



University of
Leicester

Graduates' *review*

Alumni and supporters' magazine | Spring 2015



An historic day
A burial fit for a King

Editor's welcome



This has been a very exciting year for our university and I'm really pleased to be able to share the latest news and recent successes with you in this issue of *Graduates' Review*. This year, I have invited a special guest editor to offer a personal introduction to the magazine. I am sure you will enjoy reading the preview from Julie Etchingham, an honorary graduate of the University and co-presenter of *ITV News at Ten*.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support, and I look forward to seeing you at one of our many events in the coming year.

Very best wishes,

Steve O'Connor (BA Combined Studies, 1979)

Director of Development

Guest editor

I am very proud to have been invited to be the first guest editor of *Graduate's Review*. It was a real privilege when the University of Leicester awarded me an honorary degree in 2012, strengthening my ties to my home city.

Like most of you, I remain captivated with the University's role in the discovery of Richard III and have been following the story very closely. It has been so compelling to see the merger of history with cutting-edge science, and I was pleased to read on page 7 that the story isn't over yet with plans for the full DNA sequencing.

I knew that the University had great expertise in genetic fingerprinting, but before reading this issue, I didn't know that it was a technique which was actually developed there. It's great that the new ITV drama *Code of a Killer* has helped to share this story worldwide, and I enjoyed reading about the wonderful reception the University gave to the film crew on page 10. I know all too well how disruptive it can be when

film crews descend, and it makes the world of difference to be met with friendly and accommodating people.

I hope you will be as inspired as I was by Ted, the medical student on page 20 discussing his motivations to become a doctor, and as an English graduate and journalist, I absolutely loved reading about the career success of alumna Vikki Orvice on page 16, the first female sports reporter on a tabloid newspaper.

This issue has given me a great feel for the University, reflecting on how it continues to push the boundaries of research and benefit communities locally and beyond. I am really proud to be a member of the alumni community and offer my support as the University continues to flourish, and I hope you enjoy reading *Graduates' Review* as much as I did.

Best wishes,

**Julie Etchingham
(LLD Doctor of Laws, 2012)**



On the cover

Osteologist Dr Jo Appleby lays a white rose on the coffin of King Richard III during a public ceremony at the University on Sunday 22 March to mark the departure of his mortal remains to Leicester Cathedral. Jo was a member of the project team that discovered his remains in 2012.



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The votes are in

Last year we asked you to tell us what you wanted to see more (and less) of in *Graduates' Review* and we were overwhelmed with the feedback we received via our readership survey. Thank you to everyone who took part.

Your input is really important to us and so we are taking your suggestions on board. Based on your comments, this will be the last issue of *Graduates' Review* you will receive in this style.

Don't worry, we will still be producing a magazine just for you, to keep you up to date with the University of Leicester and news from your alumni community, but please watch this space whilst we work on a new publication that features more research news, more University news and more alumni news, just as you requested.

In the meantime, congratulations to reader Kelly Parmar (LLB Law, 2012) who was chosen at random to win the iPad prize for completing the survey.

If you have any feedback on this issue, please get in touch with us via alumni.relations@le.ac.uk

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University of Leicester Alumni Association

University of Leicester Alumni

www.le.ac.uk/alumni

Leicester's research impact demonstrated in Research Excellence Framework results

December 2014 saw the publication of the first Research Excellence Framework (REF) results, setting out the national landscape for research performance and impact across universities in the UK.

The University was ranked in the top quartile of UK universities by *The Guardian* and in the top 25 UK universities in the *THE Research Power Rankings*.

The vast majority of our research was judged to be of global significance, with 75 per cent declared internationally excellent. The fact that we also entered a substantial proportion of academics to the REF (84 per cent) signals that our academics are continuing to develop and build upon our world-leading research.

We also demonstrated the strong public impact of our research during the first year in which this factor was measured. The School of Museum Studies remains one of the top research departments in the country and achieved

the highest grading possible (100 per cent) for its impact.

Sixty five per cent of research in clinical medicine was classed as world-leading and given the highest rating of 4* for its impact thanks to work that our academics are doing to improve health in the local community.

The public impact of our archaeological work, including the dig for Richard III, was judged to be internationally excellent or better.

"These results provide a platform upon which to build," says President and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Paul Boyle. "As part of the strategic conversation I am having with staff, students, alumni and supporters, we will be deciding where we need to consolidate our strength and where we need to develop further."



For the latest news, visit:
www.le.ac.uk/news



Adrian Mole creator remembered by University

The life and work of Distinguished Honorary Fellow Sue Townsend was honoured by the University in a public exhibition, following her sad death in 2014. Pictured here in 2008, the bestselling author views a display of her literary papers from the University's Special Collections in the David Wilson Library.



Good thinking from Leicester academics

Through *Think: Leicester*, our new platform for informed expert opinion, and our partnership with national media outlet, *The Conversation*, more of our academics are using their expertise to engage with the news agenda and illustrate the topicality and relevance of their research.

In a recent self-authored opinion piece, Dr Sue Dymoke from our School of Education, discusses the quality of A-level education that

students will experience from Autumn 2015, demonstrating how Leicester's researchers are tackling today's big issues.

"An apparent desire to take the so-called 'gold standard' of A-level assessment back to a mythical golden age has wrought confusion for students at a crucial time in their education," she says.

LEARN MORE

www.le.ac.uk/think-leicester

Pioneering a new degree pathway

From September, our students will, for the first time, be able to choose to study a major/minor degree in addition to the traditional single and joint honours degrees. The 2015/16 intake will have the option of creating their own combination of major and minor subjects, with both appearing in their degree title.

“Students will have the benefit of breadth as well as depth, and we know that employers and graduate recruiters are increasingly interested in multi-disciplinary talents and skills, and a broad awareness as well as mastery, of a particular discipline,” says Professor Mark Peel, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Student Experience).

Many of our current disciplines will offer majors and minors, and new subject areas are also being discussed, such as ethics, leadership, strategic planning, gender studies, sustainability, global studies, creative writing and community development.

“If there’s an opportunity to make a change that will enhance our students’ education and experience, then we want Leicester to be a pioneer of that opportunity.”

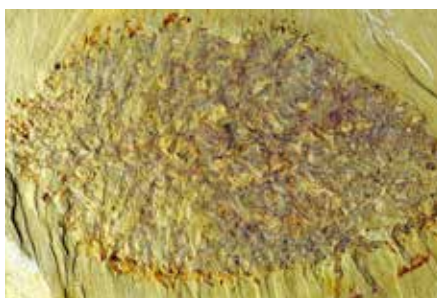


Top honour for life-saving heart surgeon

Alumnus and British Heart Foundation Professor of Cardiology Professor Nilesh Samani (MD (all subjects), 1984; MBChB Medicine, 1981; BSc Medical Sciences, 1978) has been honoured for his services to medicine and medical research with a knighthood in the Queen’s New Year Honours.

Nilesh, a consultant at Leicester’s Hospitals, has contributed fundamental discoveries, changed scientific thinking and impacted on clinical practice in the field of Cardiovascular Sciences. In particular he has revealed the genetic basis of cardiovascular diseases and is investigating how that knowledge can be applied for better prevention, treatment and care.

“I am both surprised and truly delighted to have been awarded this honour,” he says. “I view it as a recognition of what we have tried to achieve in Leicester – to create a world-class clinical and academic research centre dedicated to improving the treatment of heart diseases.”



Rare fossil honours eminent Leicester geologist

An exceptionally rare fossil, that is 520 million years old, has been named in honour of a former University of Leicester geologist.

The chancelloriid fossil, which was discovered in Chengjiang in southern China, has been named *Nidelric pugio* to honour the late Professor Richard Aldridge, an internationally renowned palaeontologist and keen ornithologist from the University’s Department of Geology, who sadly passed away in 2014.

The name of the fossil is derived from the Latin *Nidus*, meaning ‘resemblance to’ and *alderic*, which is an Old English source for the name Aldridge.

One of a group of bizarre, balloon-shaped animals with an outer skeleton of defensive spines, the fossil tells us much about how early animals functioned, how they might have interacted and how they might have protected themselves from predators.

News Bites

Leicester graduates much sought-after by employers

A major new report on the graduate job market, published in 2015 ranks the University of Leicester in the top 25 universities most targeted by *The Times Top 100 Graduate Employers*, who in turn offer some of the UK’s highest paid, and most sought-after, graduate roles.

The world’s top 1%

We are proud to continue to be ranked among the top 200 universities in the world according to a prestigious league table. The University’s ranking in the *Times Higher Education World University Rankings* places us in the top one per cent of universities worldwide.

Engineers build new ventures

Engineering research at the University is making its mark on business with the launch of the Advanced Structural Dynamics Evaluation Centre (ASDEC).

The UK’s first commercial robotised 3D scanning laser vibration measurement and model analysis centre is located at MIRA Technology Park near Hinckley. It will offer key research capability to industrial partners to deliver innovative engineering solutions to problems of vibration and noise.

ASDEC has the capability to deliver the next level of expertise to its customers, working in synergy with the industry’s requirement for reducing time to market for new products.



The next chapter

The University is delighted to welcome Professor Paul Boyle as its first ever President and sixth Vice-Chancellor.



Former Chief Executive of the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), Professor Paul Boyle is following in the footsteps of Vice-Chancellors including Sir Fraser Noble and Sir Maurice Shock as the University's new Chief Executive.

The President and Vice-Chancellor is responsible for the University's mission, policy and strategic direction as well as academic leadership. Suffolk-born Paul succeeds Professor Sir Robert Burgess, who retired last September after 15 years in the role, as the University's youngest ever institutional head.

"It is a privilege to be working at a university that is delivering distinctive world-leading research and education," explains Paul. "There were a variety of things that attracted me to the role but, ultimately, Leicester has a fantastic reputation for the quality of service it provides to its students and an equally strong reputation for its research, which meant it was an opportunity that I couldn't miss."

A geographer, who was previously Head of the School of Geography and Geosciences at the University of St Andrews, and President of Science Europe, Paul is keen for the University to build upon its international strategy and communicate the globally-leading research we are delivering to an international audience.

"The University already has a major impact on the region and I will be looking to continue to develop our relationship with

the councils, businesses, community groups and other key organisations in the city," he says. "But, critically, the institution needs to become more global in its outlook, engaging internationally in carefully planned collaborations. At the same time, we should be smarter, making better use of technology and embedding cutting-edge digital approaches in all that we do."

The father of four, who describes himself as a family man, began his tenure welcoming alumni and supporters to the House of Lords Reception last autumn. He has spent his first few months meeting with all of the University's departments and researchers. "Universities are only as good as the people who work there.

"In the short time I have been in Leicester, I have been inspired by the collegiality and the excitement being generated by research ideas. I think academia is a wonderful career and I myself have thoroughly enjoyed both research and teaching.

"The role of President and Vice-Chancellor brings such a dynamic set of responsibilities and it is my ambition to take what is already a very strong institution, and make it an even better place to study and to do research. I want us to be absolutely excellent in the research that we do, provide a student experience that is unparalleled, and build a lifelong and supportive relationship with our alumni and benefactors."



Royal mystery solved after more than 500 years

Fresh DNA evidence confirms King Richard III's identity but raises new questions about royal lineage.

Photograph Carl Vivian

The University captured the imagination of the world in September 2012 when it announced the discovery of a complete skeleton at the site of the Grey Friars Church in Leicester city centre – the last known location of King Richard III.

Now, the team of researchers, led by Dr Turi King (PhD Genetics, 2008; MSc Molecular Genetics, 1998) from our Department of Genetics, has been able to confirm that the identity of the skeleton is indeed the last Plantagenet King, following a statistical analysis and further genetic and genealogical research.

“Even with our highly conservative analysis, the evidence is overwhelming that these are indeed the remains of King Richard III, thereby closing an over 500 year-old missing person's case,” says Turi.

After collecting DNA evidence from the skeleton and living relatives of the King, the team analysed several genetic markers, including the complete mitochondrial genomes which are inherited through the maternal line, and Y-chromosomal markers which are inherited through the paternal line.

They found a genetic match between the skeleton and two female-line descendants of Richard's sister Anne of York: Wendy Duldig, a niece of Richard III, 18 times removed and Michael Ibsen, Richard's nephew, 16 times removed. However, the Y-chromosomal results did not show a match between the remains and five living paternal relatives of Richard III, all descending from Henry Somerset, 5th Duke of Beaufort. ▶





L-R: Wendy Duldig and Michael Ibsen

◀ This result was not thought to be particularly unusual by the researchers, and, using the genetic analysis, coupled with historical and archaeological evidence, including radiocarbon dating results, the team was able to carry out a statistical analysis of all the evidence together to confirm the skeleton's identity as King Richard III to 99.999 per cent, at its most conservative.

Whilst the team were unsurprised by the non-match for the Y-chromosome results, given that the chances for a false paternity (where the biological father is not the recorded father) are fairly high after so many generations, the significance of this discovery depends on where the break in the chain occurred and could raise interesting questions in relation to the historical monarchy.

"There are one or more breaks in the chain from Richard III to Henry 5th Duke of Beaufort," explains Pro-Vice-Chancellor Professor Kevin Schürer who led the genealogical research. "There are 19 links in that chain, so there is an equal probability of any one of those 19 being broken and from a historical viewpoint, where the break occurred has differential consequences.

"If, and it is a very big if, the break in the chain is one of the five between Richard, up through Edward and then to John of Gaunt, historians could ask questions theoretically about the inheritance of a number of the Plantagenet monarchs. However, statistically speaking, the break is far more likely to have occurred from John of Gaunt's son downwards."

The researchers also used genetic markers to determine Richard's hair and eye colour as there are no contemporary portraits of him; they all post-date his death by around 30 years. They found that he probably had blond hair, at least in childhood, and almost certainly had blue eyes.

"The findings show the portrait that most closely matches Richard's genetically predicted hair and eye colour is the one in the Society of Antiquaries in London, the Arched Frame Portrait," adds Turi, who published the research, which was part-funded by the Wellcome Trust and the Leverhulme Trust, in the journal *Nature Communications*.

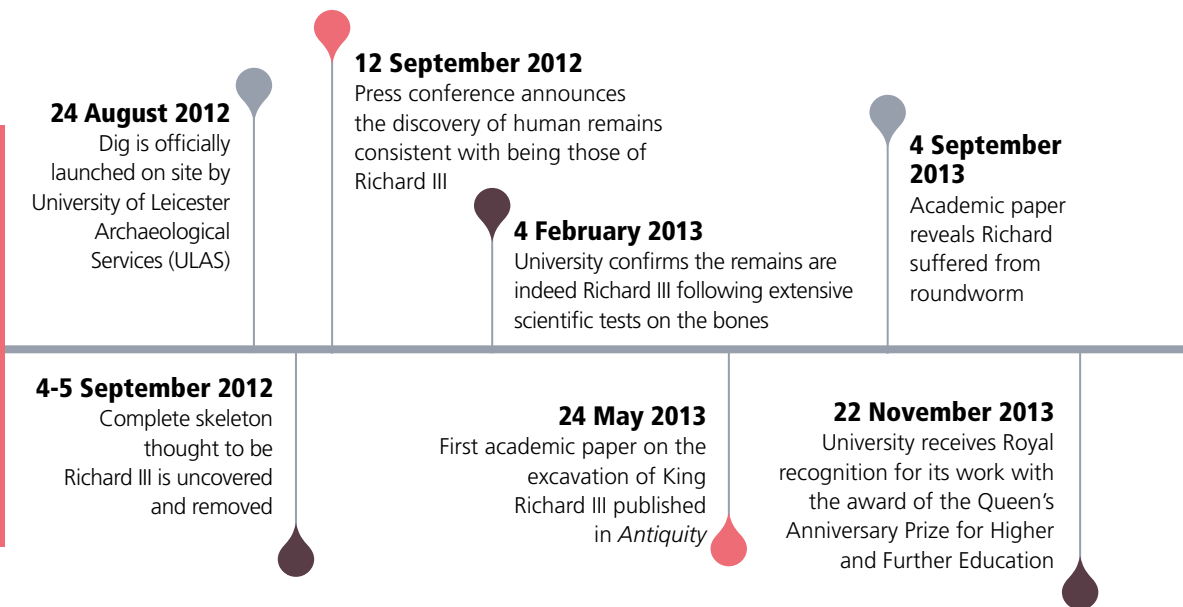
The team now plans to sequence the complete genome of Richard III to learn even more about the last English King to die in battle.

“ Even with our highly conservative analysis, the evidence is overwhelming that these are indeed the remains of King Richard III.

Dr Turi King, Department of Genetics

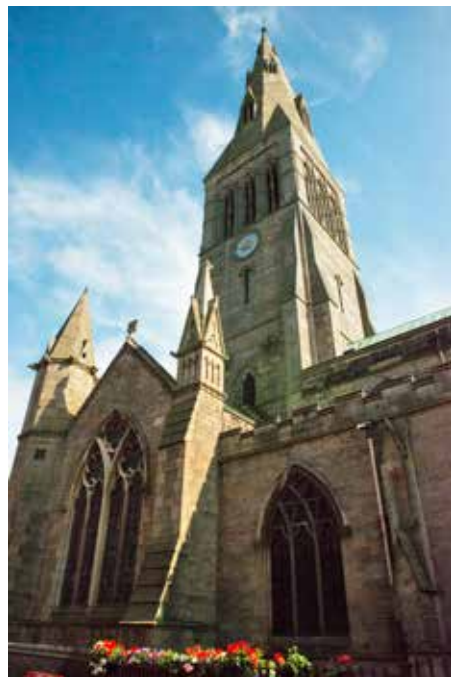
A timeline of discovery

The University embarked on the search for Richard III in August 2012 and this timeline provides a snapshot of our discovery.



A burial fit for a King

Remains of King Richard III reinterred at Leicester Cathedral 530 years after his death.



The mortal remains of King Richard III left the University of Leicester on Sunday 22 March for the start of his final journey, processing through the city and county where the coffin stopped at sites of significance along the way, before being laid to rest at Leicester Cathedral.

From the University, the cortege first travelled to Fenn Lane Farm, reputedly the site of the King's death, before moving on to nearby village parish churches of Dadlington and Sutton Cheney.

These sites were chosen due to their significance in Richard's final days – some of the victims of his final battle are buried in Dadlington's churchyard of St James the Greater and some people believe him to have taken his final Mass at the Church of St James in Sutton Cheney on the eve of battle.

The Bishop of Leicester, Right Reverend Tim Stevens, then led a short ceremony at the Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre before the remains continued to Market Bosworth, Newbold Verdon and Desford.

They returned to the city mid-afternoon at Bow Bridge, where they were met by the City Mayor Sir Peter Soulsby, Lord Mayor Councillor John Thomas and a horse-drawn

hearse to take the coffin to the Cathedral for an evening service of Compline with the Catholic Archbishop of Westminster. Dr Richard Buckley OBE, lead archaeologist from the University, formally handed over the remains to the care of the Cathedral.

"From the outset of the project, I have always stressed the importance of maintaining the strong historical association of King Richard with Leicester and we followed best archaeological practice in recommending that his remains be transferred to the nearest place of consecration for the reinterment: the Cathedral of St Martin, less than a hundred metres away," explains Richard.

King Richard's remains then lay in repose for three days, during which thousands of members of the public visited to pay their respects, before the reburial service on Thursday 26 March in front of an invited congregation, including the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Richard's tomb is now in full public view, sitting within an ambulatory between the Chapel of Christ the King and the sanctuary of Leicester Cathedral, offering a space for people to visit and reflect.

23 May 2014

High Court upholds Ministry of Justice licence granted to University to reinter King Richard at Leicester Cathedral

26 July 2014

Richard III Visitor Centre opens on the site of the Grey Friars Church charting the University's discovery

17 August 2014

Bone chemistry reveals clues of Richard's diet and lifestyle

2 December 2014

University publishes the DNA evidence alongside a statistical analysis to confirm identity of skeleton in *Nature Communications*

26 March 2015

Richard III reburied at Leicester Cathedral

30 May 2014

Further evidence reveals extent of Richard III's scoliosis, leading to his spinal curvature

17 September 2014

Most likely cause of Richard's death identified

21 March 2015

University celebrates its discovery with a public King Richard III Open Day

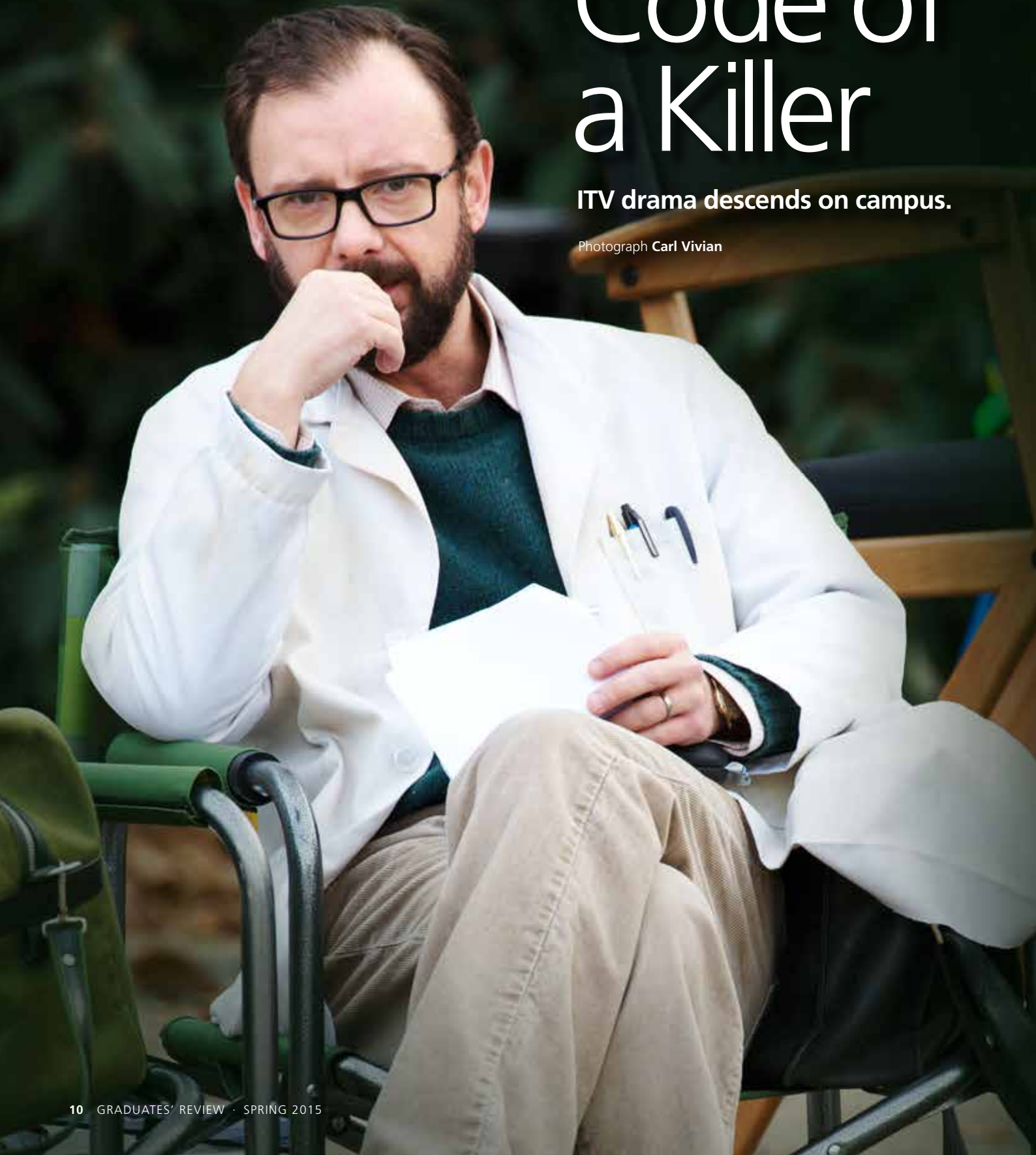
22 March 2015

Richard III's remains leave University to journey through the county and city

Code of a Killer

ITV drama descends on campus.

Photograph Carl Vivian



The true story of the first ever criminal case to be solved using DNA fingerprinting – a technique developed at the University – has been dramatised for television.

Last autumn, an 80-strong crew from ITV descended onto campus to film the two-part series which retells the story of the investigation into the murders of two Leicestershire schoolgirls, Lynda Mann and Dawn Ashworth – a crime which sent shockwaves through the tightknit local community. Local man Colin Pitchfork was the first person to be convicted of murder using Professor Sir Alec Jeffreys's pioneering DNA fingerprinting technique, which recently celebrated its 30th anniversary.

"It's been hugely enjoyable to be involved in this dramatisation, from script editing through set design, to being filmed as Alec's hands doing experiments," explains Dr Ed Hollox, Lecturer in Genetics who acted as scientific advisor to the production.

"I've been very impressed by the hard work and professionalism of the whole cast and crew who have made the science a key thread throughout the drama and were eager to get it right. I'm hoping that it will help to inspire a new generation to study genetics."

The University was central to the drama's storyline which stars *Doctor Who* actor John Simm (pictured) as Sir Alec and *Shameless* actor David Threlfall as Detective David Baker, the detective who approached Sir Alec in 1986 for help with the case. One hundred students were recruited as extras and Sir Alec even had a walk on part in the series which aired this spring.

Fast forward 30 years and the University is still very much at the forefront of forensic research. Dr John Bond OBE from our Department of Criminology has recently developed an innovative fingerprinting technology that uncovers fingerprints on ATM bills and receipts – which has previously proven difficult – and Dr Jon Wetton from our Department of Genetics has created the UK's first cat DNA database which has already helped to convict a killer.

“ I've been very impressed by the hard work and professionalism of the whole cast and crew who have made the science a key thread throughout the drama and were eager to get it right.

Dr Ed Hollox, Department of Genetics

Why darkness matters

Our scientists provide a tantalising insight into one of the planet's greatest mysteries.

For more than 80 years, space scientists have hypothesised about the existence of dark matter – a kind of matter that holds the universe together but does not emit or absorb light. It is theorised to make up 85 per cent of the matter of the universe, but it cannot be seen and there has never been any proof of its existence, until now.

Astronomers at the University have discovered a curious signal in the X-ray sky that is believed to be the first detection of dark matter – an historic breakthrough in the field.

The team has found what appears to be a signature of axions, particles believed to make up dark matter, coming from the sun towards Earth, from data taken by the European Space Agency's XMM-Newton observatory.

The research was led by former Director of our Space Research Centre, Professor George Fraser, who sadly died last March after submitting his findings to the journal *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society*. In the paper, he wrote: "It appears plausible that axions – dark matter particle candidates – are indeed produced in the core of the sun and do indeed convert to X-rays in the magnetic field of the Earth."

Astronomers use dark matter to explain the way stellar objects, like stars and planets, move through space. Without dark matter, conventional theories of gravity related to movement would not work.

"The X-ray background – the sky, after bright X-ray sources are removed – appears to be unchanged whenever you look at it," explains Dr Andy Read from our Department of Physics and Astronomy, who took over as research lead from George.

"However, we have discovered a seasonal signal in this X-ray background, which has no conventional explanation, but is consistent with the discovery of axions.

"These exciting discoveries in George's final paper could be truly groundbreaking, potentially opening a window to new physics, and could have huge implications, not only for our understanding of the true X-ray sky, but also for identifying the dark matter that dominates the mass content of the cosmos."

Previous searches for axions, notably at CERN, have so far proved unsuccessful. The team from Leicester predicts that the X-ray signal due to axions will be greatest when looking through the sunward side of the magnetic field because this is where the field is strongest.

Whilst the findings are tentative and may take several years to check, they represent a dramatic advance in our understanding of the universe. "This is an amazing result," comments Professor Martin Barstow, Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Head of the College of Science and Engineering. "If confirmed, it will be the first detection and identification of the elusive dark matter particles and will have a fundamental impact on our theories of the universe."

The sky's the limit

Leicester's mission to clean up the air we breathe.

With more than 50 per cent of the world's population now living in towns and cities, the University of Leicester's Air Quality Group has made it its mission to improve our understanding of the effects of pollution on the planet through the development of innovative technologies, productive partnerships and world-leading research.

Using electric cars equipped with specialist sensors for air monitoring, Dr Roland Leigh from our Department of Physics and Astronomy is working to assess the quality of the air in the urban locations in which we live and breathe.

The team is examining the prevalence of nitrogen dioxide and other key pollutants in the air whilst exploring the benefits of zero emission vehicles. With research that also takes to the skies, Roland and his team are using airborne mapping systems to create detailed maps of pollution concentrations in cities to further target congested areas and develop solutions.

"By providing a better understanding of levels of pollution and human exposure, we can help to inform policymakers on how best to manage the amount of exposure we have to pollution on a daily basis," he explains.

Further showing the University's world-class expertise in environmental research, Professor John Remedios from our Department of Physics and Astronomy has recently taken up a position as the Head of the National Centre for Earth Observation, which has received an investment of £23 million from the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) to understand global and regional environmental change through satellite data.

This marks the second internationally renowned Earth Observation Centre led by the University, which is also the lead academic partner in the Centre for Earth Observation Instrumentation under the direction of Professor Paul Monks from our Department of Chemistry.

With friends like these, who needs enemies?

Criminologists uncover hidden side of hate crime.

We often trust those who are closest to us the most, but researchers from our Department of Criminology have discovered that some of the most likely perpetrators of hate crimes are those closest to home; including friends, carers and colleagues.

The findings stem from the two year Leicester Hate Crime Project, which concluded in 2014, and identified a variety of shocking ways in which victims of hate crime suffer, often in silence.

"There is an assumption that hate crimes are committed by strangers, far-right extremists or hate fuelled individuals," says Dr Stevie-Jade Hardy, (PhD Criminology, 2015; MSc Applied Criminology, 2011; BA Criminology, 2009), one of the project leads. "Our study shows that hate crimes are often committed by ordinary people who are known to the victim, which has a devastating emotional and physical impact."

The research team heard from nearly 1,500 victims targeted on the basis of their identity characteristics or perceived 'difference', and found that many felt vulnerable, depressed or suicidal as a result of hate crime.

Findings from the study have been outlined in an award-winning short film made by the University's Creative Services Team entitled *The Harms of Hate*, which recently won a Royal Television Society award for Best Factual Programme. The film showcases the stories of seven people living in Leicester who have been victimised because of who they are.

"The award is a fitting tribute to the victims who were brave enough to share their stories of everyday hate," adds Dr Neil Chakraborti, Reader in Criminology. "We look forward to developing similar innovative resources."

You can watch *The Harms of Hate* at www.youtube.com/watch?v=MCFJd2U2BNQ



What's on 2015

We'd love to welcome you back to Leicester and here are just a few upcoming events we hope will tempt you to pay us a visit.

May



Legacy Guild Afternoon Tea, Friday 22 May

The second annual Legacy Guild Afternoon Tea will be hosted by President and Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Boyle. Invitation only.

June



Red Leicester Re:Union, Saturday 20 June

Remember Red Leicester student nights at the Union? Now is your chance to relive ten years of cheesy music with Tony Large-It at a special 2004 – 2014 reunion. To purchase tickets, visit www.rockstarpromotions.co.uk



Summer Reunion Open Day, Saturday 27 June

Bring your family and friends back to campus for a day of social events, activities, lectures and fun for all ages.

Highlights include:

Hard hat tours: Centre for Medicine and the Attenborough Arts Centre

Join us for a unique opportunity to see the progress of the Centre for Medicine building and the new gallery at the Attenborough Arts Centre with exclusive hard hat tours. Advance booking required.

Chemistry – 90 Years of Chemistry

If you are a Chemistry graduate or are just interested in the subject, you are invited to join the Department as they celebrate 90 years since its first intake in 1925.

1960s Events

Due to popular demand, we will be hosting a range of reunion day activities specifically for our 1960s graduates. More details to follow.

Benefactors' Reception

Friends and supporters of the University will soon receive their invitations to join leading academics and current students at this annual celebration of the impact of philanthropy at Leicester.



Look out for the next Alumni Dinner on **Thursday 10 March 2016**

For more information and to book your place, visit www.le.ac.uk/alumni

University Events

Summer inaugural lecture series

Titles will be announced in due course.

Tuesday 5 May

Professor Henrietta O'Connor, School of Management

Tuesday 19 May

Professor Alexander Kurz, Department of Computer Science

Tuesday 26 May

Professor Richard Bayliss, Department of Biochemistry

Tuesday 2 June

Professor Katja Ziegler, School of Law

Tuesday 9 June

Professor Raymond Dalgleish, Department of Genetics

LEARN MORE

www.le.ac.uk/inaugural-lectures

Literary Leicester, Wednesday 11 – Saturday 14 November

The University's eighth annual festival of the written word returns this autumn with a host of award-winning and renowned writers, fascinating talks and readings, performance and panel discussions.

LEARN MORE

www.le.ac.uk/literaryleicester

The Attenborough Arts Centre

For the full programme of art and cultural events, visit

www.attenborougharts.com

City Events

Picasso Ceramics exhibition, January – December

The Richard Attenborough Collection, New Walk Museum and Art Gallery

Simon Says...Festival, Saturday 25 – Sunday 26 July

De Montfort Hall

Rugby World Cup, Sunday 4 – Sunday 11 October

Leicester City Football Club, King Power Stadium

A million reasons to be thankful

Alumni, Family Programme members and friends of the University have donated a staggering £1 million to the Annual Fund over the past decade. This generosity continues to impact on the work of the University and the lives of our students each and every day.

Every year since 2004, a team of committed and enthusiastic students have taken part in our annual telephone campaign, speaking to graduates, family and friends to raise vital philanthropic funds for the University via the Annual Fund.

"Taking part in the Annual Fund was a fantastic experience," says Nick, a third year BA Management Studies student. "Speaking with our alumni really helped me when it came to assessing my future options; the advice I was given is priceless. Working with such great people to promote the University's fantastic causes has been an incredibly rare opportunity."

A huge thank you to all of our generous supporters.



A Vice-Chancellor's legacy

In Professor Sir Robert Burgess's last year as Vice-Chancellor, he and his wife Hilary established The Sir Robert and Lady Hilary Burgess Research and Teaching Fund, inspired by the commitment and support shown by graduates, parents, staff and friends of the University.

Since its launch, alumni and friends have donated an amazing £200,000 to the Fund to help tackle some of the world's most pressing issues through the University's powerful combination of high quality research and teaching.

The first priority for this fund will be to support the transformation of medical teaching and patient care and to advance the fight against chronic disease through the new Centre for Medicine building. In addition, the first Burgess Scholarship will also be established, awarded to a teacher for the study of a Doctorate in Education (EdD).



Ryan is the golden boy

Alumni-funded Gold Sports Scholar and Natural Sciences student, Ryan retained his winning streak at the 2014 British Universities and Colleges Sports (BUCS) Wild Water Championships last autumn. He knocked over 20 seconds off his time to win the solo C1 classic wildwater canoeing event and C1 sprint event for the second consecutive year.

The gold medallist now has his sights set on selection for the Senior Men's World Championships in Vienna later this year. Ryan is able to compete at such a high standard as a result of the generous support of alumni to the Student Opportunities Fund. His sports scholarship helps contribute towards the considerable cost of training, travel and equipment. Sports scholarships are awarded to students across all sporting disciplines who display exceptional sporting ability.

"The important thing is to make sure that you manage your time effectively between sport and education. Sport is important, but University is a lot of work and helps you to secure a job," explains Ryan, discussing the secrets of his success.

Diana wins our Outstanding Alumni Achievement Award

The winner of the 2015 Outstanding Alumni Achievement Award is former Students' Union Sabbatical Officer, Dr Diana Garnham (LLD Doctor of Laws, 2013; BA Social Sciences, 1977). Now Chief Executive of the Science Council, Diana is an ardent campaigner for public engagement in science and for opening up science careers for all. She was presented with a trophy in recognition of her accomplishments at the Alumni Dinner at Claridge's in March.



How I became a... Clinical Hypnotherapist

Upon graduation, our alumni embark on some fascinating careers. Here, Rory James MacLaren-Jackson (BA History of Art, 2002) describes his journey to becoming a clinical Hypnotherapist with his own practice in Harley Street, London.



"I work with individuals and organisations who want to harness the power of the mind to effect positive change," he says. "With individuals, I am a specialist in helping people to break bad habits and create new positive ones, especially in relation to smoking cessation and with businesses; I help them to explore how understanding the subconscious mind can benefit their performance and productivity."

A published author and human development specialist, Rory has been experimenting with hypnosis since his teenage years. He began by setting up a property business following graduation, whilst training as a life coach on the side.

"At this point I recognised I had a knack for helping people to make positive changes in their mindset and behaviour," he recalls. "When I started to add in the hypnosis, it worked even

better, so that's when I knew that my main career was going to be in human development.

"There is no defined educational path for this type of work; my training has been a blend of formal courses and one to one tuition. People often ask me to join the dots between my degree and career and I always tell them that it's not so different. There is a great deal of analysis, exploring issues of subjectivity and objectivity and of course how we see things influencing how we feel about them in both."

Rory would encourage others wishing to enter a similar field to start seeing clients as early as possible after qualification. "It is simple, but the more people you see, the better you get – practice really does make perfect," he says.

LEARN MORE
www.unlockingchange.com

Scholarships offer lifeline overseas

Support for the University's Student Opportunities Fund continues to play a pivotal role in the life of one alumni-funded research scholar from Damascus, Syria where academic kidnappings are rife. Ahmad*, a young doctor, is conducting life-saving research into TB and respiratory infections as a result of his research scholarship from the University.

"When you save the life of a doctor, you should know that you are also saving the lives of hundreds of patients," he says. As a doctor, Ahmad received threatening letters to stop performing his duties in war-torn Syria. Working with the Council for Assisting Refugee Academics (CARA), the University is enabling Ahmad to study for his medical degree at Leicester.

To support the Student Opportunities Fund to create more opportunities, visit www.le.ac.uk/donate

*The name of the student has been changed to protect his identity.

Opportunity Knocks

Talented musicians are being enabled to pursue their passion for music at Leicester thanks to the generous support of our alumni with the award of £500 Alumni Music Scholarships.

"The Music Scholarship is something very special to me and is a big part of my university life," says Christina, a fourth year General Engineering student and Music Scholar. "As an international student, I especially appreciate getting an insight into the English music culture. I wouldn't have these opportunities without the scholarship."



Scoring news from the sidelines

Alumna Vikki Orvice looks back on nearly 30 years reporting the nation's sporting successes.

“ I get paid to watch sport and write about it and I feel very lucky to do that on a daily basis; I hope I am never found out and made to do a proper job!

Vikki Orvice (BA English, 1984)



As *The Sun's* first ever female sports writer, alumna Vikki Orvice (BA English, 1984) has been present at every one of Usain Bolt's world records, participated in the London 2012 Olympic torch relay and even once spent a whole day with footballing legend David Beckham.

It was a competition in *The Daily Express* which gave English graduate Vikki her first taste for sports writing. "I was ten years old and I reviewed a football match I had just watched with my dad," she recalls.

"As a teenager I wanted to do more mainstream journalism, or even arts news, but there's just something so captivating about sports writing that I still love today. You never quite know what's going to happen.

"There are lots of human interest stories too; look at Jo Pavey – she's a 40-year-old mum of two and wins gold medals – that's a great story. I get paid to watch sport and write about it and I feel very lucky to do that on a daily basis; I hope I am never found out and made to do a proper job!"

A former Arts Editor on *The Ripple*, Vikki has fond memories of her time at Leicester. "Leicester was one of the few places at the time that offered modules on authors still alive," she remembers.

"I really loved the course – I got to spend every day reading, which was something I have always enjoyed. I also made great friendships with the five other girls living on my corridor in College Hall and we recently celebrated our 30 year reunion together."

Vikki, who describes herself as "not terribly sporty", counts Olympian Lord Coe amongst her wider circle of friends. She says that there's no room for getting star struck around athletes, although early on in her career she remembers asking Dutch footballing hero Johan Cruyff for his autograph.

"Most athletes are actually pretty grounded," she says. "It's hard to think of just one outstanding story I've worked on because there have been so many highlights, although Super Saturday at the London 2012 Olympics was probably the best night of my career. It was hard not to get emotional as I was just so proud of our athletes."

Vikki's journalism career began in local news writing with a two-year apprenticeship on *The Wakefield Express*, after a year of postgraduate study in her



Vikki reporting live from the 2010 European Championships, Barcelona

home town of Sheffield. From there she moved to Bristol and *The Western Daily Press* and would often drive up to London at weekends for freelance shifts at *The Daily Mail* and *The Observer*.

After a year of freelancing at weekends, Vikki received her big break when *The Daily Mail* offered her six weeks' worth of shifts and so she handed her notice in to *The Western Daily Press*, kept her house near Bristol, and slept on a friend's sofa in London during the week.

"Looking back, I don't know how I did it," says Vikki, who is married to fellow sports writer and author Ian Ridley. "But I was lucky enough that they kept giving me more shifts which turned into a six month contract, and then a job as a general news reporter a year later."

Sports reporting was still her first love and Vikki continually pestered the sports desk to let her cover matches. They finally agreed and in August 1992, Vikki reported on Norwich City's victory over Arsenal on the first day of the Premier League.

"I spent two years reporting on sports in my spare time," she says. "Then the Sports Editor at the time took me out for lunch and said: 'I don't think a woman could do this full-time.' Luckily, they wouldn't get away with saying that today, and it actually helped me by making me more determined to prove him wrong.

"It was *The Sun* of all papers that approached me in 1995 and offered me the position of a football writer. I was the first woman to be employed at a tabloid newspaper in this position, which was incredibly challenging.

"I knew that my boss had taken a big gamble hiring me, but I didn't feel any different – I'd been attending football matches since I was seven years old. I was often conscious that I was usually the only woman in a room and that if I asked a question about something, it would be viewed as a sign of weakness, so I had to be twice as on it as everybody else."

Thankfully, today the industry has since shifted to be much more inclusive of women. Vikki sits alongside football presenter Jacqui Oatley as a Board Member for Women in Football, a network of professional women working in and around the football industry aiming to improve representation of women at all levels of the game.

"Looking back I think I must have been absolutely mad, but I love what I do. The experience definitely strengthened my character and I've been fortunate enough to be able to travel the world with this role; it has been a real privilege."

Women of Influence

Vikki joined fellow outstanding female graduates from the University of Leicester earlier this academic year at the annual Women of Influence luncheon at the House of Lords. The reception celebrated the achievements of our influential alumnae whose philanthropic support of the Women of Influence Guild has successfully funded a scholarship for a postgraduate researcher, Emily Durham for a Master's in Green Chemistry.

LEARN MORE

Contact **Lisa Davies** via ld109@le.ac.uk or **+44 (0)116 252 2153**

Your Alumni Association

In 2014, Luke Trotman became the new Chair of the Standing Committee of the Alumni Association. Here he reflects on his experience so far.

The Standing Committee of the Alumni Association represents your alumni community. Using their professional experience and talents, members of the Committee work in partnership with the University's Development and Alumni Relations Office to shape alumni events and activities and to ensure your alumni voice is heard.

"I joined the Committee to give something back to the University that helped to shape my future in many ways," explains new Committee Chair and former Students' Union Sabbatical Officer, Luke Trotman (BA Politics, 1999).

"Far from this being one-way traffic, I'm continuing to benefit from an ever expanding network of alumni contacts and friends."

As part of his role, Luke, who is the founding partner of a graphic design agency in East Sussex, will be attending the University's Annual General Meeting at the Summer Reunion this June, as well as leading four committee meetings throughout the year.

"It is a great honour to be the new Chair and represent the interests of all of you within the University. I'm really looking forward to working closer with the Committee and meeting more alumni over the course of the year. If you too would like to become please do get in touch with the Development and Alumni Relations Office."

A musical memory lane

From Kasabian to Slade, the Super Furry Animals to B*Witched, many famous bands have performed at the University of Leicester throughout the years. Here we take a look back at some of your favourites...



1. Right Said Fred
2. Chesney Hawkes
3. Ben Folds
4. Deacon Blue
5. Tori Amos

"I saw Right Said Fred at our summer ball in 2008 and he was definitely too sexy for his shirt!

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

"I remember seeing Chesney Hawkes at Red Leicester in 2007. We didn't have very high expectations beyond his classic *One and Only*, but he did a great set and actually had a great voice, what a shame he was just a one hit wonder!

Amy Cory (BSc Communications, Media and Society, 2009)

"In the 1980s I saw Deacon Blue who were very big then and when I was in Gilbert Murray Hall, we had the Housemartins just before they hit the charts and went huge.

Linda Holland (BSc Psychology, 1988)

"Martin Stephenson and The Daintees seemed to always be playing when I was at Leicester. We also saw Tori Amos in the College Hall bar for £1.

Richard Hughes (BA Combined Studies, 1992)

"I saw Curved Air supporting Fotheringay at the Students' Union, probably in 1971.

Mike Everett (BSc Geology, 1973)

"There were so many great bands playing at the University during my time. To name but a few: The Jam, Dire Straits, The Pretenders and Dexys Midnight Runners.

Ian Clark (BA Economics, 1980)

"I pretty much saw every gig at the Percy Gee from 1976 until 1980. The stand out gig was undoubtedly the Stiff Tour in 1977 featuring Ian Dury and the Blockheads, Elvis Costello, Nick Lowe, Wreckless Eric and Larry Wallis. It was certainly an incendiary line up.

Chris Shaw (MA Modern English and American Literature, 1981; BA Combined Studies, 1979)

"I took a visiting friend to see Taio Cruz at the Union the same night my future boyfriend also had friends visiting. We were both bad hosts that night – after enjoying the performance, we ignored our guests to share our first kiss. Six years on we are still together and our friends have forgiven us!

Caroline Taylor (BA English, 2010)



A worldwide community

We are a global university committed to raising our international profile. Here we highlight four international projects we are proud to share with you.



United States

Building a museum

Professor Gordon Campbell from our School of English is playing a pivotal role in the development of a new Museum of the Bible in Washington DC. The expert on the King James Bible has been tasked with overseeing sections of the museum focused on Biblical archaeology and the book's history. Construction has already begun on the unique eight-storey building, situated just three blocks from the US Capitol building. "The building will be a distinctive addition to the capital's architecture, and the Museum that it will accommodate will quickly take its place amongst the most important museums on the National Mall," believes Gordon.



Ethiopia

Supporting medicine

The Leicester-Gondar Medical Link is supporting developments in undergraduate and postgraduate teaching programmes in Ethiopia. Established in 1996, the Link has contributed to local plans to enhance healthcare in hospitals and in the urban and rural communities. The aim of this link is to promote international fellowship and friendship, and cross-cultural working, leading to joint research and mutual development and support. This relationship has been further strengthened with the development of the Leicester Gondar Collaborative Teaching Project website.



Iraq

Creating educational firsts

The University of Leicester Medical School has been sharing its expertise in medical education with Kufa University Medical College to help support a much needed review of the training of doctors in Iraq. Professor David Lambert from our Department of Cardiovascular Sciences became the first international examiner for postgraduates in the war-torn country last year. "It was a great experience to take part in these examinations," he says. "It must have been a challenge for the students to have to present their work and then be examined in public and in English."



China, Korea and Taiwan

Life and learning experience

Nineteen undergraduate students experienced an unforgettable opportunity to live and study at one of our partner universities in China, Korea or Taiwan through The University Summer Programme last year. The three to six week study programme offered our students a fascinating insight into East Asian culture and the chance to experience education from a completely new perspective. "I entered the exchange programme as someone who is intrinsically fascinated by foreign cultures," explains third year European Studies student Boryana, who studied at National Chengchi University in Taiwan.

Providing a helping hand

For as long as he can remember, Ted has wanted to be a doctor. Now in the final year of his medical degree, he is about to make his dream a reality.

Photograph Hayley Evans



When final year medical student Ted, who describes himself as “approachable, friendly and a little bit quirky”, was a kid, he couldn’t imagine doing anything else other than caring for patients.

“I wanted to be a doctor to help people,” he explains. “It sounds simple, but it’s true. Leicester’s well known for producing compassionate doctors with a good bedside manner and so I couldn’t think of a better place to study.

“It’s kind of like being a detective, working with patients to uncover clues about their problems and then using your communication skills and scientific knowledge to solve the mystery and offer them treatment. Talking to patients is what I enjoy the most about my course; they recognise you as someone who is learning and are always keen to help which is really encouraging.”

The fifth year student is quick to note that no two days are the same as a medical student at Leicester, with a mixture of placements in hospitals as well as tutorials, clinical skills sessions and group study seminars. It is this breadth of learning styles and the interaction with other healthcare professionals on the wards that keeps him on his toes.

“You’re privileged as a medical student to work with professionals from every specialty imaginable,” he says. “Every so often you’ll come across an inspiring individual who makes you want to work that little bit harder.

“It is the curious drive and the constant rewarding feeling you get when you do things right and you help people that keeps me going as I imagine you get that a lot as a doctor – even as a medical student I get that feeling.”

It is this training which Ted credits for shaping him to become a good doctor who treats patients as people and not just a bunch of signs and symptoms. “A good bedside manner is the most important skill that any future doctor

can possess,” he explains. “You need that person-to-person engagement to gain that trust and to ensure that patients feel that they’re being cared for. Leicester teaches you this right from the start of the course as the golden key to brilliant patient care.”

Medics are also known for embracing the social side of university life and Ted’s time at Leicester has been no exception. “Medicine can be quite stressful at times, especially when you get close to a patient whose prognosis isn’t as you would like, it can be heart-wrenching, therefore it’s important to unwind at the end of the day.

“The University is brilliant for this, offering all kinds of clubs and societies to get involved with and I’ve joined a local community choir which is oodles of fun.”

There has been a Medical School at the University for more than 30 years and Ted will be one of the last to study in the current Maurice Shock building as the University puts the finishing touches to its new Centre for Medicine.

Set to open on Lancaster Road during the next academic year, the £42 million state-of-the-art facility – the largest investment in medical teaching and applied research by a UK university in the last decade – will completely transform medical teaching at the University, with an overhaul of the medical curriculum which will put patients right at the heart of teaching.

“The new Centre for Medicine will provide more space, the best new technologies and a better learning environment in general for future students. Students will be interacting with patients from day one of their degree which will further improve their bedside manner training,” Ted adds.

LEARN MORE

www.le.ac.uk/savinglives

Watch a video interview with Ted
www.youtube.com/watch?v=vS1UkZNNewI

A lasting legacy

Local woman leaves gift to help cancer patients.

Like many people, Doris May Cartwright – known to those who loved her as May – was affected by cancer and now, as a result of a gift May left to the University in her Will, it is hoped our pioneering researchers will be able to save many more lives with earlier detection of the disease.

The South Wigston-born former Office Clerk was inspired to remember Leicester in her Will as a result of the life-saving work of our Department of Cancer Studies.

“The University is renowned as a leader in cancer research,” explains May’s niece, Rosemary Dillon. “As a family, we wanted to support this great work and now May’s legacy will live on at Leicester. We hope that it can help in some way to make a difference.”

May’s legacy gift has funded a digital PCR droplet machine for Professor Karen Brown and Professor Jacqui Shaw which will speed up their work on plasma nucleic acids for the detection and monitoring of cancer.

“This new technology has revolutionised our research in a very short time,” explains Jacqui. “The ddPCR method generates accurate and precise results quickly and cheaply, and is being used to look at very rare genetic mutations in blood and small amounts of tissue from patients with cancer.

“We are extremely grateful to the family for receipt of May’s legacy and the new instrument it has funded, which has enormous potential to speed up and improve the research of a number of groups here in the Cancer Research UK Leicester Centre at the University.”

Legacies left to the University can have a worldwide impact by funding lifesaving research such as this, supporting bursaries and scholarships for those who would otherwise be unable to come to the University and much more.

LEARN MORE

Contact **Rosie O’Connor** via
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1950s

Robert Fairbrother (BSc Combined Science, 1953)

It seems only last week that the then captain of the Rugby Club wrote down my name at the freshers' trial for the team. We played matches on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons and would travel to away games on a coach, stopping for a while on the way back at a convenient pub. I had a great time at Leicester, much of it remembered through my association with the Rugby Club.

Betty (Elisabeth) Coster (BSc Biological Sciences, 1953)

Following my first degree at Leicester, I worked as a research scientist at Tate and Life Laboratories and after my PhD, I travelled to Australia as a research scientist for the Victorian Government in Melbourne. Locally, I worked as a Quality Control Chemist for two firms and then at the Library of Selhurst Tertiary College; definitely a varied career. I have really enjoyed my retirement and attending the University's Homecoming events, linking me back to my university days.

1960s

Judith Wardner (née Plumridge) (BA General, 1961) and Adrian Wardner (BSc Mathematics, 1961)

We got married in 1963 and have three children and five grandchildren. We have both been enjoying retirement since 1999 in Ilkley, West Yorkshire.

John Wilsher (BA History, 1968)

I am a freelance screen and radio writer and created the award-winning BBC series *Between the Lines*. My recent screen credits include *Torchwood* and *New Tricks*.

1970s

Mark Haysom CBE (LLD Doctor of Laws, 2005; BA English, 1974)

After graduating from Leicester, I had a 30-year career in newspapers, rising from trainee journalist on a local weekly, to Managing Director of the Mirror Group. In 2003, I moved into education as head of a large Government agency and have served on the boards of a number of charities. Now an author, my first novel *Love, Love Me Do* was published last summer, and I live in Brighton with my wife Ann.

Jane McKee (LLB Law, 1977)

Since graduation, I qualified as a solicitor and am continuing to practise in London. I have remained close friends across the years with the girls from Clare Hall. We had such fun at Leicester and when we meet up now, it is as though it was yesterday and we kid ourselves that we are just the same. Actually we are not that different – still trying to avoid cooking and like enjoying ourselves, and we are all really good talkers.



L-R: Jane McKee, Jane Illingworth, Lindsay Farmer, Janet Thompson and Jill Allen.

1980s

Nina Senior (MBChB Medicine, 1980)

Married to **Brendan Kinsella (MBChB Medicine, 1980)** for almost 34 years, we both retired from General Practice in Leicester in 2010. We are busy working on a major renovation project, travelling the world and visiting scattered offspring.

Martin Bodenham (BA Economics, 1981)

After graduation, I trained as a chartered accountant in Leicester. I became a corporate finance partner with both KPMG and Ernst & Young, putting together M&A deals and raising private equity for clients. Eventually I became CEO of my own private equity firm and since retiring last year, I write thriller novels based around finance and crime.

www.martinbodenham.com

Kate Phillips (née North) (MBChB Medicine, 1988)

In the early days after qualifying as doctors, most of the 'Chip Shop Girls' – our nickname after living above the chip shop on Queens Road – worked in hospitals around Leicester. Then one by one we moved away, got married and journeyed along our separate career and family paths. We also travelled, working in hospitals abroad. One of us settling overseas for 20 years.

We eventually ended up as a Consultant Haematologist, Consultant Anaesthetist, a Hospice Physician, and five GPs. The yearly summer returns of our overseas Chip Shop Girl prompted an annual get together. Now all settled back in the UK our gatherings are more frequent and we are often joined by husbands and various combinations of our 24 offspring.

L-R: Kate, Helen, Sue, Claire and Cathy



L-R: Kate Phillips, Tracy Tobin (née Rogers), Sally Connellan (née Jerrett), Cathy Higgins, Claire Nightingale, Helen Raphael (née Cassidy), Sue Pavord (née Harris) and Victoria Jameson (née Leather)

1990s

Zomma Mohiuddin (BEng Electrical and Electronic Engineering with Computing, 1991)

I was recently elected as a Fellow Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET), the world's largest multidisciplinary professional engineering institution, as well as a Fellow Chartered Management Institute (CMI) and the Institute of Leadership and Management (InstLM); two of the UK's largest professional management institutions. I engineered the world's first dual band mobile network and am currently the CEO and Founder of Olivelit Group, specialising in technology management consultancy. www.olivelit.com

Shaun Waterman (MSc Electro-Mechanical Design, 1993)

I currently run my own business working at the intersection of art, media and technology.

2000s

Laura Mchugh (BA Criminology, 2008)

Since graduating I have had various jobs including with the Police. I am now working for the Probation Service, having qualified as a Probation Officer, specialising in working with women offenders, after completing a Graduate Diploma in Community Justice.

John Clark (PhD History of Art Research, 2011; MA Faculty of Arts ISS, 2006; BA History of Art, 2003)

I commission art in the cathedrals of Hereford and Guildford and my complete collection of church drawings has been accepted for the archives of Guildford Cathedral, Surrey.

Gareth Rees (MGeol Geology, 2005)

I met my now wife, **Ceri Tolley (BSc Geology, 2004)** in our first year at Leicester and we actually got married six years ago in the Charles Wilson building where we met. I am the Contaminated Land and Air Quality Officer for Harborough District Council, providing consultancy work in the contaminated land sector and Ceri is currently a full-time mum for our three-year-old daughter and we are expecting our second.

2010s

Khalid Al-Jaber (PhD Mass Communications, 2013)

I have recently been appointed the new Editor-in-Chief of *The Peninsula*, Qatar's leading daily English newspaper. I am also Assistant Professor of Political Communication at Qatar University and a Visiting Fellow at the Northwestern University in Qatar.



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