Council.

Elizabeth Watts  (BA Archaeology and Prehistory 2001)  
Headed the Observer’s Hotlist 2009 as the opera singer to watch this year and her debut album, Schubert: Lieder, is now available.

Andrew Brereton  (PgDip Language and Communication Impairments in Children 2002)  
Is the founder of Snowdrop, a child development consultancy which offers programmes of therapy for children with brain injuries.

Dr Joanne Rendell  (PhD English Literature 2002)  

Anthony Carpenter  
(MEng Civil Engineering with Modern Language 2003)  
Is a founder of LadyZone, the award-winning fitness centres which focus on workouts for women.

Alice Coulam  (BMus Music 2003)  
Leads the Alice Coulam Quintet and her first album, Time After Time, was released in 2008.

Peter Hopton  (BEng Electronic Engineering 2003)  
Is a founder of VeryPC, the green computer systems company. Their new factory was opened in Sheffield by MPs Hilary Benn and David Blunkett in June 2008.

Dr Gemma Satterthwaite  (PhD Cardiovascular Medicine 2003)  
Is a bio-informatics team leader at AstraZeneca.

Dr Harry Hope  
(MB ChB Medicine 2006)  
His novel The Elements of Lore was published by Grosvenor House Publishing in May 2008.

Claire Atha  
(LLB Law 2007)  
Received a Lilian Baylis Award after being recognised as one of the most promising theatre students in London.

Jessica Ennis  
(BSc Psychology 2007) and Paul McKay  
(MArch Architecture 2008)  
Each received a Chancellor’s Medal in 2008 for their outstanding achievements – Jessica as an international heptathlete, and Paul as captain of the University’s University Challenge team and for his work with disadvantaged members of the local community.

Continued over…
Alumni News

John Bates, Lecturer in the School of Nursing and Midwifery 1969-98
Duncan Beales, Audio Visual Manager, AV and TV Service 1976-92
Professor Bob Boucher (Hon DEng 2009), Vice-Chancellor 2001-07 (see page 22)
Dr Anthony Clark, Clinical Senior Lecturer in the Department of Medical Microbiology and Warden of Stephenson Hall of Residence 1974-96
Sir Bernard Crick (Hon LittD 1990), founding Professor of Politics 1965-71
Lady Dainton (Hon DSc 1992), widow of the former Chancellor of the University, Lord Dainton, and a research zoologist of distinction
John Hawley (BEng Civil Engineering 1973), a member of University staff from 1982 and Deputy Director Corporate Information and Computing Services 1996-2008
Margaret Lamb, Senior Library Assistant in the University Library 1987-2008
Dr Franz Lösel, Senior Lecturer in Germanic Studies 1972-90
Neil McKay (Hon LLD 2001) Awarded a Knighthood for services to the community in Wales.
Professor Colin Dennis (BSc 1967, PhD 1970) Awarded a CBE for services to the Agri-food Industry.
Margaret Drabble (Hon LittD 1976) Awarded a Damehood for services to Literature.
Robert Edwards (MED 1989) Awarded a Knighthood for services to local and national Education.
Professor Barry Hancock (MB ChB 1969, MD 1977) Awarded an OBE for services to Medicine.
Christopher Hickey (BA 1974) Appointed to the Order of St Michael and St George (CMG).
Dr William Keegan (Hon LittD 1995) Awarded a CBE for services to Financial Journalism.
Women’s Basketball Team 2007-08

Obituaries

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

- Ramatu Kargbo (MA Psychoanalytic Studies 2007) is assistant director of operations for the child protection charity Help a Needy Child in Sierra Leone.
- Jessica Peake (LLB Law 2007) has won a Thouron Award to study for a Master’s in International Law at the University of Pennsylvania, USA.
- Jenner Periasamy (MSc Mechanical Engineering 2007) is a senior project engineer at Bridon International, Doncaster.
- Daniel Mason (BA History 2008) won The Times/Lloyds TSB Graduate of the Year competition.

Alumni Honours

David Brailsford (MBA 1993) Awarded a CBE for services to Sport.
David Clarke (BA 1969) Awarded an OBE for voluntary service to the community in Wales.
Professor Sally Davies (Hon DSc 2008) Awarded a Damehood for services to Medicine.
Professor Colin Dennis (BSc 1967, PhD 1970) Awarded a CBE for services to the Agri-food Industry.
Margaret Drabble (Hon LittD 1976) Awarded a Damehood for services to Literature.
Robert Edwards (MED 1989) Awarded a Knighthood for services to local and national Education.
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To place your order for the above merchandise, either download the relevant order form(s) from www.sheffield.ac.uk/alumni/merchandise.html or contact us on +44 (0) 114 222 1079.

Please send completed order forms and your payment to:
Development and Alumni Relations Office (Merchandise),
The University of Sheffield, 267 Glossop Road, Sheffield, S10 2HB, UK

Payment by cheque or £ sterling draft made payable to ‘The University of Sheffield’.
One key area of contemporary research at Sheffield is neurological illnesses. Many alumni and friends of the University are ensuring that this important research continues by remembering the institution in their Wills. This support is invaluable and greatly appreciated by our academic staff and researchers.

All legacies left to the University are exempt from inheritance tax because it has charitable status. To request a copy of our Legacy Brochure, or for more information about supporting the University, please contact:

David Meadows
Development Officer – 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
Fax: +44 (0)114 222 1044
Email: d.meadows@sheffield.ac.uk
Website: www.sheffield.ac.uk/alumni

In the UK one in 500 people, around 120,000 individuals, have Parkinson’s disease (PD) and about 10,000 people are diagnosed each year.

At present there is no cure for PD. However, researchers and scientists are steadily making advances in understanding the condition, its causes and how best to treat it. Scientists at the University are using new approaches to study the disease and test drugs for their effect on mechanisms leading to the death of nerve cells in PD brains.

Dr Oliver Bandmann, a Senior Lecturer (clinical) in the Academic Neurology Unit, explained, "We are making very good progress with our drug screen, but there is still a long way to go. I was fortunate enough to benefit from the University of Sheffield Sheila McKenzie Fund. This made a considerable difference to the success of our research project and I am very grateful indeed for this kind and generous support."

Sheila McKenzie was a patient with PD who kindly left a legacy specifically to support PD research at the University.

Gill Tait (MA 1991), Assistant Director of Human Resources at the University, has experienced PD in her own family. Her grandmother and father had the disease and last year her sister was diagnosed, aged 44. She said, "The impact of Parkinson’s is huge – on those dealing with its many symptoms and on those living with, and caring for, someone with the condition. Dr Bandmann’s work and that of his colleagues gives my family great hope that one day the progression of Parkinson’s can be slowed and the quality of life for all those touched by the condition improved. I am immensely grateful to those who have provided a legacy to fund research into Parkinson’s disease at the University of Sheffield."

Gill Tait with Dr Oliver Bandmann.

Planning a legacy gift will cost you nothing now and could be the most significant gift you ever make.