

TEESSIDE

GRADUATE

2012 | 2013

From Teesside to crime writer

the journey of Mari Hannah

Teesside research
exposes the
'welfare scrounger'
as a myth

*Meet the
Teesside graduate
behind Andy Murray's
success*

Teesside University's
impact on the
Tees Valley

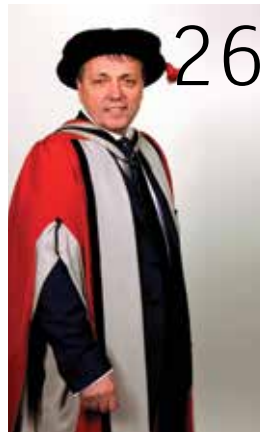


Teesside
University

Inspiring success

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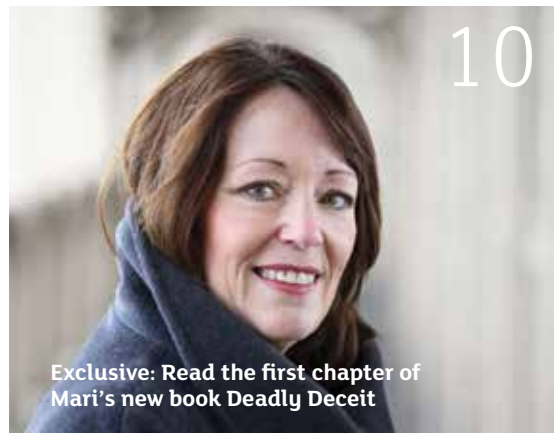
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Class notes



In 2012 we celebrated 20 years of university status and reflected on a history stretching back over 80 years. Teesside University continues to grow, to strengthen and to play a strategic role in the North East region and beyond.

During the last two decades we have seen a huge growth in student numbers – over 300 per cent – to 28,000. There has been a step change in league table results, with Teesside making great strides in relation to other modern universities.

Teesside was voted the UK's top new university for student experience in 2012 by the Times Higher Education survey of 14,000 full-time undergraduate students in the UK, and we have scored consistently above the national average in the annual National Student Survey with our Students' Union also being rated one of the best in the country.

Over the last few years, Teesside has also stood out from the crowd with its flexible and distinct approach to working with business. Indeed, I am proud of the way we have responded to particularly challenging economic times with our flexible, 'can do' approach to delivering higher education and services to business. This led to Teesside being chosen as one of three universities to be included in a national project which illustrates how a distinctive and compelling institutional identity can be essential for survival.

Recognising our achievements, The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, Dr Vince Cable, described Teesside

as 'Britain's best university for working with business' and we are truly proud to offer what we call a business solutions approach. The first step to being able to do that was beginning to behave like a business ourselves. If a business comes to us for help, then they can expect a business-focused service.

At Teesside University, working with commercial organisations is central to our teaching, research and enterprise agendas. These relationships deliver mutual benefit, from increasing business competitiveness through research and development, innovation or professional workforce development, to keeping academics up to date with industry developments and priorities. This is why we were delighted when, last summer, Minister for Universities and Science David Willetts praised our work when he opened the Executive Education floor of our new Darlington campus. He said, 'Universities must focus on high-quality teaching that leads to employment. You have absolutely gripped that here at Teesside.' The Minister also praised our strong links with further education partners across the Tees Valley describing them as an example of how further and higher education can come together and form a high-quality offer.

We have also allocated new resources, under our Get Ahead scheme, to support students and graduates to improve the skills they need for employment. (The scheme includes three-month paid internships for graduates to gain practical experience.)

In the field of enterprise, we are proud that we have supported the creation of 430 new businesses

and around 600 graduate associated jobs through our graduate enterprise and DigitalCity Innovation schemes.

Our secret, I think, is that we have listened to what people say, what they want and what they need, and we have taken the University out to people who are unable to come to us.

In recent years, £135m has been spent on the campus in Middlesbrough – most recently a £2m refurbishment of the Library for the 2012-2013 academic year, adding group learning spaces, social and interactive areas, silent zones and a learning café. Student satisfaction with the Library remains the highest in the North East.

Another huge development has been the opening of a new University campus in Darlington, serving the west of the region, with excellent road and rail transport links.

The University is also exploring a partnership with mima (Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art), which is one of the nationwide Plus Tate partners. This could hopefully lead to a wide range of opportunities for all students and in particular those studying art and design.

We now also offer a broad variety of cultural events throughout the year, encompassing everything from music, dance and concerts to art exhibitions and an annual winter lights festival with seasonal activities for all students, staff and members of the local community. We love to welcome alumni back to enjoy these activities.

Overall, the last 20 years has been an exciting period for your University which has seen us blossom in size, stature and

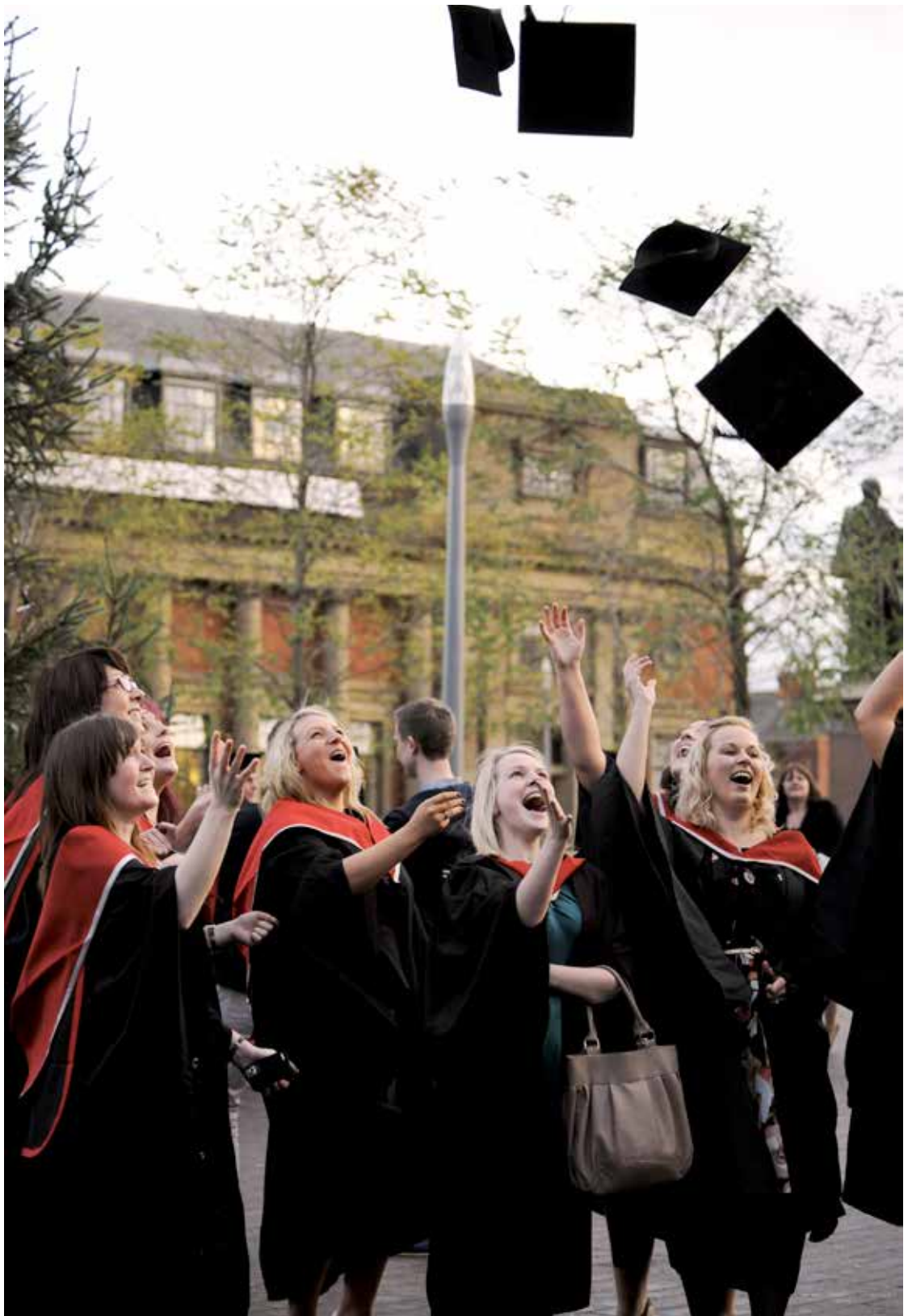


maturity to become an institution which is now widely valued for its local, national and international contribution. So, despite the huge changes currently impacting higher education, we remain confident and committed to inspiring learning and success at Teesside University for the future of our students, graduates, staff, community and the region. I hope you enjoy being involved and supporting us in this endeavour.

Professor Graham Henderson CBE DL
Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive



Welcome from the
Vice-Chancellor



How To Contact The Alumni Association

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twitter.com/TeessideAlumni

linkedin.com/TeessideUniversityAlumni

Opinions expressed in Teesside Graduate are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the University.

This publication is available in alternative formats on request. Please contact the Alumni Relations team.



Hello alumni

Greetings to all our graduates, I hope wherever you are, you are well.

We have had another great year here on Teesside and were delighted to get the opportunity to meet up with so many of you at events across campus, including Academic Awards, the Midsummer Gala Dinner, Expotees, Creative Arts week and the Teesside Business School annual conference. We try to have an alumni presence at as many University events as possible, so if you are attending one of our events look out for us. For a list of forthcoming events see page 47.

Thank you so much to all of you who completed our survey about this magazine and what you would like to see in it. We have tried to incorporate as much of your feedback as possible and hope you will enjoy the enhancements – please do let us know. The winner of the prize draw was Gladness

Nyoni, BSc Information Technology, 1996, who won a kindle.

We are always delighted to hear from you and would welcome your support – there are a range of ways you can give back to the University, for example submitting a profile of your career for use in our publicity, offering mentoring opportunities or providing a placement for one of our students. Just drop us an email: alumni.office@tees.ac.uk. Plus, if you are an entrepreneur, we can also help you by promoting your enterprise on our new Graduate Business Directory tees.ac.uk/alumni and the University has a range of business support available for new enterprises: tees.ac.uk/spark

So what are you waiting for? Get in touch and let's see how we can support each other in having the best year yet.

Sarah Irving
Alumni Relations Officer

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Feature



Advantage Teesside for Andy Ireland

Words Alison Ferst | Photography Vince Caligiuri Getty Images (Main image), Andy Ireland

He's been described as the 'greatest physio in the world bar none' – Teesside University graduate Andy Ireland is now the personal physiotherapist of tennis ace Andy Murray. He tells Teesside Graduate about his career path, which has led to him travelling the world with one of Britain's best-ever tennis stars.

When Andy Murray made history with his first grand slam title and the first by a British male in 76 years at the US Open in 2012 added to his 2012 Olympic Gold Medal, by his side was Teesside graduate and physiotherapist Andy Ireland.

Andy has been Murray's physiotherapist since 2007, when the tennis star became one of the first to gather his own specialist support team.

Since then he has travelled the world with Murray, keeping him fit and healthy. Ross Hutchins, Britain's number one doubles player and Andy Murray's best friend described Andy Ireland as, '...the greatest physio in the world bar none. He has an unbelievable understanding of Andy's body.' He also went on to add, 'He is so relaxed and a joy to be around...you won't find a nicer guy.'

Andy Ireland says, 'That's a lovely accolade. This is a fantastic job and I feel privileged to have had such opportunities. But back when I was at Teesside if you told anyone I would end up being a physiotherapist in sport they would have laughed a lot. I am not known for my own co-ordination – I can hardly catch a ball.'

He graduated from Teesside in 1993 with a BSc (Hons) Physiotherapy. Originally from Cambridgeshire, he chose Teesside over an offer from a London university,



because on researching the courses he felt Teesside's was academically more rigorous, 'I'm a bit of a boffin in personality and I was very impressed with the academic rigour of the course at Teesside.

I also loved the atmosphere and the people in the North East – they are, as you say, 'a canny lot.'

However, Andy was not a total stranger - his grandfather, who was a soldier and made theatre curtains after the war, was from Stockton-on-Tees. 'I have a lot of memories of my time on Teesside. It was the heyday of Vic Reeves and Bob Mortimer, there was a great student culture on campus and in the town – a real community feel.'

Andy chose to specialise in the musculoskeletal area of physiotherapy, but without any grand designs to work in sport or tennis. He began his working life in the NHS in the Midlands, then London. From there, he went on to work with the Davis Cup tennis team, 'That was my first introduction to working with tennis players. I was based in Surrey, just a few miles from Wimbledon.

'I had my own practice based in a junior tennis academy, working with young elite players as well as the general population – so that would include everything from older people with hip problems to elite young tennis players from the age of five or six to 18. There was a bit of luck of being in the right place at the right time with more clients being introduced and then, before I knew it, I was a Davis Cup physiotherapist working with the elite of the elite – people like Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski. At that time, Andy Murray was an up-and-coming young player – he was about 15 when we first met.'

Andy became an elite physiotherapist for the Lawn Tennis Association, the national governing body for tennis, in 2005. There, he was looking after all the British tennis players. In a somewhat controversial move, queried extensively in the press, Andy Murray decided to gather his own specialist team around him. He wanted the team on the road with him as he travelled around the world from tournament to tournament.

'People were quick to comment that it would never work, but all credit to Andy, he stuck with it even though he was just 18, an up-and-coming player with a lot of high profile people criticising his move.'

Now, five years on, Andy laughs, 'And I don't think we have cost him any matches. He's made history and I think there is a lot more to come from him in his tennis career. We all knew he could win the US Open,

'I'm a bit of a boffin in personality and I was very impressed with the academic rigour of the course at Teesside. I also loved the atmosphere and the people in the North East – they are, as you say, 'a canny lot.'

there was a definite air of anticipation in the camp that it was going to be 'the one' but none of us said anything until after the event – then it was spectacular.'

Andy, now 41, tends to keep a fairly low profile, 'Physiotherapy tends not to be mentioned really unless Andy has an injury – and if he is injured then that's me not doing my job. It's quite a rollercoaster of travelling all over the world, being on the road and also ensuring I keep up with my own professional development.

'It is for Andy too. He was just 14 years old when he won the junior US Open and since then it is all high expectations and high pressure, but he is a very different person to what people expect. For him, celebrity is a consequence of being a tennis player and an athlete, but not something he is interested in. It is very hard to spend hours on court and then give an interview straight afterwards. Andy is a great guy, very normal and down to earth.'

It's a high pressured job for Andy too which includes travelling all over the world - sometimes that means being away at Christmas and on birthdays, 'It's a great job and I feel privileged and grateful to have it – and to enjoy it while it lasts.'

For the future Andy, who lives in Peterborough now, hopes to go back into rural private practice working with amateur athletes again. His advice to Teesside students starting out in their careers is, 'I loved my time at Teesside. Those undergraduate days are very special so enjoy them while they last. Even if you continue to study and undertake continuous professional development, nothing will be the same as when you take your first degree. Work hard and enjoy it all.'



Feature

Photography Alexander James

From Teesside University to crime writer

My journey by Mari Hannah

You would be forgiven for thinking that I'm an English graduate but that's not the case at all; neither am I an ex-journalist as many crime writers seem to be. No, sponsored by the Home Office, I studied for a Certificate of Qualification in Social Work Diploma (1983 –1985) in the days before Teesside Polytechnic gained its university status. My sole aim was to become a Probation Officer.

I really enjoyed my time at Teesside, but being out of the area, I never kept in touch with anyone from my course, at least not for very long. Within weeks of leaving, I had achieved my ambition to join Northumbria Probation Service and I was busy getting my career off the ground. For the next few years, I moved around experiencing different aspects of the job. I began in a field team in the east end of Newcastle specialising in juvenile work and youth custody through-care. Then I took a post at Castington Young Offenders Institution working with some of the country's most serious offenders: lifers, sex offenders and vulnerable prisoners among them.

I enjoyed my role within the prison, frequently deputising for the Senior Probation Officer as well as lecturing to CID officers at Northumbria Police Headquarters

on my work with sex offenders. My career was on course. I was hungry for promotion . . . but it was not to be. After leaving the prison, I joined a Community Service team where my life took a dramatic turn. An assault while on duty ended my career eight years after I had completed my studies. I was off work for two years with my right arm in and out of plaster. An MRI scan found serious tissue damage and – to cut a long story short – I ended up having a complete wrist reconstruction. It left me with a dodgy wrist but I refused to be a victim. In order to get my hand working again, I began typing on a keyboard and never stopped.

I wrote a little each day and gradually both my writing and my wrist improved. As my rehabilitation progressed, I began writing seriously. I chose to write crime because it's what I know best, my

knowledge of the criminal justice system informing my work. I tried different forms of writing. If you have aspirations to be a writer, you should too, until you find the one that best suits you. Struggling to write prose, I turned my hand to screenwriting, building a body of work to send to the BBC in the hope of getting a foot in the door. I had some cracking feedback too – comments that made me keep the faith – but my first break was a long time coming.

In 2005, I was accepted on a scheme to write a feature film. I chose to write a romantic comedy. Yes, I know I'm a crime writer but that's another story. I'm very proud of my film, which one day I hope will go into production. Ahem . . . any film producers out there? I'd love to hear from you! Working on a feature was a fantastic experience. It taught me the process of editing, critiquing

‘Writers meet rejection a lot. Some agencies just said no, but if an agent took the trouble to write anything positive, I seized the moment.’

the work of others, taking notes on my own projects, collaborating in the development process – all of which served me well when it came to editing my debut, *The Murder Wall*, and getting my book out there. The main thing was that I was having fun, meeting new people, doing something productive again.

I decided to keep writing both prose and TV scripts so long as something good happened each year to show I was on the right track. In 2006, by chance I met fellow crime author NJ Cooper at Hexham Book Festival. She told me about the Harrogate Crime Writing Festival and mentioned Creative Thursday, a day of workshops and talks from writers, agents and publishers. It sounded right up my street. It was a hundred pounds for the day but it turned out to be worth every penny, an inspirational event.

That year, delegates of Creative Thursday were asked to submit ‘Opening Lines’ and mine were read out by none other than Scottish crime writer Val McDermid. I was SO proud . . . until Val said, “Either this writer doesn’t know what a paragraph is or he/she doesn’t think the rules apply.” Was I pleased the lines were submitted anonymously? You bet! Then an American guy shouted from the back that the writing was very strong and Val agreed. Phew! There’s a lesson to be learned here: don’t try to be too clever, or break some rules. I’m not sure which.

In 2008, I was chosen for a BBC Drama Development Scheme and my debut novel was consigned to the backburner once more. I seemed to be making more headway with the TV stuff. Be warned, the whole time I was trying to get into television was unpaid, apart from a small bursary from the BBC – an option to produce *The Murder Wall* for the small

screen. Working with the BBC was thoroughly enjoyable – let’s call it my apprenticeship. So, I found my niche. What next? For those trying to break into television, it’s a hard road. Even though I was a graduate of the drama development scheme, I soon learned that to get an original piece of work commissioned was almost unheard of.

I wrote to every producer whose name I could get hold of and spent thousands of pounds attending writing events to meet other writers and network my head off. The way into TV is either through soaps or on shadow schemes, both of which are very hard to come by. I ended up with a number of finished pieces of work: a feature film, several original TV pilot episodes, radio plays, short films – enough to make your eyes bleed.

Quit while you’re ahead? Not my style – time to go back to the book. When it was finished, I sent it out. A top London agent rang and said she loved it. Hooray! She asked for exclusivity of the material and gave me notes (double hooray!) a good sign she was interested. She gave me criticism too – also good, because writing is about constantly learning and re-evaluating. Three drafts later, she bowed out. Her verdict: she didn’t know if I had it in me to give what was required. That made two of us. We parted company but I’m so grateful to her because by then I knew I had something.

Gutted but undeterred, I sent the manuscript out again to no avail. Rejection after rejection followed. Writers meet rejection a lot. Some agencies just said no, but if an agent took the trouble to write anything positive, I seized the moment. Some rejections were dire. The worst I received..? This message was scrawled across the top: Not interested in the plot,

much less the writer. I’m sure it wasn’t supposed to reach me. I can’t believe any agent would be that hurtful – he/she was treading on my dreams after all. I chose to believe it just slipped through the net by mistake, tore it up and carried on. Back then, I couldn’t get an agent or publisher for love nor money. One day, I saw an article in my newspaper about a local publisher. I got in touch and he offered to publish my book. By now it was August 2008.

Yay! I’d made it . . . Wrong! I did more work on the book. That was okay. I was living on the adrenalin of being published. But at the point of writing acknowledgements I realised that something was very wrong. I tackled the publisher and found out that he couldn’t publish in the contracted time. What made matters worse was that my regional writing agency New Writing North (NWN) had already chosen my book as one of their Read Regional titles which would have afforded me a publicity campaign right across the north. I had to pull out because no book would be in print. I was desperate.

A glimmer of hope arrived: NWN offered to publish a limited print run of my book. But after due consideration, I declined. As desperate as I was, I just didn’t think that it would be a good move. I wrote a thank you email to the director. The next day she rang me up and asked if I’d like to go to London to their annual summer party where recipients of the Northern Writers’ Awards get to pitch to agents and publishers, a kind of speed-dating for writers. I hadn’t won an award but I think she felt sorry for me. It was the perfect networking event. I had twenty-four hours to practice my pitch and research the people who’d be there. I can’t stress how important research is in those situations.

That thank you email and that party turned out to be the most important events in my writing life up to that point. It was where I met agent, Oli Munson from the agency A.M. Heath who asked to read my manuscript. He was really enthusiastic, but said it was a book



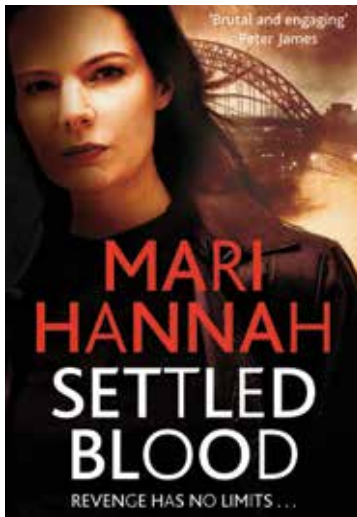
‘Have the confidence to show your work to others. I know that’s easier said than done but it’s a necessary hurdle.’

‘I took the scenic route to being a crime writer, but I got there in the end. It all began at Teesside Polytechnic in July 1983.’



of two halves. Remember the agent who didn't think I had it in me? She'd asked me to delete a lot of scenes containing the internal dialogue of my antagonist. This new agent was asking me to put them back in! Fortunately, I still had them. But I was in a quandary, unsure that I had it in me to face the same thing all over again. I was prepared to do the work but not without a contract. I just couldn't go there again. Fortunately, I didn't have to. Oli had already made up his mind to offer representation – this was August 2009.

So, I found my kick-ass agent. What next? Time to start over. I revised my book and just kept on writing my Kate Daniels series as my agent submitted *The Murder Wall* both here and abroad. Then, in March 2010, there was a mini auction in Germany and I was offered a two-book translation deal. A few months on, major publishing house Pan Macmillan became interested.



I was told the publishing director really 'got' the book, which landed on his desk in the same month that I won the Northern Writers' Award for my second novel *Settled Blood*.

A few tips here, if I may, for any aspiring writers out there – indeed for anyone in the creative industry, be it the arts, music, whatever. Have the confidence to show your work to others. I know that's easier said than done but it's a necessary hurdle. Enter competitions. Even if you don't win, you'll enjoy the

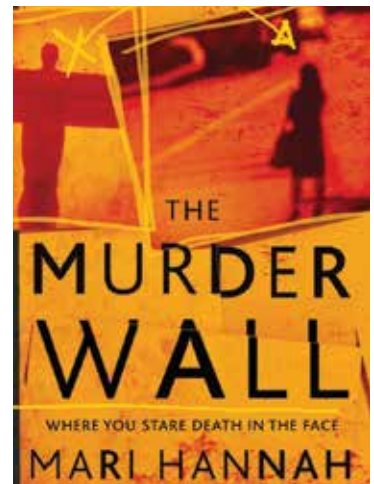
experience. If you are a poet or an aspiring novelist, look out for agencies like New Writing North. They run competitions and awards which make such a difference to your CV if you win, as I did. I very nearly didn't send my entry in!

If, like me, you write crime, enter the CWA Debut Dagger. It makes you work really hard to get your material in good shape. It's not easy getting over the initial embarrassment of sending your work out with a little voice inside your head telling you it's not good enough. But logically, you can only move forward if it stands up to independent scrutiny. Network your head off, attend festivals, take every opportunity you can to meet agents, publishers, and/or producers if it's screenwriting you're into. You may be nervous – in fact you WILL be nervous – but remember you only have a few minutes to impress, so practice your pitch. Above all, don't sell yourself short. If you have an interesting background, put it in your submission letter and always read the submission guidelines or your hard work will hit the bin.

Study the industry you are aiming at. You wouldn't try joining the police without knowing what they do. It's the same in publishing. If that 'hobby' is ever to become your profession you need to know what it is you are entering and how it works. Above all, be patient. The wheels turn very slowly in publishing. There is no quick fix, no easy way in. Waiting and taking advice is all part of the process.

The day I learned that Pan Macmillan wanted to sign me was a cause for celebration after years of hard work following a traumatic end to a career I loved. There was an anxious wait for the nod from sales and marketing and then for export figures to come in to support a book deal. In the end, I got a three-book deal. Forgive me if you know this already, but for those who don't, when a publisher takes you on it's usually two years before a book sees the light of day. It isn't the end of the journey, it's just the beginning – it's where the real collaboration begins.

The *Murder Wall* was published in April 2012 and was launched at Hexham Book Festival two weeks



later. It has since made the Read Regional 2012 campaign, which means I'm booked for a series of events at libraries and festivals right across the north of England, including Teesside. Details on my events page at: www.marihannah.com I'm currently writing book five in the Kate Daniels series. My second novel, *Settled Blood* was published on 8 November 2012. Book three, *Deadly Deceit* arrived on 11 April 2013. At the time of writing, book four is complete and I'm waiting on news of a new publishing contract.

Finally, in July 2012, I took part in Theakston's Old Peculiar 'Crime on Tour' and returned to the Harrogate Crime Writing Festival to share my journey to a packed room at Creative Thursday along with writers whose journey was very different to mine. I took the scenic route to being a crime writer, but I got there in the end. It all began at Teesside Polytechnic in July 1983. One day I hope to return to say a very big thank you. Whatever your ambition, perseverance is the key. Best of luck with your own projects - I wish you every success.

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Twitter: [@mariwriter](https://twitter.com/mariwriter)

Exclusive: Read the first chapter on Mari's new book *Deadly Deceit* on our website tees.ac.uk/alumni courtesy of Pan Macmillan.



Law clinic at Teesside

Words Alison Ferst | Photography Judy Hume

Teesside University has launched a new law clinic which offers free legal representation and advice to the local community.

As well as giving law students real practical experience of handling legal cases, Teesside Law Clinic is a valuable service to the community in cases where people may otherwise find it difficult to afford legal advice and representation.

Cases are referred to Teesside Law Clinic by organisations such as the Citizens Advice Bureau and Victim Support services. Students are supervised by both University staff and solicitors from local law firms. Law lecturer Andrew Perriman believes it is a great opportunity both for students and the community, saying, 'Achieving a professional career in law is not an easy route. There is widespread competition for positions. Teesside Law Clinic gives our students practical experience which will make them more attractive to employers.'

Harri Singh (pictured), 20, and Helen Peebles, 21, both applied for the module to undertake work in the clinic and were two of 14 students chosen to take part in the module. 'It is an excellent opportunity and I am really enjoying the experience of taking on cases,' says Harri. 'I had

previously done pro bono work for the Citizens Advice Bureau, which is good experience, but Teesside Law Clinic gives me a chance to take on my own cases and see them through from start to finish.'

Helen adds, 'It is such a competitive field that it is difficult even to get work experience so this is a great way of getting hands-on practice. There is a big difference between the academic work and actually carrying out legal practice duties so having this opportunity is amazing.'

The University is working in partnership with Jacksons Law Firm, which is providing a pro bono trainee solicitor to work alongside the students, offering professional advice and assisting their work under the guidance of solicitors within Jacksons.

Dr Mark Simpson, Dean of the School of Social Sciences & Law, says, 'The support of Jacksons has been invaluable to the creation of Teesside Law Clinic. The School is now looking to further develop the clinic's relationship with other legal firms in the region which will work alongside Jacksons in supporting our students and the clinic.'

Vice-Chancellor Professor Graham Henderson CBE DL

comments, 'This is another example of Teesside University working in partnership with business, benefiting the local community and ensuring our students are equipped with the extra skills employers want from graduates.'

Lauren Parry, solicitor at Jacksons Law, added, 'I know students find the legal careers market very competitive, and the job is probably harder than it used to be. But for those who really want to choose it as their vocation, and for the right reasons, it remains a uniquely satisfying way of life and an attainable goal. The Teesside Law Clinic that Andrew and his team have put together with such professionalism and attention to detail will, I know, help students make their decisions and reach their goals, at the same time providing a valuable service to the Teesside community.'

Teesside Law Clinic is open Tuesday to Thursday 9.00am - 5.00pm. There is an evening clinic on Tuesdays from 5.00pm - 9.00pm. Appointments must be booked in advance.

Contact Teesside Law Clinic,

T: 01642 738738,

E: lawclinic@tees.ac.uk,
tees.ac.uk/lawclinic



Artist Simon McKeown

breaks the last taboos of disability

Words Alison Ferst | Photography Judy Hume



Internationally renowned artist Simon McKeown took his distinctive artwork to new levels throughout 2012 as he continued to break the last taboos surrounding disability and to question our perception of normality and difference.

As part of his contribution to London 2012 Festival and the Cultural Olympiad of the Olympic games in London, Simon, a Reader in Animation and Post Production in the School of Computing, put together a digital installation, that uses animation to show how disabled athletes move, as well as creating one of the largest inflatable sculptures made in the UK.

Simon, who is himself disabled, toured the exhibition across the UK to critical acclaim, supported by the Arts Council of England as part of the prestigious 'Unlimited' project.

One of Simon's actors for the animated production was Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson, winner of 15 Paralympic medals and also an honorary Doctor of Law at Teesside University, she was born with spina bifida and was one of the most successful disabled athletes in the UK.

The exhibition gave people an opportunity to watch a series of motion capture-based work, featuring paralympians and athletes demonstrating their sport – a chance to reflect and see what it is like to undertake elite sport without legs, or sail with one arm. The online exhibition can still be seen at www.motiondisabledunlimited.com and will continue to tour nationally and internationally.

Archer Danielle Brown; powerlifter Ali Jawad, born without legs; Hanna Stodel, one third of Great Britain's world champion Paralympic Sonar Sailing team; Anton Raimondo, one of the leading stars of GB's sitting volleyball team; shot-putter Danny Nobbs; Kenny Churchill (javelin); and Rob Richardson, current captain of the sitting volleyball team, also all took part in Motion Disabled: Unlimited.

As well as recording Paralympic body shapes, Simon used 3D software to design and create a 10m inflatable structure, as well as animations for presentation on the BBC 'Big Screens' and at events such as T4 on the Beach, as well as smaller scale material for smart phone use. His large inflatable sculpture was a feature of the landscape in cities around the UK, including Edinburgh, North Lincolnshire and the South Bank Centre in London.

Simon, who was born with Osteogenesis Imperfecta, a condition causing fragile bones, said, 'I've probably broken over 100 bones, but my condition has made me what I am. It has made me artistic and patient and I have grown and developed what I do because of.'

The athletes had their motions captured at Centroid's facility at London's historic Pinewood Studios. Simon said, 'People are often embarrassed to look at people with disabilities and there is still a cultural taboo around disability, which is a big issue in the UK. This is an opportunity to look, see and be fascinated by beautiful motions and bodies, and break that taboo.' Simon, a trustee of the Brittle Bones Society adds, 'Around 20% of the population will, at some point in their life, be identified as disabled, but still disabled people are not visible enough in our culture and on television.'

'I want to change that. Disability is unique, an exciting integral part of the fabric of our society and Motion Disabled: Unlimited is a chance to see, without embarrassment, the way people with disabilities use their bodies in sport and day-to-day life.'

Motion Disabled Unlimited was commissioned by the Unlimited programme, part of the London 2012 Festival and Cultural Olympiad.



Recommended

by Professor Eileen Martin,
Deputy Vice-Chancellor
(Learning & Student Experience)

Music has always interested me, but I think that interests often remain half-awake and half-explored unless there is a particular moment - somewhere and sometime - which captures, enthral, and jolts the half-awake interest into life.

For me, the place was New York City on New Year's Eve 1999, and the opera was La Boheme – my first ever live opera. La Boheme is a beguiling tale in four acts – composed by Puccini, written and performed in Italian, set in the bohemian quarter of Paris in the 1830s. I didn't know any of those things thirteen years ago; but, since that evening, I've been more and more enthralled.

I was lucky, of course, that my first experience of opera was in New York. New York turns everyone into explorers. On December 31 an icy wind was tearing down Fifth Avenue and Broadway, making it easier to look and to listen than it was to talk. We had dinner after the opera overlooking Central Park, with New Year's Eve fireworks competing across the city skyline.

I recommend New York, and I recommend opera, and those things together are beyond recommendation. My strongest recommendation, though, is to keep hold of the moments that jolt your interests awake.

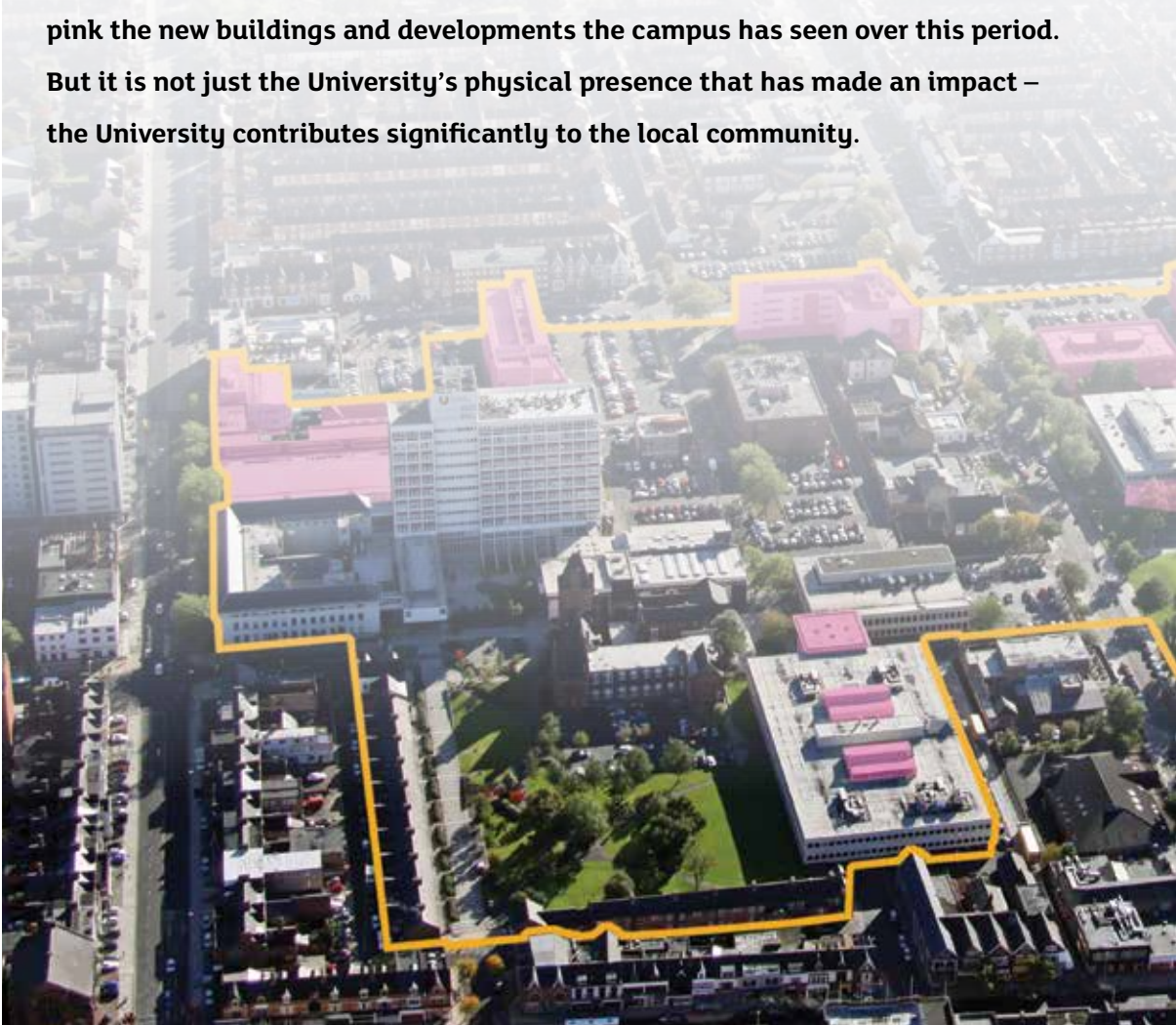
To see more images of Professor McKeown's work visit tees.ac.uk/alumni



Transforming the Tees Valley

Words Sarah Irving

As the Vice-Chancellor mentioned in his welcome at the beginning of this magazine, in 2012 Teesside University celebrated 20 years of university status and reflected on a history stretching back over 80 years. The University has developed so much, in particular physically over that 20 year period, with an investment of around £200 million in developing a modern campus. The map in the centre of this page highlights in pink the new buildings and developments the campus has seen over this period. But it is not just the University's physical presence that has made an impact – the University contributes significantly to the local community.





'I know that the University, through its sites both in Middlesbrough and in Darlington is really making a difference to so many lives in the Tees Valley and beyond. Students are the most important people in any educational institution, their lives, their opportunities, that's why we are here. I'm proud to be here, proud of the University and its achievements. We are widening access and widening opportunity for the people we are here to serve.'

Lord Sawyer of Darlington,
Teesside University Chancellor

Find out more about our Darlington Campus
tees.ac.uk/darlington



‘I am very proud of my roots in Middlesbrough and return to the region regularly. Middlesbrough continues to evolve and move forward and the role the University plays in this is immeasurable. The University has created a vibrant community that is the heart of the town.’

Mackenzie Thorpe,

Internationally renowned artist and Teesside honorary graduate

Community events – In June last year when the Olympic torch reached Middlesbrough on day 30 of its journey, the University hosted a community picnic in King Edward’s Square with entertainment for all the family, including Teesside Pipe Band, a children’s bouncy castle and face painting.

In December, the University hosted a programme of events for the community: The Winter Lights Festival. One of the events was Carols around the Christmas tree in partnership with the Salvation Army. Other events included a children’s nativity, church carol service, and a winter lights music and food event, at which supper was provided by northern revive cic - a community interest company and entrepreneurial platform for diverse regional communities.

Students give back – the University encourages staff and students to volunteer. At the Middlesbrough Volunteering Star Awards 2012, Teesside graduate Jamie Walton, BA (Hons) Interior Design, 2012, English Studies student Charlotte Igoe and Sports Studies student Emma Forster were recognised for their contributions. Jamie was named Young Volunteer of the Year, while Charlotte won the Middlesbrough Voluntary Development Agency Award both for their work with the Trinity Youth Centre Project in North Ormesby. Emma won the Teesside University Award for her work with community sports projects.

For more information visit volunteers.co.uk

The perfect host – the University opens its doors to host a range of events each year, for example Teesside Symphony Orchestra’s winter concert, Hullabaloo Theatre Company’s production of The Elves and the Shoemaker, plus an annual programme of exhibitions in our Constantine Gallery, which has included renowned artist and honorary graduate Mackenzie Thorpe’s Middlesbrough Murals.

To see what’s on visit tees.ac.uk/events

Supporters and friends – last year the University hosted its inaugural Midsummer Gala Dinner, which was a chance to thank all of our supporters and outline our vision for the future. As an independent charitable body the University raises philanthropic income from such events for our Development Fund.

The next generation – Over 500 primary children visited the University last summer to design their very own Olympic Games as part of the annual Meteor Summer School. The University spends over £15 million per year on outreach work and student support, in line with our ethos of social inclusion and access to higher education for all.

In the spring, the University held a family fun day at its new Darlington campus. Over 100 children from various primary schools across Darlington were invited to try their hand at creating Easter cards and crafts.

To find out more about the campus visit tees.ac.uk/alumni





‘There is no doubt that Teesside University is a key player in the town, and has an important role to play in the future of not just Middlesbrough, but the whole Tees area. It is one of the town’s biggest employers, bringing huge economic, social and cultural benefits. What I like about the University is that it’s very positive, it’s got that wow factor, it’s got a sparkle about it and it’s got a spring in its step.’

Ray Mallon,
Mayor of Middlesbrough.





The 'welfare scrounger' is exposed as myth

Words Alison Ferst | Photography Judy Hume

A new report and book by two Teesside University Professors has gained critical acclaim and widespread publicity in recent months.

Professors Rob MacDonald and Tracy Shildrick from Teesside University and Andy Furlong, from Glasgow University, together with researchers Johann Roden and Robert Crow produced a report called 'Are 'cultures of worklessness' passed down the generations?' for the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

Alongside Professor Colin Webster from Leeds Metropolitan University and Kayleigh Garthwaite, Durham University, they also wrote 'Poverty and insecurity: Life in low-pay, no-pay Britain', which is published by the Policy Press.

Rob and Tracy hope the book

and the report will expose the myth of the 'welfare scrounger' as their research shows that the idea that children, parents and grandparents live a life on benefits in workless families is untrue.

The problem of people moving repeatedly between work and unemployment is endemic in the UK – rising by 60% since 2006 – and the problem of 'in work poverty' – jobs paying so little that workers can never escape poverty – is gradually being recognised by policy makers.

Professor MacDonald said, 'The substance of the book consists of detailed life stories told to us by men and women, younger and older people who live and work in Middlesbrough. They were all poor, or were so much of the time, even if this was a label now so tainted with stigma that they refused it for themselves. They

had fraught experiences juggling precarious work and meagre benefits. We show that cycling between poor work and welfare kept them in or near poverty.'

Professor Shildrick added, 'Ours is a study of the personal consequences of poor work and illustrates the lasting work commitment shown by our interviewees. It would not be an overstatement to say that our interviewees deplored claiming welfare benefits and had a strong work ethic.'

The book was nominated for the Policy Press Peter Townsend prize by Chris Gouldon, head of the poverty team for the Joseph Rowntree Foundation Policy and Research Department.

Professor MacDonald said, 'Exposing the myth of the 'welfare scrounger' is the first step to better informed debate and policy. Better paid and more lasting jobs – and a welfare system that promised social security not greater insecurity – would have done much to improve our interviewees' lives.'

Professor Guy Standing, author of *The Precariat: The New Dangerous Class*, said, 'This book is about one important part of the growing precariat, those who have fallen out of old working-class communities. It should make people sad and angry. It is a great corrective to the utilitarian bias exhibited by mainstream politicians. It should be widely read.'

Poverty and insecurity: Life in low-pay, no-pay Britain

is published by
The Policy Press 2012

ISBN: 978 1 84742 910 0

paperback **RRP £26.99.**

It is available from the
Policy Press website at
a 20% discount:

policypress.co.uk



Left to Right: Sir Ian Wigglesworth, Dr Steve Purdham, Dr Bill Scott, Sandy Anderson, Professor Graham Henderson CBE DL, Lord Tom Sawyer, Professor Bev Skeggs, Dr Alan Davey and Dr Harry Pearson.

Honorary graduates 2012

Words Alison Ferst | Photography Judy Hume

Honorary degrees were awarded during graduation week in November to seven distinguished figures in recognition of outstanding achievement in their field, their contribution to the region or society at large, or their service to the University. Those honoured included the Chief Executive of the Arts Council, a sports writer and a digital music entrepreneur.

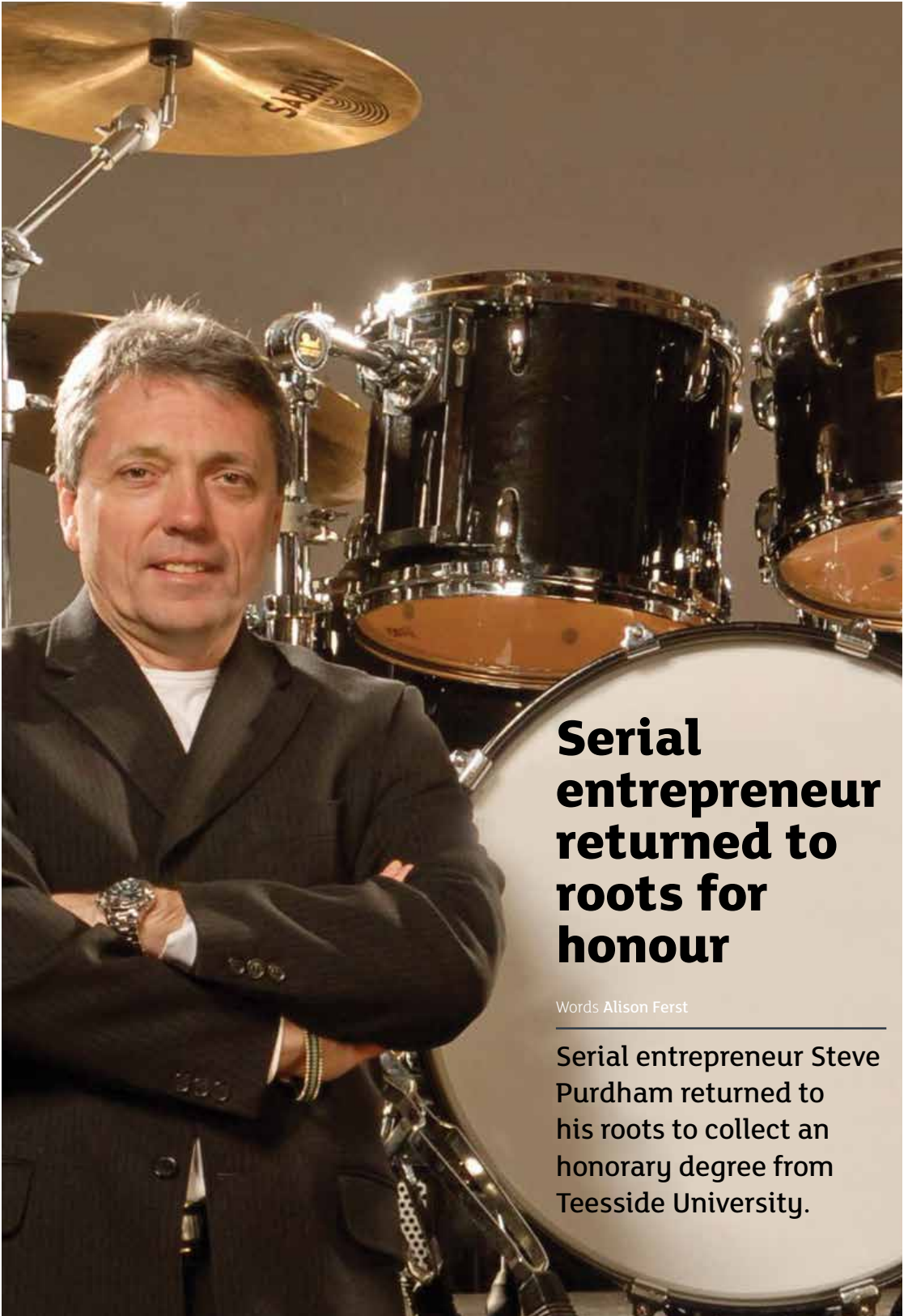
Alan Davey, a passionate advocate of the arts, Steve Purdham who founded digital music company WE7 with former Genesis frontman Peter Gabriel, Bill Scott, founder and Chief Executive of the Wilton Group, sports writer Harry Pearson, former Thornaby MP Sir Ian Wigglesworth,

and Professor Bev Skeggs, one of the most prominent sociologists of her generation were all honoured. Eric Leong, a renowned interior designer in Malaysia who has made a major international contribution to design education including delivering master classes to MA

students at Teesside University, received a Doctorate of Art in a special ceremony held in Malaysia.

For more information about our honorary graduates visit

tees.ac.uk/alumni



Serial entrepreneur returned to roots for honour

Words Alison Ferst

Serial entrepreneur Steve Purdham returned to his roots to collect an honorary degree from Teesside University.

‘Normally it was down the pit or to the local factory but I managed to get sponsored by International Computers Limited to study Computer Science at Teesside, which was one of the UK founders of practical computing courses in the late 70s.’

The boss of online music service WE7, who became a founder investor along with former Genesis frontman Peter Gabriel, originally studied computing at Teesside University – and while there met his wife of 30 years, Julie.

Steve received an honorary Doctorate of Business Administration at the University’s annual graduation ceremonies.

From Spennymoor, Steve started his first business aged eight – selling sticks ‘I learned that with hard work you could make a profit but sadly my supplier was avoiding VAT so when he was caught I also learnt that a business can quickly disappear,’ he laughs.

His fascination with technology as a teenager led him to be the first in his family to go into higher education, ‘Normally it was down the pit or to the local factory but I managed to get sponsored by International Computers Limited to study Computer Science at Teesside, which was one of the UK founders of practical computing courses in the late 70s.’

His love of being a DJ in the pubs and clubs of the North East when he was younger combined with the internet, provided some foundation to his latest venture with Peter Gabriel. WE7 launched five years ago and is an online music service, where visitors can

choose the type of music they want to listen to and create their own personal radio station based upon the artists they love. Retail giant, Tesco, has recently bought WE7.

The son of a grocer and a shop assistant, Steve’s love for all types of technology allowed him to take his degree from Teesside University and carve out a career based around businesses with a technology focus, but would eventually encompass all aspects of business, in particular, sales, marketing and customer care.

On being a serial entrepreneur, ‘I love building businesses and taking them from nothing to something. One example, SurfControl plc, grew into a great success in the late 90s and early 00s – a pioneer Internet business that protected businesses from the

nasty stuff on the web. Unusually, SurfControl was effectively built as an American business with ‘off-shore’ development in the UK Silicon valley of the north, which is Congleton, Cheshire. It ended up having 14 offices around the world with over 700 staff.’ SurfControl plc was sold in 2007 for over \$400m.

Now 55, Steve says, ‘I was delighted to receive an honorary degree from Teesside. My time at the University inspired what became my future and holds many happy memories for me – not least opening up the world of technology and meeting my wife, not necessarily in that order. I’m very impressed with the facilities and courses available now and the reputation the University has for digital technology.’





An illuminating idea saves energy

Words Michelle Ruane

Teesside graduate Colin Tonks helped to create a green way to light up London's riverbank over the 2012 festive season.

Colin has been instrumental in the creation of two pedal-powered Christmas trees taking pride of place on the banks of the River Thames. The illuminated trees have been one of the highlights of London's Southbank Centre's winter festival. Electric Pedals, which Colin helped to found, is behind the trees, which comprise more than 1km of lights, powered solely by 10 pairs of pedals – with five people continually pedaling to keep the lights on each tree illuminated.

Colin, who graduated from Teesside with a BSc (Hons) Software Engineering in 1996, is originally from Telford in Shropshire. He didn't take the traditional route into education, coming to Teesside as a mature student. He said, 'I initially completed a HND and then transferred to the degree. Teesside is now my home from home and I loved my time studying there. I had a really great experience and it set me on the path to a successful career.'

After graduating, Colin went on to work in energy trading, which for a time took him to America, before

he returned to England in 2001. He added, 'I then got involved in the BBC television show 'Bang Goes the Theory', which featured a human power station, with a family living in a house powered by cyclists. Things really took off from there.' The Southbank Centre approached Electric Pedals after seeing a tree they had created with vInspired, a charity dedicated to getting young people to volunteer for good causes. Colin said, 'The idea behind the pedal-powered Christmas tree is, rather than consume at Christmas, think about giving back a little.'

'If the human power station stops pedaling, then the lights don't illuminate. In order to allow for maximum accessibility we included two BMX bikes for children and two hand-bikes for those unable to pedal a conventional cycle.' He added, 'We have been blown away by the public's response, with times when there hasn't been a bike free. And when people aren't around to take part, the lights aren't lit and power isn't going to waste.'

Engineer aiming high

Liam Bettinson had always been passionate about design and technology, so after graduating in 2005 with a BA (Hons) Industrial Design, he went on to work as a manufacturing project engineer for Pickerings Lifts. Five years later, Liam moved in to a sub-sea fabrication project engineer role with the Responsive Engineering Group based in Gateshead.

Then in January 2011, Liam began work with ENEX Group based on Port Clarence Offshore Base in Middlesbrough. ENEX Group is a rapidly expanding mechanical based engineering services provider, supplying expertise, manpower and hardware to the oil, gas and petrochemical industries worldwide. Liam began with the company as a project engineer, however after eight months he was promoted to Project Office Manager where he is now responsible for project operations within the UK, Spain and Portugal.

Liam said, 'I have always intended to 'climb the ladder' and build on the knowledge and expertise I have gained since graduating almost seven years ago. I would absolutely recommend Teesside University, as I really enjoyed my experience as a student. My clearest memory from my time at Teesside was the superb facilities and forward thinking mentality of the establishment. I wouldn't be where I am today if it weren't for my degree. If I could give one piece of advice to any potential student, it would be that worthwhile goals are never easy to obtain.'



‘Working on the sets of films such as Charlie and the Chocolate factory and Harry Potter was great but I’ve also enjoyed working for diverse musicians such as the Pet Shop Boys and heavy metal acts, Dark Tranquillity and Candlemass.’



Creative endeavours

After graduating, with a BA (Hons) in Creative Visualisation in 2002, Achilleas Gatsopoulos moved to London to complete a master's degree in Production Design for Film and Television. He then spent six years working in central London as a freelance designer. He has worked in the art departments of various productions, ranging from ITV and BBC TV drama to feature films such as Harry Potter and Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. He has also worked closely with some London-based events production companies providing space and stage visualisations for big international clients, while also tackling numerous music industry projects in the realms of CD illustration, live projection and music videos. As a result he has worked for some of the biggest names in both the film and music industries.

Achilleas said, 'Working on the sets of films such as Charlie and the Chocolate factory and Harry Potter was great but I've also enjoyed working for diverse musicians such as the Pet Shop Boys and heavy metal acts, Dark Tranquillity and Candlemass.'

'I moved to Berlin in 2009 as a consequence of studying at Teesside, having spent a year in Germany in 2000 on internship with a visual effects company. The experience was amazing, not only on a professional level, dealing with real world tasks gaining experience, but on a personal level too as I was introduced to a new country and culture.' Having enjoyed his placement experience in Berlin so much Achilleas has now decided to make Germany his home.

His freelance moniker is Hypnagogia. 'It is great to have more creative control. I do everything from music videos, set design and visualisation for events. I don't have much planned for the future. I don't like to think that far ahead. But I'm currently working on my own project, which makes me happy because finally I have the artistic freedom that I've always wanted.'



Giving back

While at sixth form, Laura Griffiths was given the opportunity of work experience, working with people with learning disabilities and from that moment, she knew what she wanted to do with her life.

Initially Laura worked as a care assistant and it was a natural progression for her to train as a nurse. Despite having to balance work, a family and study she graduated in 2009 with a BSC Nursing Studies (Learning Disabilities).

Laura now works full time as a staff nurse in an in-patient unit for people with learning disabilities. 'Working with people who have learning disabilities and challenging behaviour is hard and stressful, but at the same time very rewarding when we can make improvements in their lives and the lives of their families. There is sometimes an unfair stigma attached to the people I work with, but they are just people who need a bit more support and should be allowed to fit into society. The better qualified I am, the better I can help them.'



Corporate executive to fundraiser

After a 23-year career at Barclaycard, working in various roles from customer service to debt recovery and staff training, Patricia Boynton finally decided to take the plunge into higher education. She enrolled on a BA (Hons) in Business Management course and secured a post working as an office manager in a small family firm in Middlesbrough, which allowed her to combine work and study.

She graduated in 2009, and she is now using her years of experience at Barclaycard in her role as a corporate fundraiser at the Butterwick Hospice.

'On graduating I secured a role as community fundraiser at Butterwick,' she says. 'I am working with the local corporate community, building effective profitable relationships and promoting public awareness of the work of the Butterwick Hospice. The course brought my skills up to date and improved my self-

confidence. Without my degree, I don't think I would have been able to achieve what I have done today.'

Although she was more mature than many of her fellow students, she was able to learn things from them, adding 'I met some really lovely people and because I was older than most of the other students I did stick out a little bit, but they were all very friendly. My fellow students even managed to bring me up to speed with my IT skills.'

In the future, Patricia would love to return and study for her master's, but in the meantime she is really enjoying her role at the hospice. She says, 'The Butterwick is such a fantastic place to work; it makes a real difference to the lives of local people and their families who access our services.'

For more information about the work of the Butterwick Hospice, which was founded by Teesside University honorary graduate Dr Mary Butterwick OBE, visit www.butterwick.org.uk and www.butterwickmediacentre.com

Dawn is flying high

It's rare that you would hear the words 'aviation' and 'nurse' in the same sentence, but this is not the case for Dawn Paddock, who graduated with an Advanced Diploma in Adult Nursing Studies in 2008.

Dawn joined the Royal Air Force after qualifying as a Registered Nurse at Teesside. She undertook training at RAF Halton for nine weeks, and was given her first posting at the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine in Birmingham, at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, in June 2008. Since then, she has qualified as a flight nurse for Aeromedical Evacuation, travelling the world escorting sick and injured servicemen and women.

She says, 'The University impressed me so much with the resources and facilities available to nursing students. There were brilliant learning opportunities for after graduation, such as being able to do your mentorship qualification which helps in maintaining continuity in your studying.'

Dawn loves her role and is currently based in RAF Wittering in Peterborough, at the Station Medical Centre. She is working in primary health care, looking after all the servicemen and women at the unit. This is a very busy and demanding role, teaching the importance of time management, prioritising workload and developing the role of working autonomously. Dawn says, 'I work within a brilliant team, both supportive and encouraging.'



Fancy a trip down memory lane?

The alumni office is happy to support graduates in organising their own reunion events –

just drop us an email

alumni.office@tees.ac.uk

Stateside sporting success



Gemma Foley always knew she would have a career in sports - however she did not know that a summer job would lead to a fantastic career across the pond.

After graduating in 2005 with a BSC (Hons) Sport and Exercise (Sports Studies), Gemma went to the United States to spend her summer in New Jersey coaching a variety of sports. She enjoyed the job so much that she returned the following year, and since then has not looked back.

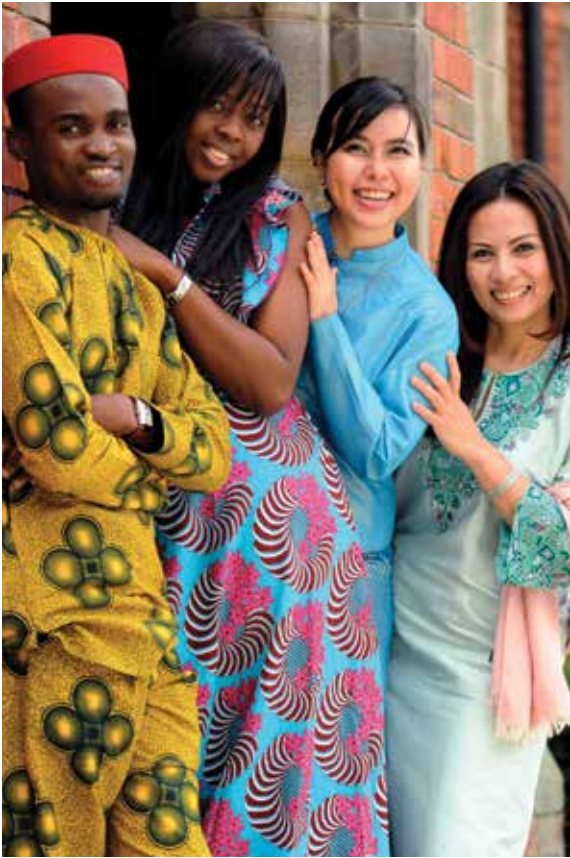
In 2007 she was offered the post of Area Manager, then worked her way up to Trainee Regional Director which led to her current post as a Regional Director for USA Sport Group, which provides year-round sporting programmes and coaching for children.

She said, 'I have always loved sports and know that my career would involve sports, I just didn't know which route to go down. My degree has proven integral to my role in the USA Sport Group management team. I have been able to develop from a seasonal coaching staff member to Regional Director, responsible for the daily running of a company that services over 26,000 parents and children per year.'

Gemma enjoys her role and hopes one day to have a business of her own. She said of life in the US, 'Living in New Jersey is amazing, every day I am thankful for the role and current lifestyle I lead. Living and coaching sports in the US is such a contrast to the UK and I enjoy every second.'



Pyshnyy Maxim Vjacheslavovich / Shutterstock.com



International recruitment 2013

If you're living overseas, please come along and visit us on our recruitment stand if we are in a city near you. It is always lovely to meet up with friendly Teesside alumni. It would be fantastic if you are able to spend some time on the stand talking to potential students about your experiences at Teesside.

Below is a list of planned visits to date, but the schedules are always being updated, for exact dates and locations contact us:

E: international@tees.ac.uk

W: tees.ac.uk/international.

April/May	Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, Nigeria and Ghana
May/June	India
June/July	Nigeria and Thailand
August/September	Thailand and Malaysia
October	Nigeria
October/November	Indonesia and Vietnam

Wayne takes the fast lane to success

Whether it's partying with a Formula 1 team or presenting marketing strategies, Wayne Tulip, BA (Hons) Marketing, 2009 and MSc Marketing Management, 2010, has always been the executive type.

Wayne said, 'I knew I wanted a career in business but was always fascinated by the motorsport industry. In 2011 I achieved my dream of working in a marketing role within the motorsport industry when I began working for the Marussia Virgin Racing Formula 1 Team. I now work as Marketing Executive for CESAB Material Handling UK, a strategic asset of the Toyota Material Handling Group.'

Wayne decided to come to Teesside University after his sister Ann-Marie enrolled and told him how impressed she was with the facilities. She also graduated in 2009 with a BA (Hons) Graphic Design and now works for JAK Print & Design as a Graphic Designer. Since then, their younger sister Megan has also followed them to Teesside, graduating in 2012 with a BA (Hons) in Television and Film Production, and is currently on an internship scheme as a production assistant at Fantome Line. The University seems to be something of a family affair for the Tulips!

For Wayne, the qualification he gained from Teesside helped him achieve his dream career. He said, 'Studying at Teesside University provided a solid platform to progress my career in marketing and very fond memories. Now that I have achieved one of my dreams my ambition is to be Team Principal of a world championship winning Formula 1 team.'

A fine heritage



Leanne Allan (née McGreevy) knew that she wanted to study History to support her in a career in local heritage.

Before studying for her BA (Hons) in History at Teesside, Leanne worked for the Dorman Museum and then Captain Cook Birthplace Museum in Middlesbrough. It was during her time in these posts that her passion for history was ignited. She graduated in 2006 and went on to study for an MA in History, which she completed in 2008. While studying, she worked in leisure services for Middlesbrough Borough Council and then, on graduating from her master's, she secured her current post as Assistant Education Officer for the National Trust at Ormesby Hall. She

‘The skills and knowledge gained from my degrees helped me secure my current post. Ormesby Hall is a beautiful place to work and there is a great team of staff and volunteers. Studying history has provided me with knowledge which I can use in my daily working life.’

says, ‘The skills and knowledge gained from my degrees helped me secure my current post. Ormesby Hall is a beautiful place to work and there is a great team of staff and volunteers. Studying history has provided me with knowledge which I can use in my daily working

life. It is fantastic making history come to life for our visitors and preserving this local landmark.’

Leanne has her hands full outside of work, having given birth to a baby girl in December. She adds, ‘I am looking forward to my maternity leave spending time with Ava Rose.’



Banking on success

When Miao Zheng came to Teesside from her native China to study for an MA Multimedia Public Relations, she had her sights firmly set on a career in banking.

She graduated in 2011 and returned to China where she now works for HSBC as a Premier Relationship Assistant. Miao says, 'I decided to come to Teesside to study for my master's as it was the best new university for students' experience in the UK and I was not disappointed – I loved my time there. I am now working in Shanghai and I enjoy my role working with customers. My ambition is to become a relationship manager within the next three years.'

Paul swaps leadership for the lab

After spending 12 years in a managerial role Paul Redhead decided to take a leap of faith and pursue his passion for forensic science. It was certainly worth the risk, because Paul was offered a job at Cellmark Forensic Services as soon as he graduated in 2011 with a BSc (Hons) in Applied Science & Forensic Investigation.

He has since been promoted to a level two forensic DNA analyst and says, 'My role involves the examination, extraction, quantification, amplification and electrophoresis of DNA samples from crime scene evidence. It is a really interesting job and I hope to work my way up to be a reporting scientist, attending court to present findings of the DNA analysis.'

While studying at Teesside, Paul was part of the student


mentoring scheme and was lucky enough to have a police sergeant as his mentor. This experience was invaluable to him in understanding how the police force uses forensics. His favourite part of his time at Teesside was the people he met while studying – his fellow classmates but also the teaching staff who were highly knowledgeable, friendly and approachable. He would advise anyone not to give up on their dreams – whatever their age.





Football focus

Words Sarah Irving | Photography Judy Hume

A person wearing a blue sports jacket with white stripes on the sleeve is holding a red and white soccer ball. The background is dark and out of focus.

Mark Spencer graduated in 2009 with a BSc (Hons) Sport & Exercise Science (Applied Coaching) and he has gone on to pursue his dream career in football. During his time at Teesside he completed his UEFA B Coaching Licence while coaching the University first team, which reached the Northern Conference Cup Final in 2009.

After graduating Mark went on to study a PGCE Certificate in Education at Middlesbrough College. In 2011 he was employed by Newcastle College as a Lecturer in sports coaching and also by Middlesbrough Football Club as an academy coach under Dave Parnaby (MFC Academy Manager). Along with his lecturer post he is also the football development programme manager at Newcastle College. Mark said, 'It was my dream to work in football and I love it, both roles are great learning curves where I am constantly learning and developing at two different levels of coaching football.'

In addition to this Mark was one of the Games Makers during last year's Olympic Games. 'I was based at Newcastle's Cochrane Park as a training venue team member working with the Olympic football teams. It was a fantastic experience, a once in a lifetime chance to see international coaches and players work behind the scenes.'

Mark is currently preparing for his UEFA A Licence at St George's Park in the Summer. 'This will develop me further and hopefully in the future allow me to work full time for a professional football club.'



Nurse puts on her running shoes

Jo Chubb graduated in 2006 with an Advanced Diploma in Nursing Studies, then again in 2010 with a BSc (Hons) Promoting Practice Effectiveness. She was delighted last year when she was selected to be one of the Olympic torch bearers for the Middlesbrough leg of the torch's journey.



Jo is now a Staff Nurse at James Cook University Hospital, working in the neonatal intensive care unit, but she came to this career later in life. When she left school she completed an engineering apprenticeship at Davy McKee in Stockton. She completed a HNC in Mechanical and Production Engineering and worked in engineering for 12 years. Following the birth of her daughter in 2001 she decided on a total career change.

Jo said, 'It was a great honour to have the opportunity to carry the Olympic torch.'



Designs on Daniel

When embarking on his studies in art and computing little did Daniel Khazeni-Rad realise it would lead to him making a move halfway across the world to Tehran.

After graduating from his BA (Hons) Graphic Design in 2006, Daniel went on to study an MA Future Arts which he completed in 2009. He then went on to work on multiple projects both freelance and contracted. He worked on the K Shoes Heritage Centre in Kendal, which gave him a great understanding of the museum sector. He also worked with a variety of organisations in developing their online presence and utilised social media in supporting community events.

From there he went on to the post of International Communications Director for the Aun Iranian Art Foundation in Tehran. Daniel said, 'My job is fantastic. I work on promoting cross-cultural projects with many countries and exposing local industries to modern practices. He became an

associate, meaning he would represent them both with foreign governments and organisations.'

He writes for many websites and television on cultural aspects of Iran, some more whimsical than others, with a special emphasis on the latest visual industries. He is the English contributor to the Tehran Gallery Guide, the only dual language monthly guide covering over 20 top galleries in the city, and he hopes to build on this success with other great projects. This year, Dan hopes to start his professional doctorate, splitting his time between his growing family, academic work and business in the UK and in the Middle East. 'I owe it to Teesside academic support and tutoring, if it were not for this University I could not have progressed with the speed that I have.'

Your story....

If you would like to feature in the next edition of the magazine please email alumni.office@tees.ac.uk.



Ben gets *itchy* feet

When Ben Timney, BSc (Hons) Web Development graduated in 2009 he had no idea that just three years later he would be running his own business in partnership with another Teesside graduate – Rob Adams, MSc Multimedia Applications, 2001.

Ben initially started out on his career in 1994. After working in management for several years, he decided to become his own boss and start his own graphic design business. During the two years he ran this venture he found he was asked to build and design a lot of websites in addition to the usual print design work. He said, 'I found that I not only loved designing and building websites, but that it suited my talents and I was good at it. So I decided to go back and study full time to fill in my skill gaps in programming to complement my years as a designer.'

Studying full-time whilst trying to maintain a business and juggle family life – his daughter was born during his final year – was certainly an experience for Ben and he

says he owes a debt of gratitude to his wife Karen, who was a tremendous support.

'During my degree I was lucky enough to be placed with a local software company where I worked with Rob Adams, who is the other half of iTCHYROBOT. Our skills sets really complement each other and we have great fun working together.'

All the hard work has certainly paid off, Ben now runs web and software company, iTCHYROBOT with business partner Rob. The company specialises in e-learning software and corporate websites working with the oil and gas industry and the process sector amongst others and has now been trading for almost three years.

'Working for yourself is so rewarding. I've worked alongside some really interesting people and created some amazing projects. All the long hours have definitely been worth it and I'm now in a position where the business is expanding, taking on staff, and my role is changing again. iTCHYROBOT has got me into places I would never have seen and introduced me to people I would never have met. I'm happy I took the plunge.'



Karen gives guidance

Karen Pattison's passion for helping people put her on the road to securing a BSc (Hons) Sociology in 2001 and it has since been invaluable to her in her career as a learning and skills adviser.

Karen now works for North Yorkshire Adult Education Service, she explains, 'I provide information, advice

and guidance about careers, training and CV writing to learners. I organise courses, run work clubs, support funding applications and offer assessment and referrals to help learners improve their skills. It is really rewarding to empower people and my sociology degree has been really useful in giving me a deeper understanding of social issues and their impact on people's lives, particularly their educational and economic opportunities.'

If you are a graduate currently running your own business or are interested in setting one up, then the University offers a wide range of support. From advice and guidance to regular workshops.

For more information visit
tees.ac.uk/spark

We also have a special alumni enterprise group which is open to any self-employed graduates.

For more details email
alumni.office@tees.ac.uk



Sarah Ellingham – a beneficiary’s tale

Words Alex Robertson | Photography Judy Hume

Sarah Ellingham is in the second year of her PhD at Teesside. She is studying forensic anthropology, particularly focusing on burnt bones and the information that can be gleaned from them in order to reconstruct the burning event. Although it can seem a slightly macabre topic, Sarah’s research is highly important and can, for example, find application in the quest for truth and justice behind some of recent history’s most arresting events, such as the genocides in the former Yugoslavia, Rwanda and Libya.

However, Sarah’s arrival at Teesside has not been a conventional one, for Sarah is in receipt of a scholarship funded by international bestselling crime fiction author, Simon Beckett. Beckett’s novels rely on the advice of forensics experts for authenticity. One such expert to have helped Simon considerably is Teesside’s own Dr Tim Thompson. Simon marked his gratitude to Tim by sponsoring a PhD student to conduct research relevant to his field.

More and more students are in need of financial assistance to help them realise their potential, especially for postgraduate study, where additional funding is scarce. The single greatest barrier for students wishing to study at the higher levels is finance, but with the generosity

of Simon Beckett, Teesside’s excellent reputation and Sarah’s talent, we are bucking the trend.

Sarah has already started to give back to the next generation of young students by acting as a co-supervisor for an Erasmus exchange programme student over the summer of 2012. When asked about her scholarship, Sarah said, ‘Mr Beckett has made the choice to support the pursuit of knowledge, which in my opinion is a noble and important thing to do; an investment in knowledge and research is an investment in the future. For me personally, the opportunity that has been given to me is incredible, allowing me to follow my passion and hopefully one day to leave my mark in the advancement of forensic science. I am very grateful for his support.’



Every Penny Helps -

Staff supporting fundraising at Teesside University

The University has invested millions in our campus over recent years and we are rightly proud of our state-of-the-art facilities.

However, as we are now in a time of greatly reduced government funding for higher education, we are still looking to enhance the experience and the environment we provide for our students. We want to ensure we recruit and retain the brightest and the best students and inspire them to success. Improving our health and well-being facilities for use by all students – as well as staff – is one of our key priorities, but funding for this falls outside of the programme of teaching, employability and accommodation enhancements, in which the University continually invests its existing resources.

If the University is to succeed in offering its students a rounded experience, we recognise the importance of continuous improvement. Thus, we have launched a new fundraising appeal inviting the University's staff to get involved and to demonstrate their loyalty, passion and faith in the University's future.

Every Penny Helps is a way for staff, students and graduates to support their University by making small regular donations. Staff can make a monthly gift by donating the pence figure at the end of their monthly salary payment to the appeal. Of course, it is not only

the students who will benefit from our staff's generosity. Staff and graduates are also frequent users of the gymnasium and we hope that our developments will encourage even more of you to use these facilities and to take up new activities or classes back at your University.

Teesside University is a charity. We don't ask for money to fund our core operations, but to enhance the experience we offer to students, and to deliver a transformational education and a wider impact on our local communities and economy. Increasing participation in health and well-being activities is another example of our commitment to providing opportunities for a rounded education and personal development for our community.

Every Penny Helps is a campaign for everyone, staff, students and alumni alike. If you would like to support our campaign please contact Alex Robertson a.robertson@tees.ac.uk 01642 738227.

All Every Penny Helps donors will feature in our roll of honour and every alumni donor giving £50 or more will be formally recognised with a tribute on our campus.

Mr Hearnshaw's legacy

Last year our University benefited from the extraordinary generosity of one of our earliest graduates. J. Douglas Hearnshaw graduated from Constantine College in 1942. In 1951, Douglas and his future wife Marjorie Lewis emigrated to Canada where he forged a successful career in the shipbuilding industry. He worked in Montreal for a number of years and spent productive time with Environment Canada and Transport Canada.

Throughout his time in Canada he maintained an interest in supporting future generations and frequently mentored students studying in his field. Marjorie was an active citizen with a talent for hand painting ceramics and she won many prizes for her exceptional work. Due no doubt to the fact that Douglas and Marjorie never forgot their roots, or the life-changing opportunities that studying at Constantine College afforded him, Douglas left the University over £120,000 for scholarships in memoriam to his beloved wife Marjorie.

Always a loving husband, he asked for the scholarships to be named for Marjorie and it is with great pride that we unveil the Marjorie Hearnshaw scholarships programme. The scholarships form part of a new £15m package of support aimed at encouraging talented students to study at Teesside University and, crucially, removing financial barriers.

If you would like to know more about scholarships at Teesside please contact Alex Robertson in our Development, Alumni Relations & Events team at a.robertson@tees.ac.uk 01642 738227.

Legacies

If an education at Teesside University changed your life or the life of a loved one, arranging a legacy gift is the perfect way to do the same and make a lasting impact for future generations of our students. Remembering Teesside in your will also means you can make a donation that may not be possible during your lifetime.

Teesside has been transforming lives and lifechances for over 80 years and with the support of our alumni and friends we will continue to improve the opportunities available to our communities.

A legacy gift can be used to promote opportunities through providing scholarships or raising the educational aspirations of the region's young people. We take great pride in our pedigree for widening participation in higher education and if you feel the same or even benefited from our work in this area, your gift will make sure similar opportunities are provided for the future generations.

You could help us to continue delivering excellence through supporting our drive to improve the facilities available to our students, or help

remove barriers for talented students wishing to continue their studies at postgraduate level.

Teesside University is, and always has been, a catalyst for industrial development and you may wish to contribute to the Tees Valley's economic resurgence by promoting enterprise and funding student internships or work placements. You could also make a lasting contribution to the progression of our society by supporting our growing research portfolio.

By remembering Teesside University in your will you can leave a lasting legacy and preserve our tradition of changing lives and enhancing the lifechances of our young people.





Pools winner gives back



A Teesside graduate donated £10,000 to sponsor new Teesside University Business School scholarships.

Peter Atherton enrolled at Teesside Polytechnic in 1982 and so began a remarkable career. He studied for a BA (Hons) Public Administration and almost as soon as he graduated he was rapidly ascending the ladder. He is currently Partner, Head of Utility Sector, at Liberum Capital. Before joining Liberum Peter spent 12 years at Citigroup where he was Head of Pan European Sector Research in Citigroup's Global Markets division. Peter is now one of the top ranked equity analysts in the City, he is also

‘I really want to be able to help young people who might have the talent, the intelligence and the drive to study at Teesside.’

an acknowledged expert on the renewable and energy industries.

Peter is now one of the top ranked equity analysts in the City, he is also an acknowledged expert on the renewable energy industries.

But Peter does not have the type of background one may associate with a typical City banker or Whitehall advisor. Born and raised in Huyton on the outskirts of Liverpool, he attended his local comprehensive school. His chances of going to study for a graduate level qualification were limited. Indeed only eight members of his year at school even studied for A levels.

Peter probably wouldn't have been one of those eight but for a scholarships scheme run by the Liverpool-based football pools company Littlewoods.

‘I was encouraged to apply for it and was fortunate enough to get it. It was only a few pounds a week but at the time that made the difference and enabled me to stay on and study A levels.’

After he settled down to life

in Middlesbrough, Peter began to thrive in his studies and he remembers the town fondly.

‘We had a great time in the Union bar and in some of the local pubs and clubs. You could get a pint for about 50p in those days and, there was always something happening.’

He puts a great deal of his subsequent success down to one telephone call he received from a much loved and respected lecturer, the late Alan Parker. ‘I was all set to spend my sandwich year at the NHS in Staffordshire, but the call came through from Alan and he asked ‘Do you want to go to the Cabinet Office in London?’. Without really thinking for too long I said yes, and within two days I was on a train to London and bound for Whitehall. That sandwich year made such a difference, I came back from London having learned how to succeed in a professional environment and the same was true for most of the people on my course. You could see that when we all came back for our final year, everyone

had so much more confidence.'

When asked about his motivation for giving such a generous donation Peter said, 'The Littlewoods scholarship changed my life and without it I probably wouldn't be where I am today. I really want to be able to help young people who might have the talent, the intelligence and the drive to study at Teesside. Peter's scholarships are not fee waivers or a cash lump sum. They are designed to improve academic attainment and, crucially, employability. They are structured in such a way as to ensure that the scholars are given opportunities throughout their programme of study. Remaining true to his belief that practical experiences made all the difference for him, his scholars will be funded to volunteer for a local community organisation in their first year and then an internship or work placement in their second year. 'I hope to be able to get rid of those financial barriers that stop people getting involved in valuable activities like volunteering and also get the most out of their studies by not having to worry how they will pay for a bus fare or get a new shirt for a job interview.'

'Coming to Teesside and getting my degree changed my life and if I can help to make that happen for someone else, I'll be delighted. The scholarship I got from Littlewoods Pools meant that I was able to come to Teesside and I want to help the next generation of young people to do the same.'

If you know someone who would like to apply for one of The Peter Atherton Opportunities Awards and study at Teesside University Business School, please visit tees.ac.uk/schools/tubs/

If you would like to find out more about development and philanthropy at Teesside, please contact

Alex Robertson

email gift@tees.ac.uk

call 01642 738 227

tees.ac.uk/donate

What's on 2013

10 - 29 April 2013

Exhibition – Professor Brian Falconbridge, sculptor

May 2013

Professorial Lecture – Professor Mark Davies, Chief Executive of Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust

13 May 2013

Teesside University Business School Conference

15 May 2013

EXPOTEEES

20 – 24 May 2013

Creative Teesside

23 May 2013

Postgraduate Virtual Open Day

6 - 24 June 2013

Exhibition – Maggie Cullen, paper sculptor

13 June 2013

Constantine Gala Dinner

15 July 2013

Part Time Open Day

12 September 2013

Part Time Open Day

These events are open to everyone. For more information please visit

W: tees.ac.uk/events

T: 01642 342887

Remember to regularly check our website for details of other forthcoming events at Teesside.

Reunion round-up

Reconnecting in Kuala Lumpur

Words Sarah Irving



On Sunday 4 November, an alumni celebration dinner was held at the Intercontinental Hotel in Kuala Lumpur.

The dinner was to mark the graduation of the latest cohort of Teesside graduates in Malaysia, and to celebrate the work of renowned design pioneer – The King of Design – Dr Eric Leong, who received an honorary degree at the graduation ceremony.

Over 25 graduates joined Vice-Chancellor Professor Graham Henderson CBE DL. Everyone had a fantastic evening and enjoyed catching up with old classmates and listening to an inspirational talk by Dr Leong, entitled *Branding Yourself*.

One of the graduates, Mr KY Khong, graduated from Teesside in 1978 with a BA (Hons) Business Studies and is now a project manager at Berkat Universal (M). He says, 'I was deputy president of the Malaysia student club at Teesside back in the 70s so when I heard about this event I had to come along. It was a wonderful evening and great to catch up with old classmates and staff and hear about what is going on in Teesside now.' Jessie Yap, BA (Hons) Applied Accounting, graduated just last year.

She says, 'The alumni dinner was really awesome! Apart from the good food, I got to meet great people, as well as meeting my mates from the same year as me. I'm looking forward to the next alumni dinner.'

Jessica Seet Chu Lin, BA (Hons) Business Management, 2011, adds, 'The alumni dinner we attended was marvellous! I appreciate very much that Teesside's regional office in Malaysia organised such a great gathering. It enables us to keep in touch with friends and the local office staff and also keep updated with the University. It was great to have a good speaker like Eric Leong to share with us, which I learnt a lot from.'

Thank you so much to Richard Teng-Heng and his colleagues in our Malaysia office for supporting this event. We would like to host similar events in the future, so if you are a graduate living overseas and you would like to support the organisation of a reunion event, email alumni.office@tees.ac.uk.

Alumni down under

Paul and Sue Cleminson (née Rusdale) met at Teesside while both studying BA (Hons) Business Studies. They graduated in 1993, Paul now works in industry as a Chartered Management Accountant and Sue runs her own successful Human Resources consultancy candcconsulting@hotmail.co.uk

Last year they visited the campus with their daughter and the alumni team gave them a guided tour of the campus. Sue said, 'The campus looks so different from the time we spent at the University, it has improved so much it is incredible. Anyone studying at the University today has fantastic facilities, both from an academic and social perspective.'

Over the summer, the family travelled out to Australia and during their stay met up with some other Teesside graduates. Claire Hartley (née King) and Peta Torkington, both also BA (Hons) Business Studies alumni, who have now lived in Australia for ten years. They all had a great time catching up and remembering their super days at Teesside.

Matt Hepburn memorial cup



This annual rugby match between current students and graduates took place on Friday 23 November.

The event was a huge success with around 40 past players turning up to play around 25 present team players. The game

was really close and played in a fantastic spirit but the past just scraped a win 22 – 12. Thanks to everyone who participated. Thanks also to all those graduates and friends who came along as spectators to cheer on the players. Any graduate who is interested

in putting together a sporting event can contact Pip Bell for more information. She is happy to support you in organising events, and if required, contacting a current team to take you on. Her email is p.bell@tees.ac.uk

The Constantine connection

Teesside University has a significant educational heritage, being based on the site of the former Constantine College which opened in Middlesbrough in 1930. We asked Ray Pixley, Engineering Cadets Group III, who graduated from Constantine College in 1946 to tell us a little about his memories of being a student in Middlesbrough and how that might compare with the student experience today.

Greetings to all Teesside Graduate readers from the Engineering Cadets Group III as we remember our arrival at 'The Constantine' 70 years ago this year. From all parts of the country we came for our two year course, plus six months in industry and a diploma which covered the examination of the IMechE and IEE main subjects. The objective was to provide people with technical skills for the armed services.

What would you think of our days? We started each weekday with 30 minutes of physical training and on Saturdays with 45 minutes of swimming. Then lectures and labs followed from 9.00am to 12.30pm with an hour break for

lunch, then continuing until 5.00pm with a 12.30pm early finish on Saturdays. We had just four weeks of holiday per year. On the plus side we got a grant of £160 a year to cover our digs in Linthorpe, which consisted of full board and a shared room for £1.50 per week – plus 12.5p for laundry – not bad really!

There are now just seven of the class of 1943 remaining from the original eighteen young men. All of us reached senior management level in a variety of professions and all think back with fondness to our time in Middlesbrough. I hope you can all think as kindly of the Boro as we do when you are in your 88th year.



See for yourself

If you're in the region for business or pleasure, why not drop in and find out for yourself how much the University has changed?

Email alumni.office@tees.ac.uk to arrange a tour.



Polymodel reunion dinner

On 18 December, Teesside University was honoured to host a reunion of the Polymodel Conferences.

Polymodel was a ground-breaking academic-industrial mathematical modelling collaboration in north-east England. It ran a series of annual conferences from 1978 through to 1995. Formed of delegates mainly from the three north eastern polytechnics, together with key industrial groups in the region, but international in its reach, Polymodel was always a high profile event and did much to enhance the reputation of Teesside Polytechnic, as we were then known.

The winter weather stopped a handful of people from making the journey, most notable amongst them, Dennis Gibson, lecturer at Teesside from 1969 to 1977. Dennis is now based in Australia, having held a number of senior academic and executive roles in well-established Australian universities. The group is full of admiration for Dennis and his achievements and there were more than a few touching speeches made to honour the man, his achievements, and the impact that he made on the lives and careers of his colleagues.

The 21 former colleagues who

were able to attend on the day were treated to a delicious lunch. The conversation flowed, and the years dissipated away as the laughter grew louder. After lunch Michael Lavery, Director of Marketing and Student Recruitment, welcomed everyone to the University and outlined our vision for the future and our development priorities. The lead organiser, Professor Mike O'Carroll, thanked the University for our hospitality. Dr Alan Bush spoke on behalf of Dennis Gibson and one of the University's most generous benefactors, Professor James Caldwell, made a stirring speech comparing his demanding but rewarding trek from Bedfordshire to Middlesbrough to the journey that our University has been enjoying.

A journey that has seen us climb the university rankings and receive the honour of being named the first new university to be awarded the coveted University of the Year title in 2009.

At the end of a most enjoyable day, there were calls for a reprise in future years and the University will be proud to host the event again. If you would like to organise a reunion here on the campus, please contact the Alumni Relations team:

alumni.office@tees.ac.uk

Tributes

Sadly a number of Teesside alumni passed away recently. We wish to offer their families our deepest sympathy.

Annette Wray, HND Business & Information Technology, 1996 passed away in May 2010, as the result of an asthma attack.

Philip Hollings, BSc Computer Science, 1991 passed away in September 2011 with cancer.

Shavida Rafiq, BA Business Administration, 2005 passed away early last year.

Mark Ramskill, BSc Media Technology, 1997 passed away last year.

Dr Anthony Butler, MSc Executive Development, 1987 and MBA, 1991 passed away last Spring.

Tony Gaw, retired member of staff and great friend to the University passed away last year. Tony was always a welcome visitor to the University, he particularly valued our work with the Royal Television Society, and he cherished our raising aspirations work as the Chair of Pallister Park School - a position he held right up to his death. Tony was extremely proud of our success as an institution, and of his membership of our University community.



Class notes

1978/88



Ilse Cornwall-Ross, BA (Hons) Humanities, MPhil, worked as a research assistant at Teesside,

then as a part-time lecturer at the University of Southampton. From there Ilse moved into school teaching, finally retiring as Head of German at Alton Convent School in Hampshire, and now spends her time writing, mainly biographies and poetry. 'I was a mature student of 40, with four children, and it was wonderful to be accepted by younger fellow students and tutors.' Ilse who is involved in the University of the Third Age, leads on poetry groups and is also a member of art and local history groups in Winchester. She came back to Middlesbrough earlier in the year and hosted a poetry workshop at Ormesby Hall and would love to hear from old friends. wlc@btinternet.com

1982

Juay Lim, BA (Hons) Public Administration, is now settled in Port



Chalmers, Dunedin, and teaching in Ashburton, south of Christchurch. It's been over 15 years since Juay visited the campus; this was a trip with his wife around the UK, Netherlands, Ireland and Sweden. 'It was actually great visiting Middlesbrough and making the connection of Captain Cook's discovery of New Zealand. We did a trip to Whitby and also visited Stewart Park.' Juay still keeps in touch with some of the friends he made while studying here. limbrown@gmail.com

1990

Stephen Keene-Elliott (formerly Elliott) graduated with a BSc (Hons) Computer Science in 1990. After various jobs in retail, Stephen obtained a teaching qualification and worked as a primary school teacher in South London for 15 years. In 2010 he left teaching, and later secured his current post at the Walt Disney Company's Europe, Middle East and Africa HQ in Hammersmith, working in security. He met his wife, Sarah, at one of the schools he worked at and they have a son Edward (born in 2010), and two adopted children – a son, Aiden (six years old) and a daughter, Brooke (five years old). They married in June 2012. stephen.keene-elliott@phantom-enterprises.co.uk

1994

Valerie Hamer, BSc (Hons) Criminology, began



teaching at universities and for local authorities as soon as she graduated. In 2000 she moved to Asia and for the first seven years lived in Tokyo, working in education, training and teacher management. Since 2007, Val has been in South Korea working at a university. She began writing in 2011 and recently published a book. She hopes to study for an MFA in Creative Non Fiction Writing at a university in New Orleans. Val made lots of new friends during her time at Teesside, many of whom are still in her life. farawayhammer@gmail.com

1995

Muriel Blythman, BSc (Hons) Professional Studies



Health Care, developed her own business in health care and crisis counselling, both in the private and corporate sectors, and her work has included such cases as the aftermath of the Lockerbie Pan Am Flight 103 disaster. Over the years, Muriel has been greatly involved in the voluntary sector as a representative on the National Council, London, Independent Monitoring Boards (IMB) and with the prison service, for the North East, Yorkshire and Humberside Women's Estate (Prisons). Muriel is now semi-retired and serves as a Councillor for Richmond District Council in North Yorkshire. muriel.blythman1@btinternet.com

2011

Richard Gibson, BEng (Hons)



Civil Engineering, persevered with a few non-construction related jobs (including postman) whilst searching for an engineering career until he finally secured a site engineer role with JN Bentley in February 2012. His ambition is to become a chartered civil engineer with the Institute of Civil Engineers. Richard is married and his first child, Jacob, was born around the time Richard was completing his dissertation and taking his final-year exams. He met some great people during his time at Teesside and would love to hear from former classmates. r_m_gibson@hotmail.com

Thinking about setting up your own business?

The DigitalCity Fellowship Scheme can help.

With a successful track record of helping graduates into business the scheme offers a start-up grant of up to £4000, training and access to industry mentoring, and use of facilities and studio space. The scheme is available to graduates who reside in the North East of England and have a digital based business idea.

Apply now at:

digitalcityfellowships.org

T: [@dcinnov](https://twitter.com/dcinnov)

E: info@digitalcityinnovation.com

W: digitalcityinnovation.com



The DigitalCity Innovation and Growth project is part funded by the European Regional Development Fund.

' When I started the Fellowship I had an idea, and when I finished I had a business.'

Rob Colling,
internetsubtitling.com

' This is a fantastic launch pad for starting your new business.'

Timothy Allison,
darlingdash.com

This publication is available in alternative formats on request. Please contact Alumni Association on +44 (0) 1642 384255 or email alumni@tees.ac.uk



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Potts Print (UK) Reg. No. 2105

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