



UNIVERSITY OF
LIVERPOOL

INSIDE YOUR 2023 EDITION:

› Shirley J Thompson OBE › Brighter Futures
› Layla Wright › Asteroid redirection › Eurovision

ALUMNI

Malik Al Nasir:
Reflecting on
his remarkable
academic journey

THE ORIGINAL

REDBRICK

ALUMNI



Welcome to the latest edition of your annual *Alumni* magazine.

In this edition, we feature interviews with inspirational alumni who share how their time at Liverpool has helped them to

develop their academic and career aspirations. We also welcome our new Vice-Chancellor, Professor Tim Jones, who shares memories of his student days at Liverpool and ambitious plans for the future.

To find out what your fellow alumni community have been up to, you can read Class Notes on page 28, and find more online at: liverpool.ac.uk/alumni/class-notes.

Thank you for your feedback on last year's edition. We'd love to hear your thoughts on this magazine and ideas for future communications, so do get in touch at alumni@liverpool.ac.uk.

You can also stay up to date with the latest news and events by visiting our alumni web pages and following our social media accounts at [@LivUniAlumni](https://twitter.com/LivUniAlumni).

Finally, our alumni are our greatest advocates, and I would like to thank you for your continued contribution to our University. We are lucky to be able to count on your support to help ensure we offer our current and future students the best experience and education.

Caroline Mitchell
Head of Alumni Engagement

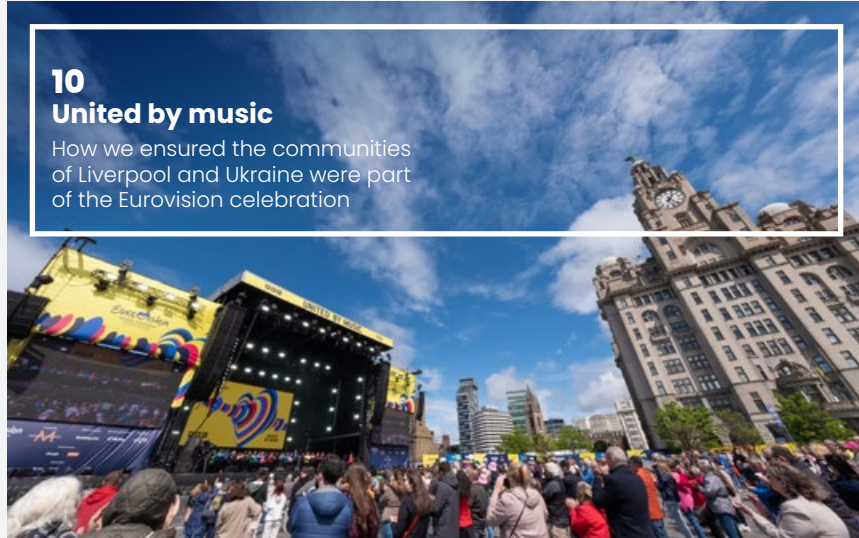
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ALUMNI EVENTS

Keep up to date with all our events at the University and around the world.

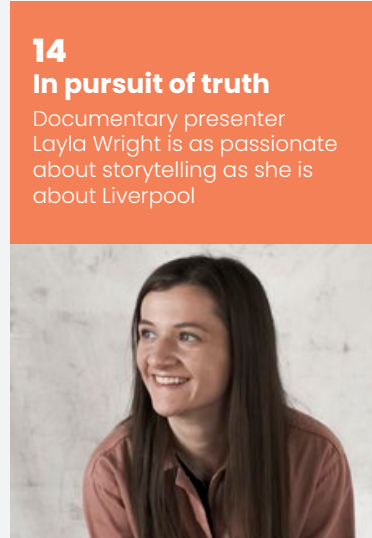
alumni.liv.ac.uk/events

DESIGN BY WHITE LIGHT MEDIA



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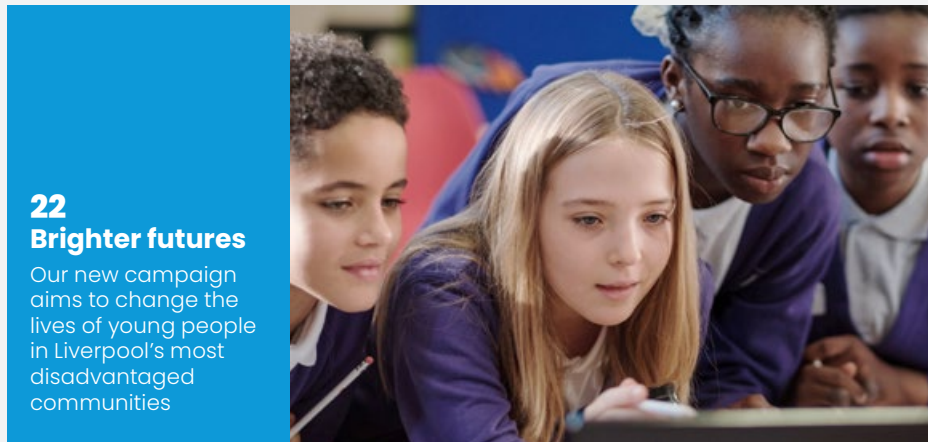
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A MESSAGE FROM OUR VICE-CHANCELLOR

WELCOME TO YOUR ALUMNI MAGAZINE

Since becoming Vice-Chancellor, I have continued to be inspired by the staff, students and alumni I've met who make up our University community. Our current focus is the development of our new University strategy, leading up to the celebration of our 150th anniversary in 2031. You can read more about our plans and my thoughts about my alma mater on page 20.

Civic pride is, rightfully, at the heart of our work and was highly visible in May this year when the University celebrated the city's hosting of the Eurovision Song Contest on behalf of Ukraine, with our own unique celebrations. We also marked our incredibly important partnership with Sumy State University, which you can read more about on page 11.

The University of Liverpool is proud to offer an unrivalled student experience, and we are recognised for our outstanding work in widening participation and student employability. These are all areas I have been proud to witness as an alumnus, and now feel privileged to lead as Vice-Chancellor. Our new Future Goals campaign will provide opportunities for so many more young people to aspire to come to university. You can read more about it on page 22.

The University reinforced its place as a world leading research institution in the most recent Research Excellence Framework, and our academics continue to strive towards truly ground-breaking discoveries. You can read more about Dr Stefania Soldini's research into asteroids, on page 16.

A number of our former student entrepreneurs, whose business ideas have been supported and nurtured by the Careers team as well as our alumni mentors, are now blazing a trail as graduates. Read more about their successes on page 38.

Finally, it was my pleasure to travel to Hong Kong and the United States this spring to meet with alumni. I would like to thank those alumni for a very warm welcome, and continued support for the University.

Our new Chancellor, alumna Judge Wendy Beetlestone, will be joining me at this summer's graduation ceremonies to welcome our new graduates to the alumni community. I hope to see some of you there, and I look forward to meeting many more of our community in the years to come.

Professor Tim Jones
Vice-Chancellor

Accelerating the journey to net zero

The University of Liverpool has launched its ambitious 'Climate Plan 2022-35' as part of its aim to become net zero by 2035, 15 years ahead of the UK Government's legal commitment of 2050.



New Chancellor appointed

United States District Judge Wendy Beetlestone took up her new role as Chancellor in January this year. She is the University's eleventh Chancellor and the first female, and first Black, Chancellor.



New digital collab with twin university

The University of Liverpool and Ukraine's Sumy State University, who were twinned last year, have announced their collaboration on a new digitalisation and digital transformation research and innovation programme, following a grant from Universities UK International (UUKi).

Three anniversaries to celebrate



The Victoria Gallery & Museum (VG&M) and Ness Gardens both marked anniversaries this year. The VG&M turned 130 years old, while for Ness Gardens it was a double celebration: 125 years since the gardens were founded by Arthur Bulley, and 75 years since 'Bulley's Garden' became the University of Liverpool's Botanic Garden in 1948.



University wins Varsity and Christie Championships

The University took the Varsity title for the eighth year in a row after battling it out with sports teams from Liverpool John Moore's University. Liverpool were also crowned champions of the 137th Christie Championships, beating Leeds by 5 points.



Tuning in to Turing

The University of Liverpool has joined the new Turing University Network, created by the Alan Turing Institute to encourage communication and collaboration with the institute and its broader networks. The network forms part of the institute's new strategy aimed at using data science and AI for social good.

C-GULL project launched

Children Growing Up in Liverpool (C-GULL) is the first large-scale birth cohort study in the Liverpool City Region. It will track 10,000 first-born babies and their families from early in pregnancy through childhood and beyond, in order to enable researchers, clinicians and policymakers to understand more about complex health issues.



Liverpool's research rated 'world-leading'

91% of the University's research has been classed as world-leading or internationally excellent, as part of the independent Research Excellence Framework (REF) which assesses the quality and impact of research at every UK university.



First human trial of new Zika vaccine



A new Zika virus vaccine is being trialled by the University of Liverpool at the Clinical Research Facility within the Royal

Liverpool University Hospital. Zika remains an ongoing threat, with thousands of cases of the mosquito-borne virus reported each year, mainly in countries close to the equator.

New MSc programme in Pandemic Sciences

Led by researchers from the Institute of Infection, Veterinary and Ecological Sciences, the University's new programme will provide students with the interdisciplinary expertise required to prevent, monitor and control medical and veterinary infectious disease outbreaks.

Our website is constantly updated with news – scan the code to visit or search @LivUniNews on social media



A VERY MODERN MAESTRO

FROM REBELLING AGAINST THE AVANT-GARDE TO BLURRING MUSICAL GENRES, COMPOSER SHIRLEY J THOMPSON LIKES TO DO THINGS DIFFERENTLY

When Shirley J Thompson OBE (BA Hons Music 1979) was asked to compose for the King's Coronation, it was the royal seal on a glittering career. But London-born Shirley had no idea her natural talent would ever take her to such heights. If it had not been for the encouraging words of her tutor, she may never have pursued music at all.

"By the end of my time at Liverpool, I had produced a major composition which was entered for an important competition," Shirley explains. "However, the string quartet assumed they wouldn't need to practise, so it was an abysmal performance. I felt like a laughing stock."

Thankfully her professor, Robert Orledge (now Emeritus Professor at Liverpool), spoke with Shirley at graduation. He had seen her talent while teaching her orchestration and wanted to make sure the world didn't miss out. "I remember him saying, 'Gosh, yes, you need to take this further.' We're still friends today – he really supported and encouraged my fledgling music."

Professor Orledge had recognised a rare gift and passion within Shirley – one that she had discovered in herself at the age of three, when she would sneak off to her neighbour's attic to tinker on a piano she'd found. "I hit that first key, heard the sound and thought, 'Oh, it's magical'. My parents then bought



"My mum sang in choirs and played the piano growing up, and dad dedicated every Sunday to music. He'd play classical, gospel, blues, reggae, all kinds."

► From top: Conducting the RPO and Community Choirs in recording of *Beautiful Game* UEFA anthem and *Momentum* football Concerto at Cadogan Hall 31 May 2022; Joining the BBC's coronation coverage; Below: Receiving her OBE in April 2019
Photo © Shutterstock



Photo: © Stuart C Wilson/Shutterstock

me an old-fashioned cassette recorder that played a tune – Brahms famous *Lullaby*. I would play it over and over again, entranced."

An eclectic education

One of five children, Shirley grew up in a house full of music. "My family is music mad," she laughs. "My mum sang in choirs and played the piano growing up, and dad dedicated every Sunday to music. He'd play classical, gospel, blues, reggae, all kinds. It's no surprise my brothers are all DJs!"

At school, Shirley took up the violin, joining Newham Youth Orchestra at the age of 10. "I played Beethoven, Brahms, Mozart, Haydn, all the major orchestral works in the canon, but I didn't take up the piano until I was 14. I had no hopes of studying Music as I assumed you'd have to be a great pianist, but I always excelled in music harmony, counterpoint and orchestration."

It was this natural aptitude, and her professor's words of encouragement, which led Shirley to study composition at Goldsmiths in London. But she quickly realised her approach to music lay outside the elitist trend which prevailed at the time. "It was a very small bubble of experimental classical music that you were expected to write," expands Shirley, "But what I discovered is that nobody was listening to it."

Perhaps influenced by her father's open-armed approach to music, Shirley took more of an inclusive view. She wanted people to hear her music, so she went out to find an audience. "I put on a series of concerts at the Southbank Centre with my own, Shirley Thompson Ensemble," she recalls. "That was really the beginning of my career. Afterwards, I was the flavour of the month. I was on BBC television, I was asked to join the Arts Council, and The Association of Professional Composers as the first female Executive. I went on to write music for BBC TV, one of the first women to do so."

A stellar career

Shirley's star continues to rise. For the Coronation Service at Westminster Abbey, she composed the finale in a spectacular three-part composition of King Charles' favourite hymn *Be Thou My Vision*. But this was not her first royal commission. Perhaps her best-known work is *New Nation Rising: a 21st Century Symphony*. Commissioned for the Queen's Golden Jubilee, the genre-defying piece is scored for two choirs, solo singers, a rapper and dhol drummers.

Her award-winning ballet *PUSH* has toured the world's biggest dance venues, from Sadler's Wells to the Sydney Opera House. And she is currently touring once again – this time, with *Women of the Windrush*, a multi-media opera inspired by two previous creations – an award-winning film broadcast to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the landing of HMT Empire *Windrush*; and a composition commissioned for a 70th anniversary performance at Westminster Abbey.

"I made the film originally because I thought my parents' generation needed to be celebrated and highlighted," she explains. "Then recently, I decided to make a fictional story around the lives of the women in the film and set it to music."

"I don't think any other composer has ever done anything like this," she concludes, almost as a question. But of course, there is no question – the work is ground-breaking, much like everything Shirley does. ●

EUROVISION

SONG CONTEST
UNITED KINGDOM
LIVERPOOL 2023

PHOTO: MARK MCNULTY

UNITED BY MUSIC

THE UNIVERSITY'S UNIQUE AND INCLUSIVE PROGRAMME OF EUROVISION EVENTS ENSURED THE COMMUNITIES OF LIVERPOOL AND UKRAINE WERE PART OF THE CELEBRATION

EUROVISION

After months of planning, in May this year, the city of Liverpool proudly hosted the Eurovision Song Contest on behalf of Ukraine. Alongside the huge range of events and cultural activities that took place across the city, the University delivered its own programme including the 'United by Music' festival, a week of student-led activity centred around Abercromby Square, which was renamed 'ABBACromby Square' in tribute to the 1974 Eurovision winners.

A host of cultural, educational and academic activities took place on and off campus. Many of these recognised the University's important connection with Sumy State University, Ukraine, with which it was twinned in 2022, following the full-scale invasion by Russia. Events included Mihi Eurovision, an initiative led by the Languages department, which saw pupils from 16 of the region's primary schools learning new languages through music, and culminated in an event at the Tung Auditorium. Meanwhile, the Liverpool University Music Society delivered a concert of



► Above: Paul Curtis with his latest work; Below, left: students enjoying the United By Music festival in ABBACromby Square.

classic Eurovision and Europop anthems from across the decades, and the Liverpool UNity Choir performed in the Eurovision Village.

Cultural collaborations

University partner Tate Liverpool art gallery organised a 'Late at Tate Liverpool' featuring music and talks by University academics, and the University's Heseltine Institute launched a series of Eurovision-related policy briefings.

Local street artist and alumnus Paul Curtis (BSc Hons Geology and Physical Geography 2000), who designed the cover of the 2021 edition of the *Alumni* magazine, created a bespoke art piece entitled *Peace and Love* at the Guild of Students. Dr Sam Murray (MA Popular Music Studies 2012) shared his thoughts and memories of Eurovision via a special Eurovision podcast, and alumni also contributed their Eurovision memories.

Celebrating our connections

In creating a programme for the University community and the people of Liverpool, the University's commitment to its partnership with Sumy State University has been front and centre of its approach. Tim Seamans (BA Hons Politics 1998) is the Director of External Relations, and oversaw the delivery of the University's



► Left: the Mihi Eurovision event held at the Tung Auditorium; Above: Sumy State University in Ukraine



"Our involvement has contributed to Liverpool delivering a unique event – one that went far beyond the song contest itself to reach out to local people, visitors and the wider world, including many connections to Ukraine"

programme. He explains: "Our involvement has contributed to Liverpool delivering a unique event – one that went far beyond the song contest itself to reach out to local people, visitors and the wider world in many different ways, including celebrating our connections to Ukraine.

"Our twinning arrangement with Sumy State University was an important inspiration for getting so involved, both through cultural activities on campus and through an academic programme that engaged the wider community," he continues.

"Highlights of our programme included two performers from Sumy appearing in a concert at the Tung Auditorium, alongside three of the entrants to the main contest; and a video recorded by students at Sumy State University to teach local school children Ukrainian phrases as part of the Mihi Eurovision project."

A meaningful legacy

Tim goes on: "It's now over one year since the twinning arrangement was established, and we're reflecting on how it will continue to evolve in the future."

In the short term, the partnership – which is one of a number between UK and Ukrainian universities – has provided vital support to enable students and researchers to continue their work. This includes welcoming more than 80 Ukrainian students to the University of Liverpool's International Summer School, both on-campus and virtually; providing access to electronic library resources; supporting Sumy's cloud-based IT needs; providing staff with access to development courses; and joint work on academic journals and conferences. In March of this year, the two universities also announced a new research collaboration on digital transformation, and many more initiatives are expected to follow.

As Tim says, "In the longer term, we hope that the collaboration will help Sumy State University to continue to play a valued part in their country's future in more peaceful times ahead." ●

For more, visit:
www.liverpool.ac.uk/eurovision



IN PURSUIT OF TRUTH

► Above: Reporting for *Panorama* in 2022 and with mentor Louis Theroux at Mindhouse

DOCUMENTARY PRESENTER LAYLA WRIGHT IS AS PASSIONATE ABOUT STORYTELLING AS SHE IS ABOUT LIVERPOOL

With a BBC residency and her own *Panorama* already under her belt, Layla Wright's career trajectory has been extraordinary. Currently being mentored by the inimitable Louis Theroux at his London production studio, Mindhouse, Layla's come a long way since graduating from the University of Liverpool in 2018 with a BA Hons in Politics with Law.

A born and bred Scouser, the young Layla had always imagined she'd study at a university far from home but a placement at a local radio station changed her mind. "I started work experience at Radio City, during my GCSEs, and I just never left," she laughs. "I'd had a quiet childhood and suddenly, I'm following these professional reporters around, getting a front-row seat to all the big stories. I fell in love with the chaos."

With a career in journalism firmly in her sights, Layla knew that studying at the University of Liverpool would bring her the best of both worlds; she could continue to learn the ropes at the radio station, while also getting a subject under her belt and learning from world-class lecturers.

Having that mix of academic and on-the-job learning was invaluable for an ambitious young student but managing both workloads was challenging. "I couldn't have juggled it without the support of my lecturers," says Layla. "They were great, particularly Professor Stuart Wilkes-Heeg, who was Head of Politics at the time, and Professor Jonathan Tonge. I'd be asking them to comment on a story on air, while saying 'Oh and can I get back to you on that essay I haven't submitted yet?!' Some people might have found that frustrating but Stuart could see that I was applying what I was learning at the station in my coursework."

More air time

One of the harder lessons Layla learnt was that reporting for radio news didn't allow her the time she wanted to give to her stories. "People were



"People describe me as being fearless, hard working, and resilient - they're all words you could use to describe Liverpool too"

pouring their hearts out to me. I'd leave their homes with so much fire in my belly, then all I could give them was a bulletin on the news," she says. "So I started making my own radio documentaries - that no one actually asked for! One of the documentaries I did appeared on the Radio City YouTube channel then BBC Radio 4 spotted it and gave me an opportunity."

After completing a residency with the BBC podcasts team, Layla was offered a similar role working on developing documentary film ideas at Mindhouse. It was intended to be a six-month residency, but she's still there. "Part of the reason for it being extended was *Panorama* unexpectedly coming up," explains Layla, referring to the programme she made for the BBC on the 2022 UEFA Champions League Final in Paris, where Liverpool fans were tear-gassed by police.

"I happened to be home in Liverpool that weekend and when I came back to the office, I said, 'I really think we need to do something about this'. Suddenly, I was in front of the camera with a mic in my back pocket.

"The response I got from people back home afterwards was amazing. They were so thankful that we'd told their story. As a journalist and documentary maker, all you want to do is make people to feel heard."

Bold & brave

While working with her mentor Louis, Layla has recognised that they have a similar approach: "A lot of what I'm excited about doing next is just meeting people and spending time in their crazy, unfamiliar worlds - in the same way Louis immerses himself in the unknown. I've never been scared of a story. I think it's a lot to do with being a Scouser. People describe me as being fearless, hard working, and resilient - they're all words you could use to describe Liverpool too. The city has shaped me and it's a massive part of my identity."

So what advice would Layla give to Liverpool students seeking to pursue a career in journalism? "Dream big, have fun, and make it happen. You don't need industry connections, you just have to work hard and put yourself out there. I did and it got me this far." •

NOT ALL HEROES WEAR CAPES



FACING UP TO ASTEROIDS IS ALL IN A DAY'S WORK FOR DR STEFANIA SOLDINI



Saving the planet isn't exactly what Stefania Soldini imagined she'd be doing when she began her Masters in Space Engineering but it has effectively become her everyday reality. When she joined the University of Liverpool in 2019, as Assistant Professor in Space Engineering in the Department of Mechanical, Materials and Aerospace Engineering, Stefania had already been 'behind the wheel' of a satellite tracking a near-earth asteroid.

"I never set out to work in planetary defence specifically," says Stefania. "But I was fascinated by trajectory design for satellites and planning space missions, so after the end of my PhD, in 2017, I went to work for JAXA (The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency). Their hot topic mission at the time was an asteroid mission called Hayabusa2, and I actually got to work with the flight dynamic team as engineer and do mission operation on the satellite, which was very cool. From that moment on, my research all changed in that direction."

After her work on Hayabusa2, which successfully surveyed asteroid Ryugu for a year and a half, sent out operating rovers to explore the asteroid surface, and collected material samples, Stefania joined the European Space Agency (ESA). Today, she is part of the ESA and NASA teams working on two seminal - and interconnected - asteroid missions: Hera and DART. If you haven't heard of the latter, what planet have you been on?

A seminal space mission

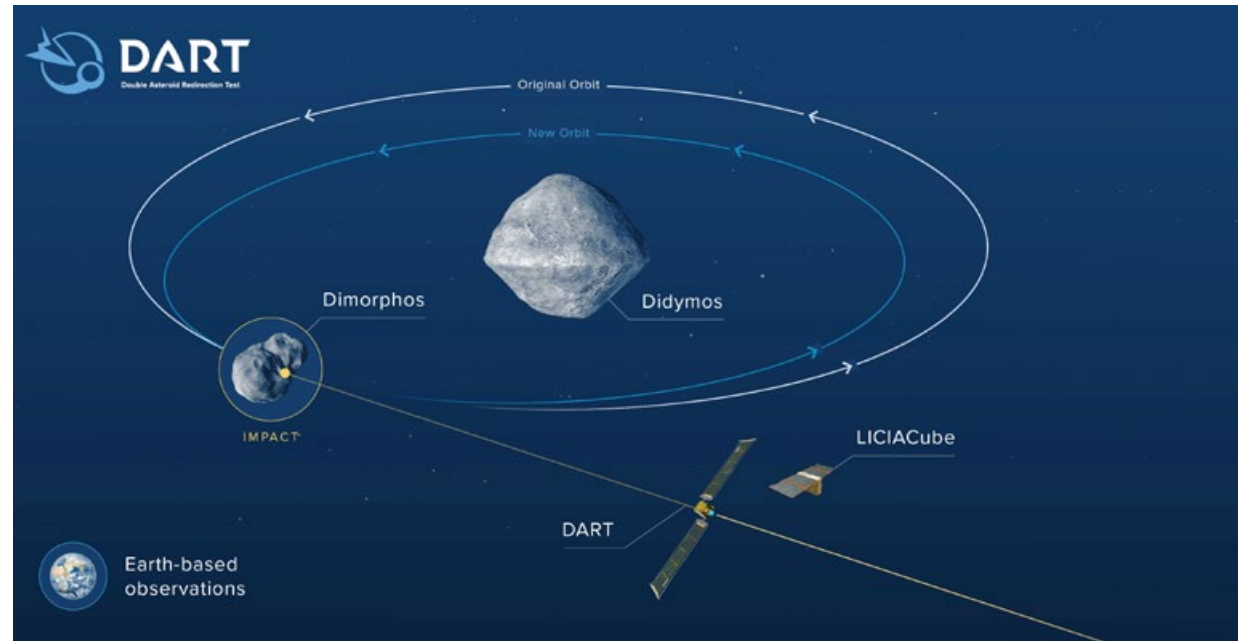
In a real-life version of the science mooted in satirical Hollywood movie *Don't Look Up*, NASA's Double Asteroid Re-direction Test (DART) mission sent a spacecraft to smash straight into an asteroid.

► Top: Illustration of the DART spacecraft headed directly towards the asteroid. © NASA/Johns Hopkins APL/Steve Gribben
Left: A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket of the type used to launch DART.
Photo: © SpaceX

"The impact was enough to lose a considerable amount of material from the asteroid. That's more than hitting the surface, it shows ... we gave it an extra kick!"



The fridge-sized spacecraft was launched in November 2021 and collided with the target asteroid Dimorphous (the moonlet of the larger asteroid Didymos) in September 2022. While neither asteroid ever actually posed a threat to Earth, the successful deflection is hugely significant. NASA described it as “humanity’s first time purposely changing the motion of a celestial object and the first full-scale demonstration of asteroid deflection technology”. The success of the mission suggests that the technique could really be used to help protect Earth from a collision with an asteroid, if we ever did discover one headed straight for us.



An unexpected outcome

Since DART hit the headlines, Stefania has been occupied looking at how effective this deflection technique is and also, what the implications are of the ejecta which was detected after the impact. As well as helping Stefania’s teams to analyse the composition of the asteroid, this loose material which lifted off the surface of the moonlet in plumes is evidence that the mission did more than change the direction of the asteroid. “The impact was enough to lose a considerable amount of material

► Top: A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket carrying the DART spacecraft awaiting the mission launch from Vandenberg Space Force Base. © NASA/Johns Hopkins, APL/Ed Whitman
Above: After DART collided with the Dimorphos moonlet, the Italian LICIACube was there to monitor the results.

“DART is our first step towards trying to do something in space that works but there is much more to be done to make sure we are ready”

from Dimorphous,” explains Stefania. “That’s more than hitting the surface, it shows additional momentum. We gave it an extra kick!”

“Our minimum expectation was to change the trajectory of the moonlet asteroid’s orbit by 73 seconds but we actually changed it by more than 30 minutes. This was far more successful than we had ever imagined.”

Of course, this all came at a price. A large-scale mission targeting a single asteroid involves huge expense and many years of research, development, design and preparation. Looking to the next generation of planetary defence, Stefania is championing a move towards a smaller scale approach using mini self-driven satellites.

Tiny solar explorers

“The idea is to use a swarm of micro satellites, known as CubeSats, which would be sent out into the solar system to autonomously track and explore multiple asteroids at the same time,” she explains. “The goal would be to gather information to create a database of the asteroid population, so we know their properties, and more precisely what to do, should any of them become hazardous for our planet.”

In 2022, Stefania was awarded a UKRI-funded Future Leaders Fellowship, to lead research into the development of these CubeSats, which could help mitigate against future risks to the Earth from asteroids. “DART is our first step towards trying to do something in space that works,” says Stefania. “There is much more to be done, both with regards to exploring deflection, and other techniques, to make sure we are ready for different case scenarios.

“The composition of an asteroid and the length of time you have before it becomes hazardous will ultimately determine which technique is the most efficient.” With her swarm of satellites, Stefania hopes to gather this precise information on the asteroid population, so that we are, quite literally, ready for anything. •

Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab built and operated the DART spacecraft and manages the DART mission for NASA’s Planetary Defense Coordination Office as a project of the agency’s Planetary Missions Program Office.

For more information about the DART mission, visit www.nasa.gov/dart or dart.jhuapl.edu.

New health research making an impact

Professor Alison Holmes, David Price Evans Chair in Global Health and Infectious Diseases, Professor William Hope, Dame Sally Davies Chair of AMR Research, and Dr Ishwar Singh, Reader in Pharmacology and

Therapeutics spoke to the *Times Higher Education* recently about the exciting research led by Liverpool to tackle antimicrobial resistance (AMR). They discussed recent developments such as CAMO-Net, a new global research consortium to

optimise antimicrobial use in humans; collaboration on new AMR projects with the Global Antibiotic Research and Development Partnership (GARDP); and innovations in antibiotics that could save millions of lives.

If you would like to read more about the University’s world-leading research visit: www.liverpool.ac.uk/research

VICE-CHANCELLOR PROFESSOR TIM JONES (BSC HONS CHEMISTRY 1985, PHD CHEMISTRY 1989) REFLECTS ON HIS TIME STUDYING AT LIVERPOOL AND OUTLINES AMBITIOUS PLANS FOR THE UNIVERSITY

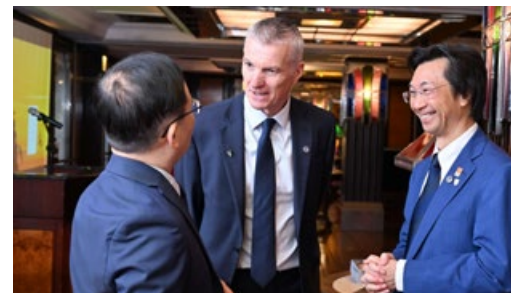


// It's a great honour to return to my alma mater as Vice-Chancellor. I still remember attending an open day here when I was deciding which university to go to in the '80s. We toured the campus and saw the sports field out at Wyncote and the Greenbank residences, where I ended up being a first year Chemistry student. I have such happy memories of that time so it's special to return and be a part of this vibrant city once more.

Liverpool was then, and many would argue still is, the centre of excellence in surface science, not just in the UK, but internationally as well. We had world leaders in the chemistry department, and a nucleus of really strong academic staff in the surface science area. The head of department was Professor David King, who subsequently became Government Chief Scientist [from 2000 to 2007] and indeed, more recently, the Chancellor of the University of Liverpool. That community brought

real excitement into the research environment and stimulated my interest, which is ultimately why I decided to do my PhD in surface science here.

Gradually as I went through my career, I moved from quite fundamental science and chemistry, all the way through to ultimately working with electronic devices and photovoltaics or solar cells. I always retained the intellectual rigour that I had learned as a PhD student, and a determination to follow my instincts and push the boundaries.



▶ Left: Professor Jones meets alumni in Hong Kong.

"I have such happy memories ... so it's special to return and be a part of this vibrant city once more"

It was while I was working at University of Warwick [as Head of Physical and Theoretical Chemistry] that I began to take further steps towards institutional leadership. After 20 years being focused on research and academia, perhaps it was time for a new challenge. As I started doing more institutional roles, I found that I was good at it, I could bring people along with me and inspire them to do things differently. For a while, I tried to juggle

this with research but when I moved to Birmingham as Provost, I made the decision to give up academic work to pursue my leadership trajectory. Leadership isn't about one person. You set the tone and

the culture, but you need others to operate as leaders too. You need to build a good team around you, who you can trust and empower to make decisions. You've always got to have your door open to listen to other people's ideas and learn from them. Most importantly, you need to be able to inspire others to join you on a journey. We're developing a new strategy at the moment and that's not my strategy, it's the University strategy so we need people to buy into it, be proud of it and understand what's in it for them." ●

OUR ALUMNI ASK...

If you could implement one new thing to the University, what would it be?

Confidence. I think the University, and the city, still lack the confidence that we should have. We've got fantastic things going on, but

we don't shout enough about them. We need to be much more outward-focused and make sure that people around the country, and indeed around the world, know what we're really good at and what's important to us.

How do you intend to improve the University's sustainability policies?

In short, by making it a priority. We have a sustainability strategy which I'm very committed to and sustainability is also an important theme within the new institutional strategy. There's a lot of work

around things like reducing our waste, which we can do quite quickly, but then there are bigger, longer term things, such as making our large campus Net Zero. That will be a big challenge and will cost a lot of money, but we're putting together the road map so we can embark on that journey.

How are you going to promote innovation?

Innovation is very important to me and will be front and centre of our strategy. We're building stronger links with industry, and a range of different companies. We're promoting the science park and increasing its capacity so we can

develop more spinouts. I'm also very keen on promoting greater entrepreneurship – we've got 27,000 students, many of whom will be entrepreneurial and we need to find ways of allowing them to thrive. I will work with the City region and with the investment community so that we

can try and bring in funding to promote the innovation agenda and elevate it.

We've got alumni in 171 countries across the world – will you be visiting anyone internationally?

Of course. In fact, I've already visited our oldest alumni

association in Hong Kong and met with some of our alumni community in the United States. Engaging with our alumni, both in the UK and across the globe, is a very important part of my role and I'd like to make that relationship as strong as it can be.

BRIGHTER FUTURES



Photos: Caroline Cornil



OUR NEW CAMPAIGN AIMS TO CHANGE THE LIVES OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN LIVERPOOL'S MOST DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES

Children from disadvantaged backgrounds are four times less likely to enter further education, according to recent data from UCAS. The potential of so many young people across Liverpool City Region (LCR) is being overlooked, simply due to their economic circumstances. It's a sobering truth and one we are determined to change.

In 2017, we partnered with educational charity IntoUniversity and Liverpool Football Club Foundation to open a learning centre in Anfield dedicated to helping the local community broaden their horizons. Over the past five years, the IntoUniversity North Liverpool centre has helped thousands of children to realise their potential, with many now studying at university and many more following in their footsteps. But there are still so many who could benefit from our support. That's why we've teamed up with our founding partners once again with the goal of opening a second learning centre.

"When we started our journey with IntoUniversity and the University of Liverpool, our goal was to help young people achieve their goals through greater access to quality education," said Matt Parish, CEO of LFC Foundation.

"Five years on, the partnership has supported over 3,000 young people in Liverpool with 61% of those who have visited the centre progressing on to further education."

Young people who have attended the IntoUniversity North Liverpool Centre discuss its impact



"I didn't know much about university and I think that's the same for everyone who comes to the centre. In our area, it's benefited us a lot because it's opened up new opportunities that we might not have thought of before." – **SOPHIE**



"Since I've been coming to the centre, my school work has got better and I've been more confident putting my hand up to answer questions. One thing I've taken away with me is you should always try your hardest and never give up." – **CHARLIE**



"Into University is a great place for young students like me. It is a long journey but the team and people are always there to support you. They give you so many different opportunities that you cannot get anywhere else." – **PRECIOUS**



"We firmly believe that anyone with the talent to pursue study in higher education should be given the opportunity and encouragement to do so"

A powerful partnership

This time, our fundraising campaign, Future Goals, is also backed by the Steve Morgan Foundation and Everton in the Community. The fact that Liverpool's two rival football teams have joined forces is testament to the significance of the campaign.

"We're delighted to be joining forces with this fantastic group of organisations on what is an important and much-needed project in our region," said Sue Gregory, CEO at Everton in the Community. "The campaign fits perfectly into our own lifelong learning strategy, and by working [together] we can really increase our collective impact on the education inequality gap."

The campaign is well on the way to achieving our target of £3 million, enough to fund the existing learning centre in Anfield for five more years, while also creating a new centre to benefit another Merseyside community. We plan to open the new learning centre in the Autumn of 2023 – its location will be confirmed later this year.

Making a difference

In deciding where to establish the centre, we focused our research towards some of the most disadvantaged communities in the LCR. One such place is Kirkby, in the Metropolitan Borough of Knowsley – one of five areas where students in receipt of Free School Meals exceed the national average. By the time young people in Kirkby reach their GCSEs only 37.3% of young people are achieving more than five pass grades, which is much lower than the national average of 56.6%.

A new IntoUniversity learning centre in an area like this could help young people who haven't considered further education to raise their aspirations and reach new goals.

Education for all

The Future Goals campaign is part of our broader commitment to opening educational opportunities for all. The University has a long-standing record of improving the social mobility of students by enabling participation in higher education and, through our strategic Access & Participation Plan, we aim to build upon this reputation. "We firmly believe that anyone with the talent to pursue study in higher education should be given the opportunity and encouragement to do so," says Gavin Brown, the University's Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Education. "We continue to invest more than £10m each year in financial support and outreach activities to young people who would not traditionally consider going to university.

"I'm delighted that the Steve Morgan Foundation and Everton in the Community have joined our Future Goals partnership with IntoUniversity and the LFC Foundation to help many more young people across the region to make the most of their talents and abilities." •



A PRICELESS GIFT

"WE ARE OVER THE MOON TO SUPPORT THE FUTURE GOALS PARTNERSHIP PROJECT, BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY WE KNOW THAT JUNE WOULD HAVE FULLY SUPPORTED IT TOO!"

- JEAN, GEORGE AND ROBERT FARR, THE SURVIVING FAMILY OF JUNE ILOTT

► Above: June pictured with her family.

JUNE ILOTT'S LEGACY WILL IMPROVE THE PROSPECTS OF BUDDING STUDENTS FROM DISADVANTAGED AREAS

We are thankful to our legacy supporters, past and present, who have continued their life's story at Liverpool by making great things happen across the University and enhancing the lives of our students.

Caroline 'June' Annette Ilott, who sadly passed away in May 2020, was a passionate advocate of education. Lovingly known as 'June', she is remembered for her caring and cheerful nature and her devotion to teaching countless pupils who regarded her as both a friend and mentor.

June grew up in Wiltshire, surrounded by a loving family who, despite their own financial challenges, helped others in the community and encouraged June to further her education at St Katherine's College, Liverpool. Inspired by her family's kindness and her own life experiences, June left a gift in her Will to help budding students from disadvantaged areas. The University of Liverpool was privileged to

be chosen by June's remaining family to help fulfil her final wishes.

To honour June's memory, her family have given their approval for June's gift to support the inspiring work of Future Goals. This extraordinary partnership between LFC Foundation, Everton in the Community, the Steve Morgan Foundation, IntoUniversity and the University of Liverpool is dedicated to helping young people from disadvantaged areas across the region to realise their full potential through education. •



Pupils' fond farewell

June is pictured with students in the *Greenford & Northolt Gazette* on her retirement

Inspired to play a vital part in the University of Liverpool's next chapter? We'd love to hear from you. Please contact: carolyn.jones@liverpool.ac.uk



BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS

Photo: © Malik Al Nasir

AUTHOR AND PERFORMANCE POET MALIK AL NASIR'S LIFE CHANGED WHEN HE MET AMERICAN MUSICIAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST GIL SCOTT-HERON. HERE, HE SHARES HOW THAT CHANCE ENCOUNTER INSPIRED HIM TO SURMOUNT PERSONAL CHALLENGES AND EMBARK ON A REMARKABLE ACADEMIC JOURNEY THAT CONTINUES TO THIS DAY

When a young Malik showed up at Gil Scott-Heron's Liverpool gig in 1984, he had no ticket and no idea how he'd get in, yet, against the odds, he managed to sail through security. After nine years in the care system, Malik describes himself as having been rendered "semi-literate, homeless and bereft of hope" by the system. He was searching for inspiration that night, so when he found himself backstage after the transformative gig, he knew he couldn't leave without giving his hero a compliment.

"Gil was standing there sweating with a towel around his neck," Malik remembers. "He was surrounded by promoters, reporters, people trying to get paid, everyone wanting something from him, yet he'd just given his all on stage.

"I had nothing of my own but I wanted to give the guy something, so I walked over to him, thanked him, and paid him a compliment, telling him I was really moved by his performance, then I turned to leave. And he said, 'Hey brother, →



Photo: © Malik Al Nasir

I heard y'all had some riots around here, you wanna tell me about it?"

► Above: With friend and mentor Gil Scott-Heron

Neither Malik nor Gil could have imagined that this moment was the beginning of a friendship which would last a lifetime, but when Malik offered to take the star on a tour of Toxteth, where the riots had taken place a few years earlier, Gil accepted, without hesitation. From the outset, he clearly saw something in Malik, inviting him to go on tour with the band and ultimately appointing himself his mentor.

"I think Gil recognised that I had the intellect, but it had never been nurtured due to my personal circumstances, so he took it upon himself to fulfil that role," explains Malik. "As a prolific poet with a Masters in English, Gil suggested poetry as a means to address my semi-literacy. I learned to use it as a medium to articulate the feelings that I had about my reality and the way I was treated and perceived."

An alternative path

Later, with a collection of powerful poems and writings, Malik's hardwon literacy skills still weren't enough to gain access to formal further education.

"I learned to use poetry as a medium to articulate the feelings that I had about my reality and the way I was treated and perceived"

Instead, he took an equal opportunities job working at Littlewoods, which would allow him one day-a-week's work study at Millbank College. At the end of his contract, Malik had achieved distinction in all but one module. It was the beginning of his long, winding and unlikely path through academia.

"90% of my peers in the care system ended up as junkies, alcoholics, or criminals with many of them now dead or in jail," Malik reflects in his memoir, *Letters to Gil* (William Collins, 2021). "Had I not met Gil, I probably would have followed the same path."

By the time Gil died in 2011, Malik had graduated from all three of Liverpool's universities. He has a BA Honours in Geography and Sociology from Hope University; a PgDip in Applied Social Research from The University of Liverpool, and an MA in New Media Production from Liverpool Screen School at John Moores University. He is now three years into a PhD in history at the University of Cambridge, St Catharine's College, for which he was awarded a full ESRC scholarship after high-profile media coverage of his remarkable research discoveries, made while tracing his roots back through slavery. While working on his PhD, he is writing his second book entitled *Searching for my Slave Roots* about this quest to discover his ancestry and how his journey took him back to the sugar plantations of Demerara in Guyana.

A quantum leap

"Looking back across my academic life from missing out on some primary education, then being excluded almost entirely from secondary school - due to being in care - and then being precluded from entering into college and university because of

not having the requisite qualifications, to get to the stage where I'm now doing a PhD at Cambridge is a quantum leap," says Malik. "It only became possible for me thanks to the intervention of my mentor Gil and his use of poetry to help encourage me to become literate.

"Gil was an entertainer but he was an agitator in everything that he did," Malik continues. "He would take the most complex geopolitical issues and, in his poems, he would distil them down into simple narratives that ordinary people could understand. I think he saw himself as having a responsibility to use his intellect for the benefit of the people."

Malik brushes away the idea that this could also apply to himself, but it is clear he is motivated, not just by a determination to improve his own circumstances, but to help anyone facing similar challenges. Along with fellow Cambridge alumna L'myah Sherae, he helped to craft the 'Widening Access and Participation Bill', which aims to amend the Higher Education Research Act (2017) to make it more equitable for Black people, and those who suffer intersectional disadvantages, to gain equal access to funding and more selective universities.

He is also working on a policy document called 'Lifting the Barriers to Black Academia Through Positive Action and Decolonisation', which is co-sponsored by the University of Liverpool's Pro-Vice Chancellor Fiona Beveridge, and is being developed with Dr Leona Vaughn, the Derby Fellow

for Slavery and Unfree Labour at Liverpool.

In addition to all of this, Malik is currently working with four universities - Liverpool, Bristol, Glasgow, and Cambridge - to develop the foundations of a positive action doctoral training partnership and a colonial research centre, to facilitate the kind of participatory action research he is doing with libraries, universities, museums and galleries, around decolonising their archives and collections. When funding is secured, the aim is to create PhD studentships for at least 15 Black British and Black Caribbean students. "The project also interrogates the 'tick box' admissions criteria used across most universities, to see if they can look at widening participation, to create more opportunities for people like me," adds Malik.

"Universities are missing out on so much potential, by only admitting students who have had a childhood idyllic enough to be able to gain the requisite three A stars at A-Level," he says. "But for a Black person growing up in the UK, it's not that unusual to be excluded, or find yourself illiterate or semi-literate because of the way the school system has been loaded against you. If I have the capability to lift some barriers and to do for others what Gil did for me, I should." ●

To keep up with Malik's activities, see: malikandtheogs.blogspot.com or search for 'malikandtheogs' on Instagram or Twitter



Photo: © Ean Flanders

Global recognition

In recognition of the impact of his research, Malik Al Nasir has recently been awarded the University of Cambridge 'Vice-Chancellors Global Social Impact Award'. Last year, he also received the Sydney Smith Memorial Prize from St Catharine's, in recognition of his outstanding achievement and contribution to the artistic and literary life of the College.

CLASS NOTES

Where has life taken your classmates since graduation?

Find more online: liverpool.ac.uk/alumni/class-notes

1950s

John Smith (BEng Hons Civil Engineering 1955) worked at the Public Works Department in Nigeria for ten years, before returning to the UK to work on motorway projects including the M6 at Shap Fell. He undertook a number of overseas project management roles, ranging from airports to container terminals in West Africa and East Asia before returning to the UK in 1984 to work for a consultancy in Birmingham. He met his wife Pat, who was a student at IM Marsh PE College, when he was living at Derby Hall and, since his retirement in 1998, they have been happily living in Warwickshire, where they enjoy a good social life, a wonderful garden and their seven great-grandchildren.



Brigadier Barry Reeves (BA General Studies 1956) completed a DipPhysEd and PGCE at Carnegie College of Physical Education. After joining the Army in 1957, he enjoyed a distinguished career serving in UK, France, Gibraltar and Germany

including stints at NATO, MOD and the Army Staff College and Birkbeck College, before retiring from the Army in 1992, having risen to the rank of Brigadier.

As well as roles with Lincolnshire Police Authority and Lincolnshire Probation Board he served as County President of the Royal British Legion, Lincolnshire for ten years. He was awarded full colours at Liverpool for tennis and table-tennis and played competitively for the Army and Combined Services, becoming Open Champion in Gibraltar for both sports.

Between them, he and his wife Margaret have five children, nine grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

1960s



Emeritus Professor John Mitchell (BSc Hons Physics 1965) completed a PhD at Churchill College

Cambridge. After a year at the Radiobiological Research Unit, Harwell, he became a lecturer in Physics at the University of Newcastle where he developed his PhD research in Geochronology, receiving an ScD from Cambridge in 1986 and being appointed to a personal chair in 1991. From 1988-1995 he was Head of Physics at Newcastle, then spent a year recovering at the University of Salamanca! In retirement, he and his wife have boated around Europe, and now travel extensively and spend time with their two sons and six grandchildren.

Rosalyn Hurst (BA Hons Political Theory and Institutions 1965) taught in Speke, Liverpool before going to work in Cameroon and Iran. After completing an MA at the Institute of Education, Language & Linguistics in 1979, she founded the

Centre for International Education & Management in what is now the University of Chichester, working with ODA British Council to provide postgraduate programmes for teachers working in post-war or civil conflicts in Africa, Asia and Central Asia. Rosalyn wrote textbooks for state primary schools in East and Central Africa, SE Asia and Uzbekistan and undertook consultancy work in Iran, China and North Africa. In 2005, she was elected to East Sussex County Council where she is currently a member of the Board of Conservators for Ashdown Forest.

Dr Peter Dolan (BSc Hons Physical Metallurgy 1967) still meets up every year with 'The Sloman Loungers,' friends from the Physics Department, named after an alcove in the Guild of Students where they spent many happy hours drinking coffee, discussing football and even physics. This year their reunion included a visit to the Garstang Museum, the Oceanography Department, where they saw the Bidston tidal machine, and a trip around the Daresbury High Energy Physics campus. Peter worked for 25 years at Rolls Royce and Associates where he became Project Director and Engineering Director, and has lived in Derby for almost 50 years with his wife Ann Colebourne, who also graduated in 1967 with a degree in Physics.



Professor Philip Mellor OBE (MSc 1968) completed a PhD and Post Doc at the London

School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. He moved to the AVRI (now The Pirbright Institute) where he became Head of the Arbovirology Programme and later an international expert for the World Health Organization for

Animal Health on the Bluetongue virus and African horse sickness. He was a UK representative on several EU and UK Government advisory committees, such as the UK's Emergency Disease Response Committee. He was Honorary Professor at the University of Aberdeen and was awarded an OBE in 2009 for predicting the arrival of, and then elimination of, Bluetongue from the UK. He retired in 2010, though he continued to lecture at Cambridge until 2018. Now happily retired and living in Surrey, he enjoys helping his wife look after their very large garden and trying to fit in playing tennis.

Roger Stephenson OBE (BArch Hons 1969) set up his own practice in Manchester in 1979, stepping down in 2021 at the age of 75, though he remains a consultant to the practice. It has been awarded in excess of 150 national architecture awards, including twice being short-listed for the Stirling Prize. He was awarded an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours in 2001. He has been a visiting Professor at the Chinese University of Hong Kong and at the Liverpool School of Architecture, where he remains a part-time tutor, and has been an external examiner at a number of British universities. He was recently made a fellow of RIBA and is also a fellow of the Manchester Society of Architects. He is actively involved in painting, drawing and model-making and regularly has work exhibited at the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition.

Dr Bryan Roe (BEng Hons Metallurgy 1966, PhD Metallurgy 1976) worked at International Nickel, Birmingham after graduation in their Research Laboratory, before returning to Liverpool in 1972 to complete his PhD in Carbonitriding of Iron Carbon Alloys. He was

headhunted by Rolls-Royce and Bentley Motors as a Senior Metallurgist, eventually becoming Head of Electrical Engineering. During his career, he acquired CEng and FIMMM qualifications and acted as a mentor for graduates. He took early retirement in 2001, and has continued mentoring students on Arkwright Engineering Scholarships and as a STEM ambassador for South Cheshire, regularly visiting schools and colleges to give talks.

1970s



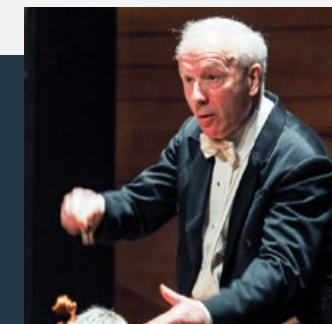
Michael Williams (BA Hons English Language and Literature 1970)

started his career working on the student newspaper *Guild Gazette*, before going on to a graduate traineeship with the *Liverpool Echo*, progressing through regional newspapers including the *Birmingham Post* to Fleet Street. He was a founding editor of *Today*, Britain's first colour national newspaper, Head of News and Features at *The Sunday Times* and Executive

Editor of *The Independent*. He went on to be Deputy Editor of *The Independent on Sunday*. He enjoyed an academic career as Senior Lecturer in Journalism at the University of Central Lancashire, where he taught postgraduate students. He now writes best-selling books for Penguin Random house as well as being a freelance journalist and broadcaster.

Avril Bateman (BA Hons English 1972) completed a PGCE in drama at Goldsmiths, London, working as an English teacher

in Cheshire before moving to France in 1975. She spent most of her working life teaching in an International Lycee in Fontainebleau, near Paris. She fulfilled her great interest in theatre by directing several school plays and musicals. She married a Frenchman, has two sons and four grandchildren, and is now retired after 40 years of teaching. She is still in touch with a couple of friends from university days, including Helena Levy who was on her course, and would love to hear about other classmates. →



Howard Williams (BMus 1970) was appointed Director of Music at Queen Mary London University following graduation. In 1975, he joined the English National Opera as a music staff member, then Chorus Master, before leaving in 1981 to pursue a conducting career, working with orchestras throughout the UK and Europe and with the Royal Ballet. In 1989, he was appointed Chief Conductor and Artistic Director of the Symphonic Orchestra of Pécs, Hungary (renamed the Pannon Philharmonic). From 2000-2006, he was Head of Conducting at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, and is now Professor of Conducting at the Royal College of Music in London.



Frank Malley (BA Hons Sociology 1976) is an author and has also worked as a columnist with *The Daily Express* and chief writer with the Press Association, covering the Olympic Games, World Cups in football, cricket and rugby, as well as other top sporting events. He has written three non-fiction books, including a memoir entitled *Living on the Deadline*. He currently writes novels, including two murder mysteries and two spy thrillers, the most recent, *The Hit List*, was published in March 2023. Royalties for all his books go to the Primrose Car Service, an ambulance charity he volunteers for, transporting cancer patients to radiotherapy treatment in Cambridge.



Michael Drapan (BA Hons History and Politics 1977) went into education and finished his career as a Headteacher after completing his studies and training at Leeds and Huddersfield Universities and the National College for School Leadership. He has recently launched a book at the British Library under the title *Home from Home* which describes the history of the Ukrainian Community in Huddersfield from 1948–2018. He is currently employed as an interpreter/ translator for Ukrainian refugees and has been involved in several television, radio and book presentations regarding the invasion of Ukraine by Russia.

Shelley Steijger (BA Hons Archaeology 1983) is Head of International Engagement for the Department of Work and Pensions, where she has been privileged to represent the UK at G7 and G20 meetings about employment rights in Indonesia, last year, and India, this year. Closer to home, she recently attended the Governing Body and annual conference of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in Geneva. She was there to speak out for the UK against efforts by some member states to halt the work of the ILO in tackling discrimination against LGBTI workers, and to support ILO action to achieve a just transition to a green economy.



1980s



Professor John Brian Boyd (MBChB 1972, MD 1980) recently celebrated his 50-year reunion in Liverpool where half the year turned up! He says he owes his career to Mr David Maisels, a Liverpool plastic surgeon, now retired and living in Edinburgh, aged 96. He has enjoyed a varied life: general surgery training in Liverpool, plastic surgery residency in Toronto and faculty positions at Toronto General, Cleveland Clinic Florida and now UCLA. He met his wife, anaesthetist Jeanette Derdemezi in Liverpool, and has two daughters, one a neurologist and the other an attorney.

Dr Peter Derham (BDS 1981) worked in Labrador Canada for five years in an underserved area and completed his Canadian licensure. From there, he moved to Ottawa and eventually built his own dental practice, selling many years later, just before COVID hit. Since retiring, he stays involved in teaching at the local college, puts his time into

various licensing bodies, and visits Liverpool periodically to watch some soccer.

Professor Dr Zohreh Abdi

Daneshpour (PhD in Urban and Regional Planning 1983) followed her father to Liverpool (he had obtained his BA in Economics and Commerce in 1937). She was a professor in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning at Shahid Beheshti University in Tehran, Iran. She attended international conferences and wrote papers in English and Farsi, penning seven books in Farsi, and a chapter in a book published by University of Warsaw, Poland. She retired in 2014.

Elizabeth Davis née North (BSc Hons Mathematics 1986) worked for 18 months for The Post Office in London before moving back to Preston where she worked for 32 years in IT for Guardian Royal Exchange/Guardian/AXA Insurance, finishing as an IT Project Manager. She took early retirement in 2020, and enjoys spending time with her grandchildren. She still keeps in

touch with people from University Hall, where she lived in her first year at Liverpool.



Jools Abrams-Humphries (BA Combined Hons 1988, PGCE 1992) graduated twice from Liverpool, working in the arts, then teaching, before becoming a full-time writer. She is a prolific ghost writer of memoir, award-winning short stories and features published by Walker Books, *Msexia* and *Wasafiri*. Her novel, *Girl in the Mirror*, came out last year, and she is working on her memoir about her experience growing up with an autistic brother. Liverpool remains her heart city; the friends she made in her final year are as close as family, and she married a Scouse PhD student. They have a seat dedication in the Yoko Ono Lennon Centre.

1990s

Juliet Moore (BA Hons Architecture 1993) moved to Melbourne, Australia, where she worked as an architect for five years, before completing her BArch Architecture at RMIT University. She registered as an architect with the ARBV, and began her own practice, Edwards Moore, where she won several awards, nationally and internationally. She left Australia in 2018 to move back to Europe, working as a senior architect for OMA Rotterdam for four years, before moving back to the UK in 2021. She is restoring a 16th century farmhouse in North Norfolk, where she lives with her partner and his three children, as well as a dog, a cat, two sheep

and seven chickens. She plans to retire there quietly and write a book.



Dr Simon James William Watson (BClinSci 1995, MBChB 1996) worked in Liverpool

for a year after graduation, before moving to take up roles in Nottingham, Bristol then Edinburgh. He married Rachael in 2000 and settled in Edinburgh, where both their children were born. He works for the NHS as Medical Director of Healthcare Improvement Scotland, and as a consultant in nephrology (kidneys) at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh.



Professor Sam Kariuki (PhD Tropical Medicine 1997) joined the Kenya Medical Research Institute

in 1998 rising through the ranks to become Head of Department in 2009, then Director, Research and Development in 2018, with a stint as Director General of the Institute (2021–2023). His area of research is Epidemiology and Genomics of Enteric Pathogens and Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR). He advises MoH in the prevention and control of typhoid, cholera and other diarrheal diseases, including AMR, and has published 176 papers and four textbooks. He is a visiting Professor at Oxford University, long-time collaborator of the Global One Health Initiative, Honorary fellow of Sanger Institute, and Strategic Technical Advisory Group member for WHO-AMR.



Dr Alan Woodall (BSc Biochemistry 1991, PhD Biochemistry 1994) followed a research career, before training in medicine, and now works as a lead doctor

for Powys Teaching Health Board in rural Wales. He has an Honorary Fellowship in the Institute of Population Health, with a number of personal and collaborative research grants looking at physical health outcomes for patients with serious mental illness.

Dr Fiona Robinson (PhD Mechanical Engineering 1991) has spent most of her career in the steel industry in Research, Process Development and Technology innovation roles. For the last 12 years, her research and consultancy focus has been on improvement and development of new electrical steels (and other soft magnetic materials) with excellent electromagnetic and mechanical properties for EV electric motors. She is a Fellow FIMM of IOM3 and active in three committees including Vice Chair of Women in Materials, Minerals and Mining. She is married with three sons, who are all currently studying at university.

2000s



Dr Stavros Melemenidis (BSc Physics with Medical Applications 2005, MSc Radiometrics: Instrumentation and Modelling 2008) pursued an MSc and a DPhil in Radiation Biology at Oxford University specialising in pre-clinical imaging in Radiation Oncology. He spent his post-doctorate years at Stanford, and is currently Research Scientist →

and Director of Pre-clinical Radiotherapy in the Radiation Oncology Department at Stanford, where his research focuses on pre-clinical ultra-high dose rate radiation treatment (FLASH radiotherapy). He recently completed a Medical Physics Certificate and plans to apply for Medical Physics Residency in the near future.



Dr Francesca Tamarozzi (MSc Biology and Control of Parasites and Disease Vectors

2005, PhD in Tropical Medicine 2012) completed a specialty in Medical Microbiology and a Diploma in Ultrasonography in Italy. She is now a senior research physician and co-head of WHO Collaborating Centre on strongyloidiasis and other NTDs at the Department of Infectious-Tropical Diseases and Microbiology, IRCCS Sacro Cuore Don Calabria Hospital in Negrar, Verona, Italy. She is also a member of the WHO Informal Working Group on Echinococcosis, and Section Editor of the Helminths section for the journal *PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases*.

Dave Finlayson (MBA Football Industries 2000) moved out of working in football with The Wanderers – the Canadian Premier League Team in Halifax – to a new role with the Nova Scotia Provincial government as a Special Advisor, working on crown corporation transition. He lives in Halifax with his wife, Jen, and two sons.



Helen Westhead (BA Hons Geography 2002) is Net Zero Leader in Arup's climate and

sustainability professional services. After graduation, Helen worked

at the forefront of Scotland's renewable energy revolution as developer for onshore wind. After moving to Wales, she shifted to consultancy to influence governmental policy and programmes, delivering a systems perspective to decarbonisation. Helen found that politics was increasingly becoming a barrier to the delivery of climate action, so stood as a candidate for Welsh Parliament. She has since been elected Deputy Leader of Wales Green Party, a voluntary position that she now holds alongside her day job.



Amanda Elphick (BA Egyptology 2004) had dreamt of being a physio for 17 years, but it was losing her accounts job during COVID-19 that finally gave her the push to chase her dreams. After eight months of searching for a job, she successfully became a Band 2 Therapy Support Worker and is now a Physio Apprentice. Working full time in the hospital and attending university one day a week is not easy, but she agrees the sacrifice is worth it. In just over three-and-a-half-year's time, she will be living her dream as a full-time physio.

2010s

Dr Rebecca O'Sullivan (MSc Archaeology 2013) has been a Humboldt Foundation researcher

at the University of Bonn since 2021, working on Bronze Age trans-national exchange networks in East Asia. This year, she will be Visiting Researcher at the Max Weber Institutes in Tokyo and Beijing, and is part of the 'Hearth & Home' project in Liverpool's Archaeology Department, which excavates Iron Age settlements in northern Mongolia.



Dr Emmanuel Bimba (MPH International Health 2014) currently works with the largest

humanitarian organisation – United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) – in Damaturu, Northeast Nigeria as a Programme Policy Officer-Head of Operations. His work provides programme management support to activities delivering immediate life-saving and life-changing support to internally displaced persons affected by the prolonged insurgency (Boko Haram crisis) in northeast Nigeria. Emmanuel was recently nominated for a 2022 Alumni Award.

Charlotte Murray (MA Archives and Records Management 2014) worked for six years as Project Archivist for National Museums Liverpool, based at Merseyside Maritime Museum, before moving back to her hometown of Leeds to take up a new post as Archive and Records Manager for Northern Ballet. She is currently working on an exhibition on Romeo and Juliet, and creating a Records Management Policy for the organisation.

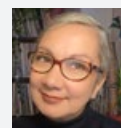
Sarah Halliday (BA Hons Latin American Studies 2015) has travelled the world since graduation, working as a Relocation Consultant helping people move across the globe.



Professor Dr Jose Helano Matos Nogueira (DBA Business Administration 2016) was the first Brazilian to be World Director of the Forensic Police for the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), managing 190 countries at its headquarters in Lyon, France. He is currently a member of the INTERPOL Global Knowledge Hub. In 2019, he completed his postdoctoral at King's College London. In addition, he was honorary lecturer of the Master and Doctorate at the University of Liverpool, teaching the disciplines of Strategic Technology Management, Cyber Forensics, and Cyber Crime Prevention and Protection.



Thanks to her time at Liverpool, she has developed a love for everything South American and relishes being able to communicate in Spanish. She is currently travelling around Peru with three of her closest university friends



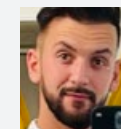
Nina Kechagia (MA Music Industry Studies 2017) is a creative strategist, video essayist,

and radio broadcaster on the award-winning London radio station Resonance FM. She is the Marketing & Communications Manager for shesaid.so, a global community of women, gender nonconforming people, and allies in the music industry. She also sits on Liverpool City Region Music Board (as Co-chair of the Gender Equality sub-group) and runs a small music community called Groove Inspired. She hosts talks and panels on topics such as creative entrepreneurship, diversity in music, music and

new technologies (web3, AI) and dance music history. Her first academic journal on music and AI will be published this year.

2020s

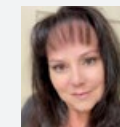
Megan Curran (BA Hons Marketing 2022) tried a number of different roles while she found her feet following the COVID-19 outbreak. Currently, she is a Digital Content Specialist for Lyreco where she is responsible for managing the UK + Ireland Webshop along with the digital content for roughly 30,000 products. She is also Project Manager for the company's launch of a Natural Language Generation tool that uses AI to optimise product content.



Adam Lawrenson (BA Hons Physiotherapy with foundation year 2020) has been

fortunate enough to work in several NHS trusts across England since graduation, completing his junior and senior rotations, whilst also working in Lanzarote and Canada as a physiotherapist. In addition, he has worked on West End shows, touring productions, films, and TV shows, and has provided physio for

musicians and crew members in stadiums and arenas. He is now completing MSc modules in advanced clinical practice.



Tanya Vissia (MSc Forensic Psychology and Criminal Investigation 2020) works for the

Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) as a Child Protection Team Leader/Social Worker, providing intervention in Child Maltreatment Cases. She assisted in the development of Raven's Nest Child and Youth Advocacy Center in Duncan, British Columbia, Canada – which opened in April 2022 – where she collaborates in multidisciplinary teams with other community partners who share the same passion to protect and serve their communities.

Sally Pierse (MA Philosophy 2022) moved back to her hometown of Aberystwyth, where she started her own sustainable business, The Chai Bike (Y Beic Chai in Welsh). Sally makes and sells masala chai via a low-emission e-cargo bike, which functions as a pop-up cafe. She sells chai in recyclable cups and encourages customers to bring their own mugs, sourcing honey, milk and tea locally. She supports local businesses by teaming up with them for events, such as a recent clothes swap.

Jamie Harris (BA Hons Music and Technology 2022) entered the events production industry after leaving university, going to work for Blue Elephant UK. Since joining in June 2022, he has been part of events ranging from small conferences to jobs for the government, and bespoke jobs such as Stormzy's album release party and Vivienne Westwood's memorial service. ●

IN MEMORIAM

Michael Charles Alderson (BEng 1981)

Adrian Reginald Allan (Diploma 1965)

Dr John Raymond Allen (MBChB 1967)

Professor James Lenton Alty (BSc Hons 1961, PhD 1966)

Donald Ewart Ashworth (BEng Hons 1946, MEng 1948)

Michael Charles John Baden (LLB Hons 1974)

Martin John Barker (BA 1967)

Ronald Joseph Barry (BA Hons 2006)

Paul Adrian Bartlett (BCom 1969)

Terence Charles Bate MRCVS (BVSc 1955)

Dr Shane Beadle (BA Hons 1984)

Norman Henry Bell (BA 1949, Dipl in Education 1950)

Her Honour Inge Bernstein (LLB Hons 1951)

Mary Caroline Booth (née Godfrey) (BA Hons 1956, MCivicDesign 1958)

Frank William Bower (BEng 1952)

Ruth Joy Bramham (née Bickerstaffe) (BA 1987)

Dr Marie Therese Brookes (née Cox) (MBChB 1958, MD 2000)

Susan Jennifer Camburn (née Cantlay) (BSc Hons 1970)

David John Carey (BEng 1957)

Nigel Stansfield Carter MRCVS (BVSc 1948)

Dr Austin Timothy Carty (MBChB 1964)

Dr Anne Elizabeth Caunt (PhD 1974)

Dr Mary Elizabeth Cawley (née Casper) (MBChB 1947)

Major General Peter Antony Chambers CB MBE (BA Hons 1968)

Alan Leslie Charman (BSc 1967)

Yvette Elizabeth Chin (BA Hons 2002)

James Cecil Chubb (BSc 1957, PhD 1961)

Ian Peter Cliff (BSc 1965, BSc Hons 1966)

Brian Hugh Coles MRCVS (BVSc 1956)

Jean Craig Corder (née Smith) (BA Hons 1946, Dipl in Education 1947)

Andrew Philip Corkhill (BA Hons 2013)

Dr Eric Louis Cripps (MPhil 2000, PhD 2006)

Alan Davison (BEng 1968)

Brian Harold Dawkes MRCVS (BVSc 1960)

Robert Wilfred John Death MRCVS (BVSc 1958)

Dr John Philip Dickenson (BA Hons 1962, PhD 1970)

Isabel Jane Dickie (BEd Hons 1974)

John Neville Distin (BCom 1949)

John Viech Duckett RD JP (BEng Hons 1958)

Harry Eddleston (BSc 1947)

Graham Elliott (BSc Hons 1999)

Dr Richard William Ellis (Diploma 1990)

Dr Richard Peter Evans (BEng Hons 1969)

Dr Richard Peter Evans (PhD 1974)

Francis Norton Fletcher (BA Hons 1950, Dipl in Education 1950)

Dr James George (MBChB 1977)

Graham Charles Gibbs (BA 1950, MA 1953)

Professor Alfred Anthony Francis Gilbertson (MBChB 1956, MD 2012)

Dr Mary Glover (née Scott) (PhD 1949)

David Harvey Gorton (BDS 1963)

Mary Hallissy (BEd 1976)

David Michael Hand (Diploma 1994)

Dr Thomas Kenneth Hardy (MBChB 1950)

David Graham Harris (BEng 1952)

Rosemary Angela Harrison (née Franklin) (BA Hons 1965)

Satya Joel Hazareesingh (BA Hons 2004)

Ian Heavyside (BEng 1972)

Susan Anne Henshaw (BA Hons 1981)

Edward Frank Hilder MRCVS (BVSc 1957)

Cynthia Margaret Hill (BSc Hons 1950, Dipl in Education 1951)

John Douglas Hoyland (BA Hons 1989, MA 2002)

Mary A Hughes (BA 1967)

Robin Strafford Hunt (BA 1961, Cert in Education 1962)

Dr John Ishmael MRCVS (BVSc 1963, MVSc 1967, PhD 1974)

Daisy Jayes (BSc Hons 2008, MSc 2011)

Donald Keith Johnson MRCVS (BVSc 1953)

Gwyneth Norah Jones (BSc 1963, MSc 1966, BSc Hons 1964, Cert in Education 1965)

Keith Jones (DAPT 2019)

Michael Kelly (Cert in Education 1962, MEd 1975)

Dr Warren Kent (PhD 2003)

Margaret Cameron Kirk (BA 1973)

John Edwin Khéen MRCVS (BVSc 1954)

Makky Rajy Kubba (BEng 1946)

Dr John Bunch Laine (MBChB 1954)

Anthony Bruce Mason Latham (BSc 1964)

William Harley Lawton OBE TD (LLB Hons 1952, LLM 1954)

Michael James Lees-Maddock (BSc Hons 2021)

Colin Henry Leigh (BA 1964)

Professor David Lidgate (BEng 1968, PhD 1974)

William Anthony Limont (LLB Hons 1963)

Elizabeth Anne Lines (BSc 1983)

Alan Geoffrey Lockyer (BA Hons 1957)

Jonathan Samuel Lowe (BA Hons 2006)

John Edward Magraw (BSc)

Mohamed Saleh Makiya (BA 1941)

Dr Donald Margerison (BSc 1951, PhD 1955)

Dr David Marc Marsh MBE, 1959

James Wallace Martin (BCom Hons 1956)

Dr Anne Martindale (née Jacques) (MBChB 1958)

Hugh Samuel Alan McCormack MRCVS (BVSc 1985)

Brian David James Meehan (BArch 1951)

Arnold Brian Morris (LLB 1952)

Ben Morris (LLB Hons 1995)

Vernon New (BSc Hons 1958)

Dr Eric Arnold Nieman (MBChB 1950, MD 1958)

David Beverley Norton (BSc 1969)

Howard Bernard Nyman (LDent Sci 1962)

Elias Konos Ocran (BCom 1969)

Dr John Joseph Thomas Owen (BSc Hons 1956, MBChB 1959)

Andrew James Palmer (BA Hons 1970)

Simon George Paramore (BSc Hons 2010, CE 2011)

Frederick John Parker (BEng Hons 1948, MEng 1951)

Anne Bronwen Parry (née Thomas) (BSc Hons 1968)

Brian Richard Philpotts (MSc 2005)

Bernard Pomfret (BEng 1956)

Carole Margaret Robertson Potter (née Bain) MRCVS (BVSc 2005)

John Lynton Price (BEng Hons 1970, MEng 1972)

David Ian Renison (LLB Hons 1965)

Maureen Bernadette Rimmer (BA 1948)

Dr Eric John Robbins (BSc Hons 1949, PhD 1954)

David John Robertson (BA Hons 1969, MA 1984)

Kate Miranda Robertson (née Brown) (BA Hons 1990)

Professor Peter Rogers (BEng Hons 1958)

John Gordon Roy (BSc Hons 1973)

Donald Rutherford MRCVS (BVSc 1963)

David John Silverwood (BCom Hons 1963)

Gerald Antony Slater (LLB Hons 1955)

Margaret Somerville (MPH 1992)

Eileen Margaret Sowerby (BA Hons 1948, Dipl in Education 1949, MBChB 1967)

Nicola Caroline Speed (BA Hons 1990)

Anthony Kear Stevens (BCom Hons 1957)

Lionel Stirgess (MCivicDesign 1956)

Dr Stanley John Surtees (MBChB 1952)

Dr Jane Cecilia Sutton (née Parkes) (MBChB 1959)

John Tandy MRCVS (BVSc 1957)

Dr Edmund Tapp (MBChB Hons 1959, MD 1964)

Penelope Ann Thompson (née Burrows) (BA Hons 1969)

Dr Patricia June Tunstall (MBChB 1966, MCommH 1975)

Thomas Walsh (BEng Hons 1949)

Marie Rosa Wasdell (BSc Hons 1948)

John Mayson Whalley (BArch Hons 1956, MCivicDesign 1957)

Peggy Williams MRCVS (née Lees) (BVSc 1947)

Trefor Richard Williams (BSc 1964)

Mary Josephine Woolf (BA Hons 1989, MPhil 1993)

Margaret Wren-Hilton (née Brooks) (BA 1956)

University of Liverpool staff, Honorary Graduates, donors and supporters

Emeritus Professor Christopher T Allmand

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Professor Sir Graeme John Davies (Hon LLD 1991)

Mr Frank J Doran MBE

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Mrs Sybil Thomas JP



▶ Left: The Hong Kong meet-up
Below: in Munich

AS PART OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL MANAGEMENT SCHOOL, ALUMNI HOSTED EVENTS ACROSS THE GLOBE

To mark two decades of the University of Liverpool Management School, a series of special events have been taking place throughout the year. As well as a celebratory dinner in January, the School created the 'ULMS Around the World' event programme, which saw our international alumni host 14 events in different cities across the globe.

The volunteer-led events took place throughout May in Lisbon, Lagos, Munich, Port Harcourt, Riyadh, Toronto, Hong Kong, Abuja, Suzhou, Shenzhen, Beijing, Shanghai, Xi'an and Guangzhou and proved to be hugely popular, with over 400 graduates attending in total.

▶ ULMS alumni meet in Nigeria



Celebrations to remember

A graduate at the Munich event commented: "It was so nice to be part of the fantastic worldwide celebrations, we were thrilled that the school included us. It was great getting to know other University of Liverpool graduates and we're looking forward to expanding our network, which would not have been possible without this event."

Huyan Guo, (MBA 2015) who kindly hosted the event in Hong Kong, along with the Hong Kong Graduate Association, reflected: "Ten years ago, while studying for my MBA, I attended the 10th Anniversary Celebration Dinner at Mansion House, London; it was a wonderful evening, filled with warmth and conviviality. I met so many great alumni and listened to their speeches, I was so excited.

"Time flies, ten years have passed, ULMS has continued to grow and is now a triple accredited, internationally recognised, research powerhouse. Many alumni hold important positions in business strategy management, energy trading, innovative technology management and financial analysis in various industries around the world. We are proud alumni and held our ULMS Around the World alumni evening in Hong Kong to express our congratulations. Thanks to all alumni friends who joined us; it was a wonderful and unforgettable evening!"

Across continents

Julia Balogun, Dean of the Management School added: "It's wonderful to know that our alumni around the world are celebrating the School's 20th anniversary in all corners of the globe. Thank you to all our volunteers for your time and effort in planning all these events and to our graduates for making the events such a huge success. We have thoroughly enjoyed hearing all your fond memories of the School and were delighted to see all the wonderful photos from each event." ●

To view more ULMS Around the World events, visit our Flickr page: bit.ly/ulms-atw



A COMMUNITY THAT MEANS BUSINESS



FROM COACHING TO FINANCIAL SUPPORT, THERE ARE A RANGE OF WAYS ENTREPRENEURIAL ALUMNI ARE SUPPORTED IN THEIR LIFE BEYOND GRADUATION

Having a community of like-minded student and graduate entrepreneurs provides a supportive environment that allows students to share ideas and resources. It also helps them to better craft their pitches, build confidence and share knowledge to support them on their entrepreneurial journeys.

A number of our graduate entrepreneurs have gone on to achieve great success, creating jobs alongside the University's Liverpool Interns and Liverpool City Region Grad Scheme programmes, winning awards at national level and gaining funding or investment through organisations like Innovate UK.

The fairer fashion brand

Noura Qusairy (BA Hons International Business 2019, MSc Project Management 2020) won the University Entrepreneurs Grant in the Educate North Awards. Noura is co-founder of Yamama, a social enterprise that aims to transform the fashion industry by introducing a sustainable, ethical and fair fashion brand. Yamama offers female refugee artisans financial independence through their handmade, sustainable clothing and accessories.

Noura and her start-up have been supported through 1:1 innovation coaching and programmes from the University's Careers and Employability team, received Enterprise Funding and have traded on campus at University events.



► Clockwise from left: Recipients of the Enterprise Fund's Design Your Future awards; Yamama offers opportunity through fairer fashion; Moises Barbera Ramos is bringing the latest technology to the medical sector; Lucky Ali has become a leading light in her local community.



The health innovator

Moises Barbera Ramos (MPhys 2020) is an award-winning entrepreneur, enterprise fund recipient and founder of Drill Surgeries, the first start-up to successfully operate in humans without radiation and using Artificial Intelligence only. Moises mission is to challenge the status quo of the long-unchanged medical industry while supporting the next generation of entrepreneurs. He actively mentors student entrepreneurs and his accolade of awards include Entrepreneur of the Year 2022, AI CEO of the Year 2023 national nomination, and he is a 2023 Alumni Award winner. Currently entering his second country, Moises and his start-up are on track to treat 100 million patients by 2030.

The community builder

Lucky Ali (MBioSci 2022) realised her childhood dream in 2022, with the launch of Lucky's Café+, a family-run café offering traditionally inspired, authentic and homely fresh food. Lucky wanted to breathe new life into her local community, creating a friendly and engaging Community Hub where people can enjoy a meal whilst helping to tackle isolation and loneliness in the local community.

The Community Hub offers free in-house employability skills, such as job-search support, career advice, digital skills support and interview skills. The Hub aims to connect local people with local employers, thereby enhancing the employability in Wirral and supporting the regeneration of Birkenhead. ●

Seeking that missing piece?



The University of Liverpool Careers and Employability service offers a wide range of support for recent graduates and alumni via their Design Your Future platform, which includes a 10-week business development programme, an annual pitching competition worth £10,000 in prizes, and an annual Showcase networking and panel event.

The Enterprise Fund offers graduates of up to two years an opportunity to apply for cash funding from £500 - £5,000 to bring an idea to life or develop an existing business. The Green Room also provides an online community of the University's entrepreneurial students, staff, graduates and alumni to highlight events, share ideas and more.

You can find out more about each of these opportunities on our webpages here: www.liverpool.ac.uk/careers/programmes/enterprise/



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In the face of mounting challenges this year, you can give a **lifeline** to students experiencing hardship.

From providing emergency grants so students can pay rising bills, buy essential equipment and books to scholarships for bright students fleeing conflict and turmoil, **your support will change lives.**

*"Last year, I had so many worries when I left my home in Afghanistan, everything I left behind and what my future would hold. A year later, I completed my master's degree with distinction. **Thank you!**"*

Mustafa (MSc Strategic Communications 2022) and scholarship recipient



Find out more at:
www.liverpool.ac.uk/giving/student-fund

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