



Team Teesside's
LONG SERVICE AWARDS



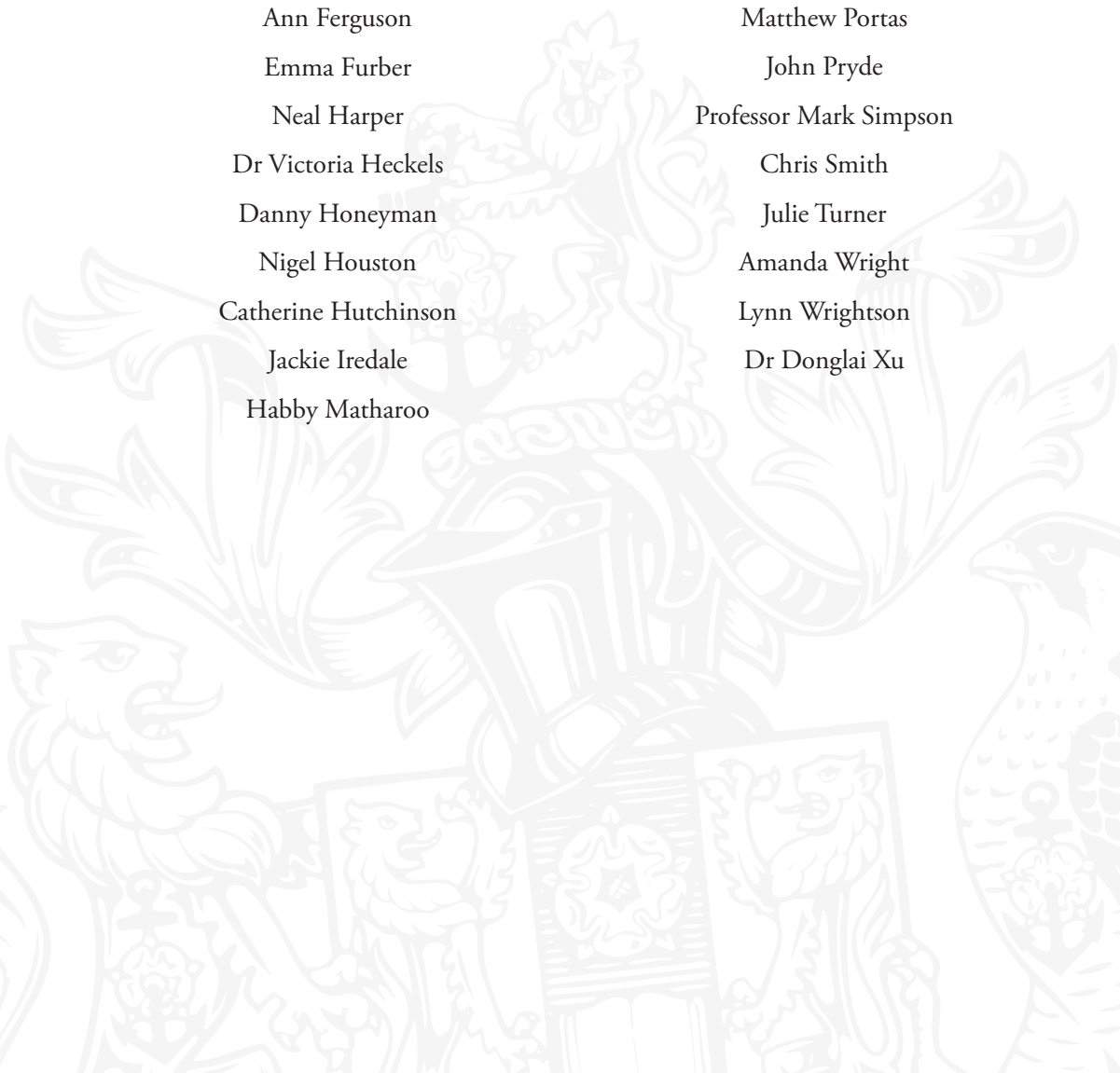
2023

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LONG SERVICE ROLL OF HONOUR



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| Jackie Barker | Hayley McCully |
| Mellissa Baxter | Rachel Myers |
| Fiona Begg | Caroline Norman |
| Lee Blackburn | Beverley Peters |
| Sue Clark | Frances Porritt |
| Ann Ferguson | Matthew Portas |
| Emma Furber | John Pryde |
| Neal Harper | Professor Mark Simpson |
| Dr Victoria Heckels | Chris Smith |
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| Nigel Houston | Amanda Wright |
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| Habby Matharoo | |



FOREWORD



The success of our University is a reflection of the hard work, dedication and professionalism of colleagues across the institution. We have faced many challenges in recent times, and I am extremely grateful for the positive contributions demonstrated by Team Teesside colleagues.

Your commitment to our university is the reason why we are in such a strong position and continue to be able to offer an outstanding experience to our students.

I am delighted to be able to pay tribute to a very special group of staff who have completed an incredible 25 years' service with our university – a remarkable achievement.

I am sure you have seen many changes during your time with us as Teesside University continues to invest in its campus and estate to provide the very best student experience.

I hope you feel a strong sense of pride to represent a university which always strives to do its best for its students, staff, partners and the communities it serves.

Please take the time to read through the descriptions in this brochure which summarise the varied roles you have undertaken during your time at Teesside and highlight the valuable contributions all of you have made.

You should be proud of everything that you have achieved and look back on your time here with fond memories.

Thank you once again on behalf of Team Teesside for your continued and dedicated service.

Professor Paul Croney, OBE
Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive



Jackie Barker

After graduating from Teesside University in 1997, Jackie worked as a part-time lecturer in the voluntary sector, local colleges and at Teesside University, where she developed and delivered the first Java Programming UCPD evening class. In 1998, she joined the School of Computing, teaching mainstream modules and co-ordinated the UCPD community-based teaching serving over seven different community sites. Jackie soon identified that there was a need for a consistent delivery approach across the sites and devised a workbook-based delivery model that also created brand recognition for the courses. This successful practice was in place until the end of the funding for UCPD in the community.

Jackie has taught on a range of programmes and undertaken a variety of roles, including deputy programme coordinator, deputy section head (computer science), link tutor for Prague College, external examiner for the University of Hull and admissions tutor for computing and information systems. She has also led the development of courses, including BSc (Hons) Cyber Security and Networks. Jackie is current the principal lecturer (marketing and recruitment).

Jackie enjoys working at Teesside University and believes that she has been fortunate to work with some amazing staff and students over the years.

Mellissa Baxter

Mel likes to say that she has been part of the University forever. As a baby, she attended the University nursery and she returned to campus upon leaving school in 1997, as a youth trainee. Her first role was in the Student Records team, whilst completing her NVQ in Business Administration on day release. Mel progressed to a full-time position as a receptionist in the Vice-Chancellor's Office in 1998 and from here was promoted to become a personal assistant to various members of the University Executive Team.

In 2015 Mel became executive PA to the Chief Operating Officer and she credits this role with giving her insight and understanding across both the academic and operational sides of the business. The skills she developed led to another promotion in 2018 to executive PA to both the Vice-Chancellor and the Chief Operating Officer, and also the office manager for the wider Vice-Chancellor's Office, leading a team of executive PAs.

Colleagues describe Mel as organised, uncompromising and focused. She sets the tone for the operation of the Vice-Chancellor's Office and is a supportive and caring colleague and leader.

Fiona Begg

Fiona is held in high regard by her admin and academic colleagues. She joined Teesside University as an assistant receptionist in 1997 and has held numerous administrative roles across the Business School and the School of Social Sciences, Humanities & Law.

Fiona is a trained and experienced counsellor, and several admin team members have their own accounts of times Fiona has sensitively and discreetly supported them through tough times. She is genuinely interested in how others feel. During lockdown, the admin team met online each Friday to check on welfare and to help keep in touch with each other. She is always one of the people to welcome a new team member.

As a receptionist Fiona has always been a particular favourite of our international students, becoming a true source of help, knowledge and support to those so far from home.

Lee Blackburn

Lee started at the University in December 1997 and was of the first ten security officers.

In 2011 Lee received a community award presented at Teesside magistrates by the Sheriff of York in support of bravely apprehending someone armed with a screwdriver. In 2014 he received a letter of thanks from Cleveland Police after attending a sudden death and supporting the deceased's family by returning the victim's wheelchair to the family.

Lee is the University lead for Safezone, promoting it to ensure students and staff are safe on campus and overseas. He set his own career goals and has gained a range of supervisor qualifications. Lee is currently in his second year of a Chartered Manager Degree Apprenticeship.

In 2018 Lee became a security team leader, a role which he excels at. Lee is conscientious, enthusiastic and a team leader who can be relied on: a real asset to the security team and University.



Sue Clark

Sue joined the University in 1997, working as a PA to the team led by Janice Webster in the Virtual Reality Centre. This ground-breaking centre would go on to seed, support and grow our region's now thriving digital cluster. The centre worked with cutting edge technology and with leading businesses, but the highlight for Sue was the visit from Kevin Keegan.

Joining the embryonic new business development team in 2006, Sue played a critical role administering the complex funded enterprise support programmes that enabled our graduates to start the pioneering new businesses that would populate the newly founded Boho Zone. Any company that has been based at Victoria Road will tell you just how passionate she is about the work she does and the help and support she personally has provided. In her current role within the Enterprise team Sue continues to go above and beyond to support the University's enterprise programmes. We often receive visits from our alumni and Sue is always the first to get a hug. We can think of no better testimony to highlight the affection and respect in which she is held.

Sue was instrumental in the refurbishment and reopening in 2020 of the building, including the launch of the co-working space. She knows all the businesses in Victoria Road and Fusion Hive by name, and is a master of musical chairs when they need to move!

Her warmth and passion for the University and the businesses we work with is unsurpassed and we are delighted to congratulate Sue on 25 years of dedication and service.

Ann Ferguson

Ann joined the University as a cleaner in July 1997, back when the department was known as University Services. She worked in the Students' Union as a cleaner before progressing to Saltersgill Pavilion as the caretaker, returning to the main campus as the Students' Union caretaker. Ann is now a popular facilities officer, dedicated to her role and going the extra mile to help students or other members of staff.

Outside of work, Ann's passion is her family, and her allotment. She spends many enjoyable hours growing different varieties of fruit and veg. Ultimately though Ann likes nothing better than spending time with her family.

Congratulations Ann on this milestone at the University and thank you for everything you do.

Emma Furber

Emma originally started her career at Teesside Polytechnic in 1988 but left shortly after it achieved University status in 1992 to move away from the area. She re-joined the University in 1997 as part of the administrative team within the School of Arts & Media before progressing her career within quality assurance as a valued senior member of Student Learning & Academic Registry.

Emma is a fantastic team player, and confidently gets on with the task at hand with commitment and enthusiasm and displays an excellent knowledge of quality processes. Emma fully signed up to the team enhancement agenda and has contributed many innovative ideas and changes to quality processes. John Holmes, a former assistant academic registrar recalls 'I worked with Emma over a number of years on work connected with the approval of partners and courses and Emma's extensive knowledge of partnership working, together with her hard work has led to the development of many important strategic partnerships for the University at home and abroad.'

Emma is an extremely caring colleague who would do anything to support members of her team or the wider University. Finally, and probably most importantly, Emma is a brilliant social secretary and has organised lots of fantastic social events that have improved team morale.

Neal Harper

Neal joined Library & Information Services when it was a converged service including the delivery of IT support to students. He joined the team based in the current Library building in autumn 1997. When the IT and Library services de-merged, Neal was appointed as a principal technician from 2013 with IT and Communication Services). Following a further department re-structure, he moved into an IT manager role, with a specific focus around technology enablement and how it could more effectively support the delivery of services to our University community.

Neal changed his career focus in 2019 with a move to become the Student Life development manager. Neal and the team worked hard to support students through the Covid-19 pandemic. His role developed into a wider customer facing position as the head of experience and engagement across all Student & Library Services buildings.

Outside of work, Neal's focus is his family, his wife Kim and three children, Ellie, Clara and Ralph. He is a keen cyclist and leads regular rides out from his base in Darlington.

Neal is also a beer connoisseur and loves nothing better than a cool beer when he's out and about, and he also volunteers at election time with his local council.



Dr Victoria Heckels

Victoria is principal lecturer, staffing and resources in psychology. She has worked as an academic psychologist since 1993 and has supervised over 200 undergraduate and postgraduate dissertation students.

Victoria has held a number of leadership roles at Teesside University including director of programmes for psychology, and principal lecturer in forensic psychology and gained her Doctorate in Psychology in 2014.

Victoria's research expertise includes the personality characteristics of offenders, stalking and harassment and domestic violence.

A highly regarded practitioner, Victoria is an Associate Fellow of the British Psychological Society (BPS), a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy, registered with the Health and Care Professions Council as a forensic psychologist and is chartered as a psychologist with the BPS.

Danny Honeyman

Throughout his time at Teesside Danny has successfully progressed his career from an assistant administrator to his current role as the digital and design manager.

He has made a huge contribution to the success of the department and has been shortlisted and won many creative and web awards over the past 25 years, including HEIST, CIPR and RTS.

Danny is an invaluable member of the Student Recruitment & Marketing leadership team. He has a wealth of technical and web development experience, and with his team, has overseen significant developments to the University website to ensure that it remains current, engaging, and accessible for our prospective students and stakeholders. This has contributed significantly to the University achieving student recruitment targets over the years.

An outstanding line manager, Danny knows how to get the best from his team, leading by example and providing his staff with opportunities to grow and develop through his supportive style.

Danny is a well-respected member of the University community, always displaying a positive attitude, great sense of humour and a 100% commitment to everything that he does.

Danny's 25 years' service is recognition of his dedication to his role and Teesside University has been fortunate to benefit from his skills and expertise.

Nigel Houston

Nigel was one of the very first security officers employed at Teesside University from December 1997. He progressed to a deputy team leader post four years ago during which time he trained two new staff, assisting and guiding them through their probationary periods.

Nigel supported the setting up of the NICE system with Cleveland Police, which is a collaborative function between Teesside University and the emergency services.

He gained Level 2 qualifications in Mental Health Aid and Advocacy in the Workplace, Suicide Prevention, and Mediation Skills. Nigel conducted training in his own time in safeguarding and Prevent to further enhance his skills and experience and is currently on an Emergent Leadership Programme.

Nigel received a Good Citizen Award in 2014 from Cleveland Police after assisting with a knife point robbery, providing evidence at court.

He is a highly regarded member of staff, and has received many thank you cards, emails and thanks in person, during the course of his work as a first responder. Nigel has been instrumental in ensuring that all security officers have appropriate equipment and training to support emergency situations.

Nigel is professional and dedicated to his role of security officer, he is continually self-developing, and shares this experience and expertise to assist the team. We are proud and thankful he is part of our security team.

Catherine Hutchinson

Catherine joined the University in October 1997, working in Library Services and then the School of Health & Social Care in 2004.

In the School, Catherine was an administrator in the newly formed Tees Valley Alliance (TVA), an externally funded employer-led partnership representing approximately 400 employers in the Tees Valley. The TVA supported the social care workforce with training and funding. Catherine worked closely with Skills for Care to manage the contracts and be the main point of contact with employers claiming funding for National Vocational Qualifications. She also organised conferences / training days for the social care workforce and for qualified staff working in the NHS.

Catherine was then appointed as the service user and carer involvement co-ordinator in 2014. She has built up a large database of service user carer contacts who share their lived experiences with students, and who are also involved in the design, development and delivery of relevant courses.

This invaluable input helps the students understand the patient experience, as well as the effects on the wider family and friends, and helps them to develop a person-centred and individualised approach from the start. This has been recognised by the professional and regulatory bodies (including the Nursing and Midwifery Council and the Health and Care Professions Council).

Most recently, Catherine has been instrumental in designing and launching a dedicated website to showcase this initiative.



Jackie Iredale

Jackie joined the University as a cleaner in July 1997 and has worked tirelessly making sure the campus is clean and looking its best. Starting at 6.30am every week day most of Jackie's hard work takes place before the majority of University staff come into work.

During the last 25 years she has worked across most buildings around the campus and has seen many changes since she joined. Jackie is a helpful, reliable and dedicated member of the housekeeping team who is always willing to be flexible to make sure the job is done. Going about her work with a smile on her face, Jackie is an asset to the team and the University and positively contributes to the student experience every day.

Campus Services would like to congratulate Jackie on this great achievement. Thank you Jackie for all you have done and do, it's very much appreciated and valued.

Habby Matharoo

Habby joined the University in October 1997 as an information officer, in Student & Library Services, applying his training and technical knowledge to support both students and staff working on the service desk.

Habby was promoted in August 2002, to deputy team manager, supervising a small team of technicians to supporting the vast PC estate in the Library. He has delivered training in his teacher demonstration role, provided support, and transferring knowledge to student and staff to further understanding systems and software products.

In June 2013 Habby joined ITDS as a technician principal analyst and has been fundamental in the delivery of a variety of projects to drive efficiencies, automation of processes, and systems support.

Hayley McCully

Joining the University as a cleaner in July 1997 Hayley has been a valued member of the housekeeping team ever since. Working across the full breadth of buildings on the ever-expanding campus Hayley's experience and flexibility is really important to our work. Her hard work and dedication are very much appreciated by the whole team. Hayley always gives her best to her work and takes pride in what she does. She will always help out and makes sure the job gets done.

Hayley is an asset to the team and the University and positively contributes to the student experience.

Campus Services would like to congratulate Hayley on this great achievement. Thank you Hayley for all you have done and do, it's very much appreciated and valued.

Rachel Myers

Rachel joined Library & Information Services on a Youth Training Scheme (YTS) when the Library occupied the building that is home to the Teesside University International Business School today. She had a positive outlook from the very start and used the skills and knowledge she gained as a YTS to progress into full time employment with the University from 1997.

Rachel is an assistant in Student & Library Services and throughout her employment with the University she has continued to contribute to the work of her team, largely focussed on the acquisition and cataloguing of library materials. She also directly supports our customers face-to-face, working with students to signpost them to our services, information and materials.

Rachel loves to spend time with her sons, Sam and Alex, her partner Neil and his daughters Amy and Katie, going for walks on the beach and the moors. She has always enjoyed keeping fit and active and is a long-standing member of the Easington Tappers, introduced to the group by her beloved late mum, Chris.

Rachel and her sister are both enthusiastic tap dancers and have been involved in many performances over the years, even appearing on Channel 5 as part of a programme on the Yorkshire Steam Railway.

Caroline Norman

Caroline's introduction to Teesside University was as an undergraduate student in BSc (Hons) International Business and IT which took her to Cannes in France where she enjoyed a placement year soaking up the culture and learning the language.

Following graduation in 1997, Caroline joined the School of Law, Humanities & International Studies, moving on to University Services timetabling team, and then to the Business School where she headed up the modularity and timetabling team. During this period, Caroline married Tony with TU staff Abbie English and Alison Moore as her bridesmaids.

In 2004 Caroline joined the systems team in Academic Registry, providing the opportunity to pioneer new processes and improve existing ones. Her previous School-based experience proved invaluable when implementing regulations and developing automation. One of the most notable projects in the early days was the implementation of a new interface for the University to the UCAS system, saving time, money and reducing the risk of data errors.

In her current role as a systems project officer in Finance, Caroline liaises with colleagues across the University, particularly in relation to admissions processes and remains the key person to go to for expert advice and guidance on how the assessment, progression and awards are calculated in our systems.

Caroline and her daughter love horses and can be found at the stables at any opportunity, they also enjoy family holidays in the Yorkshire Dales in their caravan. Caroline has a passion for sustainable fashion which means she is glamorous whatever season, and she enjoys spending time relaxing in her beautiful garden.



25 YEARS

Beverley Peters

Bev joined Library & Information Services in the User Support Services Team in 1997, initially working on Sunday evenings, before moving into a daytime role supporting students with disabilities, an area of work that would remain with her throughout her career.

Bev loved working with different technologies, evident in her support work with disabled students and across her daily work, introducing mobile technology to our front of house team. She progressed from a senior information assistant role into a management role as a library services co-ordinator in 2012, before becoming an access and further support librarian - a role she made her own, supported by a wealth of knowledge and experience.

In more recent years, Bev continued in management roles, before moving into the Student & Library Services experience and engagement manager position. Her knowledge and experience have been critical to the success that Student Life is today. She worked incredibly hard with her team to shape, refine and deliver the range of services and support available through Student Life.

Bev brought colour and humour to her team and to wider student and library services. Outside of work, Bev's world focus is around her family, husband Steve, daughter Kathryn, granddaughter Evie, son Liam and dog Izzy. She is a serious crafter too.

Frances Porritt

Fran joined Library & Information Services in the autumn of 1997 as the Learning Resources Centre (LRC) went live (now the Library). Working as an assistant academic librarian at that time, Fran supported the development of library collections and information literacy training and support to students. She progressed to her current academic librarian role in 2010, and has been witness to a significant shift in the way information and content is procured and provided to our customers as well as how that content has changed and is consumed.

Fran has a wealth of knowledge and experience in her professional field, representing the University at high profile national conferences. She maintains a wide-reaching professional network and is always keen to develop our print and digital collections, and extend our reach to those students who might be less engaged. Fran leads a library reading group and engages with students and other members to explore creative content and encourage discussion around emerging themes. She is a University mental health champion and works closely with colleagues around planning events to support staff with ideas for promoting mental wellness.

Fran is an advocate for reading for pleasure and mental wellness and is currently working with colleagues in our local public library to explore how we can work more collaboratively on this.

Outside of work, Fran is a fitness enthusiast and raises money for charity doing half marathons and fun runs. She loves music (Northern Soul particularly) and books, going on walking holidays and has travelled to Mexico, South Asia and Central Africa.

Matthew Portas

Matt began his Teesside University journey as a student completing an undergraduate degree and master's in sport and exercise science. He always had a passion for human movement and particularly biomechanics and for over 25 years has contributed to the teaching of the next generation of sport and exercise students.

Matt has contributed to the values of Teesside University during his many roles, which was been acknowledged by the award of University Teaching Fellow status in 2011 and subsequent Senior Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy.

Matt has led from the front across the portfolios he has influenced and continues today to teach, facilitate curriculum design, and support sport and exercise students whether as a PhD supervisor or critical friend.

In conjunction with his current part-time role at the University, Matt works for the Football Association in a talent ID and development educator role. He is also a professional member of the British Association of Sport and Exercise Science.

John Pryde

John joined the University in 1998, and became a team leader in Campus Services in May 2018. He has stepped up as security manager on occasions to cover for long term sickness and during a retirement/new appointment time for ten months: a clear indication of John's managerial skills and flexibility, and dedication to the team and University.

During Covid John was part of the only team (safety and security) to remain on campus continuously during covid lockdown, carrying out a multitude of non-safety and security related tasks, demonstrating his resilience and positive attitude to maintaining a secure environment for students and staff during this difficult time.

John gained a Level 4 Security & Risk Management and has managed the risk assessments for the security function, alongside working with the health and safety team. He has supported many admin and management functions involved in the security team, notably the carparking management which is timely and difficult. In the delivery of a high-quality service he often goes above and beyond his job description.

John has designed and implemented numerous systems and functions over the years including: the car parking database, IRIS (a bespoke incident reporting information system), and Safezone/Omniguard.

John is a reliable and hardworking team leader who provides his staff with support and guidance and is a valued asset to the department and University.



Professor Mark Simpson

Mark joined the University as a student – and has never left! After completing his degree in politics, Mark undertook postgraduate study and gained his PhD in criminology, researching youth crime and justice. After a series of lecturing roles, Mark became the Dean of the School of Social Sciences, Humanities & Law in 2010 and became Pro Vice-Chancellor (Learning and Teaching) in 2015.

Mark has a passion for digital technology and learning enhancement. He has been instrumental in shaping the University's award-winning 'digital first' approach to teaching and learning, Future-Facing Learning. He has an international profile as a digital leader and has been recognised by sector leaders such as Adobe and Microsoft for his trailblazing work on digital integration in higher education.

Mark is also committed to addressing issues of digital exclusion. He is a director of Middlesbrough-based charity, Tech Equal, and a senior independent director of Thirteen Housing Group.

In addition, Mark is an ultrarunner, and has raised considerable funds for charities through the completion of challenging races including the 160-mile Cleveland Way.

Chris Smith

Chris has jumped between Campus Services and ITDS for his whole time in the University. He started his career in the print room, then moved to an admin position in ITDS, and from there into the user support team. Chris began to pick up general PC knowledge and became a general technician, successfully running the very busy central helpdesk. He was a really hard worker and valued member of the user support team.

When Chris was in the Learning Environment team he took part in a wide range of activities, including overseeing the reprographics, post, switchboard and reception services, as well as supporting graduation and room bookings. Chris came into his own whenever there was an opportunity to develop a new technological solution to a way of working – this was a welcome addition to the overall team's skillset.

Chris was a key part of the graduation ceremonies – he had a specific role during each ceremony to raise each row of students when it was their time to go onto stage to receive their award – which was a crucial aspect of the running and timing of the ceremonies. During his time with us he must have raised around 20,000 students. One time Chris was so engrossed in the ceremony he forgot to raise a row, but thankfully soon realised and did an impressive job of getting a full row of students down to the stage in record quick time!

Chris now works in the ITDS UC team and is a popular member of staff, hardworking, very approachable, with excellent customer service skills.

Julie Turner

Julie joined the University in July 1997, initially carrying out roles as a cleaner and catering assistant, before settling into a caretaker role at King Edward's Square and Parkside. Julie is now a facilities officer, and a popular member of the team.

Julie will always go the extra mile to help everyone, especially our students. Outside of work, she loves walking with her dog Charlie, and her regular holidays to Benidorm.

Congratulations Julie on this milestone at the University and thank you for everything you do.

Amanda Wright

Amanda began working at the University in 1996 as a youth trainee accountant. She joined the University on a full-time basis in 1997 initially as a clerk and progressing through a number of roles to the position of strategic business accountant by 2009.

Her tenacity, attention to detail and focus on continuous improvement led to a series of promotions, with Amanda taking the lead for HE funding and planning in 2012. As the University's operations developed, Amanda increasingly took a lead on business planning, and was appointed deputy director of Finance: Business Planning Services in 2016.

The launch of the University's strategic transformation and change initiative saw Amanda take on responsibility for a series of complex and challenging projects, resulting in the setting up of a new department. In 2021 she became director of Business Change, Improvement and Projects, leading this increasingly important area for the University, and joining the University Senior Management Team.

Amanda works part-time, balancing her role as a mother alongside oversight of key strategic projects and team leadership. She is probably one of the best-informed people at the University, having insight across all strategic projects and developments, and a head for numbers.

Amanda's colleagues describe her as tenacious and collaborative. She ensures actions are delivered on time and can take huge credit for the transformation of the University over the past few years.



Lynn Wrightson

Lynn joined the University in 1997 as a departmental assistant with University Services supporting everything from post deliveries to offices across campus (if she drew the short straw!), helping on main reception, switchboard, assignments office and reprographics. With no internet connection of her own, Lynn recalls plugging in a shared modem to access the internet.

Lynn became the PA to Professor Tim Blackman, director of the School of Social Sciences & Law, and was also responsible for all external invigilators, before joining the Department of Academic Enterprise (DAE) in 2003 as a business support officer where she was the first point of contact for all business enquiries, matching them up with expertise in the academic schools. Within DAE Lynn became a student enterprise ambassador working with student ambassadors to encourage students into enterprise and to gain business skills. Overall, Lynn worked in DAE for 19 years, predominantly in a B2B marketing role which developed over the years and involved her marketing multiple funded projects, CPD and various collaborative initiatives, running business events, including building up a great following for the Business Exchange which hosted many well-known speakers across a variety of business topics.

Now a business marketing co-ordinator in Student Recruitment & Marketing, Lynn leads the marketing for professional apprenticeships alongside marketing for funded initiatives and strategic projects such as the National Horizons Centre.

Over the years Lynn has seen, three vice-chancellors, and many changes to the campus – buildings built and brought down. She gained her BA (Hons) Marketing and MSc Marketing Management studying part-time.

Lynn's rise through the institution is testament to her positive and hardworking attitude promoting all we have to offer to support businesses in the local region. Her support and dedication to the University is second to none.

Dr Donglai Xu

Donglai joined Teesside in 1998 as a research fellow and was promoted to lecturer/senior lecturer in 1990, and a reader in 2006. Donglai is an accomplished researcher with international standing in the field of electronic engineering. He has successfully bid for a number of research grants and enterprise projects, from external funding bodies and industrial partners. Donglai is a prolific author and has published extensively in various academic journals, books and conferences with a total of over 90 publications. This year marks his tenth successful PhD supervision.

Donglai has taught on a wide range of courses at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels and is well-liked and respected by students. A number of students under his supervision received academic achievement awards/recognition or scholarships from the professional bodies, learned societies and the university.

At Teesside, he has held the roles of course leader and subject group leader; leading programme development and innovative research-informed teaching in several courses in electrical, electronic and control engineering.

Donglai has been a visiting professor/fellow, external examiner and assessor for several universities at PhD, postgraduate and undergraduate levels. He is also an active participant with professional bodies, editor/reviewer of academic journals and organiser of international conferences.

More recently, Donglai became principal lecturer (international) to develop international partnerships. He has been instrumental in establishing, developing, and coordinating six joint degree programmes with overseas partner institutions. Under his leadership and management, those engineering joint programmes have seen a year-on-year growth in student numbers over the past five years generating significant income and enhancing the international reputation of the University.

