Breathe easy
Improving the nation’s air quality

Mercury rising
BepiColombo readies for lift-off

WILL TUDOR
GAME OF THRONES ACTOR GETS HIS SKATES ON
Welcome

to the latest edition of the alumni magazine. Each year we are proud to put
the spotlight on some of the outstanding and inspirational achievements of
the alumni community. This is also a great place to keep you updated on the
University’s activities.

This year we said a fond farewell to Lord Grocott, the University’s sixth
Chancellor – and first alumnus to take on this role. As well as presiding over 55
graduation ceremonies, Bruce saw the creation of the Chancellor’s Distinguished
Lecture Series, which has attracted many illustrious speakers to the University.

This summer, Lord Willetts, former Minister of State for Universities and
Science, was installed as our seventh Chancellor. You can find out more about
Bruce’s time at Leicester and David’s plans for the future on page 22.

The University’s campus holds a special place in the hearts of all of those who
studied here. Over the past few months you’ll be delighted to hear we have
made considerable headway on our campus development plans.

You may be aware of our plans to further extend the Percy Gee Students’
Union Building, which are starting to take shape. Building work has also
begun at the Brookfield campus, which will be the new home to the School of
Business. And the redevelopment of the Freemens’ Common Student Village
will begin soon.

Whenever you return to campus, and I do hope you will continue to do so,
you will be greeted with a state-of-the-art campus fit to provide a first-rate
student experience.

We are also continuing to look ahead to our centenary. We are pleased to
share with you information about the University’s Centenary Scholarships, which
will support 100 first year undergraduate students during our centenary years.
You can read about these, and how you can to support them, on page 28.

I hope you enjoy finding out more about our plans for the campus as well
as our latest research news and alumni successes throughout this magazine.
With best wishes,

Dr Bridget Towl CBE DL
Chair of Council and Pro-Chancellor
The air we breathe

Working together to improve air quality.

WORDS BY ANDREW MURFETT

The stakes could not be higher. And by its very nature, the work being conducted is extremely ambitious. Over the past two decades, talented scientists, academics, researchers and students from across the University have toiled together, in conjunction with government and industry leaders. Their mission: to understand more about the air we breathe and how it can be improved.

Instrumental in leading this work is Professor Paul Monks, Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Head of the College of Science and Engineering. Putting it simply, he said: “We’re protecting the nation’s health.”

“The air you breathe in a city like Leicester comes partly from the pollution of the city, but it’s also related to the regions around us, as well as the countries across the Atlantic Ocean. You can’t really document air quality unless you understand what makes up the local, regional and global picture.” And so that’s what they’re doing.

“We work on a huge scale with everybody from local city councils to satellite agencies. We advise governments on how to translate the results of air quality studies into policies and real action plans.”
Paul chairs a government science committee on air quality, which helps to translate the important research done at Leicester into meaningful policy.

“We’re not politicians,” he said, “but we think a lot about how to help politicians make the right decisions based on science.”

Arriving at the University 22 years ago, Paul has seen it become significantly more adept in research in this area. “We have the laboratories, the people and the atmosphere to drive the best science. We’re also at the forefront of assessing new and emerging areas of air pollution.”

His team was responsible for determining the cause of a recent degradation of Leicester’s own air quality.

“If we look at a two-year set of daily measures, we found wood burning was a culprit,” he explained.

The team collects their data from multiple sources – the ground, planes and satellites. They also take into account greenhouse gases and land and sea surface temperatures, all to build a clear picture of the quality of the air. And they are at the forefront of observations from space.

“We do a lot in forestry and land view from space,” explained Paul. “We’re using this multi-disciplinary hot-potch of things to figure out how to use our space data to inform health outcomes and choices.”

It’s this multi-disciplinary approach which Dr Joshua Vande Hey, Lecturer in Environment and Health at Leicester Wellcome Institutional Strategic Support Fund Interdisciplinary Fellow in Environment and Health, credits for the establishment of EarthSense, “an absolutely exquisite” picture of northwest Europe’s air and the sources of its air pollution.

The group constructed “a highly successful initiative.”

“Somebody working in policy tells me how much they value our independent advice and need it to do their job. It really thrills me to hear people say that,” Paul said. “A unique selling point of Leicester is how we pride ourselves on taking things to the next level. We’re integrating thinking across different areas of the environmental sciences and health sciences.”

Additionally, the team is also working to identify where social scientists can contribute to the work. A lot of reducing our exposure comes down to changing our behaviour.

Paul agrees – to reduce air pollution and to improve the quality of our air, personal choices need to change. This means reducing traffic, encouraging bikes and buses and changing the way people do things.

“It’s not just a local problem though; there is a need to think globally. Remarkably, 65 per cent of air pollution in south west England comes from outside the UK.”

“Air pollution does not respect borders,” Paul said. “We’ve been at the forefront of considering what transboundary pollution looks like. We’re part of a huge international effort to build a global picture of the causes and state of air pollution. We sit on many international bodies setting the agenda for understanding air composition in its wider sense. This allows us to help politicians determine what needs to be enacted locally and globally.”

The research team has global collaborations in hotspots such as China, Kenya and India as well as Australia, Europe and the US.

Best embodying this approach was a project called Joaquin (Joint Air Quality Initiative) led by the University, Leicester City Council and agencies and universities in the Netherlands and Belgium.

Joshua is involved in building new instruments for air pollution measurement.

“I’m helping develop new technologies for measuring nitrogen dioxide from space,” he said. “We’re attempting to get higher spatial resolution and temporal air resolution quality from space and use it to improve our decision making, traffic management and understanding of changes over time.”

“We can make an impact. One of the most rewarding parts of my job is when somebody working in policy tells me how much they value our independent advice and need it to do their job. It really thrills me to hear people say that,” Joshua explained. “One of the big challenges is to get down to a fine spatial scale,” explained Joshua. “We build satellite instruments that fly on aircrafts, but we also map places like Leicester in extraordinary detail.”

The team is also often called upon by industry to provide improved data services to healthcare clients such as hospitals and other healthcare providers.

The Environmental Population Health Informatics partnership with healthcare company Cerner is a new, interdisciplinary project currently in the research phase.

“They’re interested in understanding how environmental data can help improve the care that their clients are providing,” explained Joshua. “They hope that we might be able to help identify which patients are more at risk to air pollution episodes. “The University’s research, working with industry and among various disciplines, led to the establishment of EarthSense,” said Joshua. “The company’s initial offering of air quality related products and services are based on science that we’ve done here.”

“We looked at building an early warning network for the smallest of air particles,” Paul explained. “They’re thought to have serious health impacts, so we got together to design and test instrumentation and data handling techniques to produce an early warning network across northwest Europe.

“We looked at providing practical advice to policymakers around mitigation efforts and did public outreach around a number of events, including one in Leicester.”

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They are now positioned to deliver these to a wide range of customers globally, which is amazing.”

A new, flexible, portable air pollution sensor called the Zephyr, which started from University research, has now been developed into a commercially available product.

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“They’re interested in understanding how environmental data can help improve the care that their clients are providing," explained Joshua. “Particularly where regulation remains loose and as economic standards grow.”

Yet, it is not all bad news.

“Look at Europe: They’ve been really monitoring the situation and improving technology, and most pollutant concentrations have fallen,” he explained. “It’s really positive and a testament to how effective policy is and how it can make a difference. Using science and technology the right way really can lead to a positive change.”
AN AWARD-WINNING TRACK FOR ABIKE

A placement year has many benefits for students, including the chance to gain professional skills, get hands-on experience and open up career possibilities. For one of our students, it also offered recognition and open up career possibilities. For one professional skills, get hands-on experience A placement year has many benefits for management graduate programme. Now she has graduated, Abike will return to Rolls-Royce to begin their Operations Quality at Rolls-Royce.

said Sally Twisleton, Head of Engineering the key to my success,” she explained. “effectively collaborating with them was truly a wealth of knowledge and experience, and your network. Every person I met had a showed me the importance of expanding interpersonal skills, my time at Rolls-Royce practical skills in science, technology, scheme for young people to develop Award (it is usually awarded Gold). she was the first person in the country to be the annual Industrial Cadet Awards. Held in London at the Institution of Engineering and Technology on Wednesday 7 March, she received her award from HRH The Prince of Wales.

Abike’s ability and commitment during her year in industry at Rolls-Royce meant she was the first person in the country to be awarded a Platinum Level Industrial Cadet Award (it is usually awarded Gold). Industrial Cadets is an accreditation scheme for young people to develop practical skills in science, technology, engineering and maths. “As well as developing hard skills and interpersonal skills, my time at Rolls-Royce showed me the importance of expanding your network. Every person I met had a wealth of knowledge and experience, and effectively collaborating with them was truly the key to my success,” she explained. “Abike’s performance was outstanding,” said Sally Twisleton, Head of Engineering Quality at Rolls-Royce.

Now she has graduated, Abike will return to Rolls-Royce to begin their Operations Management graduate programme.

LAUNCH YOURSELF

First major brand and recruitment campaign takes flight.

The University has launched a space themed brand campaign that celebrates campus-based space research and technology. The campaign has been featured on TV, cinema, social media and the national press, showing potential students Leicester really is the place to launch themselves into the future.

Speaking ahead of its launch, Georgina Kelly, Group Marketing Director said: “This campaign proposition elevates the University with a strong metaphor, which reflects our expertise and strengths, and is also easily understood and brilliantly executed.”

The work has been created by academic and professional service staff, together with theTVAM/Manchester. It uses students and staff in dozens of locations across campus and was filmed in a whirlwind two day shoot.

LEARN MORE: To watch the campaign video, visit: www.le.ac.uk/launch-yourself

RAG WEEK RETURNS AND RAISES THOUSANDS

After a 10 year break, students and staff once again joined forces to raise money for good causes during Raising and Giving (RAG) Week between Monday 26 February – Friday 2 March.

Activities included Clown School, Give for Goggles and a 24 hour sponsored cycle. There was also a 12 hour music performance by student groups, juggling workshops, a sports day and a wellbeing fair. Nearly 550 volunteering hours were dedicated to working in communities through activities led by students, including teaching internet safety to young people and providing mental health support across the globe.

Forty five volunteers also spent a night under the stars on campus for The Big Sleep. Getting a brief glimpse of life on the streets, they had only cardboard, a sleeping bag and the clothes on their back for warmth.

“I did not go into this naively,” said volunteer Hayley Evans. “I had a winter sleeping bag, lots of layers, bin bags, and cardboard, and I have to say it was one of the hardest things I have ever done because of the low temperatures that night, but I’m glad I did it.”

So far, £16,000 has been raised to support the students’ selected charities: WACCT (World Awareness for Children in Trauma), local Leicester charities LAMP (Leicester Action for Mental Health Project) and The Bridge – Homelessness to Hope, and national charity Rethink Mental Illness.

EXHIBITING GREATNESS

The University’s strengths in space science, technology and engineering were showcased at the government’s GREAT Festival of Innovation, Wednesday 21 – 24 March.

Leicester staff and scientists, including Dr Suzie Imber (PhD Physics, 2009; PG Cert Academic Practice in Higher Education, 2016), winner of BBC Two’s Astronaut: Do You Have What It Takes?, travelled to Hong Kong to highlight the University’s research on a global stage.

Attended by 1,500 people, the Festival celebrated collaboration and support between British and Asian businesses, governments, cultural and educational institutions. More than 140 alumni also attended a reception to mark the launch of the Hong Kong Alumni Community.

LEARN MORE: Turn to page 16 to find out more about one of our alumni in Hong Kong.

RECORD-BREAKING MEDICAL FACILITY OPENS

Sir David Attenborough OM and his nephew Michael Attenborough CBE returned to the University last autumn to officially open the George Davies Centre (formerly the Centre for Medicine). The £42 million building was named in honour of fashion retailer and philanthropist George Davies, following his £5.15 million gift to the University.

His gift will help fight vascular disease with the establishment of the Vascular Limb Salvage Clinic a professorship in Vascular Surgery.

“How working with charities close to my heart is extremely important to me,” said George. “In particular, vascular care and Type 2 diabetes needs further funding to create wider awareness. We need to educate all ages about the severity of the symptoms if left untreated.”

Home to life sciences teaching and research, the George Davies Centre is the largest non-residential Passivhaus building in the UK. Passivhaus is a set of standards relating to energy efficiency, air quality and other environmental factors. It has also won numerous awards for its environmental credentials since it opened.
Founders Celebration

Descendants of the University’s founders unite.

As we near the centenary of the University’s founding, families of seven key benefactors were welcomed to campus on Saturday 17 March to celebrate their ancestors’ legacies. Members of the founding families discovered more about their relatives and associations with their roles in the University’s creation.

The University was founded as a living memorial to those men and women who made sacrifices during the First World War. The fundraising effort for the establishment of the University began in November 1918, with many of the founding benefactors contributing significant monetary gifts, books, and even the land and buildings for the University campus.

“The I’m proud to be a member of one of the early founding families of the University. It was great to have the opportunity to meet up with cousins and descendants of the other old Leicester families,” said alumna Caroline Wesset (BA Humanities, 1999, MA Victorian Studies, 2003) who is the great niece of both Dr Astley Clarke and Percy Gee.

The benefactors celebrated during the event were:
• Dr Astley Clarke
• Thomas Fielding Johnson
• Thomas Hatton
• Sir Jonathan North
• Harry Hardy Peach
• Harry Simpson Gee
• William Tyler

Nobel Prize-Winning Technology Arrives

Based in our Institute of Structural and Chemical Biology, a new 16 million Cryo-Electron Microscope (Cryo-EM) Facility brings cutting-edge research technology to the Midlands. A Cryo-EM can generate three-dimensional structures of biomolecules in exquisite detail. This allows us to understand how molecular machines in our cells perform the key functions of life. This will help us to understand diseases in greater detail.

The facility was opened by Dr Richard Henderson, one of three scientists to win the 2017 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for work to help researchers see what biomolecules look like using a Cryo-EM.

Varsity Victory

Leicester once again beat local rivals De Montfort University 37-21, at this year’s Varsity competition – our 15th consecutive victory.

Life (and Death) of Jumbo

Archaeologist reveals insights into famous elephant.

Sir David Attenborough OM faced a mammoth challenge in uncovering the life and death of the world’s most famous elephant. Luckily, he had a Leicester archaeologist to help. Jumbo, an African elephant, was the centrepiece of the Greatest Show on Earth, the subject of Hollywood hit The Greatest Showman, and the inspiration behind the Disney classic Dumbo. The BBC documentary Attenborough and the Giant Elephant saw bone expert Dr Richard Thomas team up with Sir David and lead a group of scientists to examine some of the fantastic claims made about this popular animal.

Richard had unique access to Jumbo’s skeleton at the American Museum of Natural History where he uncovered vital clues into his life and controversial death. The team confirmed that Jumbo was as big as was claimed at the time, and revealed the physical effects of his life in captivity.

Phenomenal Astronomy

It’s a discovery that sent shockwaves through the scientific community, and our scientists were at the centre of it. Millions of light years away, two neutron stars collided, creating a burst of gravitational waves and producing a violent explosion called a kilonova.

Astronomers at Leicester caught sight of the bright ultra-violet, optical and infra-red light coming from the kilonova. They were among the first teams worldwide to pinpoint the source of the waves, using the VISTA telescope, Swift satellite and Hubble Space Telescope. This observation will enable increased understanding of neutron stars and black holes in extreme environments. This is the first time such an event has been observed, providing proof that neutron star collisions are the source of some of the heaviest elements in the universe, including gold and platinum.

Walking briskly could save your life

How fast you walk could indicate your risk of developing heart disease. Self-proclaimed slow walkers are nearly twice as likely to die of a heart condition than their speedier counterparts, according to new research from the University.

The team from the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Leicester Biomedical Research Centre used data collected on nearly half a million middle-aged people across the UK over six years. They searched for links between self-reported walking pace and heart condition than their speedier counterparts. The team confirmed that Jumbo’s skeleton at the American Museum of Natural History where he uncovered vital clues into his life and controversial death. The team confirmed that Jumbo was as big as was claimed at the time, and revealed the physical effects of his life in captivity.

Virtual Realities of Sex Work

The internet has reshaped the diversity, safety and working conditions of the sex industry.

University criminologists are leading Beyond the Gaze, the first UK-wide study to examine internet based sex work. Their latest report suggests the online sector is now the largest part of the UK sex industry, but approaches to policing have not kept pace with industry changes.

While online sex workers experience high levels of digitally facilitated crime, the internet has also played a role in improving their safety, independence and job satisfaction. The researchers, working with the University of Strathclyde, will use their findings to work closely with police, practitioners and policymakers to further improve the safety of online sex workers.
The University’s ambitious 10-year programme to renovate its existing facilities is in full swing. The final months of 2017 saw the completion of the Engineering Building roof replacement, but that was just the beginning.

With a new Student Village at Freemen’s Common, the relocation of our School of Business to Brookfield, and a four-storey extension to the Percy Gee Students’ Union Building, it’s an exciting time to be at Leicester.

**FREEMEN’S COMMON STUDENT VILLAGE**

Plans to transform the education and living facilities at Freemen’s Common have been submitted to the City Council.

Located adjacent to campus, a key feature of the development is to provide a home-from-home environment for the next generation of students.

The proposed development includes new accommodation for around 1,200 students across seven new blocks; a four-storey academic building – the Teaching and Learning Centre – containing two large lecture theatres and a range of flexible teaching spaces; and a multi-storey car park. Facilities planned also include a new cafe bar with indoor and outdoor space, as well as a screen room, games area and social study spaces.

**SCHOOL OF BUSINESS**

Plans to create a new home for the School of Business became reality over the summer, as work began at Brookfield campus, just a 15-minute walk from main campus.

At the heart of the site is the historic 19th-century Brookfield House, which was once home to Thomas Fielding Johnson. One of the University’s original benefactors, Thomas purchased 37 acres of land, donating six (including the former 5th Northern General Hospital – now the Fielding Johnson Building), to the formation of a university college in 1918.

The extension is expected to be completed by autumn 2019.

**PERCY GEE STUDENTS’ UNION BUILDING**

The £21 million expansion of the Students’ Union began in the spring. The four-storey extension will host a range of new facilities, including a food court, a state-of-the-art media suite, an informatics lab, and double the amount of social learning space. Support services will also be located there.

Facilities planned also include a new lecture theatres and a range of flexible teaching spaces; and a multi-storey car park. Facilities planned also include a new cafe bar with indoor and outdoor space, as well as a screen room, games area and social study spaces.

Leaving her full-time job as a chemistry teacher and investing in a venture she began as a student at Leicester was a risk Mital Thakur (BSc Biological Sciences (Physiology and Pharmacology), 2011) followed her heart to do.

The venture – Spark Academy – focuses on unlocking potential and inspiring students. The drive was fueled by Mital’s personal experience.

“When I grew up, I worked incredibly hard, but there were key challenges I faced,” she explained. “I had to take time out of school, but then returned and met the most inspirational teachers. They ignited a passion for chemistry and made such an impact on my life.”

She started tutoring in her spare time as a student. Having noticed her passion was teaching, her personal tutors signed her up to the ambassador scheme.

“Going into schools gave me the confidence to figure out what I wanted to do,” she recalled. “I imagined how many students I could help achieve their ambitions.”

After seeing an advert for £1,500 to set up a business, Mital applied and was successful. “I used the money to set up Spark. There was a fire inside of me, and that’s where Spark came from.”

Currently Spark Academy teaches more than 500 students between two Leicester-based sites. They deliver tuition, exam training and confidence building to schoolchildren, using innovative learning methods. Focusing on quality interactions, they ensure teachers only ever have a maximum of 12 students at once.

Having been born and bred in Leicester, Mital said that setting up Spark in the city seemed the obvious choice. “I am very passionate about my city. Leicester is the heart of Spark and always will be,” she said.

“My father moved to Leicester from India in 1949,” she explained. “I grew up here and I’ve always had a passion for the city. It’s the heart of Spark and always will be,” she said.

Currently back at the University studying for an MBA, Mital is applying her new skills to further innovate at Spark. Students will soon have the opportunity to learn independently through an e-learning programme.

Her biggest challenge was being taken seriously when first starting out. Mital has seen Spark come a long way since then. Their suite of awards has helped. Most recently Mital won the East Midlands Chamber 2017 Entrepreneur of the Year Award. Spark has also received comparisons to national learning providers, such as Explore Learning, something Mital is extremely proud of.

“Sometimes we face adversity, something we haven’t planned for, but how do we cope with that? Those are the types of lessons we give alongside the academic teaching. Simple things like breathing, mediations, talking about your feelings. Life chucks things at us and we must be prepared for it. We put wellbeing at the heart of everything.”

“Coming back to the University, it’s good to be able to give back. This is my chance to give back to the community.”

It’s not just traditional tutoring. Spark Accelerate is a live coaching academic programme that asks pupils to think about where they want to be and the steps needed to get there. Whether these are academic steps, or some other kind, the team helps students set SMART goals and land relevant work experience opportunities.

“It’s about thinking smartly,” Mital explained. “We provide complete academic and personal development solutions to our students. It’s about building a whole person, as opposed to just jumping through certain academic hoops. We look at the bigger picture and how we can embed skills to last a lifetime.”

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Andy Byford is taking on the challenge of turning around New York’s ageing transport system.

WORDS BY ALAN WECHSLER

Andy Byford (BA French and German, 1989) doesn’t sit down when he rides the New York City Subway. “Seats are there for customers,” he said. Andy is not a customer. He’s the guy in charge.

Now 52, he is President of the New York City Transit Authority, the organisation that runs one of the largest subways in the world, with 850 miles of track and more than 1.7 billion daily riders per year. He’s been here for seven months. To him, it’s a dream job. Others might see it as a nightmare role.

In 2017, the governor of New York state declared the subway in a state of emergency. That summer, a rush-hour train derailed, a track fire sent dozens of passengers to the hospital, and a crowded train stalled in a tunnel for hours, trapping riders in a steamy car until, as the newspaper reported, they clawed at the doors and windows. The New York Times said the subway had ‘the worst on-time performance of any major rapid transit system in the world’.

To improve this decrepit infrastructure, Andy brings his three decades of transportation experience. And a lot of patience. “I like a challenge,” he explained. “This is a job I’ve always wanted to do. I’m still pinching myself.”

Public transportation has always been in his blood. His grandfather drove a bus for 40 years, and his father was a London Transport manager. Having grown up in Plymouth, Andy came to Leicester in 1985. His aim was to learn French and German, not people-moving. He spent three years at the University and one as an exchange student at the Université de Pau et des Pays de l’Adour in France. Upon graduation, he briefly considered joining the Royal Navy, but instead went to work as a uniformed station foreman on the London Underground’s Bakerloo line.

Gradually, he was promoted, eventually becoming a general manager overseeing 70 stations. He moved to main line operations, including a subway extension. He says the programme was close to completion when New York City came calling.

His first strategy in the Big Apple was to get your basics right. It’s all about the service, and progress five mega-projects, including a subway extension. He says the programme was close to completion when New York City came calling.

His first strategy in the Big Apple was meeting the people. Andy, who has never held a driver’s license, rides the subway to and from work every day. He wears a name tag, and makes it a habit to talk to every employee he meets, from conductor to janitor.

“They’re amazed – they’re not used to that,” he said. “But it’s just good management. You’ve got to engender a culture where staff feel cherished and motivated, and they want to do a good job because they believe in a leader.”

Today, one of his main goals is to reduce train delays. The city now sees about 70,000 delays a month, up from 28,000 only six years earlier. He hopes to reduce that by the end of 2018, mainly by tightly controlling dwell times (the amount of time a train stays parked at a station) and operating at correct speeds while in tunnels.

“I would be here today had it not been for what I learned at university. Not just in an academic sense, but by growing up and learning about life.”

I wouldn’t be here today had it not been for what I learned at university. Not just in an academic sense, but by growing up and learning about life.
A financial services lawyer, Beth Wright (BA History of Art, 2:1, 1996) has lived in Hong Kong for nearly 10 years. Having worked for some of the largest global banks, it’s the people and the lifestyle which she enjoys the most about the territory.

“I love the high energy environment of Hong Kong,” she said. “That, and the work itself is exciting, evolving and challenging. It’s great to be based within one of the world’s most significant financial centres.

“I’ve met some fantastic people here and love the culture, food and even the weather! It is a great location to enjoy the most about the territory.”

Having graduated from the University with a History of Art degree, she obtained her postgraduate legal qualifications, completing the CPE and LPC. She then moved to a city law firm to complete her training, becoming a qualified solicitor in 2001.

She moved in-house in 2003 to work for an investment bank as a lawyer, and joined Bank Julius Baer in 2013 with 10 years’ experience in the sector.

“Moving from private practice into an in-house role was a game changer for me,” she said. “The law became a lot more practical and commercial and I love working with, and being part of, the day to day business of a bank.

“The most challenging part of the job is the need to adapt to the constantly evolving and changing regulatory landscape, but I genuinely love the work that I do.”

After hours, Beth keeps herself busy. “I love fitness,” she explained. “I teach classes at a gym in Hong Kong and I love to hit the trails or the slopes abroad when I can.

“My other passion is charity work, both through Bank Julius Baer and also within Hong Kong generally. Hong Kong has one of the biggest disparities of wealth in the world, so it’s hard to see that and not want to give back.”

She looks back on her time at Leicester fondly. “I met so many fabulous people at university and I will never forget the warm environment I experienced during my time there,” she said.

“I also enjoyed being a member of the lacrosse team. But my favourite memory is the three months I spent in Italy as part of my degree. We got to explore Renaissance art, sculpture and architecture first hand, which was simply amazing.”

Professor Jonathon Chambers arrived at the University of Leicester in possession of a secret. Appointed last November as Head of the University’s rapidly growing Department of Engineering, the football-mad professor is finally ready to clear the air.

“I don’t know whether I should say this,” he said, sheepishly, “but I actually support Nottingham Forest rather than Leicester City.”

He need not have worried, of course. More than three decades into a highly accomplished academic career focused primarily on adaptive signal processing and machine learning, Jonathon, a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering, has been warmly welcomed.

“There’s a strong esprit de corps within the Department. My job now is to encourage and grow that great potential.”

Jonathon describes his path to Leicester as “a little bit unconventional”. Growing up in Peterborough, he discovered a love of mathematics and physics in primary school.

“I loved taking things like old radios apart,” he remembered. “Anything electronic was fascinating.”

He joined the Royal Navy for four years as a technician apprentice in electronic engineering and gained his A-levels. After service, he completed a PhD in digital signal processing at Imperial College London.

He focused on a problem that spoke to the nuance of digital signal processing. When they move, underwater vessels such as submarines generate a sonic signature.

He applied digital signal processing using hydrophone signals to extract key vessel information to reliably begin identifying a vessel’s sonic signature so other vessels could identify it.

Another important touchstone was the four years he spent after the completion of his PhD. Working at Schlumberger, he applied digital signal processing to oil field production. He developed a new tool for monitoring the amount of oil, water and gas coming to the surface of an operational oil well.

“It was a great experience,” he said.

“It taught me about working in a multi-disciplinary team and how important working across disciplines is in achieving an overall goal.”

Yet teaching is in his blood — his mother was a teacher — so he ultimately aspired to become a lecturer. “Imparting knowledge to students is a talent I picked up from my mother,” he said. “I was also hungry to become a professor as quickly as possible.”

He moved to King’s College London to expedite that process and was named professor in 2000.

“It was a challenge,” he recalled of his role, which tasked him with building a digital signal processing group and serving as Deputy Head of Engineering. “I carved out the strategy and direction and figured out where engineering would evolve in teaching and research.

“I’d always wanted to be the head of department at a leading UK engineering department though,” he said. After stints at Cardiff and Loughborough universities, this goal became a reality for him.

“Leicester was a perfect opportunity. I’m going to take the Department on a journey and do my utmost to ensure Leicester is recognised as a world-leading engineering department.”

Upon arrival, he soon rolled up his sleeves, working to align the Department’s group structure with perceived external undergraduate opportunities. A new research group focused on aerospace and computational engineering does that.

“That’s one direction I want to take the Department,” he says. “I also want to drive closer industry engagement to encourage as many placements as possible.”

The Department now also has a robust Master of Engineering Management programme, which he sees as one its unique identities. “We have strengths in core engineering activities, but engineering management adds an extra dimension and attracts a lot of international master’s students. I want to grow and consolidate that here at Leicester.”

Jonathon says he thrived because of the support he received in pursuing his interest in digital signal processing. Offering this generation the same support drives him.

“We will provide the very best learning experience for our students to perform world-class research. But we mustn’t think we’re ever too old to learn. I’m working as hard as I can to grow the success of the people working with me. I really want to make a difference.”
Yes, he’s already appeared in two of today’s most popular fantasy dramas, but Will Tudor is just getting started.

WORDS BY AMY REWILAK

He’s played a prostitute, a robot and a demon-angel hybrid. It’s no wonder Wonderland described Will Tudor (BA English, 2008) as ‘TV’s most versatile sci-fi actor’. “I’ve always been a big fan of the genre,” he explained. “The roles allow you so much artistic license and I really enjoy the challenge. Every job and every audition is different and you learn so much about you as an actor and you as a person.” Recently appearing in the Netflix drama Shadowhunters, his character Sebastian is a far cry from the charismatic and extremely affable Will who greets us on a sunny London summer’s day. “Playing a demon requires a lot of self-care actually. I really enjoyed the self-exploration, but I also had to access parts of myself that I didn’t know existed and then make sure I didn’t stay in those places. “Sebastian was very far away from how I present myself to the world and that was quite cathartic.” Will’s love for acting began aged 16 when he starred in a school play. Coming from a medical family – his parents and older brother are doctors – he feels very lucky that his family supported his dream. “I came to it quite late compared to most actors, but I was hooked immediately. It was my dad actually who suggested I try and make a career out of it – he’s a big fan of the theatre.” Even though he knew he wanted to pursue acting professionally, Will came to the University to study English. “I wanted to do a degree just in case, as acting is such a tricky and uncertain career,” he reasoned. “It was brilliant. It’s an absolutely excellent course, and I had a really good time doing it.” “I enjoyed the lecturers as there was such a breadth of personalities to learn from. I also enjoyed the way the course was structured – going through the development of language and literature chronologically was fascinating. “My time at Leicester was so happy and so much fun. For me though, the highlight was LUTheatre. I was really involved with the society. “I look back at my role in some of the productions and cringe, but it’s part of the process of learning to be an actor and one which I’m incredibly grateful to have experienced. I also made some very good friends through the society, many of whom I still see regularly today.” Upon graduation, Will moved to London to perfect his craft, attending drama school and then auditioning for roles. His big break came early on in his career when he was cast as a recurring character in one of today’s biggest television shows. “My agent called and said: ‘It’s full frontal nudity, but it’s Game of Thrones’. I was such a huge fan of the show that I didn’t really think about what it might entail. I just said ‘yes’!” “It was a conversation we often had at drama school,” he recalled, “wondering if we would ever do it. I must admit, I

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I was such a huge fan of. I didn’t worry too much about joining a show occupied with having to be naked so I figured I would do it on stage, not television, but in a way it actually helped. When it came down to it, my mind was just the sweetest and we were given real creative license, which was great.”

“I've just finished filming a series for Channel 4’s most popular drama series in over 20 years." He’s coy when quizzed if we’ve seen the last of him on Humans – certainly made many waves in the three seasons he appeared. The role also opened many doors for him. Soon after came Odi in Humans, Channel 4’s most popular drama series in over 20 years. “Of all the characters I’ve played so far, Odi is probably my favourite. He was just the sweetest and we were given real creative license, which was great.”

Critically acclaimed, Humans is set in a parallel present. Instead of tablets and smart phones, robots – known as synths – are the must-have gadget. Not only did

We filmed on location in Prague which was a lot of fun. “I’m also going to be playing Christopher Dean in an ITV biopic about Torvill and Dean. I’m very excited for this project, as it’s such an honour to get the chance to play a living legend.”

There are certain roles I would love to play at the right time in the future. I’d love to play Hamlet one day.” A man of many talents, in his spare time Will loves to write songs and is a keen landscape and portrait photographer. “I actually started song writing before acting. Everyone wants to be in a band when they’re 14, don’t they? I’ve always enjoyed gigging. It’s a great outlet and a good hobby to take with you wherever you go. I started out taking portraits of other people, who succeeded Professor George Fraser as Principal Investigator following his death in 2014. “The data from our instrument and from the wider payload will revolutionise our understanding of Mercury’s geology and interior structure.”

The findings from the instrument will be crucial to improving understanding of how planetary surfaces are formed, and how they change over time. This will allow us to piece together the fascinating history of the solar system in ways once thought unimaginable.

The mysteries of Mercury will be unravelled with the help of Leicester science students, who have designed and built one of the main instruments on the upcoming BepiColombo mission. BepiColombo is Europe’s first mission to Mercury, the smallest and least explored planet in our solar system. It is a joint mission between the European Space Agency (ESA) and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA).

The mission comprises two spacecraft: the Mercury Planetary Orbiter (MPO) and the Mercury Magnetospheric Orbiter (MMO). The Mercury Imaging X-ray Spectrometer (MIXS) instrument, developed at the University, will travel aboard the MMO. It will analyse the surface of the distant planet in unprecedented detail. “This is a very exciting time for us at the University,” said Professor Emma Bunce, who succeeded Professor George Fraser as Principal Investigator following his death in 2014. “The data from our instrument and from the wider payload will revolutionise our understanding of Mercury.”

Funded by the UK Space Agency, MIXS will use novel X-ray optics to determine small-scale features on Mercury. It will measure fluorescent X-rays that come from the planet’s surface, excited by high energy X-rays from the Sun, in order to identify chemical elements to determine what the planet’s surface is made of. Beginning its journey in October 2018, it will arrive at the planet closest to the Sun in late 2025. Upon arrival and insertion into orbit around Mercury, the MMO spacecraft will endure temperatures in excess of 350°C, making the mission extremely challenging. The payload will gather vital data about the planet’s origin and evolution. It will also collect new information about Mercury’s geology and interior structure.

The findings from the instrument will be crucial to improving understanding of how planetary surfaces are formed, and how they change over time. This will allow us to piece together the fascinating history of the solar system in ways once thought unimaginable.

Arriving as a student of Politics and then training to be a teacher, Bruce was the first Leicester graduate to hold the post of Chancellor, and the first politician. It was at Leicester that he met the love of his life, Sally, who was studying Sociology, and the couple have been married for over 50 years.

The pride, understanding and attachment to the University that comes from having spent some of his formative years in the place underpinned the commitment which Bruce brought to his duties during his five years in office.

“I was very pleased indeed to be asked to become Chancellor,” he said. “Leicester has many happy associations for me as a former student. The pleasure of fulfilling the role was beyond my expectations – I have thoroughly enjoyed myself.”

Ultimately it is celebrating the success of students at graduation ceremonies that brought Bruce his greatest pleasures as Chancellor. Attending 55 graduation ceremonies during his tenure, he has shaken hands with over 10,000 graduates.

“Though there has been growth and change – there were 2,000 students when I was here and more than 20,000 now – I am very pleased Leicester has retained much of its sense of place and identity. I found it a friendly place when I arrived all those years ago and I still do now.

“My biggest highlight has to be Richard III. It is one of the most universally acknowledged University achievements during my time as Chancellor. No university could have been prepared for that – and the professional skills that brought it about, and garnered world attention were just incredible.”

“Another great pleasure was Leicester winning the Premier League title which brought the city great exposure and benefited the University. After Richard III, I had asked: ‘What can Leicester do to beat that?’ The answer was win the Premiership!

“I hope the University remains true to its principles – to be inclusive and continue to be a happy and fulfilling place – and I hope others have as much pleasure and success being associated with it as I have,” he added.

For incoming Chancellor Lord Willetts, who was installed prior to the summer degree ceremonies, it is the friendly atmosphere at Leicester that has most impressed him.

A frequent visitor to Leicester while serving as Minister for Universities and Science, David was also impressed by the purposeful approach of academic staff and students.

“I look forward to a close association with this marvellous University for years to come,” he said.

His mission as Chancellor, he explains, is to serve the University in any way he can and represent its best interests. And he is passionate about the value of higher education and its impact on students.

“I hope the sheer excitement of studying a subject will stay with and shape a student’s life. For some, coming to university provides an opportunity to make new friends, to see the world, to learn about yourself – and to be yourself. That in itself is one of the most exciting things that a university can do for us.”

In a message to students at Leicester in his new role, he said: “Look back on your time at this university as one that has shaped your lives and given you the opportunity in the future to put something back so that you can sustain others when they are on the same journey that you have been on.”

Leicester has many happy associations for me as a former student. The pleasure of fulfilling the role was beyond my expectations – I have thoroughly enjoyed myself.

Lord Grocott

THE LORDS SERVING LEICESTER

Our outgoing Chancellor, Lord Grocott, and incoming Chancellor, Lord Willetts, describe the transformative experience of university life.

Words by Ather Mirza

Profile: Treasure Hunters

Now working on one of the BBC’s most loved TV programmes, both Caroline De Lane Lea and Pamela Parkes studied Geography at the University. Here they describe how a chance encounter uncovered their shared connection.

Words by Amy Rewilak

It was her interest in maps and love of landscapes that brought Caroline De Lane Lea (BA Social Science, 1984) to Leicester in the 1980s. That, and a lacrosse stick. “Leicester was one of the few places at the time that offered a course with a cartography element,” she said, having studied Social Science with a major in Geography.

“We were taught technical drawing using a rotering pen. It’s funny how life comes full circle as that’s a skill I now use regularly in my job.

“I had many happy times at university, making great friends, many of whom I’m still in touch with now. I also ate a lot of curry and played a lot of sport, mostly lacrosse. “I did a bit of work too!” she added.

Something similar attracted Pamela Parkes (BA Geography, 1991) to the University almost a decade later.

“I was really passionate about human geography and couldn’t find another course anywhere else that focused on it,” she explained.

“I loved it. It’s a subject that really touches everything, and the city of Leicester was an amazing place to live too.

“My favourite memories centre on Mega, which was the weekly student night. That’s where I met my husband as well as so many great friends.”

Upon graduating, both spent some time abroad – Caroline in France and Pamela in Australia – before kick-starting their careers back in the UK.

Words by Amy Rewilak
“It was a rather dire work situation when I graduated,” Pamela recalled, “so I got a job with Next Directory and saved some money. Then I packed my bags and went off to Sydney. I was working as a photographer’s assistant which was great to start with, but I soon realised I’d rather be writing about people than taking photos of them.” Pamela returned to the UK to become a journalist. She trained at a local radio station in Derby before moving to GWR FM, Channel 1 TV and ITN, where she spent a number of years self-writing news bulletins, including once interviewing movie star George Clooney.

“He’s quite small and I’m quite tall, so it wasn’t meant to be,” she said of her encounter. “I also interviewed Nelson Mandela and covered Princess Diana’s funeral, one of the biggest stories of our generation.”

This was followed by a spell freelancing all over Africa, before returning home to start a family. Today, Pamela juggles her role as events manager for Antiques Roadshow and a garden designer, which she continues to do alongside her role as events manager for Antiques Roadshow.

“I really enjoy practical problem solving, and both of my jobs offer this,” she explained. “With garden designing, it’s all about resolving spatial problems and creating a space that suits an individual’s lifestyle – every need is different. And with the Roadshow, it’s all about managing the expectations of a live event and a television programme at the same time."

It was on the road over a shared breakfast when Pamela and Caroline began talking about their past. “We didn’t know each other very well when Pamela and Caroline began talking about their past.”

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It was on the road over a shared breakfast when Pamela and Caroline began talking about their past. “We didn’t know each other very well before then,” Pamela recalled. "but she happened to mention that she studied geography at university.”

"It was one of those amazing chance conversations,” remembered Caroline. “We were both amazed when we realised we had both been at Leicester, doing the same subject. We had similar reasons for going as it was one of the few places to offer human geography.”

“It is an amazing coincidence to end up working together all these years later, and we still reminisce together about our University days. We’ve got to know each other much better since then and it’s great fun working together,” added Pamela.

For more than 40 years, Antiques Roadshow has been beloved by millions. Both Caroline and Pamela credit the show’s success to British culture. “The format of the show would only work in this country,” said Caroline, “because Brits are happy to queue in the sunshine and the rain. It can be quite extraordinary how long some members of the public queue for, but they don’t seem to mind.”

On average, they welcome around 4,000 members of the public to each location, with two episodes being filmed at each venue. It is both Pamela and Caroline’s responsibilities to encourage members of the public to attend with their hidden treasures. “There’s a very British sense that ‘it could be us’, which I think is one of the show’s biggest appeals,” said Pamela. “We keep things and you never really know what they are, or how much they’re worth. I remember one episode we had a lady who came in with a pretty brooch, which turned out to be Faberge. She had no idea. The items usually have amazing stories which accompany them, which everyone can relate to.”

Is there a standout item for them both? “For me, Antiques Roadshow is like an out of body experience. I’m so busy running around making sure the event is going okay that it’s rare I actually get to see any of the actual items," explained Caroline.

“I love tuning in to see how the episode turns out, but my experience of the shoot day bears no resemblance to the broadcast.”

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To celebrate International Women’s Day on Friday 8 March 2018, the University unveiled three new portraits of inspirational women in the Council Suite.

These women all represent watershed moments in the University’s history: the first graduate, the first female professor, and the first female president of the Students’ Union.

“For many decades, the University has honoured the dedicated service of those who have led this institution and helped it to flourish by committing them to canvas,” explained Dr Kate Williams, Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.

“With these new portraits, we are also recognising pioneers whose achievements have challenged stereotypes and demonstrated that achievement and leadership has no boundaries of race or gender.”

The portraits were all painted by female artists and capture just a few of the inspirational stories of women at the University.

WENDY HICKLING
The University received its Royal Charter in 1957, and awarded the first University of Leicester degrees the following summer (until then, students of the University College received University of London degrees). By virtue of the alphabet, Wendy Hickling (née Baldwin) OBE, JP, DL (BA English, 1958; Honorary Doctor of Laws, 1998) was the first ever University of Leicester graduate.

Wendy, who became a Distinguished Honorary Fellow in 2008, remained connected to the University throughout her life. She served on the two main governing bodies, Council and Court, for more than 20 years, and also for 16 years on the Convocation (the predecessor to the Alumni Association). Initially working as a teacher, she ran a nursery school in Leicester for 25 years and also worked for a local charity supporting blind people. Wendy passed away in 2017 aged 80.

Her portrait was painted by Rebecca Foster, a London-based artist known for contemporary portraiture.

OLIVE BANKS
Born in 1923, sociologist Olive Banks left school at 16. She worked in an office, a factory and a lab before going to the London School of Economics at 24. Upon graduation, she married her husband, also a sociologist, to the University of Liverpool as a research assistant, before joining Leicester as a Reader in 1970. Three years later, she was awarded a Chair and became the University’s first female professor.

Olive’s research concentrated on the new field of sociology of education, and she published her first book in 1955. She published the textbook *The Sociology of Education* in 1965 and her acclaimed *Faces of Feminism* in 1981. Upon her retirement in 1982, Olive remained the University’s only female professor. She passed away in 2006 aged 83.

Derbyshire-based portrait artist Elizabeth Emma Tooth, whose work has featured in many public galleries and collections across the world, painted Olive’s portrait.

ESUANTSWA JANE GOLDSMITH
When elected President of the Students’ Union in 1975, Esuantsiwa Jane Goldsmith (BA Combined Studies, 1975; PGCE, 1976; Honorary Doctor of Laws, 2015) became the first female student elected to the post since the University was awarded the Royal Charter. ‘Students pick woman!’ was the headline of the *Leicester Mercury* that week.

Esuantsiwa has since gained 30 years’ experience as an activist in women’s human rights worldwide, working as a consultant to more than 100 voluntary organisations. “This is the most amazing project to be part of,” she said. “It’s not about being honoured and being on the walls along with the men, it’s actually about saying we need more images so that we can inspire the future generations of young women to come forward, to lead movements, and to fulfill themselves.”

Portrait painter and University Porter Megan McMullan painted Esuantsiwa’s painting. She captures both the likeness and personality of her sitter.
Your gifts to the University change lives.

Philanthropy founded the University as a home for bright minds to explore and make a difference. Now, it is driving our future. As we look ahead to the next century, we ask you to get involved and support our students, our research and our campus.

You can help us make a lasting and positive impact on society. Every gift, no matter what size, makes a real difference. Now, it is a home for bright minds to explore and make a difference. Now, it is a home for bright minds to explore and make a difference. Now, it is a home for bright minds to explore and make a difference. Now, it is a home for bright minds to explore and make a difference. Now, it is a home for bright minds to explore and make a difference. Now, it is a home for bright minds to explore and make a difference.

STUDENT SUPPORT

We remain committed to attracting the very best students from across the world, regardless of background or circumstance. Your support to our range of scholarships and bursaries will recognise students who have excelled academically, as well as help students from less advantaged backgrounds attend university and receive a world-class education.

RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

Your gift will support the University’s work in advancing innovative research and making life-changing discoveries. You can help us to provide academics and students with the resources needed to explore and make the next great breakthrough.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND ESTATES

The campus estate and facilities are a key resource for students, staff and the local community. Therefore, we need to ensure that our laboratories, teaching spaces, libraries and other facilities are of the highest quality. These investments ensure the University is well positioned for continued growth and success.

GREATEST NEED

The flexibility to address emerging needs and priorities is crucial for the success of any great university. Your gift will make a significant and immediate impact on students, staff and the wider community in the areas that need it most.

To support one of these causes, please visit: www.le.ac.uk/giving

Thank you.

The scholarship programme has given me a whole support network. I now have people around me that want to see me achieve and who are willing to help me so that I can reach my full potential. The scholarship I received has helped me to do this, from being able to purchase vital equipment to maintaining the upkeep of my boat. I am now in a great position to represent my country and the University.”

CAMILLA PLUMB
Sports Scholarship Recipient

“This gift will transform our approach to the study of the common cause of kidney disease. By better understanding the causes of IgA Nephropathy, we hope it will be possible to develop better clinical tests to diagnose the disease earlier and perhaps to identify new targets for drugs to treat it.”

PROFESSOR JONATHAN BARRATT
received a gift of £2.7 million to further his research

SIR NICHOLAS GREEN (LLB LAW, 1980; HONORARY DOCTOR OF LAWS, 2017) (PICTURED) AND LADY GREEN (BA SOCIAL SCIENCES, 1980) gifted £50,000 towards a Mooting Room for the Law School

STUDENT SUPPORT: CENTENARY SCHOLARSHIPS

To commemorate our centenary, we have launched an ambitious student support initiative to award 100 Centenary Scholarships each year to undergraduate students joining between 2018 and 2020. Students who have overcome adversity, or made sacrifices for the good of others, will be eligible to apply. Each Centenary Scholar will be awarded £1,000 to help them with their studies.

Your support is invaluable – every pound given will make a difference to future students.

Your gift of:
• £25 will support a student in their first week
• £100 will support them through their month of exams
• £1,000 will fully support a Centenary Scholarship

With a gift of £1,000 or more, you will join our Founders’ Circle. The Founders’ Circle connects individuals with a shared vision to make a difference for students today and prepare the University for tomorrow.

LEARN MORE:
To support a Centenary Scholarship or find out more, please contact annualgiving@le.ac.uk

MAKE A LASTING IMPACT THROUGH A GIFT IN WILL FOR FREE

A gift in Will makes the seemingly impossible, possible. It can open the door to higher education for students who never thought it an option because of limited financial resources. It allows academics access to state-of-the-art equipment and facilities, resulting in breakthroughs in medical treatment or discoveries of historic artefacts that help explain our heritage.

If you’d like to make a lasting impact and inspire the bright minds of the future through a gift in your Will, you can take benefit of our Free Wills scheme. In partnership with the Free Wills Network we will put you in touch with a solicitor in your local area, who can amend or write a simple Will, at no cost to you.

LEARN MORE: Please contact Rosie O’Connor, Legacy Manager, via +44(0)116 252 2850 or rosie.oconnor@le.ac.uk

MAKE A DIFFERENCE
When I retired in 1996 as a principal Earth Sciences at the University of Leeds, I decided after my PhD that it was 60 per cent boring and 40 per cent exciting. I organised a reunion this summer on campus for my ‘Unips’ (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 Naeman Raza who studied Social Sciences. It was really great to reminisce about our time at Leicester and to catch up with one another.

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Ather Mirza (BA English, 1982)
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.

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

I worked with a chemical MA at UEA. I had a brief excursion into DNA and Richard III. Would love to give a presentation of Leicester alumni here in LA last year 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 Mealt ime 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.

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, Leony, in memory of our time at Leicester.
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 Ngaubah (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 Education based in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea. I will be chair of the session, ‘What is the need in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea. I will discuss the experience of living abroad.

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 an 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.

Kenni 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 Communications, 2015)

I am spending my fifth summer teaching ancient history for the Center for Talented Youth (CYT) run by Johns Hopkins University. CYT 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 Maya civilizations, such as the Olmecs and the Mayas.

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.

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.

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/alumni/stayintouch

We can play our part as one of the UK’s leading, inclusive universities, but if gender equality is going to be a reality, then women need to have the same opportunities as men.

The President and Vice-Chancellor addresses the academic pay gap and the University’s ongoing commitment to gender equality.

This year, for the first time in its history, the University has promoted more women to professorships than men. The significance of this statistic should not be underestimated.

Historically, women have made up two fifths of the academic staff at the University, but only just over a fifth of our tenured professorships. This is a huge waste of talent and something I pledged to tackle when I took up my post in 2014.

Of course, Leicester is not alone in this gender imbalance. At universities across the UK, women make up over half of undergraduates and 46 per cent of the academic staff, but only 24 per cent of professors. Here at Leicester we have set an ambitious target that by 2020 at least 30 per cent of our professors will be women.

Usually many more men than women apply for promotion – last year, before our reforms had bedded in, only three of the 21 candidates for professor were women, and two succeeded. This year, there were 17 women and 15 men in the process, of which nine women and eight men were successful.

The fact that more women came forward is partly due to the new Leicester Academic Career Map that has removed bias against women in the criteria for internal promotions. It establishes criteria for promotion that recognise that it is not just the quantity of research output that is important, but its quality. Though fairer to everyone who takes a career break to look after children or elderly relatives, this change particularly helps women.

But our success is also a tribute to the broader work being done by staff and students across campus to raise awareness of the opportunities for women.

Our determination to tackle the gender gap was given a huge boost in 2015 when the University was chosen by the United Nations as one of only 10 universities globally to be an impact champion for its HeForShe movement. We made three commitments – to close the gap between men and women in key academic and career areas, to create a cultural transformation around gender, and to make public the conversation around gender. Our role is to seek out new ways of doing things and pilot initiatives, then disseminate what works to universities and institutions across the world.

Here at Leicester we have put in place a couple of dozen practical projects ranging from mentoring career development and ‘know your own biases’ checklists, to ideathons where students pitch their ideas for tackling gender bias and violence. We have even introduced some diversity to the exclusively male portraits that adorned our council room, having commissioned three portraits of women painted by women.

Through HeForShe, we have also been learning from initiatives at North American universities. And our ideas have been disseminated – Barclays were so impressed with our in-house promotional video that they replicated it with their own staff.

We can play our part as one of the UK’s leading, inclusive universities, but if gender equality is going to be a reality, then women need to have the same opportunities as men once they leave us and forge their careers. We have alumni across the spread of academia, industry, commerce and the public and voluntary sectors. We hope to start a conversation with you to find new ways of making a difference.
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LAND IN A LEADERSHIP ROLE.

Give your career the edge with our unique midwifery or nursing degrees.

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