

Class notes

On these pages we share a small selection of your successes since graduating. Some of these submissions have been edited so that we can feature as many as possible. You can read more updates from alumni online, via: www.le.ac.uk/through-the-ages

1950s

Maureen Ambrose (née Oliver) (BA English, 1959)

My husband Douglas was just about to start at Leicester when we met in the summer of 1955. We fell in love and I decided to study at Leicester too. After graduation I returned to Sunderland and studied at Newcastle for my Dip Ed year. We married in 1960 and have two sons, two daughters and nine grandchildren. We both have good memories of our time there, especially the Saturday night hops. It would be great to hear about our contemporaries.

Brian Spencer (BA Zoology, 1959)

I wonder how many octogenarians are left in this class? I still have contact with a few. At Leicester, I played in and captained the first team soccer.

1960s

David Rex (BSc Combined Science, 1961; MSc Geology, 1968)

After graduating, I obtained a research assistant post in the Geochronology group at Oxford University. I completed an external MSc in 1967. Later that year I was appointed to a research post in Earth Sciences at the University of Leeds. From there I retired in 1996 as a principal research fellow. My wife and I now live in Bromyard, Herefordshire, walking and playing bridge. I am also a member of the Woolhope Naturalists Geology group.

David Keith Jones (BSc Mathematics, 1963; PGCE, 1964)

I was Secretary, then President, of the Mathematical Society and I also sang lead roles in two productions at Queen's Hall. I subsequently sang as a semi-professional in opera including Don Jose in *Carmen* and the oratorio role of Elgar's *Gerontius*, while keeping a day job until 2014. I gained 1,500,000 views on YouTube by 2011 and began releasing digital albums. I am now an independent arranger and vocalist on my own label, VoceVersatile.

Roger Tripp (BA Social Sciences, 1966)

Having worked in passenger transport planning in Greater Manchester for 40 years following my degree, I went with my wife to work in Uganda in 2007 at a centre for HIV/AIDS for three years. We were asked to return to support a Christian Mission, Pioneers International, and at the same time to support a Christian University. Seven years later, we are still doing that! We are currently in England on leave but return later in the year.

Michael Farmer (BSc Chemistry, 1964; PhD Chemistry, 1968)

I decided after my PhD that it was 60 per cent boring and 40 per cent exciting. I wanted something 100 per cent exciting. I completed a PGCE and taught, and had fun, for the next 35 years working in schools (secondary and primary), colleges and universities. I'm still having fun – see www.sciencemaster.co.uk

Neil Winton (BA Politics, 1969)

Currently a journalist freelancing for clients including *Forbes* after 33 years at Reuters, where I started as a graduate trainee.

Ather Mirza (BA English, 1982)



Felicity Sykes (née Dorling) (BSc Biological Sciences, 1969)

My first job was working as an AEO at Bath University Microbiology Department. We moved to North London and I started teaching, the career that I had always said was not for me. How could I have been so wrong? Fifty years on and I am still teaching, if only tutoring A-level Biology and tutoring for Buckingham University teacher training, all very part-time. I would be pleased to hear from contemporaries. There's a lifetime of news to catch-up on.

1970s

Jennifer Callow (BA Combined Studies, 1973)

Now fully retired, I spend two afternoons a week volunteering at the Primrose Hospice shop in Redditch town centre. It's a wonderfully rewarding way to give something back to the community – and to make friends. I can also spend more time visiting my beloved donkeys at the Sanctuary in Birmingham.

Gary Coleby (BA Social Sciences, 1973)

I retired from being a secondary head teacher in Leicester after 17 years, in 2007. After a little consultancy, I am now fully retired and share my time between

I organised a reunion this summer on campus for my 'Unipals' (that's the name of our WhatsApp group!). **Tariq Karim (BA Social Sciences, 1982)** even flew in from Miami. We toured the Percy Gee Students' Union Building, the Attenborough Tower and the David Wilson Library. Along with Tariq, we were joined by **Kuldip Kaur (BA Social Sciences, 1982)**, **Pratibha Mavani (BA Social Sciences, 1982)**, **Kulvinder Dhaliwal (BA Economics, 1982)**, **Kishoree Kotecha (LLB Law, 1982)** and **Naeem Raza** who studied Social Sciences. It was really great to reminisce about our time at Leicester and to catch-up with one another.

Doris Yang (BSc Economics, 1993)



We had a celebration dinner for our 25th anniversary this summer in Hong Kong, which was a joyful evening. We shared our funny and memorable events of our stay at the University – full of laughter. And we talked about Leicester City Football Club. That night, we watched the World Cup match: Belgium vs England. What a coincidence!

Leicester and the southwest coast in France.

Valerie Reilly (née England) (BA Combined Studies, 1974; PGCert Museum Studies, 1976)

I have now been retired for seven years and am loving every minute of it. I still go out on a regular basis doing lectures on social history and textile subjects to local history societies, church guilds and Women's Institutes. I am also a grandmother to a three-year-old grandson who is an absolute delight.

Fiona Mercer (née Robinson) (BA History, 1976; PGCE, 1997)

Living near Preston, I've been a primary school teacher for 20 years. I'm married to Stuart with two daughters, Evie and Kitty. I'm still best friends with Zoe who I met on our first day at Gilbert Murray Hall.

David Rogers (BSc Combined Science, 1979)

I have been retired from ExxonMobil since 2015. After a career of working internationally, I now live in rural North Powys within view of the Breidden Hills, which I mapped as an undergraduate!

Stephen While (BSc Psychology, 1979)

A reunion and celebration of our time in Leicester has been arranged for Friday 12 July 2019. The event is a combined

event for 1978 and 1979 Psychology graduates. The celebration will include a visit to the new psychology department. The Belmont Hotel on New Walk has been booked for an evening dinner and a special room rate including the dinner has been negotiated. For further details please contact me via the Alumni Office.

1980s

Christine Robertson (née Wilson) (BSc Biological Sciences, 1980)

Deputy Principal (Curriculum and Quality) at Kingston Maurward College. Married in 1981 to **Ross Robertson (BSc Biological Sciences, 1978)**.

Amrik (Riki) Mattoo (LLB Law, 1981)

Hello to all fellow LLBers from 1978-1981 and also hello to all the footballers from that same period when I was privileged to play for the University of Leicester 1st XI. I have moved to Vancouver, Canada, and have a busy law practice here in British Columbia. I would love to hear from anybody who recognises my name.

Tim Clackett (BA Economics and Economic History, 1982)

After graduating, I joined BDO Binder Hamlyn in Croydon as a trainee chartered accountant. I moved to London in 1985, then BDO moved me to Los Angeles in ►

ALUMNI AUTHORS

Alfred (Fred) Austin (BA French Honours, 1952)

In 2009, my wife **Thelma (Margaret) Austin (née Colam) (BA English, 1950; Grad Cert Education, 1951)** and I published a book about our life, *Czech and Mate*. Unfortunately, she now suffers with dementia and is in a nursing home, just around the corner from where I now live with my daughter, Helen.

Mike Manson (BSc Sociology, 1974)

My latest novel, *Down in Demerara*, described by Fay Weldon as 'wonderfully funny, I laughed aloud a lot', is due to be published by Tangent Books in November 2018.

Martin Bodenham (BA Economics, 1981)

Based on the west coast of Canada, I am an author of financial thriller novels. My latest book, *Shakedown*, was published in November 2017. Writing is my second career. Up until 2013, I spent 30 years in the investment banking sector, latterly as the CEO of a London-based private equity company. Prior to that, I was a corporate finance partner at both KPMG and Ernst & Young. Much of the content for my novels comes from the greed and fear I witnessed while working in the city. You can find out more about my books at: www.martinbodenham.com

Mahsuda Snaith (PGCE, 2004)

Since leaving the University, I have won the Bristol Short Story Prize and SI Leeds Prize for fiction and had my debut novel, *The Things We Thought We Knew*, published with Transworld, an imprint of Penguin Random House, last year.

Sarah Hughes (PhD Museum Studies, 2011)

The topic of my PhD thesis: Museum and Art Gallery Publishing, is now the subject of a book to be published by Routledge in 2019. ►

Class notes

Johan Rewilak (BA Economics, 2008; PhD Economics, 2014)



I married **Amy Cory (BSc Communications, Media and Society, 2009)** in June 2018. We met through mutual friends and had a lovely day celebrating with friends and family. Two of my groomsmen were my neighbours in Gilbert Murray Hall and one of Amy's bridesmaids she met through the Latin American Ballroom Dancing Society.

1989. I became a California CPA in 1992, left BDO in 1993 to work in industry, moved back to the UK in 1996 after getting married. I lived and worked in Kent until 2005 when our family of four moved back to Los Angeles and I rejoined BDO. I've now been a partner for 12 years and am looking forward to retirement in a few years' time. In my spare time I'm restoring a 1959 Morris Minor, and in 2019 my wife and I are planning to walk the entire length of the UK from Land's End to John O'Groats. In 2016 our family travelled to the UK and we visited Leicester. Fond memories of Digby and Leicester from 1979 to 1982 include: seeing The Cure, Squeeze and other bands in the Percy Gee and seeing The Jam twice at De Montfort Hall. Still a big Paul Weller fan. I made life-long friends who I still see every few years. Met a group of Leicester alumni here in LA last year which was great fun and **Professor Turi King (MSc Molecular Genetics 1998; PhD Genetics, 2008)** gave a presentation on DNA and Richard III. Would love to connect with 1979-1982 folks.

William Read (BA Social Sciences, 1983)

After leaving Leicester, I took an Economics MA at UEA. I had a brief excursion into insurance working as a trainee actuary but then decided that trade journalism was more interesting. I worked with a chemical transport magazine for a number of years,

after which I edited a series of transport trade directories. In 2000, I moved to the Royal Aeronautical Society where I am now deputy editor of *AEROSPACE* writing both for the print magazine and online blogs. I won two awards for aerospace journalism, first in 2010 and again in 2016 and was made a Fellow of the RAeS in 2015. I am also a member of The Ghostly Company group of ghost story writers and sing in the chorus with York Opera.

Patrick Jones (BA Economics, 1987)

I moved to Australia in 1991. I'm married with two daughters aged 19 and 21 and am owner of a live music venue, MoshPit bar, in Newtown, Sydney.

Dave Daniel (BA Economics, 1988)

After an enjoyable 29 year career in the counter-fraud world of motor insurance, I was diagnosed with Alzheimer's in April 2017 and medically retired, leading to new opportunities filled with table tennis and golf – the world is good!

Angela Smith (BA Modern Language Studies, 1988)

After graduating, I worked in finance for several years. Once I had married and had my two children, I looked for something a little more conducive to family life. Initially, I volunteered at my local primary school,

eventually training as a higher level teaching assistant. In 2006, I was asked to teach French to Key Stage 2 children. I seized the chance to use my degree and have been doing it ever since. I love the children's enthusiasm and lack of self-consciousness. At the same time, I'm running an Erasmus+ project to send our staff on immersion courses in France so that they feel more comfortable teaching French. I also run a Latin Club (I did a Linguistics module) and teach a little bit of Italian to Year 5 children during their Italy topic, so I've ended up using every part of my degree! I thoroughly enjoyed my course at Leicester and I'm thrilled that I'm now using what I learned to foster a love of languages in young children.

1990s

Cindy Elmore (MA Mass Communication Research, 1990)

I am a professor teaching journalism in the School of Communication of East Carolina University, USA. Prior to getting my PhD, I was a news reporter and reported from 18 different countries.

Andy Pharoah (BA Politics, 1990)

I graduated in 1990 after three years study and three sabbaticals in Leicester, Leicestershire and then national student politics. I'm now living in the US (since 2009), with US citizenship. First in Chicago and now in Northern Virginia. I have two grown-up children, Jacob, who just graduated from Brown University in Rhode Island, and Noah, who is studying at Chapman, California. I have been married to Anita since 2016. After graduating, I worked in politics, then for a trade association and an international communications consultancy, all based in London. I have now been with Mars, Incorporated for the past decade in a variety of roles. I am currently vice-president corporate affairs and strategic initiatives, reporting to the CEO and sitting on the Mars Leadership Team.

Roberta Fuller (BA English, 1991)

I am now working at the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust as the deputy chief operating officer.

Dylan Watkins (MBChB Medicine, 1992)

I was going to be a surgeon, then a radiologist, then a medic. I'm now a GP in Totnes, South Devon. I was part of the first medical Erasmus exchange back in 1988 to a Medical School in Homburg, Germany, for a semester. It'd be nice to catch up with anyone from my year, but perhaps especially the German exchange group as it was quite a bonding experience. 30 years ago!

Amanda Launchbury-Rainey (BSc Biological Chemistry, 1993; PGCE, 1994)

I retired from teaching in 2015 and am now saving the world one tiny piece at a time on our permaculture finca, La Vida Verde, in Northern Spain. Visitors and help welcome.

Emma Kinton (BA English, 1997)

After working as an English teacher for Leicestershire Adult Learning Service for nearly a decade, I recently relocated to Kingston Upon Hull where I am now director of Hotham's Gin School and Distillery. Hotham's distills, bottles and sells two varieties of artisan gin, Hotham's Handcrafted Gin and Hotham's Cardamom Gin. I also run Hull's Gin School, where gin lovers learn about the history of gin, the art of distilling, and then craft their own

unique recipe bottle of gin. The Gin School also offers corporate events, wedding spirits and a pop up bar.

Gary Neale (MBChB Medicine, 1997)

Having been a doctor in England, Scotland and Australia, I returned to the United States of America and began surgical training. This took me through stints in Pittsburgh, Philadelphia and Oakland. I'm now living approximately 100 miles from Philadelphia and New York City. I now spend my days doing minimal invasive/robotic bariatric and general surgery.

2000s

Clare Francis (née Hartnell) (BA Business Economics, 2001)

I retrained as a teacher in 2005 and am now lead maths teacher at a primary school in Brixton. I have two lovely girls who take up most of my free time.

Robert Smith (MEng Electronic and Software Engineering, 2002)

I am now technical director of a local company, Acquire Digital, that produces digital signage and interactive solutions. I have worked on some amazing projects. The most recent include the Las Vegas digital sign outside the Forum Shops, Caesar's Palace, and the totems outside Leicester's Showcase Cinema.

Yixuan Zhu (MSc Management, 2012) and Feifei Hang (MSc Advanced Software Engineering, 2012)

We met through an online group for Chinese students before we arrived in Leicester where we ended up living a few doors away from each other. We fell in love only three days after we met and haven't separated since. We now live in Manchester – Feifei is a PhD candidate at the University of Manchester and Yixuan is an Import Purchaser for a French business company. We married at Manchester Town Hall in 2013 and two years later welcomed our son, Lester, named in memory of our time at Leicester.



ALUMNI AUTHORS CONTINUED

Converting a thesis into a book can take some time when combined with an academic post (Principal Lecturer in Publishing at Oxford Brookes University). I continued to receive excellent mentoring from staff at the School of Museum Studies during this process. The Routledge contract required additional research to widen the audience, which was achieved through the inclusion of a number of case studies placing in context theoretical approaches to print and digital publishing by art galleries, museums, heritage collections, botanical collections and libraries.

Ross Pink (PhD Politics and International Relations, 2011)

I have published two books: *Water Rights in Southeast Asia and India* (2016) and *The Climate Change Crisis: Solutions and Adaption for a Planet in Peril* (2018). I am the co-founder of an NGO, Global Water Rights, and full-time Lecturer, Politics and Sustainability, at Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Surrey, Canada.

Ayesha Aslam Faisal (MA Mass Communications, 2018)

A couple of exciting things have happened this year so far. My family and I moved from Lahore, Pakistan, to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in July and my third children's book *School Rules* was published by the Oxford University Press (OUP) Pakistan. My other books, *Lost and Found* and *The Mealtime Battle*, are also available at all OUP stores across Pakistan. *Lost and Found* is aimed at children 3-6 years old and is a conversation between a little boy looking for his toys. *The Mealtime Battle* is the sequel, where the boy is being fussy at mealtime and has to be convinced by his mother why it's important to eat to be healthy. In the third book in the series, the little boy is having a hard time getting out of bed and wonders if he can skip school just for the day.

Class notes

Claire Lawrence (BSc Communications and Society, 2005)

I have worked in the area of law enforcement intelligence analysis since graduation. Currently an analyst in The Hague at Europol and enjoying life in the Netherlands. Recently completed a master's in computer science. Enjoying travelling and the experience of living abroad.

David Ngaujah (MA International Relations and World Order, 2006)

After Leicester, I enrolled for another master's course in London South Bank University, which I finished successfully before returning home to Sierra Leone. I am currently working as SME manager at Union Trust Bank and am actively involved with development work in my country.

2010s

John Carey (MBA, 2011)

I was admitted as a fellow of the Commonwealth Judicial Education Institute (CJEI) in June 2018 in Halifax, Canada. I am the executive director of the Papua New Guinea Centre for Judicial Excellence based in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea. I will be chair of the session, 'What is the need for judicial education?' at the 18th Triennial Conference of the Commonwealth Magistrates and Judges Association in Brisbane, Australia, in September.

Rebecca Piper (BA Geography, 2011)

Wow, I can't believe it has been over seven years now since I graduated from the University of Leicester. I've mainly focused on my career since graduating. I started as admin for Suffolk County Council and have worked my way up the council ladder to being an acting operations manager in the waste team this year. Environmental elements from my human geography degree definitely help with this role.

Kennei Momoh (MSc Risk, Crisis and Disaster Management, 2013)

I got my MSc degree when I was a United Nations volunteer working at the United Nations Mission in South Sudan. After completion, I was recruited in a senior position with the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Crisis in Liberia as field crisis manager. A year later, I was recruited by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) as field operations officer and head of field office. My status and managerial experience increased and level of interaction with colleagues improved.

Reena Shukla (BA Management Studies and Economics, 2013)

I loved my time at the University! Whilst there, I started my blog, *The Lifestyle Enthusiast* www.lifestyleenthusiast.co.uk, which has gone on to be an award-winning luxury travel blog featured in

publications including *Lonely Planet*. I am now splitting my time between my day job in high fashion at Burberry in London, reviewing luxury hotels and restaurants around the world for *The Lifestyle Enthusiast* and planning my wedding.

Deb Fuller (MA Museum Studies, 2015)

I am spending my fifth summer teaching ancient history for the Center for Talented Youth (CTY) run by Johns Hopkins University. CTY is a summer enrichment programme for gifted students where they can take an in depth class on a subject that interests them. My class compares and contrasts ancient Greece and Mesoamerican cultures such as the Olmecs and the Maya.

Bibi Khan (MA Mass Communications, 2016)

Attaining my degree from Leicester allowed me to apply and get a job as a corporate communications manager with the Ministry of Education in Trinidad and Tobago. I was able to travel to some of the most exotic places on this side of the world – Panama, Mexico, Suriname, Guyana, Barbados and Grenada. I feel extremely blessed and happy that this degree opened a lot of doors for me. I am now employed with Lonsdale Saatchi & Saatchi as a corporate communications specialist, and I am having the time of my life. I recently joined the Public Relations Association of Trinidad and Tobago and I am looking forward to further expanding my knowledge base.

Robert Crawford (MA International Relations and World Order, 2017)

I am currently the Director Business Resilience and Asset Protection at Asia Pulp and Paper (APP) based in Jakarta, Indonesia. APP is one of the world's largest pulp and paper companies with operations in 120 countries across six continents.

If you would like to get in touch with anybody listed here, please contact: alumni.relations@le.ac.uk

To submit your own update, please visit: www.le.ac.uk/stay-in-touch

Jason Barefoot (BA Management Studies (Finance), 2014)



I recently revisited the University campus, where I planned on proposing to my girlfriend, who I met during our time studying together at Leicester. The heavens opened and I was forced to postpone the proposal. I eventually asked Alix to marry me in Lichfield City Centre, near where we both live. I'm delighted she said yes!

The University was the first choice I had in mind for the engagement because we both remember our time studying there fondly. We absolutely loved the city and the memories we created in Leicester. We will always have a special place for it in both our hearts.