

# GRADUATE TEESSIDE

2022/2023

TEESSIDE



BETH  
MEAD



# Contents



24  
EVOLUTION  
OF CAMPUS



16  
MEET  
FRANC RODDAM



12  
SCHOLARSHIPS



22  
MADE ON  
TEESSIDE



26  
MEET RORY  
AND SOPHIE



|                                       |       |
|---------------------------------------|-------|
| WELCOME                               | 4     |
| CALLING ALL TEESSIDE ALUMNI           | 5     |
| CELEBRATING ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT      | 6-7   |
| HONORARY GRADUATES                    | 8     |
| TRIPLE CELEBRATION                    | 9     |
| FIRST-CLASS CELEBRATIONS              | 10    |
| RADIO REPORTER ACHIEVES DREAM ROLE    | 11    |
| SCHOLARSHIP PORTFOLIO                 | 12-13 |
| HELPING TO RAISE A REGION             | 14-15 |
| MEET FRANC RODDAM                     | 16-17 |
| UNIVERSITY NEWS                       | 18-23 |
| EVOLUTION OF CAMPUS                   | 24-25 |
| MEET RORY UNDERWOOD AND SOPHIE SPENCE | 26-29 |
| ALUMNI NEWS                           | 30-35 |
| GLOBAL TEESSIDE UNIVERSITY            | 36-37 |
| RESEARCH NEWS                         | 38-41 |
| CLASS NOTES                           | 44-47 |

# Welcome

**I am delighted to share these superb stories from another highly successful year for Teesside University. It has given me immense pleasure to see University life return to normal as we welcomed our staff, students and alumni visitors back to a busy and vibrant campus.**

Graduation continues to be the highlight of the academic calendar, with this year proving especially poignant as we were able to hold our first ceremonies since 2019. Celebrating the hard-won achievements of our newest generation of alumni was an incredibly rewarding experience, and I look forward to recognising their impact and successes in future editions of this magazine.

At Teesside University we do not stand still. As we commence our new five-year corporate strategy, *Ambition Delivered Today*, our campus is a hive of activity. New capital developments are progressing with pace, including our new postgraduate hub, The Buttery and the Net Zero Industry Innovation Centre, set to become a national centre of excellence in clean energy and sustainability. We also look ahead with excitement to the opening of BIOS in autumn 2023, our new state-of-the-art medical and life sciences facility (See page 24).

Teesside University believes in unlocking potential, and it is gratifying to see the investment we make in providing an excellent student and learning experience pay off. The calibre of our amazing alumni community continues to create positive impact around the globe, from Beth Mead excelling in the European Championships to graduates providing vital support to isolated communities in Malaysia. You are the leaders of the future.

As you will see from this year's Graduate Magazine, we are continuously developing our offer for our esteemed Teesside alumni. I hope to see our valued, global network more engaged, more energised, and more active than ever as we continue to bring this community closer together over the year to come.



*Paul Croney*

Professor Paul Croney, OBE  
Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive

# Calling ALL TEESSIDE ALUMNI

Looking back over the last 12 months since I joined the University it truly has been an extraordinary year. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to meet so many of our wonderful alumni in person, and to represent an institution with such ambition for its communities, both here in Teesside and in networks stretching across the world.



My personal highlights from this year would certainly include our Summer Alumni Reunion in June, which was our first in-person alumni event to take place here on campus since the pandemic. With over 50 years of Teesside experience and nostalgia in the room this really was a special occasion, with some very moving memories shared from our alumni highlighting the impact their Teesside experience has had on their lives and careers since graduating. Celebrating the achievements of our newest alumni members at our 2022 graduation ceremonies has also been an unforgettable experience, with an unprecedented number of graduates crossing the stage this year as we were finally able to deliver these long-awaited celebrations back on campus.

It has been especially gratifying this year to recognise the many alumni already heavily engaged with and giving back to the University through their time and expertise, providing mentoring, placements, and

internships to support the next generation following in their footsteps. This year, through the Teesside Transformation Fund, we have also been able to support more students than ever through their studies through a range of new scholarships and bursaries, which have been generously supported by you, our Teesside community. Your support is transformative, and I hope you will enjoy reading about the very real impact that this has had here on our students. (See page 12).

Following this busy and successful year, we are now able to look forward with optimism and excitement as we continue to seek out new ways to help nurture our worldwide network of Teesside University graduates. I am grateful to those of you who have supported us in this mission by completing our recently closed alumni survey, and we look forward to reflecting on your feedback, and to refining our offer in the months to come to give your community the support and vibrancy it deserves. As Teesside alumni you are life-long ambassadors for our University and we are always delighted to receive your feedback, and to support and celebrate your impact. Thank you as ever for continuing to engage with us, for sharing these stories, and for supporting the ambitions of our University; I look forward to another successful year working with this incredible community.

Lauren Bradshaw  
Deputy Director, Communications and Development

[Alumni@tees.ac.uk](mailto:Alumni@tees.ac.uk)



# *Celebrating academic achievement*

## AT TEESSIDE UNIVERSITY

**Graduates were once again able to walk across the stage to celebrate their achievements, as Teesside University held its first ceremonies in almost three years.**

Over 7,000 graduates took part in ceremonies in April and July as we celebrated the completion of our 2020, 2021, and 2022 cohorts.

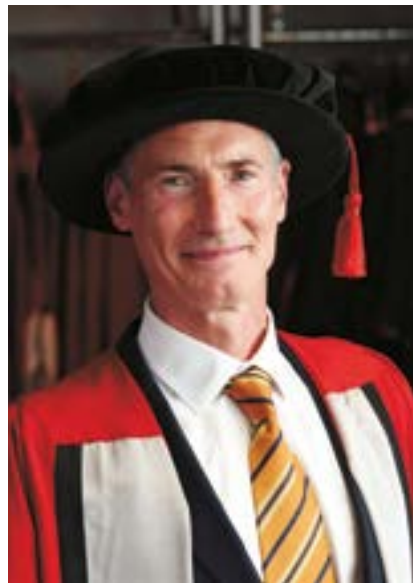
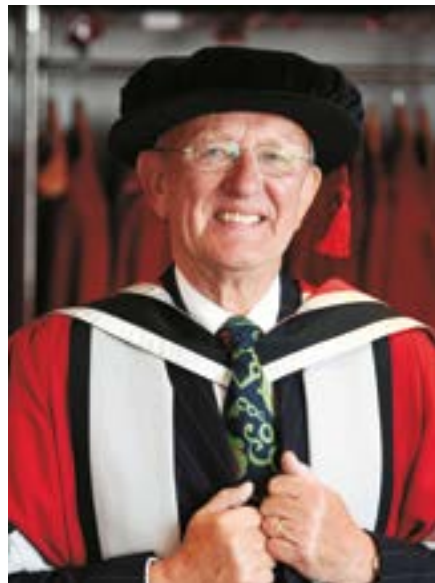
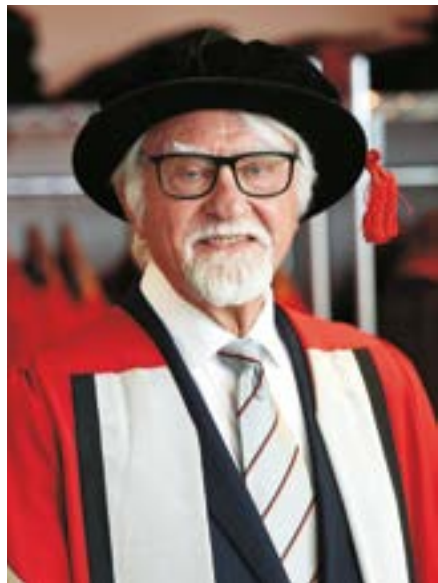
This bumper celebration took place to recognise all ceremonies missed during the global pandemic, and was a fantastic occasion bringing the campus back to life; providing the opportunity for families and friends to recognise the accomplishments of the latest members of the Teesside University alumni community.

Then in July, around 4,000 Teesside University graduates celebrated academic achievement during ceremonies taking place on campus over two weeks.

Around 1,500 graduates who completed their courses in 2021 crossed the stage in ceremonies for our School of Health & Life Sciences and Teesside University International Business School. The following week, 3,000 graduates from the Class of 2022 took part in ceremonies to celebrate their academic achievement.







# HONORARY GRADUATES

A prominent business leader, an eminent biomedical engineering academic and a retired senior circuit judge were honoured in April when honorary doctorates were bestowed on Alastair MacColl, Professor Tony Unsworth and His Honour Judge Leslie Spittle. Then in July, a prominent industry adviser, a rugby star turned businessman, and a global business finance expert were honoured when honorary doctorates were bestowed on Steve Bagshaw CBE, Rory Underwood MBE DL and Tracy Isacke.



*Triple celebration*

## FOR TRIO OF SISTERS CELEBRATING GRADUATION

**It was a triple celebration for three sisters who all proudly wore their Teesside University graduation gowns on the same day.**

Catherine Smurthwaite, Lucy Smurthwaite and Amy Tassel, all from Stockton, were able to celebrate their graduation together during our April ceremonies, after the University's 2020 graduation was put on hold during the pandemic.

Catherine, who graduated from the MSc Health Psychology, said: 'I have met people who have become firm friends for life.'

MA Creative Writing graduate Lucy added: 'Teesside University has offered me freedom, opportunities and a chance to be creative.'

Amy, who graduated from the BSc (Hons) Forensic Psychology, said: 'I decided to study at Teesside due to the courses and also as it is close to home.'



# First-class celebrations

## FOR FATHER AND DAUGHTER

**A father and daughter duo enjoyed an extra special graduation as they were able to celebrate their achievements together in April.**

Kiera Tomlinson and her father, Neil, both from Darlington, graduated on the same day having completed their studies in 2020.

BA (Hons) Interior Design graduate Kiera, who is now working for an interior design business, said: 'I loved the fact that we studied and graduated alongside each

other - it was a really special thing not many people get to experience.'

Neil, who graduated with a BA (Hons) Marketing, said: 'The best thing for me about coming to university was just having the opportunity to do what I had written off years ago.'

Neil who works as Marketing Communications Manager at British Gas, credited the Teesside University International Business School's tutors he met at an open day with encouraging him to study.



# RADIO REPORTER

## achieves dream role

**Daniel Ragusa went from studying journalism to reading headlines in his professional role as a reporter with BBC Radio Tees.**

A passion for sport led Daniel to the University's BA (Hons) Sport Journalism, gaining work experience during his studies at Middlesbrough Football Club, Sky News, BBC Radio Tees and local television stations.

Since completing his studies in 2020, Daniel is now a permanent fixture at BBC Radio Tees.

Daniel, from Middlesbrough, said: 'Teesside University offered me so much. The work

experience offered through my course was life-changing and the lecturers help you to develop a network of contacts within the industry. It led me into full-time work in a job that I love.'



## GROWING OUR

# *scholarship portfolio*

Scholarships provide additional support to students facing financial barriers and encourages applications from students from a range of different backgrounds and experiences.

From musicians to filmmakers, charities to energy companies, we have worked closely with a number of partners to grow our scholarship offer substantially to provide even more opportunities for the next generation of Teesside talent.

Leo Conoy, BSc (Hons) Artificial Intelligence  
**THE IMPACT THE SCHOLARSHIP HAS HAD ON MY LIFE HAS BEEN AMAZING. IT'S MADE MY UNIVERSITY JOURNEY A LOT MORE STABLE AND SECURE.**

Katie Maughan, BA (Hons) Film and Television Production  
**MY SCHOLARSHIP HAS ALLOWED ME TO FOCUS ON MY STUDIES WITHOUT WORRYING ABOUT FINANCES. IT'S ENABLED ME TO SET UP MY OWN WEBSITE AND FUND SHORT FILMS.**

Dean Benson, founder of e-commerce platform Visualsoft Production  
**I BELIEVE THAT IT'S REALLY IMPORTANT FOR EVERYONE TO HAVE AN EQUAL CHANCE IN LIFE; THAT'S WHY I'M SO PLEASED TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPORT OUR NEXT GENERATION OF TECH LEADERS.**

George Friend, donor

### TEESSIDE CHARITY SCHOLARSHIP

Working with a local philanthropic foundation to support first-generation university entrants.

### FRANC RODDAM SCHOLARSHIP

Helping young filmmakers follow in the footsteps of the acclaimed film director.

### GEORGE FRIEND SCHOLARSHIP

Supporting talented footballers with the help of the former Middlesbrough FC favourite.

## TEESSIDE TRANSFORMATION FUND

This is our flagship initiative to support access to Higher Education and through it we have launched a wide range of new scholarships, with ambitions to grow our offer even further. Here are just some of the ways people and organisations are helping students at Teesside University.

### KELLAS MIDSTREAM CLEAN ENERGY SCHOLARSHIP

Helping industry develop the necessary talent to aid its transition to a net zero future.

### PAUL RODGERS SCHOLARSHIP

Collaborating with the rock legend to fulfil the potential of the next generation of music-makers.

### DEAN BENSON SCHOLARSHIP

Working alongside a local tech leader to grow digital skills in the region.

### JACKSONS LAW SCHOLARSHIP

Boosting opportunities for aspiring legal professionals with the support of this regional law firm.

To start the conversation about how you might consider supporting Teesside University, please contact us [development@tees.ac.uk](mailto:development@tees.ac.uk)

[tees.ac.uk/scholarships](https://tees.ac.uk/scholarships)



# Helping TO RAISE A REGION

**Professor Leni Oglesby is a former Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor at Teesside University and was among the University's first donors. She supports a number of annual prizes and, in 2022, launched the Professor Katherine Leni Oglesby Transformation Scholarship to support a student within the School of Health & Life Sciences across the three years of their course.**

She spoke The Graduate about her fond memories of the University and the motivation behind her continued support of its students.

## **What were your first impressions of Teesside University?**

I arrived at Teesside in 2003, knowing very little about the North-East but aware of the reputation which Teesside University had for opening up innovative degree and professional training opportunities.

I was impressed with the quality of the students, the 'can-do' approach of the University students, staff, and management, and the extent to which the Middlesbrough population supported their local university. It was very much seen as 'our' University, and a central important focus for developing the region.

## **What are the major changes you've seen throughout your career in higher education?**

I think the key change has been the growing recognition of the strengths of the 'new' post-1992 universities. New degree courses, such as gaming and forensic science, offered by universities like Teesside once seemed novel but are now taken for granted.

There is growing appreciation, both at home and abroad, of the values, the particular characteristics, and the special strengths of the 'new' universities, and the invaluable part they play in developing the economy of the country.

## **What changes have you seen at Teesside University since you first arrived here?**

A major change has been the increased opportunities to achieve degree status in

occupations such as digital technology, healthcare and nursing and the police. For example, the first paramedics and forensic scientists to receive specialist graduate qualifications received their training at Teesside.

There is also a much greater emphasis on preparing students for the world of work. At the same time the high quality of the University's teaching provision has been translated into a strong focus on staff development.

## **Why did you decide to set up the Professor Leni Oglesby Transformation Scholarship?**

I have contributed to scholarships and prize funds since 2009. However, I decided to contribute to longer term support for individuals who were just starting out on their studies as I could see how such a scholarship would strengthen opportunities and provide more sustained help for disadvantaged students.

## **What has it been like meeting students who have been impacted by your past support of prizes and scholarships?**

It has been both incredibly rewarding and very humbling. The reports which the students send me on the impact their Teesside studies have had on them, their subsequent achievements and their continuing aspirations for the future makes breath-taking reading.

Some have endured unimaginable childhood or teenage difficulties in their personal lives, some have arrived as refugees with very little or nothing, others have suffered unexpected traumas which have turned their lives upside down.

The fact that they have had to work through these to get to university and

that they have managed to survive and succeed is an immense tribute both to themselves and to Teesside University.

## **Why do you think scholarships are important?**

Throughout my career, one issue which struck me most forcibly was the very uneven playing field in respect of entry to higher education for those who had not followed the traditional school qualification and entry route. It is a shocking waste of talent, and a short-sighted dereliction of responsibility, not to invest in those who have followed different routes.

If you improve even one person's life chances, then the likelihood is that you will raise a family's expectations; the word will spread and streets and communities will alter their perceptions. In turn, those expectations can eventually raise a region. It takes time but you have to start somewhere.

## **Why scholarships for Teesside in particular?**

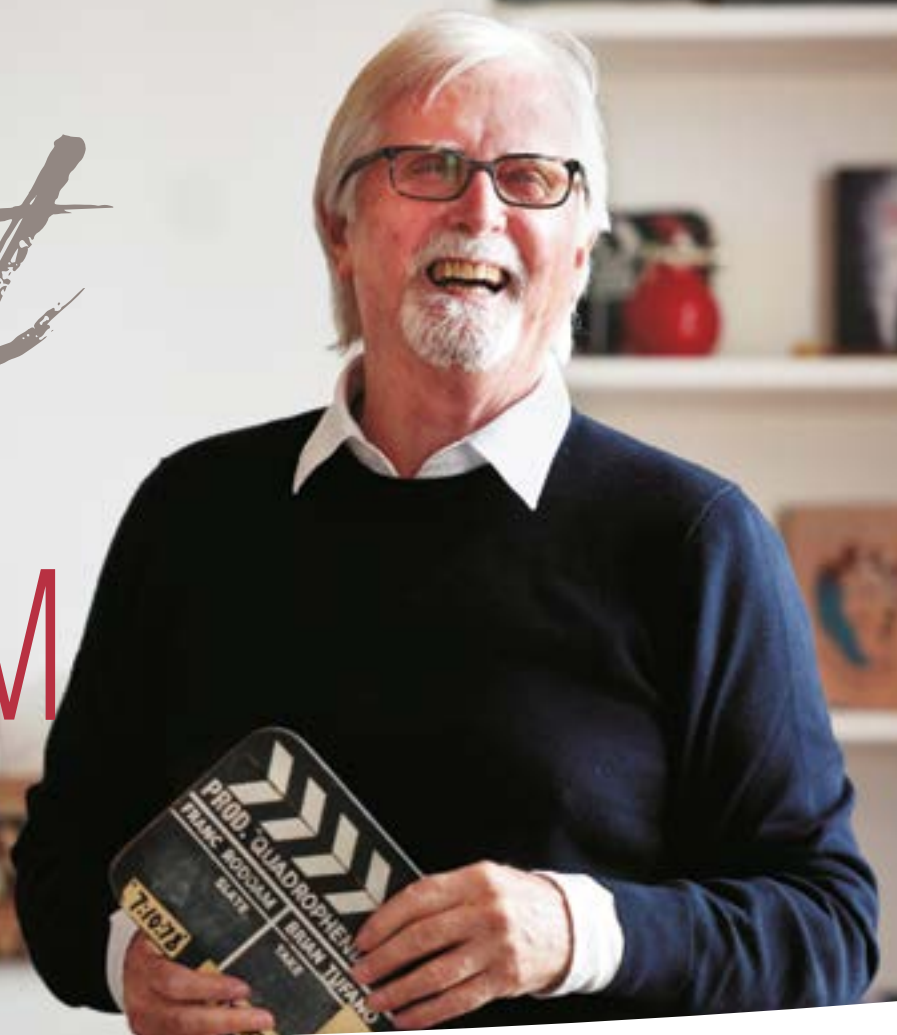
The Tees Valley has a rich and interesting history but does not necessarily have the economic advantages of other regions. Its determination to do something about this, and not just leave it to others, is admirable, and I felt strongly that it should be supported.

I continue to be impressed by the calibre of the students: their ability to rise above whatever difficulties they have and make the best of their opportunities; their wit, humour, and their ability to have fun; their willingness to try something new, to innovate, and support each other; and their pride in their region.





# Meet FRANC RODDAM



**Best known as the creator of Auf Wiedersehen, Pet and global phenomenon MasterChef, as well as director of cult classic Quadrophenia, acclaimed filmmaker Franc Roddam has seen huge success in his journey from Teesside to Hollywood.**



Franc grew up in Norton in Stockton-on-Tees, attending St John's School in Billingham before embarking on an engineering apprenticeship and training to work in the shipyards. He returned to academic study to pursue arts subjects and a scholarship led Franc to follow his passion at London Film School, paving the way to his success as an accomplished filmmaker, director, writer and producer.

His many professional accolades include Grammy and Golden Globe nominations and the prestigious Prix Italia Drama Prize for his direction of award-winning TV drama Dummy, as well as an honorary Doctorate of Arts from Teesside University which he received in 2019. Despite his international fame, Franc remains passionate about providing opportunities for up-and-coming creatives from his region. He has gone on to set up the £60,000 Franc Roddam Scholarship fund

in partnership with Teesside University to support aspiring film and television professionals.

#### **What was it like growing up in Teesside?**

I lived in a council house in Middlesbrough, and I would deliver booze to the big posh houses in the high street. You can imagine, we didn't know anything about that sort of thing. When I was a young man in Teesside, I trained at the shipyards and then, after travelling, I wanted to go to college and couldn't afford to go. It was Teesside that paid my grant for my tuition and my education and for my accommodation, so I'm very grateful.

#### **Tell us about your journey to Hollywood...**

When I went to Hollywood, I was competing with the best from France, the best from Germany, the best from Australia, the best from the States and

## TEESSIDE UNIVERSITY GIVES THE AREA GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR INVESTMENT.



suddenly I found myself at the Olympics of filmmaking and media. I pushed very hard to get into film, to get into television, to get into Hollywood and if I could do something that I hadn't done, I would've pushed harder. It's very important to attack it full on; it's not an industry where you can be shy. But what I love about the choice I made is I was brought up to think I should make a living with my hands as a tradesman, as a carpenter, electrician or engineer, but now I make a living with my imagination, so that's the fantastic thing.

#### **What do you miss most about Teesside?**

Just surrounding Teesside is the most beautiful landscape, up in the Cleveland Hills and going across to Whitby. What

I also miss about Teesside is the terrific humour – they're very funny people and I learned a lot of good stories and storytelling abilities from working in the shipyards and working on the building sites and hearing the chat, or the crack as they used to call it, between the different people.

#### **Are you proud to hold an honorary degree?**

Teesside University was very gracious and gave me a Doctorate of Arts, which was a phenomenal thing to happen. When I went up there to receive it, I was so impressed by the University and its style and its manner and the way they ran it. It just felt very modern and very young

and very switched on. And also, Teesside University gives the area great opportunity for investment.

#### **Tell us more about your scholarship...**

Somebody like me, who benefitted from getting grants from Teesside, is happy to put money back in so that students who are going to study film and television won't have to take jobs in the evening and they'll be able to use their energy for their studies and for their work and imagination. We want to make sure that Teesside, with all this talent, is able to thrive and that is what the University is doing, and that's why I'm very proud to be part of it.





# PRAISE FOR TEESSIDE'S *commitment to social inclusion*

**Teesside University's efforts to support students from all walks of life to access higher education has seen it named University of the Year for Social Inclusion**

The University received the accolade in the 2021 Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide after rising each year in this category since the Guide started publishing social inclusion ratings in 2018.

The University of the Year for Social Inclusion award recognises social diversity and the work of higher education institutions to embrace social mobility and encourage greater participation from underrepresented groups.

Teesside University has consistently been ranked among the top universities in the country for social inclusion. It is committed to creating an inclusive campus which embraces diversity and supports all

students throughout their academic journey – from applying to university, right through to successful progression.

Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive of Teesside University, Professor Paul Croney, OBE, said: 'Here at Teesside, we take an uncompromising approach to ensuring that people from all walks of life, who have the talent to succeed, are given the opportunity to experience higher education and develop their skills, expertise and confidence.'

'The award of University of the Year for Social Inclusion recognises that Teesside University is a force for change, that supports its student community to realise their ambitions, today, and to become the leaders of tomorrow.'

Alastair McCall, editor of The Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide, said: 'Teesside has an outstanding record in delivering higher education into disadvantaged sectors of society that other universities simply don't reach.'

'The vast majority of students come from homes where neither parent went to university, and virtually all students have been educated in non-selective state schools. They go on to achieve well, supported by a university that is geared to ensure their success.'



# UNIVERSITY WILL TAKE THE LEAD *on Tees Valley Global Centre of Excellence*



**A major report has recommended that Teesside University should be the driving force behind a Global Centre of Excellence based around bioscience, the zero-carbon economy and the potential of green steel.**

The recommendation was made by the UK2070 Teesside Task Force in a major report looking at how to tackle inequality in the region and provide opportunities for jobs and growth.

The Teesside Taskforce was established by the UK2070 Commission to work with the Tees Valley Mayor and Combined Authority to support the long-standing aspirations for a major increase in the number and quality of job opportunities in Tees Valley.

The Global Centre of Excellence will build upon Teesside University's established reputation of working together with industry to deliver impact, particularly in the fields of bioscience, innovation and sustainability.

University facilities and initiatives such as the National Horizons Centre, the forthcoming Net Zero Industry Innovation Centre and its Centre for Sustainable Engineering will play a major role in helping deliver the ambitions of the Global Centre of Excellence.

The Teesside Taskforce report also recommends that Teesside University's Ambition Delivered Today 2027 strategy is accelerated and for the University to work with the Combined Authority to establish new processes for local community engagement to strengthen the benefits of devolution.

Teesside University Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive, Professor Paul Croney,

OBE, said: 'Universities are engines of innovation and impact. I am delighted to see this evidenced within the Commission's findings and wholeheartedly support the recommendation to establish a Centre of Excellence in the Tees Valley.'

'From supporting the growth of the economy, to delivering the transition to net zero, Teesside University will continue to contribute the knowledge, skills and insight to develop solutions that shape the future, today.'





## Insider secrets and the magic of movies and games have been brought to Middlesbrough for more than two decades by Teesside University's Animex Festival.

Most recently, experts from the world of animation who brought movie blockbusters such as *Fantastic Beasts* and *Star Wars* to life were among guest speakers at the annual event, which has just marked its 23rd year.

After temporarily going online during the pandemic, this year marked a new era for Animex with Middlesbrough Town Hall becoming a venue for the event, alongside the University campus. Celebrating the best of animation, VFX and computer games, Animex visitors also heard this year from industry experts who have worked on huge franchises including *Harry Potter*, *Shrek* and *Space Jam*.

The festival includes screenings, workshops and exhibitions, along with

industry speakers who share unique insights and interesting stories from behind the scenes of some of the world's biggest animated titles and computer games.

Teesside University graduates who are now forging careers in the industry are also regularly invited back. This year was the turn of Chris Goodyear and Bianca Iancu who have gone on to establish successful careers in animation, VFX and games after graduating.

Current students are also offered a chance to showcase their work at the festival, with a range of screenings, portfolio workshops and networking opportunities available,

Tim Brunton, Senior Lecturer

in Animation and Production Management from the University's School of Computing, Engineering & Digital Technologies, said: 'Teesside University has established itself as a global leader in animation, games and VFX training over the years, not least through its Animex Festival which has garnered an international reputation for excellence since it was founded in 2000.'

'We are extremely proud to be a driving force behind raising the profile of animation, games and VFX, not only in the region, but on a global scale, and the Animex Festival will continue to showcase the best and brightest talent within industry for generations to come.'

## UNIVERSITY LEADER HONoured *for services to regeneration*



### Teesside University's Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive has been recognised for his services to regeneration and higher education with a major award.

Professor Paul Croney was made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in the 2022 New Year Honours list.

Professor Croney, OBE, is recognised for his work to date over a 30-year career in higher education, throughout which he has sought to create educational opportunities that transform lives and economies, whilst putting students at the heart of the learning process.

Professor Croney, OBE, has worked in four universities and held a succession of leadership roles.

His work at Teesside University has seen it firmly established as an international university which contributes more than £288 million GVA to the economy.

Under Professor Croney, OBE's leadership, the University has played a leading role in regional regeneration, exemplified by the £300m investment in the campus masterplan.

Professor Croney, OBE, said: 'I am deeply honoured to be recognised for the impact of my work at this stage of my career and am proud to accept this

award on behalf of the many people, partners and businesses who have worked alongside me.

'The transformational impact of Teesside University is due to the determination, positivity and creativity of my colleagues across Team Teesside. This award recognises their tireless commitment to ensuring that we seize every opportunity to unlock potential.'



# Made on Teesside

As England's Lionesses shot to victory in the 2022 European Championships, it was the firepower of a Teesside University graduate who helped to secure their remarkable triumph.



Now Beth Mead is working with the University to help develop the next generation of female footballing superstars.

Since graduating in 2016 with a BA (Hons) Sports Development, Beth has enjoyed incredible success as a club player with Sunderland and Arsenal.

However, her crowning glory to date was the Lionesses triumph this summer which culminated with the 2-1 win over Germany in a front of a sell-out crowd at Wembley Stadium.

Beth played an integral role in England's path to victory, scoring six goals and propelling the team to the final.

Her exploits in the tournament won her the Golden Boot and she was also named player of the tournament by UEFA for her incredible performances.

Teesside University's role in Beth's development as an international superstar has been acknowledged with a special commemorative plaque.

All 23 members of England's Euro 2022 winning squad have had a golden plaque unveiled at a local club or location that was important during the early stages of their footballing journey to honour the part they played in the Lionesses' historic European Championship victory.

The Beth Mead plaque has been installed in the reception area of the Olympia Building at Teesside University.

Will Jones, Head of Sport at Teesside University, said: 'We are incredibly proud of Beth and everything that she has achieved.'

'She is a fantastic ambassador for our University and for the region as a whole. 'What the Lionesses achieved this summer was incredible and it will have a transformational impact on the women's game in this country.'

'Beth is a role model for so many young people and we are delighted to have a permanent reminder of her success here at Teesside University which I hope will help to inspire our current and future students.'

However, her legacy will also have a human element with the first four Beth Mead Scholars beginning their studies at Teesside University this September.

The scholars each receive a bursary of £1,200 as well as bespoke sport science support to help them unlock their full potential. This will include strength and conditioning, physiotherapy, sport nutrition, sport psychology, biomechanical analysis and sport physiology from a team of experts at Teesside University.

Beth said: 'The support I received from Teesside University was invaluable. I was fortunate to turn professional while still studying and, although it was a challenge, I am incredibly thankful that I was able to obtain my degree while also starting out on my professional football career.'

'I think it is really important that talented female footballers are given the platform and support network to flourish. The women's game has really taken off in recent years and young women are starting to see that football is a viable career.'

'I am delighted to be working with Teesside University to offer this scholarship and hope it will inspire other talented female footballers to succeed and follow their dreams.'

This unique scholarship has received praise from all quarters including former Lionesses manager and Manchester United and England player, Phil Neville. He said: 'From the first time that I watched Beth play I knew that she was a special footballer. Alongside her ability on the field is her brilliant attitude and drive to succeed and be the best. But, for me, the most important quality Beth has is that she's an incredible person - always respectful and polite and is loved by all her teammates and coaches.'

'The scholarship is an amazing opportunity for these girls to get the best out of themselves and gain experience from someone like Beth.'





POSTGRADUATE STUDENT HUB



NET ZERO INDUSTRY INNOVATION CENTRE (NZIIC)



BIOS



# EVOLUTION OF CAMPUS *continues at pace*

**The Campus Masterplan reinforces Teesside's position as an ambitious global University which is committed to investing in our region and helping establish the Tees Valley as a thriving hub of enterprise, inspiration and creativity.**

With £275m invested to date, the Campus Masterplan is the largest programme of investment Teesside University has ever seen, and it has helped create a modern and vibrant campus environment to rival any in the sector.

This year we have been able to forge ahead with our dynamic programme of investment with a number of new developments.

Find out more at [tees.ac.uk/campusdevelopments](https://tees.ac.uk/campusdevelopments)

## POSTGRADUATE STUDENT HUB

The former Buttery building has been transformed into a dedicated campus space for postgraduate students.

Opening this academic year, the Postgraduate Student Hub is a £5m project which was developed in consultation with students.

It provides an innovative space exclusively for our postgraduate students and researchers to study, collaborate and socialise on campus.

The new and vibrant facility provides individual and collaborative workspaces, quiet study zones, media booths and state of the art digital facilities, as well as a social lounge and refreshment facilities.



## NET ZERO INDUSTRY INNOVATION CENTRE (NZIIC)

This industry-led, and industry-focused, £13.1m national centre of excellence will support the ongoing drive for clean energy and sustainability.

The NZIIC will play a vital role in the delivery of net zero ambitions for the region and the UK. A hub for industrial decarbonisation and a national centre of excellence for net zero technologies, it positions Teesside firmly at the heart of the UK's green industrial revolution, providing a focus for major investment.

Work has recently been completed on the NZIIC, which is located at the expanding Tees Valley Net Zero Innovation Hub. It received £5.2 million in funding from the Tees Valley Mayor and Combined Authority and the European Regional Development Fund.

The NZIIC will grow net zero capabilities and opportunities, creating hundreds more clean energy jobs and strengthening the existing innovation ecosystem through provision of specialist facilities and support.



## BIOS

Work has recently started on BIOS, a new £35m central science and medical building which will further transform and modernise the learning experience for our health students.

BIOS will be a high-quality, state-of-the-art new facility at the heart of our Middlesbrough campus and will provide cutting-edge new laboratories for the sciences and clinical subjects.

Supporting the School of Health & Life Sciences, BIOS will house four floors of cutting-edge lab space for subjects including anatomy, imaging, microbiology, chemistry, earth sciences and food sciences.

The £35m development includes specialist equipment to enable new and interactive forms of learning for core health and allied health provision.

It is an exciting time for Teesside University and the projects within the Campus Masterplan perfectly align with the needs of our students, partners and industry.







Watch the video of Rory and Sophie's conversation.

# Meet

## RORY AND SOPHIE

UNDERWOOD MBE DL SPENCE

International rugby stars Rory Underwood MBE DL, who was recently awarded an honorary degree from Teesside University, and Sophie Spence, who discovered the sport as a student here, have seen incredible success throughout their professional careers. We sat down with them both to find out more...



**Tell us a bit about how you got into rugby**

**S:** I didn't have a clue what rugby was, even when I was 21. I played netball up until that point and it was only when I finished my degree and stayed on to do a master's when me and my friend who I worked with in the Students' Union decided to give something else a go. So, we turned up to the Freshers' Fair and signed ourselves up. I tried to score a try over the try line and slammed the ball down like American football. I was completely clueless. I suppose the rest of the story goes from there. I was exposed to really good international players, really good coaches, and I was just like a sponge

– learning in every single session that I went to.

**R:** I went to school at Barnard Castle and started playing rugby at 11. We were all about football until we got to the main school, and I had no idea what rugby was. When they asked me which position I wanted to play in, the only one I recognised was a winger; I played as a winger on the football team because I was quick, and so that's the position I put down. Obviously, the rest is history.

**How important has rugby has been in your life?**

**R:** I've travelled the world, been on two tours with the Lions, seen some

fantastic places, played with the best of the best from the four home unions and played against the best countries. It's been one hell of an experience and it's shaped me into who I am as a person, so I think it's massive.

**S:** I think the biggest thing about rugby for me is it's a game for all. You meet all types of people that you may not have become friends with. It's a sport that everyone loves and it's a sport for all. I think that's really important.

**What would you say the standout moment has been in your rugby career?**

**R:** The highlight isn't always the one where you won the biggest game





on the biggest stage. Playing in the Pyramid Cup final at Twickenham, we lost to a penalty try in the last minute against Bath. 11 years later, they did the grudge match and they invited all the players from that game to go back and play. I'd been retired five or so years. I had my bag over my shoulder. I walked into the changing room, and it was like I was teleported 11 years back. All 15 of us were looking a little bit podgier and a bit greyer, but the banter around the room was exactly the same as it used to be. Just that hour or so in the changing room before the game was one of my highlights because of the camaraderie.

**S:** We won the Grand Slam [with Ireland] in 2013 so that was massive; we got a final game televised. It was an absolutely dreadful game. It was awful weather. There was a terrible, sandy pitch. It was a terrible game. But to come away with a Grand Slam and to see all the Irish flags and to see the crowd was incredible. To see it at home and the change that it did have for the amount of girls who actually picked up a rugby ball was just lovely.

**What impact do you think the Lionesses' success can have on encouraging young girls to pursue careers in sport?**

**R:** As big as you think your sport is, there are still hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of people who've probably never seen it and don't know anything about it, so the exposure the Lionesses have got is fantastic and I think it's opened our eyes. With their success, I'm sure there are lots more girls running around kicking a football now.

**S:** It's showed the younger generations that it's achievable and what they have to do to get there. There's a ladder system and they can say, 'Right I want to play football. Where's my local club? Sign me up. I

want to be a professional; what have I got to do?' There is that opportunity now for young girls to do that and these women winning the Euros are role models. To see the stadium filled the way it was and to see the game televised – it was just incredible.

**Do you think it's important for young and aspiring sportspeople to pursue education?**

**S:** One hundred percent. I work with students and all they wanted to do was go out, kick a football or throw a rugby ball around. I try to explain that sporting careers aren't going to last forever, unfortunately, and you need a

back-up plan. It's that focus element too. If you're having a bad few weeks in training, you need another focus. It's also about these players' wellbeing whilst they're in the sport and post-sport as well and I think that's what's important.

**R:** I've seen many players along the way retire in their twenties because of an injury in the professional game and suddenly their whole plan has been blown out the window. With regards to any sort of qualification, you need to get something that can help you. It is a duty of care, especially for any professional clubs, to try to make sure

players set themselves ready. Trying to give somebody something else that they can walk into is massively important.

**Teesside University is proud to support talented athletes to accomplish their sporting and academic goals through its Performance Sport pathway and extensive scholarship opportunities.**



Find out more



## A Teesside University graduate who combined his professional footballing career with study played a pivotal role in helping a Belgian football team win promotion.

Christian Burgess swapped his League One place with Portsmouth for Brussels back in 2020, when he joined Royale Union Saint-Gilloise.

He went on to play a key role in the club's recent success which saw the team promoted to the Belgian first division in the 2020/21 season, marking a return to the top league after 48 years - then finish second in 2021/22 to secure a place in the Champions League.

Christian previously played for a number of other UK football teams, including Middlesbrough FC and Hartlepool United, establishing links with Teesside University while completing a degree part-time.

He graduated from Teesside University in 2014 with a First Class BA (Hons) History, squeezing in study while playing professional football. His dissertation on the naval arms race between Britain and Germany before the First World War was nominated for a national prize.

Christian said: 'To me, education has always been important. My parents are both teachers and always emphasised how important education was. I'd always acknowledged that football doesn't work out for everybody, so it was important I had education to fall back on.'

'I'd always enjoyed history in school, so it was the logical decision to go on

to study something I enjoyed so I'd be more motivated.'

And although combining a professional football career with study and lectures was challenging, success in the classroom was just as important as achievements on the football pitch for Christian.

He said: 'It was challenging during my final year. I was studying while playing in lots of matches.'

'I managed to get to the library most days after training, as well as on my days off and really work hard to try and do as well as I possibly could.'

## Graduate's role IN HELPING BELGIAN FOOTBALL CLUB ACHIEVE GOAL

## EMPOWERING WOMEN *through charity work*

### A caring Teesside University graduate is making a real difference as founder and Director of Women Today, a charity empowering women in the North East and beyond.

Locardia Chidanyika, originally from Zimbabwe, was inspired to complete her undergraduate and master's degrees in public health at Teesside University by her passion for helping people.

After working for Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation as Equality and Diversity Officer, she turned her attention to community-based support and set up Women Today, a charity to empower women.

It began in Middlesbrough in 2017 when Locardia found that a lot of the Black African women she went to church with were facing challenges in their lives and unaware of the support services available to them.

She started inviting organisations such as the police, NHS and social services to come to the church and raise awareness

about how all women could access support for issues including health, wellbeing, employability and education.

Her work evolved into Women Today, which has grown substantially over the years and become a powerhouse for championing women, providing a safe space to access support, improve lives and feel part of a community.

It has branched out to reach more women across the world, with a base in Middlesbrough and connections in America, South Africa, Kenya and Zimbabwe.

Locardia said: 'I've always been a people person and wanted to help. There's nothing that beats putting a smile on somebody's face by supporting them.'

'The beauty is in knowing you're making a real difference to the lives of women,

many of whom have faced a number of difficult challenges – it makes everything we do worthwhile. We're here, we're making a difference, we want to be part of the community and we want to give back.'

Studying at Teesside University has become a tradition for her family, as Locardia, her twin sister and niece are all proud Teesside graduates.

She added: 'For me, I didn't just achieve the certificates and the qualification at Teesside University, I achieved more. I got family from it, I got my confidence, I got my skills. Everything that I am is because of everything I got at Teesside University. Without it I wouldn't be where I am today.'







*Delivering vital aid*

## THROUGH THE PANDEMIC

**A kind-hearted graduate delivered vital food, medical aid and other essentials to people and families in need in Malaysia during the pandemic.**

Dixon Liu, from Malaysia, helped people in Kuala Lumpur and the surrounding area who suffered serious financial strain after losing their jobs during lockdown.

Dixon's company, Thexacomp Solutions, was one of the many organisations at the forefront of this humanitarian work, working to provide basic supplies to those most affected by the pandemic.

One mission involved providing medicine and food to a care centre which supports 105 disabled children and adults.

'We are very pleased to be able to offer help to those in need during these difficult times and glad to see that our work is having a real impact on the day-to-day lives of people in the area,' Dixon said of his company's humanitarian work in the Malaysian capital.

Thexacomp Solutions has been working alongside Robin Food, which the company developed to provide necessities such as nappies and baby formula to families with babies.

Many tonnes of food and baby formula were delivered to small villages in Pahang from donations to Robin Food.

Dixon studied BA (Hons) Graphic Design and graduated in 2011.

He set up Thexacomp Solutions based on work he did in his final year project at the University.

The company initially worked to provide essential IT solutions to businesses and has now expanded into medical robotics, 3D graphic design and programming, and broadcasting.

Dixon believes that his company has a responsibility to do what it can to look after people, particularly after it was fortunate enough to endure through the pandemic.

He said: 'Companies generate their revenue from customers and society. During these trying times, companies should step up and help in any way possible.'

'We will continue to assist in years to come.'



**STUDY**  
anytime,  
anywhere



**Online learning**  
allows you to get a university-level qualification from the comfort of your own home or workplace.



**ONLINE  
LEARNING**



# OVERCOMING ADVERSITY TO *celebrate graduation*



## A resilient Teesside University graduate has achieved her lifelong ambition of a career in nursing after returning to education as a mature student.

The higher apprenticeship route enabled Lisa Tomlinson-Cowie, 46, from Stockton-on-Tees, to follow her dream career.

After completing the FdSc Nursing Associate programme in the School of Health & Life Sciences and sitting her exams in the height of the pandemic, Lisa graduated from the class of 2020 as a qualified nursing associate.

She said: 'Seeing everybody in their robes and just generally having a good time after working so hard was amazing because that's what it's all about. Even though it was a little bit later because of the pandemic, it was still just as special.'

'I hadn't been on campus for two years, so it was lovely to walk around. It looks a lot different today than when I was studying here. It's grown and expanded massively so that's good to see as well.'

While juggling her studies, work placements and life as a mum, Lisa found the time to raise thousands for charity and raise awareness as a cancer survivor, having overcome cervical cancer as well as cancer in her appendix.

Lisa also achieved her career ambition, and now works as a Nursing Associate at North Tees & Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust in

the outpatient department, specialising in dermatology.

She valued the balance between real-world experience and academic study she got with the higher apprenticeship and enjoyed learning on the job as she worked towards her qualification.

Lisa added: 'The course played a massive part in getting me to where I am today because I'm an older student and, in reality, I wouldn't have been able to afford to come to university if I hadn't have done it through the apprenticeship with the support from North Tees & Hartlepool NHS Trust.'

# MAKING A MARK IN GRAPHIC DESIGN

**Since graduating from Teesside University in 2010 with a first-class honours degree in Graphic Design and Advertising, Sophie Karaer has made a name for herself as founder and Director of award-winning business Soka Studio Ltd.**

The Liverpool-based company offers graphic design services including branding and promotional design and has received various accolades as it has grown over the years such as the Micro Business of the Year Award at the CityX Business Awards in 2019.

Sophie said: 'I always really wanted to run my own company and become a Creative Director. That was my ambition from University onwards,

but if you had told me when I was a student that I'd be doing it before I turned 30 I wouldn't have believed it was possible.'

Sophie credits her experience of studying at Teesside University as a major influence in her success.

She added: 'The opportunity to meet like-minded, talented, creative people in my class was a huge influence on my career.'



# INTERNATIONAL SUCCESS FOR FASHION GRADUATE

**From fashion graduate to international modern artisan – Emily Dey is reaching new heights after being selected for a prestigious training programme in the fashion industry.**

Emily, from Middlesbrough, was selected for the Modern Artisan paid training programme in responsible fashion design and sustainable textile craftsmanship with online luxury and fashion retailer YOOX NET-A-PORTER and The Prince's Foundation last year.

The collaborative ten-month training opportunity brings together eight British and Italian artisans to complete immersive design training, guided

by industry experts at YOOX NET-A-PORTER headquarters in London and Milan.

As part of the programme, Emily, who completed her studies with a first-class honours degree in BA (Hons) Fashion Design in 2020, is designing and handcrafting a luxury womenswear collection with sustainability at its heart.

Emily said: 'I have had such an amazing time on the programme. I have met so many lovely, talented people. The amount of knowledge and experience I have gained is amazing and I feel very lucky to be part of such an exciting programme. It has already taught me so much that I can take forward into my future career.'





## TEESSIDE UNIVERSITY EXPANDS ITS *global footprint*

**Teesside University's efforts to support international students and further expand its global footprint has resulted in outstanding feedback in the International Student Barometer (ISB) as well as a partnership with leading international education provider Study Group.**

In the International Student Barometer (ISB) 2021, Teesside University was ranked number one out of 96 global universities for overall satisfaction.\*

The University also achieved high levels of satisfaction across all areas of the survey, reaching first place position in 30 different categories including overall happiness, value for money and employability.

Teesside University is committed to supporting international students to progress to higher education and began a partnership with leading international education provider Study Group earlier last year to offer university preparation programmes.

The programmes enable international students to progress to study undergraduate and postgraduate

degrees at Teesside University, a higher education institution that has a strong focus on employability.

Reflecting a commitment to closely engaging with business and student employability, the pathway programmes from Study Group's International Study Centre at Teesside University involve course delivery by industry-active lecturers with professional competencies embedded into the curricula.

The University values its international community and strives to attract talent from across the world, with a recent report highlighting the positive impact of international students.

The report 'The costs and benefits of international higher education students to the UK economy', published

by the Higher Education Policy Institute (HEPI) and Universities UK International (UUKi), found that just one year's intake is worth over £240m to the Tees Valley economy.

Dr David Bell, Pro Vice-Chancellor (International) at Teesside University, said: 'Teesside is an international university, working in partnership with global institutions to deliver education.

'We truly value all of our international students and the contributions they make to our university and the region as a whole.'

\*Based on the views of 1,295 students within a global survey response of 92,019 students. More info at: [tribalgroupparticipants.com](https://tribalgroupparticipants.com)



# 5 REASONS TO STUDY A MASTER'S

## 1 Become the expert

Absorb yourself in a subject you love. It can be intellectually stimulating and hugely rewarding. Become an expert in a subject that excites you.

## 2 Improve your salary

Invest in yourself. The median average salary for working-age (16-64) postgraduates in 2021 was **£6,000** more than graduates (Graduate Labour Market Statistics 2021, [tees.ac.uk/source](https://tees.ac.uk/source)).

## 3 Stand out from the crowd

Get a higher-level qualification, specialist knowledge and expand your networks. It will help you stand out from other job applicants.

## 4 Change career

Do you dream about changing your career and following your passion? Consider a conversion course from a wide range of disciplines.

## 5 Take on a new challenge

Focus on your personal development. Improve your teamworking, project management and research skills.

And we can help you make it happen. You may be eligible for a postgraduate master's loan of up to **£11,836** and we've a **20% discount** for Teesside University graduates.

Find out more  
[tees.ac.uk/postgraduate](https://tees.ac.uk/postgraduate)



# World-leading research

## THAT TRANSFORMS LIVES AND SHAPES SOCIETY



**From improving cancer treatment for children, tackling childhood obesity, or helping to move towards cleaner, greener energy provision, Teesside University is delivering research that makes a difference to individuals, organisations and society.**

The University has launched a new Research and Innovation Strategy and has also excelled in the recent Research Excellence Framework (REF), which assess the quality of research across UK universities and is a significant factor when determining funding.

Teesside's Research and Innovation Strategy 2022-2027, 'Recovery, Regeneration, Renewal', will see the University invest in and deliver impactful research around three broad themes of net zero, health and people and place.

REF 2021 was a perfect example of Teesside's ambitions and saw the University almost double the volume of its 'world-leading' research whilst maintaining or enhancing scores across the three main criteria – output, impact and environment.

Areas of strength, which demonstrated considerable impact in REF, included:

### **Smarter, greener energy solutions:**

Researchers have developed smart tools that automatically adapt to changing energy demand and production. This work has led to more accurate predictions of energy need and a significant reduction in energy wastage.

### **Combatting organised crime:**

Teesside University research has informed the development of key national security strategies to counter criminal activity and illicit financing, helping to make communities safer and reducing social harm.

### **Curbing childhood obesity:**

Research from Teesside University resulted in new rules banning the advertising of products high in fat, sugar or salt in children's media, improving the health and wellbeing of the nation's young people.

### **Placing disability arts centre stage:**

Researchers at Teesside University have ensured the creativity of those with disabilities is centre stage in the arts and mainstream media. This work has improved the representation of disability in public and cultural spaces, driving positive social change and inclusivity.

Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive of Teesside University, Professor Paul Crony, OBE, said: 'The results from the Research Excellence Framework demonstrate our commitment to levelling-up, driving social impact, improving health and wellbeing and supporting the net zero agenda.'

'Not only have we significantly improved the number of staff who have submitted to REF, but we have ensured that this work has considerable and measurable impact which helps to transform lives and economies.'

## RESEARCH HERALDS CANCER TREATMENT BREAKTHROUGH

**Teesside University researchers have helped to make a major breakthrough which could lead to new approaches to cancer patient treatment.**

An international study involving Teesside University researchers based at the National Horizons Centre has made an important discovery in understanding the biology of aggressive lymphoma which could lead to new approaches to therapy.

The research has, for the first time, unravelled the role of mutations in a gene present in the development of lymphomas and highlighted a specific gene which may be more receptive to treatment.

Researchers identified the DDX3X gene on the X chromosome in lymphomagenesis and identified the homologous gene DDX3Y on the Y chromosome as an attractive therapeutic target.

The work was led by Dr Dan Hodson at the University of Cambridge.

As part of the study Professor Vikki Rand and colleagues, Dr Peixun Zhou and Ms Alex Blain, at Teesside University's National Horizons Centre contributed to the mutational analysis and investigated the expression of the protein in samples obtained from children diagnosed with Burkitt lymphoma from hospitals across the UK via the Children's Cancer and Leukaemia Group.

The team found that the mutations detected cause loss of function which inactivates the DDX3X gene – a potentially game-changing breakthrough in cancer treatment.

Professor Vikki Rand, Interim Director of the National Horizons Centre (NHC), said: 'The discovery of the relationship between these genes has identified a new therapeutic strategy for male lymphoma patients.'

'This study proposes that we could therapeutically target this specific gene directly or disrupt the balance of protein making and too much protein in the cancer cell.'

'This is an exciting development towards a more personalised, less intensive and more effective approach to cancer treatment.'

## The National Horizons Centre has also entered into a partnership with RareCan, a novel company set up to accelerate research into rare cancers.

The partnership will see the National Horizons Centre build specific cohorts of samples and data for rare cancers for future research projects and clinical trials. Researchers at the National Horizons Centre are using cutting-edge approaches to identify mutations in a subset of tissue samples to enrich and expand knowledge and data available for these rare cancers.

RareCan is the first and only company using technology to bring together consenting patients, secure data, and bio-samples, enabling researchers to develop new and improved treatments for rare cancers, changing people's lives.





## NEW RESEARCH HELPING DIABETICS



**A team of researchers from Teesside University and the University of British Columbia found that a change in diet can be a key tool in the reversal of Type 2 diabetes.**

Results from the 12-week study revealed people can effectively control their Type 2 diabetes through a specialised diet managed by local pharmacists, who are ideally positioned to supervise the intervention.

Participants, all living with Type 2 diabetes, were given a meal plan of low-calorie, low-carbohydrate, higher-protein foods and they checked in regularly with their pharmacist who could monitor their medications.

Half of the participants in the study followed the low-calorie, low-carbohydrate, higher-protein diet and, after 12 weeks, more than one-third

of participants with Type 2 diabetes were off all diabetes medications, versus none in the control group. The first group also noted substantial improvements to their glucose control, average body weight, systolic blood pressure and overall health.

Co-investigator Alan Batterham, Professor of Health Sciences at Teesside University, said: 'This indicates that community pharmacists are a viable and innovative option for implementing short-term nutritional interventions for people with Type 2 diabetes, particularly when medication management is a safety concern.'

## REDUCING THE CARBON FOOTPRINT BRICK BY BRICK

**A unique brick made from recycled clay, developed with the support of Teesside University, has the potential to make a major contribution to reducing the carbon footprint of the building industry.**



(L-R): BOB BORTHWICK, FEYSAL SHIFA AND PETER SCOTT WITH THE PROTOTYPE BRICKS

Stockton-based waste recycling firm Scott Bros has made a breakthrough in its quest to create a brick engineered from recycled waste clay.

The project was developed from a Knowledge Transfer Partnership with Teesside University, researching the different uses for 'filter cake' – a by-product of construction and excavation waste.

Scott Bros' recycling innovation engineer Feysal Shifa, a Teesside University graduate, has succeeded in producing three prototype bricks which are already attracting interest from one of the UK's major housebuilders, together with

an Australian specialist in recycled products.

The brick could allow the construction industry to improve its sustainability by using a greater proportion of recycled resources, supporting the circular economy and helping to reduce the UK's carbon footprint.

Feysal said: 'While we need to carry out further research to perfect this recycled brick – a first of its kind – it represents a real breakthrough which could have far-reaching consequences as this country transitions to a net zero future.'

## PANDEMIC RESEARCH REVEALS DIY DENTISTRY AND VACCINE HESITANCE

**While the far-reaching impact of the pandemic continues to be felt, research teams at Teesside University have already examined repercussions of the lockdown and debate surrounding vaccines.**



DR JUDITH EBERHARDT,  
SENIOR LECTURER IN PSYCHOLOGY

Research into the local impact of the Covid-19 lockdown on oral health revealed how some people had resorted to do-it-yourself dentistry.

Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) student Rachael England examined the impact on the oral health habits of local communities across Teesside during the early lockdown at the beginning of the pandemic and closure of dental practices.

Rachael said: 'The Covid-19 lockdown had a serious negative impact on oral health. For many people the oral hygiene routine was interrupted, and people were brushing and cleaning between their teeth less often.'

'Sales of temporary filling materials shot up during the lockdown and one participant contacted me to say

she feels let down by the healthcare system after being unable to access an emergency dentist and had resorted to extracting her own tooth.'

Another team examined the reluctance of some people across the UK to have the Covid-19 vaccine. Led by Teesside University academic Dr Judith Eberhardt, the research findings showed that more people would have been vaccinated if they thought the virus posed a significant risk to them.

Dr Eberhardt, Senior Lecturer in Psychology in the University's School of Social Sciences, Humanities & Law, worked alongside Professor Jonathan Ling from the University of Sunderland.

Their findings showed some people to say they would be more likely to be vaccinated if they felt more susceptible

to infection. They also discovered that the stronger an individual held conspiracy theory beliefs, the less likely they were to receive the vaccine.

Dr Eberhardt, from the University's Centre for Applied Psychological Science and the Centre for Social Innovation, said: 'Unvaccinated individuals also had greater conspiracy beliefs about COVID-19 than vaccinated ones.'

'These findings have important implications for campaigns to increase the uptake of the vaccine, because they suggest that successful campaigns should use strategies that emphasise how severe COVID-19 can be and that anyone can catch it.'



# Keeping IN TOUCH

**More than 50 members of our alumni community gathered for a special reunion event on campus.**

Members of Teesside University's alumni community were joined by internationally renowned mountaineer and honorary graduate Alan Hinkes, OBE, when they returned to campus for a special reunion on 25 June.

Alan Hinkes, OBE, made history as the first Briton to successfully scale all 14 of the world's highest peaks, each standing at over 8,000m. He shared stories about his adventures and how he overcame challenges to achieve such a monumental and dangerous mountaineering goal.

Attendees enjoyed tours of the University to see how the campus has developed over the years, including visits to Teesside University's start-up incubator, Launchpad, and networked with fellow graduates from across the years.



# SCHOLARSHIP *celebration*

**Teesside University donors and scholars came together for a special event to celebrate the impact of scholarship support on individuals and communities across the region.**

The event on 4 May involved students speaking with pride on how scholarships have positively impacted their lives and are helping them to achieve their ambitions. Generous Teesside supporters from the University's alumni and business community were in attendance, including Thirteen Group, the Tees Valley Community Foundation, and Ken Home Engineering.

Professor Paul Croney, OBE, Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive, hosted the scholarship celebration this year and spoke to guests about the impact of the Teesside Transformation Fund – a flagship initiative that breaks down barriers and empowers people to access higher education and reach their full potential.

Professor Croney, OBE, said: 'The Teesside Transformation Fund builds on work already taking place, helping to drive academic ambition, raise aspirations across the Tees Valley, and provide learning opportunities for all.'



# Class notes



## SAS WINNER

**Paige Zima, who graduated from Teesside University in 2022 with a BSc (Hons) Forensic Science, pushed her mind and body to the limit as she overcame psychological and physical challenges to win Channel 4's SAS: Who Dares Wins.**

The single mother-of-two from County Durham faced intense interrogation, hand-to-hand combat, a cliff freefall and a room full of CS gas during the series to prove she has what it takes to pass the recreated special forces selection test and become the show's youngest female finalist. After losing her father to suicide in 2019, Paige signed up for the show to challenge herself, break down barriers and empower others. She said: 'Winning the show

has been life changing. I now believe in myself more than I could ever describe. 'When you come from nothing and life has beaten you down in so many ways, it's easy to fall victim, feel sorry for yourself and convince yourself you'll remain where you are. Winning reassures my belief that I can and will move forward in life.' Paige now hopes to pursue a career with the National Crime Agency after winning a place on the Police Now national graduate programme.

## CHAINS OF OFFICE

**A Teesside University alumnus, Dr Alan Dowson, has been elected the mayor of Peterborough.**

Dr Dowson studied at the then Constantine College as a mature student in the early 1960s after completing his national service. He then went on to complete a PhD here in 1997 on 'Planning Inner City Middlesbrough'. Originally from Middlesbrough, Dr Dowson moved to Peterborough in 1968 and

has sat on Peterborough City Council since 1971. He was appointed as mayor in May 2022. During his term of office as mayor, Dr Dowson will work with various organisations to assist with issues and hardships faced by the citizens of Peterborough during and coming out of the pandemic.



## TALENTED AUTHORS



**Jenna Warren (MA Creative Writing, 2008) is celebrating the release of her debut novel, *The Moon and Stars*.**

Loosely inspired by the story of *The Phantom of the Opera*, the novel draws on Jenna's passion for musical theatre and is tinged with a touch of romance. Jenna, who owns the acclaimed independent bookshop, The Book Corner in Saltburn, said:

'I have a few ideas for future books. I'm currently working on another novel about music and performers. I'm still writing the first draft, so I'm excited to see where it goes.' *The Moon and Stars* is published by Fairlight Books.



**Joe J. Walker (BA (Hons) Film and Television, 2020) developed the idea for his novel, *The Chains of Daisy*, while completing his degree.**

The love story, which is based in New York, was published through Amazon, securing a place among the platform's best-performing e-books and has also been accepted for expanded distribution to several High Street bookstores. Joe, who is originally from Middlesbrough and now based

in York, is now planning on pursuing a career as a filmmaker. He said: 'Considering it's my first book the reviews have been wonderful so far and I am still in a state of disbelief most of the time when people tell me what they enjoyed about the book.'



***Butcher Boy Blue*, a crime thriller set in the North-East is the debut novel for alumnus Paul Hitchens.**

Since graduating in 1997 with a master's degree in Information Technology, Paul has published several non-fiction career guidebooks, but has now published his first novel about a 19-year-old youth from Hartlepool who becomes embroiled in a series of murders. Paul said: 'I've lived in various places including London,

Greece, Scotland and the French Alps, but I've always found that all roads lead back to the North-East. Besides, a hero from my hometown is long overdue. 'Now the novel is finally out there, there's a tiny touch of pride, but my overwhelming sentiment is still mostly surprise that I've achieved what I set out to do.'



### Literary Honour

Congratulations to celebrated novelist and Teesside University honorary graduate Adele Parks, who was made a Member of the British Empire (MBE) in the 2022 Queen's New Year Honours list for services to literature.

Adele, who grew up in Eaglescliffe, has published 22 best-selling novels, selling over four million copies and translated into 31 different languages. In 2009, she was awarded a Doctorate of Letters from Teesside University.





# MAKING HEADLINES

Over the past year, staff and students from Teesside University have continued to make headlines around the world featuring in over 3,000 news articles and seen by almost 600 million people. Here are some of the highlights you may have seen:

## SEPTEMBER 2021



The announcement of a new training facility specialising in vaccine technology, led in partnership with the Centre for Process Innovation and Teesside University's National Horizons Centre, received substantial coverage including features on ITV, MSN News and the Daily Express.

## OCTOBER 2021



Professor Tim Thompson's research into what happens to our bodies were we to die in space featured in The Conversation as well outlets in South Asia including the Hindustan Times and The Tribune (India).

## NOVEMBER 2021

Dr Jamie Bojko's theory as to what was causing the mysterious deaths of crustaceans on the North-East coast was covered in The Guardian and on the BBC as well as multiple regional media outlets.

## DECEMBER 2021

Leading archaeology outlet Current Archaeology featured work by Dr Gillian Taylor investigating how climate change was impacting Roman remains in peat bogs at Vindolanda on Hadrian's Wall. This was subsequently covered on Radio 4, BBC World Service, The Daily Mail and BBC Countryfile.

## JANUARY 2022

The Order of the British Empire awarded to Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive Professor Paul Croney was covered by The BBC and Times Higher Education, as well as regional media.

Volcanologist Dr Katy Chamberlain was interviewed on BBC Radio Scotland about the devastating tsunami in Tonga.

## FEBRUARY 2022



Professor Paul Crawshaw was interviewed on BBC News and BBC Radio 5 about the impact of the new levelling-up white paper.

BBC Radio Ulster had an interview with historian Dr Roisin Higgins, who is working on a sensory history project to highlight the impact of the Northern Irish Troubles. This work was also published in The Irish Times.

Professor Nigel Copsey, a specialist in fascism and anti-fascism, contributed to an article exploring the life of fascist leader Oswald Moseley in the BBC History magazine History Extra.

Criminologist Professor Georgios Antonopoulos was quoted in a BBC Sport article examining the case of a bomb attack on a Greek football referee.

## MARCH 2022

The Times, international newspaper The Australian and The Conversation had a substantial feature giving a running guide for beginners with expert advice from physiotherapy lecturers Nathan Liddle and Jonathan Taylor.

## APRIL 2022

Dr Tarela Ike, Lecturer in Criminology and Policing, explored issues around public trust in the Nigerian police for a piece in The Conversation. This was also picked up in international publications Modern Ghana and All Africa.

## MAY 2022

Dr Christopher Massey considered how we can apply what we have learned from the General Strike of 1926 to managing railway strikes today, in a piece published by MSN News and The i.

## JUNE 2022



A piece originally written for The Conversation by food academic Dr Laura Brown outlining how some vegetables are more nutritious when cooked received widespread coverage in the media including The Sun, MSN News and Reader's Digest.

## JULY 2022

Advice on use-by dates by nutrition expert Dr Laura Brown featured in The Daily Mail.



The goalscoring heroics of alumna Beth Mead, and her links to Teesside University, as she propelled the England Lionesses on to glory in the European Cup were covered around the world including The Daily Mail, The Guardian, TalkSport, The Times, Telegraph, BBC News and The Independent.

# IN MEMORIAM

## JANICE WEBSTER

Janice's contribution to Teesside University and the Tees Valley business community was immeasurable.

At Teesside, she founded the ground-breaking MSc Computer Aided Graphical Technology Applications (CAGTA) - the first animation course of its kind in the country - thus establishing our University as a world-leading centre for animation and digital arts.

As the first Director of DigitalCity, she founded an initiative which has helped create hundreds of highly skilled jobs and businesses across the Tees Valley and has been instrumental in developing the region as a vibrant and innovative tech hub.

In her retirement, she continued to engage with our University and the Tees Valley community, providing mentorship and support to multiple young businesses.

Janice will be rightly remembered as an inspiration by many of the region's most successful entrepreneurs.

Lynsey Robinson, Director of DigitalCity, said: 'Even when Janice had retired she was always interested and keen to support DigitalCity.'

'She gave her time generously to support many of our advisory groups and governance boards but it was the support she gave me personally that I will always be thankful for.'

Cheryl Evans, Project Manager at DigitalCity, added: 'Janice was the most pioneering woman I have ever met. She knew instinctively what the next big innovation would be and that's how Teesside University was the first in the UK to have a fully immersive VR Centre. She was a true inspiration who will be sadly missed.'



## IAN THOMPSON – BA (HONS) PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (1964-2020)

On graduating from Teesside University in 1986, Ian joined Thames Valley Police where he spent five years on uniform response and in the traffic department before transferring to North Yorkshire Police in 1991.

At North Yorkshire Police he carried out several different operational and command roles, working his way up to the rank of Chief Inspector.

Following his retirement in 2016, he was appointed CEO of British APCO, a leading UK-based association for all professionals using or developing public safety technology. Teesside University remained a major part of

Ian's life. While here he made a close group of friends who he regularly holidayed with.

Because of his fond memories of his time at Teesside he was inspired to become a mentor at the University, working with students, giving them career advice.

Ian spoke positively of this experience, describing it as a fresh challenge but one which he felt made a big difference to the lives of the young people he helped.

In return, his mentees described how the support Ian offered made a big difference in helping to improve their CV writing and secure placement opportunities.



## DR JOHN FOSTER, OBE

Dr John Foster, OBE, served as Middlesbrough Borough Council's most senior officer between 1973 and 1995.

During a long and varied career spanning a period of economic, social and cultural change, the widely admired civil servant oversaw the development of Coulby Newham, pursued a wide range of public and private sector partnerships and forged links with Teesside University.

Following his retirement in 1996 after local government reorganisation, Dr Foster, OBE, was made a Freeman of the Borough of Middlesbrough, as well as serving as a former Deputy Lord Lieutenant of North Yorkshire and being made an OBE in 1986.

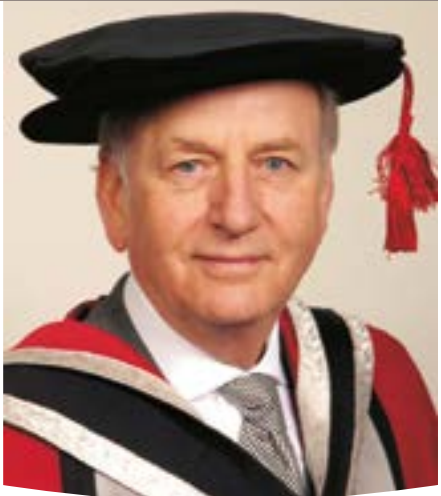
Dr Foster, OBE, was awarded an honorary degree from Teesside University in 2007, also serving as a member of its board of

governors and as chairman of South Tees NHS Hospitals Trust.

In 2011 the University named the Foster Building on Stephenson Street - home for Teesside University's Centre for International Development and its health and safety team - in his honour.

Professor Paul Croney, OBE, Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive of Teesside University, said: 'Dr John Foster, OBE, played an instrumental role in the development of the University, and was recognised with an honorary degree and a building named in his honour.'

'His many years of dedicated service to this region have created a real legacy and will continue to inspire the people of Middlesbrough.'







**GRADUATE  
TALENT POOL**



# Looking for your first graduate job?

## Join TU talent pool today

- > New employer connections
- > Graduate jobs, jobs, jobs
- > Personalised, professional employability and enterprise support
- > Updates on the latest recruitment events
- > Online resources for stand out CVs and interviews

[tees.ac.uk/studentfutures](https://tees.ac.uk/studentfutures)

## Already working?

We can offer expertise and student and graduate talent to help your employer with their vacancies and skills gaps

[tees.ac.uk/sections/business/recruit\\_talent.cfm](https://tees.ac.uk/sections/business/recruit_talent.cfm)



**STUDENT FUTURES**