

ALUMNI

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MY STAGE CALLING

From Ken Dodd to Daenerys' dragons – Lesser's life in the limelight

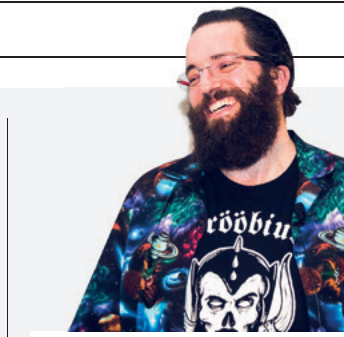
ALUMNI



COVER PHOTO AND BELOW TAKEN BY ANT UPTON



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Welcome to the 2017 edition of *Alumni*. In this issue, we feature interviews with Liverpool graduates Anton Lesser, star of *Game of Thrones*, and Dr Matt Taylor, Project Scientist on the European Space Agency's Rosetta Mission; updates on University research; and the University's Science Fiction Archivist tracks the influence of Liverpool on sci-fi and fantasy fiction over the years.

We also have news from the Guild; hear from an MBA student about her experience on a work placement scheme with a graduate; and English Literature alumna, Daisy Lee, writes about following in her grandmother's footsteps.

Make sure you visit our online events calendar at: www.liverpool.ac.uk/alumni/events to see what events we've got coming up, and turn to page 38 to learn more about our next career-focused webinar series.

I hope that you enjoy this edition of your alumni magazine. If you have any comments, questions or suggestions for features next year, please email us at: alumni@liverpool.ac.uk.

Best wishes

Anita Irving
Head of Alumni & Supporter Relations

P.S. Don't forget to update your contact preferences - this will help us to ensure you are receiving our e-newsletter, event invitations and the magazine. You can complete a short form online at: www.liverpool.ac.uk/alumni/preferences.



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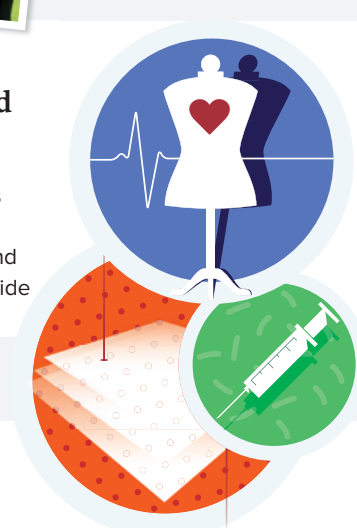
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ANTON LESSER

“THERE WAS SOMETHING INSIDE ME THAT JUST WENT OFF LIKE A BOMB. IT WAS LIKE THE COSMOS HAD LIFTED ME UP AND SAID ‘IT’S TIME TO DO THIS’. AND THAT WAS IT, I HAD NO CHOICE, IT WAS COMPLETELY CHOICELESS...”

PHOTOGRAPHY: ANT UPTON

And at this moment of great clarity – experienced at a British Council film screening in Nigeria where he was working as a trainee architect – Anton Lesser (BA Hons Architecture 1973) decided he was to be an actor.

Decades later the emotion still wells in his eyes as he recalls his epiphany. “I get shivers just talking about it to you now,” he says. “To cut a long story short, I quit my job and I wrote to all the drama schools. RADA was the only one still auditioning at that time. I came back, auditioned, got in and my first job was at Stratford.”

He has barely stopped working since in a career which has included countless Shakespearean roles, radio plays and film and television parts ranging from

Pirates of the Caribbean to *Midsomer Murders*. These days he’s most recognised for playing Thomas More in the BAFTA award-winning *Wolf Hall*, and, of course, as sinister scheming survivor Qyburn in HBO’s globe-straddling TV behemoth *Game of Thrones*.

Birmingham-born Anton found himself in Nigeria – vulnerable, timid and, by his own admission, hopelessly out of his depth as the head of a team building a large hotel – via a degree from the University of Liverpool in architecture. While a career in architecture was not to be, he credits his time at Liverpool for much more than his degree.

“I think it was absolutely fundamental to me being open enough and having a liberal, informed, intelligent environment within which to ripen,” he says.

“Architecture is a very broad discipline. It’s about human →

beings in relation to their environment and to other people in those environments. I think it was completely invaluable.”

He had wanted to be an architect since childhood and was accepted on the highly regarded Liverpool course where he says he was a good student but not always completely dedicated to his studies.

“A lot of final projects happened last minute because I was busy being a student. I did love the work and I loved being part of that environment – I mean, I’ve got the scars to prove it, it was Liverpool in the 70s!

“But I just felt like a child, I felt so young, so vulnerable, I didn’t feel at all like – ‘Yes! I’ve found what I want to do.’ Which ultimately proved true. But, the people, the legendary loveliness of the Liverpool people, I remember from the word go.”

“There’s a lot of work one does to pay the bills where the writing isn’t great. But occasionally you think ‘I have to rise to this and I have to stretch to be good enough for this.’”

The signs were there that acting could play a big role in his future. He joined the dramatic society where he made most of his friends – including his best friend to this day. “It’s so funny because I was just acting for fun but it was obviously satisfying some real need which hadn’t quite made itself felt,” he says.

“One of the best memories I have was doing a pantomime. The highlight was that somebody somehow managed to get Ken Dodd to come on at the end to make an appearance. That was magnificent.”

After graduating it was Voluntary Service Overseas that took him to Nigeria for his year out. He was nine months into his stay when he attended the British Council event for volunteers that changed the path of his life. The film being screened was about Stratford-upon-Avon and the Royal Shakespeare Company and in less than three years he was working for that very company.

He says: “What’s daunting is looking back at this vulnerable, timid, little person, who would never have had the courage to change directions in such a radical way if it was a choice. The fact that it was choiceless meant it wasn’t daunting. It just had to

happen. Since then I’ve never had an experience of certainty like it. I probably never will.”

The career ‘chosen’ for him has been littered with highlights but not without its difficulties too, not least a recent problem with his voice. “It kept seizing up,” he says. “I had these symptoms of not being able to produce my voice and that’s very, very frightening because it’s my livelihood. Happily it’s proved not to be life threatening or anything anyone can give a name to. It was probably psychological or stress-related but it made me face the fragility of what I have at my disposal to earn my living. What I love about my job is – this is it. I don’t have a briefcase. I don’t have any tools. I don’t have anything. I love the simplicity of that and I love the rigour and the discipline and the austerity of finding your way to be the best possible expression of what you think is truthful.

“I think if you speak to most actors it’s part of how you’re built that there’s an insecurity. Most of us go from one job to another thinking this is it, this is where I get found out. I have worked with some

lovely, very famous movie actors [Johnny Depp and Brad Pitt included]. And virtually every one of them I’ve met is as insecure as I am. The only difference is they’re disgustingly wealthy.”

From Wolf Hall to Westeros

But while waiting to be found out the highlights kept coming. Lesser cites doing *Hamlet* with Jonathan Miller in 1982 at the Donmar Warehouse and working with director Peter Kosminsky on *Wolf Hall* among his favourite moments.

“*Wolf Hall* was probably the piece of work I have most respect for and feel most flattered to have been involved with. There’s a lot of work one does to pay the bills where the writing isn’t that great. But occasionally the writing is wonderful and you think, ‘Oh, I have to rise to this and I have to stretch to be good enough for this’. There’s no complacency.”

Anton’s best-known role as Qyburn on *Game of Thrones* came at the third time of auditioning in

► Above: Anton Lesser pictured on London’s Carey Street by the statue of Sir Thomas More, the historical figure he played in *Wolf Hall*.

Season 3 just as he was picking up on “a buzz that everybody and his wife is in this series.”

He says: “It can be a bit more detached because it’s such a vast beast. It’s difficult to get that family feel that we do on, say, *Endeavour*, but it’s great to work on. I love Qyburn’s complexity and I love that fact that you can’t really pigeonhole him. The only thing you can say about him is he’s a survivor.”

The part has catapulted him in front of a huge global audience and into the world of superfans and conventions, but he’s quickly adapting. “When I was first asked to do one I thought it sounded a bit seedy, a big aircraft hanger with people dressed up in their funny costumes to get a photo with me... that’s weird. But it’s not at all; it’s great. And what I found was that the people who come are so grateful that you’ve turned up, and so appreciative and so knowledgeable and so not weird – I mean, there’s always one or two...”

But, as any fan of *Game of Thrones* will know, an actor shouldn’t get settled in for the long haul in Westeros, where characters regularly meet ugly and unexpected ends. That lifetime of actor’s insecurity will stand him in good stead. “I never know what’s going to happen. I haven’t had the phone call to say ‘Anton, I’m really sorry but...’, so it could be any day.” ●

A short video taken from our interview with Anton Lesser is available to watch on our website at: www.liverpool.ac.uk/alumni/anton-lesser.



A message from our Vice-Chancellor

The University of Liverpool has had a very good year. In February 2016, we launched our 2026 Strategy which sets out an inspiring vision for our future: the University will be a global institution, at the forefront of research and among the top 100 universities in the world. Of course our success is down to people: our alumni, staff, students and the community that surrounds us. Everyone has a part to play and I am proud that the support for our vision is there.

Last year, I had the pleasure of meeting many of our alumni

at events in Liverpool, London, Hong Kong, and also in Shanghai and Suzhou when we celebrated the 10th anniversary of XJTLU. I am always touched at how much love and affection people feel for the University and the great city of Liverpool, whether they graduated five or 50 years ago. I am also grateful for our graduates' support for the strategy and your willingness to donate your time by becoming a mentor, offering placements, or by making a gift and helping us support our students through scholarships and improving facilities.

As the stories on the following pages show, we achieved a great deal last year and have made significant advances in making our vision a reality. I am looking forward to the next 12 months and the next round of successes Liverpool will achieve.

Thank you for your continued support.

**Vice-Chancellor
Professor Janet Beer**

You can read more about Strategy 2026 by visiting: www.liverpool.ac.uk/strategy-2026.



Liverpool unveils world-class Knowledge Quarter vision

A multi-billion pound vision for the redevelopment of a major part of Liverpool's city centre around the University campus has been unveiled by the city's leading politicians, universities and hospitals to create a world-class destination for science, innovation, education, technology and the arts. Visit: www.kqliverpool.co.uk.



Liverpool's Lego bid through to review stage

Nathan Readloff, a PhD student in the University's Department of Physics, has designed a model of the Large Hadron Collider made entirely out of Lego bricks. His design received 10,000 votes on the Lego Ideas web page, meaning that it will be reviewed for consideration by Lego as an official Lego set.

University ahead of sector in National Student Survey



Overall student satisfaction has risen to 87%, placing Liverpool above the sector average and overtaking institutions such as the University of Manchester, Queen Mary University and Imperial College London.

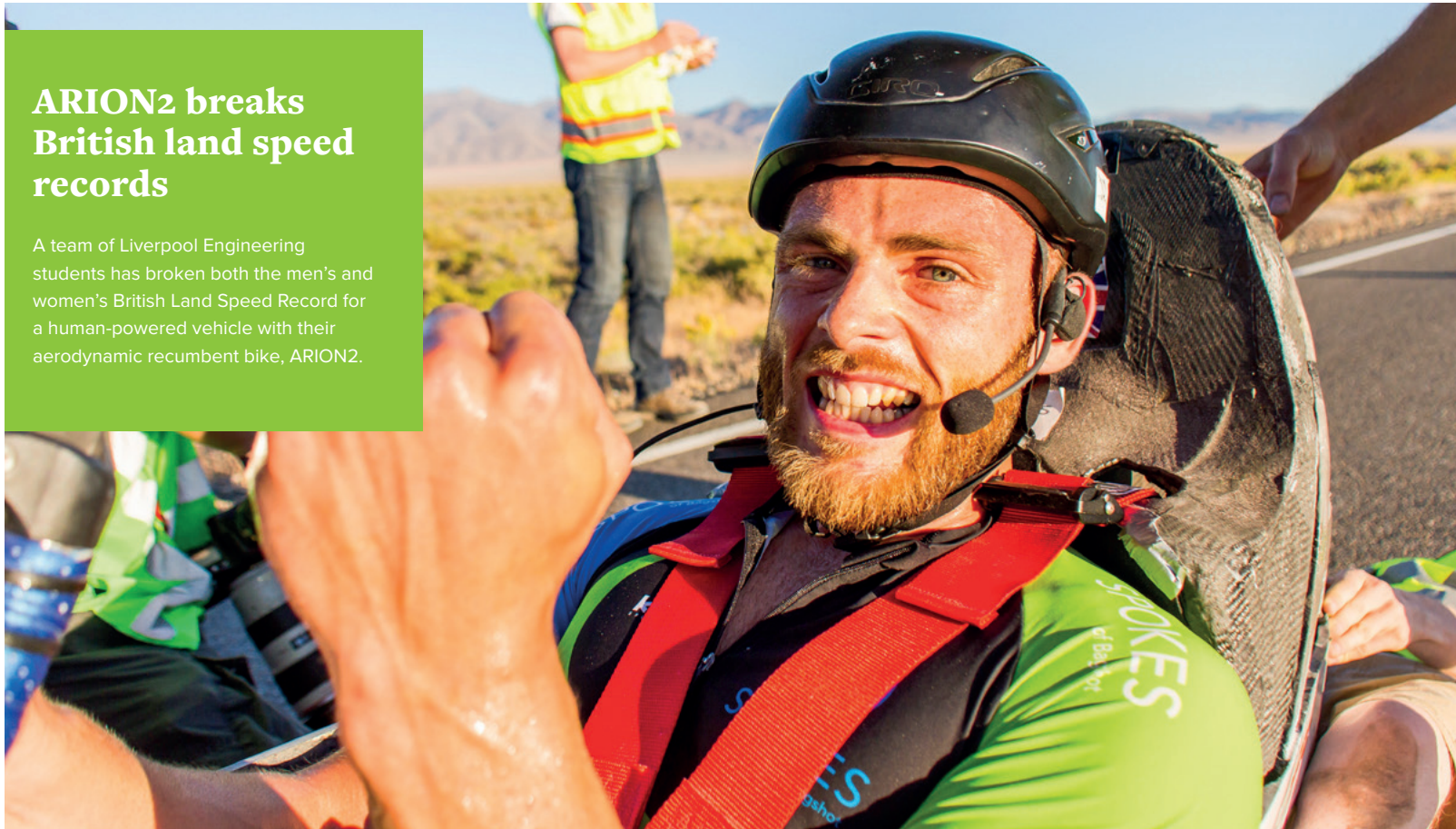
Work progressing on Greenbank student village

The self-contained student village will provide 1,361 student bedrooms, all with en-suite facilities. The first phase will open its doors to students in September 2017.



ARION2 breaks British land speed records

A team of Liverpool Engineering students has broken both the men's and women's British Land Speed Record for a human-powered vehicle with their aerodynamic recumbent bike, ARION2.



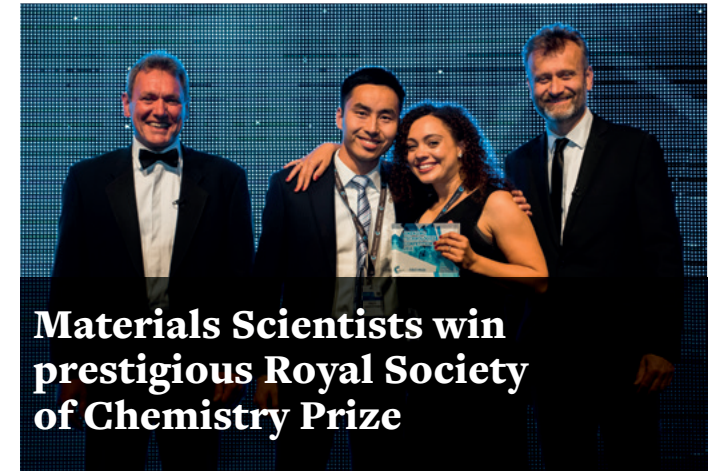
Packed houses for first Liverpool Literary Festival

The University's very first literary festival got off to a great start, with a busy schedule filling auditoriums at three venues across the city.



Management School extension opened

The £12 million extension includes a state-of-the-art Bloomberg suite resembling a professional trading floor, and a marketing suite with an observation room. The new facility was officially opened by Honorary Graduate and alumnus, Dr Paul Roy (BA Hons Economics 1968, Hon LLD 2009).



Materials Scientists win prestigious Royal Society of Chemistry Prize

Dr Rebecca Docherty and Dr Ming Liu from the University's Department of Chemistry have won first prize in the Energy and Environment category of the Royal Society of Chemistry's Emerging Technologies Competition.



Child health research institute launches

The University and Alder Hey Children's Hospital have officially opened the first phase of a research institute dedicated to improving the health of children around the world.

XJTLU celebrates 10 years with week of celebrations

A host of celebrations were held in both Liverpool and China to mark the 10th anniversary of Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University (XJTLU), including the conferment of honorary degrees.





LECTURING BREXIT

There's a good chance you've heard of Professor Michael Dougan before. Amidst the clamour made by both sides during the Brexit debate, he and his colleagues at the University of Liverpool's Law School produced a video that covered the debate with a level of rationality absent from much media coverage.

The video transcended the clamour; it went viral. But it wasn't intended to. "It was only ever intended to be a lecture for our own staff," says Michael. "We host regular events on campus for the University to brief people on important developments in the sector or the institution. Janet Beer, the University's Vice-Chancellor, suggested that I come along and do a brief talk on the Referendum."

The talk was filmed and uploaded to the University's intranet. Soon, colleagues started asking if they could share the video with friends and family. It was the beginning of a wave of public interest; uploaded first on the University's public website and then several times on YouTube, it started appearing on social media, generating millions of views in a matter of weeks and getting shared by celebrities including James Corden and Gary Lineker.

Although the Referendum exercised some essentially basic EU law – not necessarily what Michael and his colleagues would consider their daily research, which tends to look at more technical and theoretical topics – Michael believes the video speaks volumes about the University's expertise in the field.

"We'd like to think that our level of technical familiarity with the subject, that level of detailed understanding, gives us the authority to communicate key ideas in an accessible way to the wider public."

An appetite for engagement

In the heat of the Brexit debate, both sides were accused of presenting irrational arguments. "The feedback we got suggested that people felt they didn't really know who to trust or what to believe," says Michael. "They were hearing contradictory messages which felt more like propaganda than information. I suppose a lot of people felt that this video contained something a bit more factual and objective."

Of course, not everyone agreed. As a result of the video, in which Michael firmly asserted his stance, he has received much criticism and personal insult.

However, he divides his opinion. "If a group of ideologists are criticising me, it probably means that I'm doing my job properly; it means that I'm challenging irrational, entrenched ideological views."

In response to the public appetite for objective coverage realised by the video – and a later one in which Michael considers the post-Referendum political situation, which also went viral – Michael and his colleagues set up a dedicated website where they're posting specialist videos covering various aspects of the debate.

Alongside this the School continues to be engaged in a multitude of public talks and events discussing the situation. It's doing all of the work that it's done before, but now it's communicating some of that work to an even wider audience of people who are becoming increasingly interested as current affairs unfold.

"Our level of technical familiarity with the subject gives us the authority to communicate key ideas in an accessible way."

Talking about his experience being under the Brexit spotlight, Michael says: "On the one hand, it's crucially important to instill our students with a sense of confidence and the ability to go out there, to contribute to society and to public life. Particularly for an institution like ours, where not all of the students come from privileged backgrounds, they should feel enabled to stand up and express their views.

"On the other hand, I think the real lesson here is that we should always be striving to uphold critical, evidence-based, constructive analysis – and not simply standing up for ideological worldviews that can do a lot of damage. Although in the case of this work we might not be talking about our research in the same way that we talk to each other as academics, I'd hope that it informs the quality of our public engagement, its reliability and its accessibility." ●

Visit the University's dedicated Brexit website to read the latest articles from top Liverpool academics tracking how Brexit is affecting UK Law, Politics, Economics and Culture: www.liverpool.ac.uk/news/brexit



GENERATION GAP

ENGLISH GRADUATE, DAISY LEE, WRITES ABOUT FOLLOWING IN HER GRANDMOTHER'S FOOTSTEPS MORE THAN 65 YEARS AFTER SHE GRADUATED FROM LIVERPOOL

My grandmother and I both graduated from the University of Liverpool with a Bachelor of Arts in English: she in 1948, me in 2014.

Jean, my grandmother, had begun her studies in the autumn of 1945 after finishing school at Birkenhead High School for girls. She received government funding to do her degree on the condition that she would become an English teacher on finishing her studies, as there was a shortage of teachers after the war. Living on the Wirral with her family, Jean was able to commute every day into the University via the Mersey Tunnels.

How times have changed

She had many fond memories of her time at Liverpool. On a visit she paid me in 2013, we wandered around the Guild and she pointed out a part of the building that she remembered.

In her day, she told me, it was full of sofas facing out towards the windows and when your girlfriend/boyfriend came to visit, you went there to sit, chat and enjoy the view; tea and coffee was available, it was an occasion!

A lot had changed in the 66 years since she attended the University. She spent much of her time in the Harold Cohen Library and had all her lectures in the Victoria Building, around which we had a guided tour on our visit. The Sydney Jones Library was unknown to her although she was familiar with Abercromby Square.

Making connections

Following her visit in 2013 my grandmother joined the alumni community and began to receive the alumni magazine. In one of the first copies of the magazine she received, she read the obituary of an English graduate whom she had known and who had graduated the same year as her.

The obituary moved my grandmother because the fellow alumnus had been quoted saying he couldn't have spent his life in any better way than teaching English. She managed to contact his widow and they shared recollections of Liverpool and his life.

My final visit to the Sydney Jones Library before my library card expired in the summer of 2014 was to find my grandmother's thesis. The library staff were very

helpful and eager to help me locate it when I told them my story. After a few minutes' wait the original hard copy of the thesis arrived, drawn up from the depths of the Grove Wing basement, and I perused it with delight. The subject was *Nonsense Verse in the Nineteenth Century*. My grandmother was very surprised they still had a copy and told me that she'd had some second thoughts about her work over the years.

A proud moment

A couple of months later my grandmother was there for my graduation, wearing her alumni pin badge. It was a very special occasion for the both of us and

I will always remember it with pride and happiness.

Sadly my grandmother died in October 2015, just at the beginning of my studies at Oxford where I undertook a master's in Women's Studies. She was very much looking forward to seeing me graduate, and it is sad that I cannot tell her I achieved a distinction. But her love of English literature, reading, teaching and learning reached many and spread far and wide throughout her lifetime, and I hope to do the same in mine.

Not only did the University of Liverpool provide my grandmother

and me with a space to nurture our mutual passions, it also provided us with an eternal connection that was extremely important to her, and will always be to me too. ●



► Jean Lee (née Matsell) graduated with a BA Hons in English Language and Literature in 1948.

“ Her love of English literature, reading, teaching and learning reached many and spread far and wide ... I hope to do the same ”

Got a story to share? Email the team via: alumni@liverpool.ac.uk and we could feature you in a future publication.

THE STUDENT YEAR IN REVIEW

PRESIDENT OF THE GUILD OF STUDENTS, SEAN TURNER, SUMS UP THE LAST 12 MONTHS FOR STUDENTS AT LIVERPOOL

Over the last year, the Guild has delivered two very successful campaigns to students. 'Call It Out', encouraged students to speak out if they experienced or witnessed sexual harassment, and 'Rainbow Laces', which saw 58 of the University's sports clubs wear colourful laces on match days in support of stamping out homophobia and transphobia. We are proud of our campaigning, and look forward to developing new campaigns for mental health and housing issues.

Fundraising at the Guild is still as strong as ever. In the past 12 months students have helped to raise £51,000 for a host of worthy causes – most notably one of our dance societies raised £2,000 in just one evening for the Michael Causer Foundation, which aims to provide education, motivation and accommodation for young lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

The generosity of our students continued right until the day they left university for the



summer. As part of our 'Leave Liverpool Tidy' project, students helped to reduce waste by donating more than five tonnes of unwanted household essentials, which the Guild gave to new students and members of the community in the form of a free shop in September 2016. And what better way to top off a successful year than by winning an award? Not just any award, but the award to trump all others.

Yes, we have been officially named as the best Students' Union in the UK at the National Union of Students (NUS) Awards.

It's been a great year and I can't think of a more exciting time to take the reins as President of the Guild. Let's see what the New Year has in store. ●

Read more about our student community on our dedicated Student News website here: www.liverpool.ac.uk/student-news.

► Sean is originally from the Sefton Park area of Liverpool, and has been studying Mathematical Physics for the past three years.

"We have been officially named as the best Students' Union in the UK at the National Union of Students (NUS) Awards."



Q&A MEET MAIKE

Maikke Pötschulat (MSc Urban Regeneration and Management 2013) is in the final year of her PhD in the Department of Sociology, Social Policy and Criminology. She is researching the phenomenon of 'Studentification'; we caught up with her to find out more:

Tell us about your research

I'm investigating how a growing student population can 'take-over' traditionally non-student neighbourhoods, altering the social and cultural balance and, over time, even influence the area's infrastructure. I'm particularly interested in how students engage with Liverpool as their university city.

How did you conduct your research?

One of my objectives was to get as close as possible to the lives and experiences of undergraduate students. I asked them to take part in a photovoice project, a method in which the participants take snapshots of places that are meaningful for them, in order to later discuss these images with me in an interview. Participants were also asked to go on a walking interview



with me, in which we would pass by the places that are important for their everyday lives. Besides the main data which are the transcripts of these two types of interviews, the photovoice project gave me access to a very diverse collection of photographs and the walking interviews enabled me to create maps of students' usage of the city centre.

Is there anything that has surprised you?

What surprised me was finding that, although more and more purpose-built private flats have been built in the city centre and around campus, the students in my research didn't find the idea

of living in these that appealing due to perceived high rental prices and a lack of a communal 'studenty' spirit.

What's next?

Undertaking a PhD has been incredible for me and I am sad to be submitting my thesis in the near future as I have enjoyed it so much. Being a postgraduate researcher has enabled me to develop myself professionally and personally, and is a career path that is well-suited to my interests and skills. The chance to research current social issues has been very interesting and made me aware that this is a path that I want to pursue in future. ●

Maikke has been funded through her PhD thanks to a generous donation by alumnus, Adrian Ringrose (BA Hons Political Theory and Institutions 1988). Find out how you can support more students like Maikke by visiting our website: www.liverpool.ac.uk/giving/phd-studentships.



A UNIQUE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP

2016 MARKED THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF XI'AN JIAOTONG-LIVERPOOL UNIVERSITY (XJTLU), OUR PARTNER INSTITUTION IN SUZHOU, CHINA.

The ancient city of Suzhou founded
514BC

University of Liverpool established as University College Liverpool
1881

The University of Liverpool presents the gift of a narrowboat to representatives from XJTLU to celebrate our 10-year partnership
2016

The port of Liverpool founded by King John
1207

Liverpool's Chinatown begins to develop – the first of its kind in Europe
1840s

XJTLU student numbers reach 10,000
2015

Xi'an Jiaotong University founded
1956

Suzhou Industrial park built
1994

First students graduate from XJTLU
2010

First students transfer from XJTLU to University of Liverpool
2008

The Chinese government initiates a programme to modernise and internationalise its universities
1980s

XJTLU granted operating license by Chinese government; first students admitted
2006

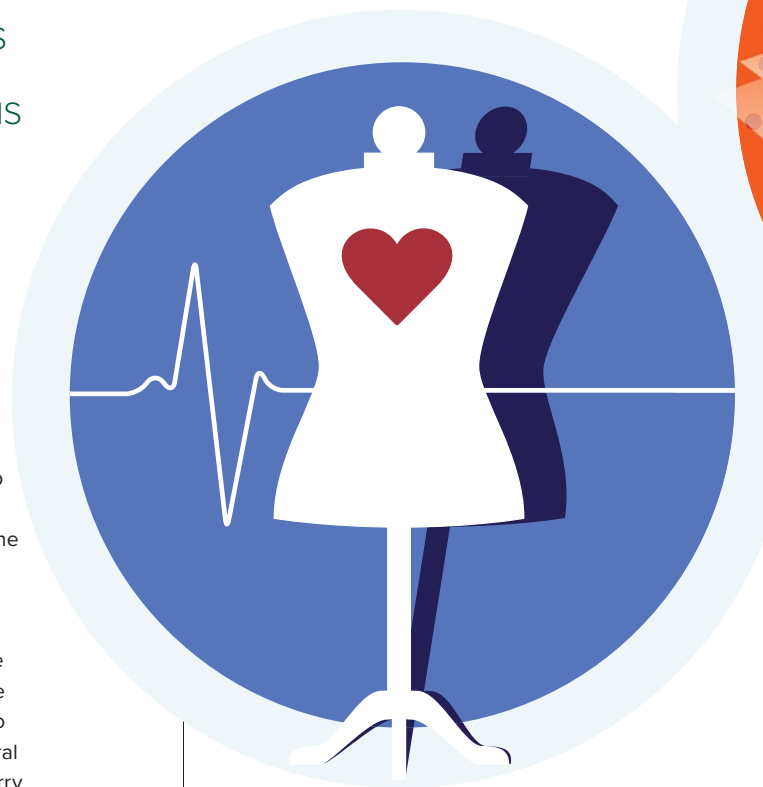
First talks on co-operation between University of Liverpool and Xi'an Jiaotong University
2003

RESEARCH AND DEPLOY

RESEARCH BY OUR EXPERTS WILL IMPROVE THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF HUMANS AND ANIMALS WORLDWIDE

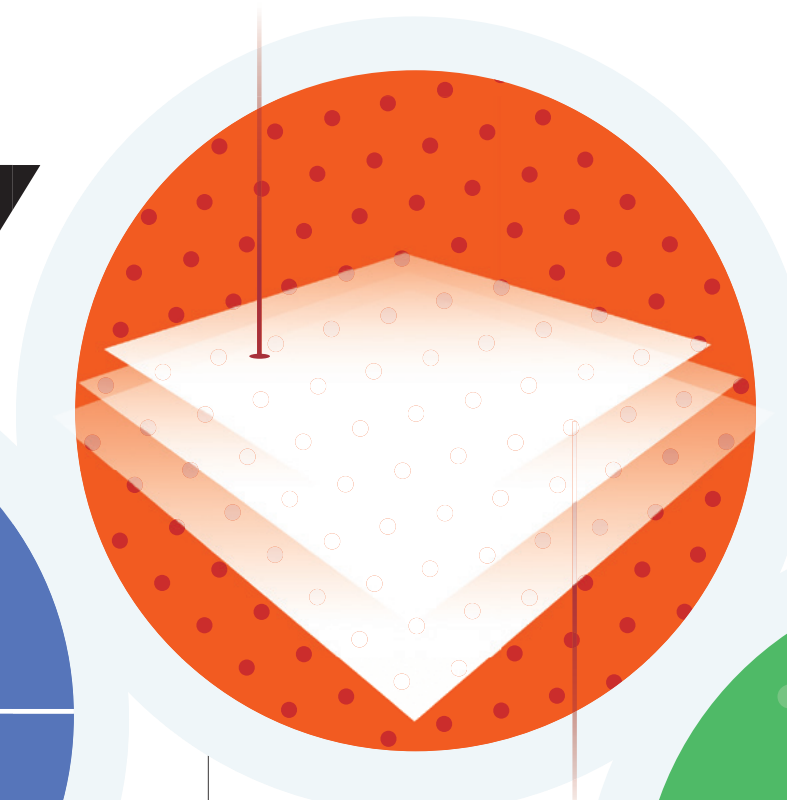
Associated with nine Nobel Laureates, and a founding member of the Russell Group which represents 24 leading UK universities committed to maintaining the very best research; Liverpool has certainly demonstrated its research prowess since it was established in 1881. At the forefront of our vision for 2026 is people. We will create environments which nurture and encourage our students, researchers and academics to work collaboratively with businesses, cultural organisations and other collaborators to carry out research with impact and public benefit.

The University of Liverpool is globally recognised for its international research excellence in personalised health, advanced materials, and infectious disease. Strategy 2026 will support our experts to improve the health and wellbeing of humans and animals living anywhere in the world and create real impact on the way business and industry operates for the benefit of our natural environment.



Personalised Health

Our research has enabled us to show that personalising the dose to individual patients, based on their genes, age and body weight, can reduce both risks to the patient and the time it takes for the medicine to become effective, maximising efficacy and tolerability, and pre-empting and managing adverse drug reactions.

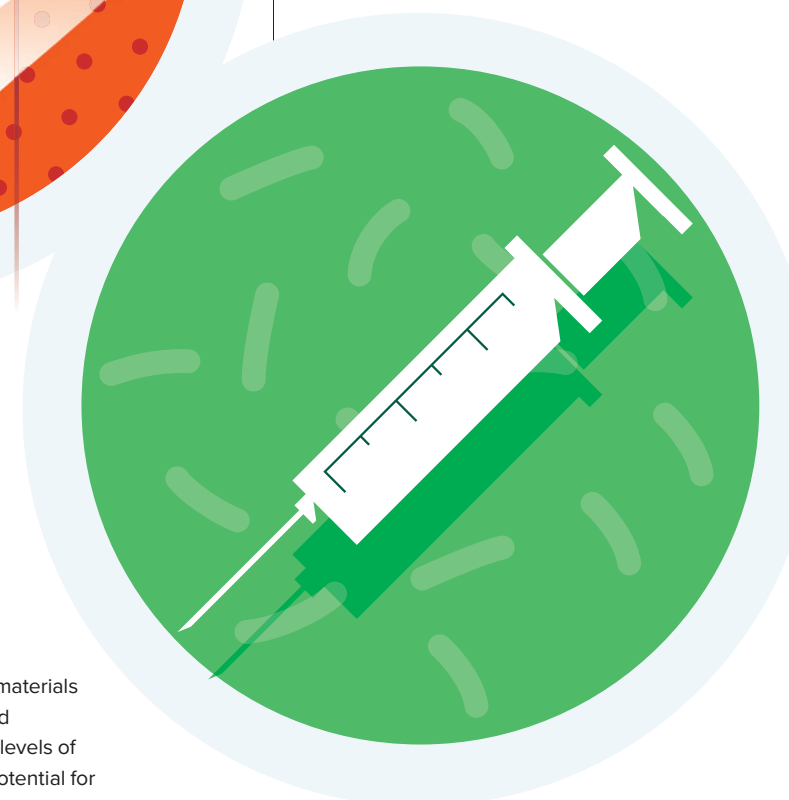


Advanced Materials

We have introduced new classes of materials such as porous organic polymers and molecular organic crystals with high levels of porosity. These materials have the potential for large-scale use both in industry and in consumer products, underpinning applications as diverse as adsorption of pollutants, energy storage, and battery and fuel cell technology.

Infectious Disease

Our pioneering research into infection and global health challenges brings together medical and veterinary science to focus on emerging infectious diseases; new medicines for children; tackling HIV in developing countries; providing the latest technologies in genome analysis; enhancing food safety and security; and developing diagnostics, treatments and vaccines for both humans and animals.



To read more, please visit: www.liverpool.ac.uk/research

MAN ON A MISSION

ROSETTA MISSION PROJECT SCIENTIST AND UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL ALUMNUS DR MATT TAYLOR TALKS COSMOS, COMPUTERS AND THE CAMBRIDGE

It's a Tuesday morning in October. Dr Matt Taylor (MPhys 1997) is sitting in his office at the European Space Research and Technology Centre (ESTEC), in Noordwijk, the Netherlands. The technical heart of the European Space Agency (ESA), this site is the incubator of the European space effort – a sprawling mass of glass and concrete, where projects that push the frontiers of the solar system are born.

Today though, Matt can put his feet up. In the past two years, he and his team have successfully landed a probe on a comet travelling at 135,000 kilometres per hour; sent the probe into orbit around the comet; and continually studied the comet's surface.

"Things were just about to kick off on the Rosetta mission when I came in as Project Scientist," Matt recalls. "It's been the most intense period of time for me in terms of work, and that's the same for everyone else on the mission – absolutely manic."

At the end of September 2016, the Rosetta probe concluded its epic mission in a controlled impact with the comet it had been studying for two years. But that wasn't the signal for mission complete. "We're now about to start working out what the Rosetta data is telling us and really open our eyes to comets and the solar system in general. The mission was the equivalent to us grabbing hold of the Rosetta Stone itself, looking at it and saying, 'Right... what's this?' There's decades of work still to be done."

Matt's introduction to the wonders of the cosmos happened largely by chance during an introductory lecture at the start of his degree at the University of Liverpool. "It was run by Arthur James, an old professor with a big white beard, who just instilled in me an interest in what he was doing. A lot of my lecturers were like that. The quality of their lecturing, their enthusiasm and the way they put things forward inspired me to look into this field."



► Comet 67PChuryumov-Gerasimenko – the target for comet-chaser Rosetta

“We're now about to start working out what the Rosetta data is telling us. There's decades of work still to be done.”

A Londoner, Matt was attracted to study at Liverpool in the mid-90s both because of its distance from home and the fact that, as he puts it, "it was inevitably going to be cool because it was Liverpool."

Also cool in the young scientist's eyes was the Physics department. "It's archaic thinking about this now, but we had a whole block of PCs – 20 in total – that we could all work on. Everything else had to be done in writing."

Needless to say, things have changed in the years since Matt graduated. He recently returned to give a lecture, hosted by Professor Ronan McGrath – currently the Head of the School of Physical Sciences and once one of Matt's own lecturers in the 90s.

"It was a bizarre experience," he says. "An honour, but a very bizarre experience. I find it strange that people want me to give talks.

Liverpool and the University have changed a lot – and all for the good by the looks of things. But there are still the old stomping grounds, so The Cambridge, The AJ [The Augustus John] are still there. Just walking around, you have all of these déjà vu moments."

Matt was one of the first in his family to go to university. Interested in maths and science, he knew from a relatively young age that he wanted to become a professional researcher – but he didn't picture himself working for ESA. A Levels led to an undergraduate degree, which led to a PhD and then post-doctoral placements. Ultimately, he found himself working with groups of scientists all over Europe and the US – eventually leading to his current role.

So what's next? "We've got JUICE, a Jupiter mission coming up. There's BepiColumbo going to Mercury. Oh, and we're about to drop a lander on Mars next week as well. It's all kicking off!"

The recent news regarding the tragic disappearance of this Mars lander in a way seems to further the pertinence of Matt's advice for undergraduates today: "I've never had an A in my life – but I've tried my best. If you fail, pick yourself up, find out what went wrong, and work out how you can right it. Don't give up, and try to have a laugh at the same time." ●

PHOTO: AB PHOTOGRAPHY

SOMETHING IN THE WATER

Liverpool and the literary fantastic

LIVERPOOL IS NOW HOME TO THE LARGEST LIBRARY COLLECTION OF SCIENCE FICTION IN THE COUNTRY. IT HAS ALSO BEEN HOME TO SOME OF THE GREATEST NAMES IN SCIENCE FICTION, FANTASY AND HORROR. ANDY SAWYER (MPHIL ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE 1986), SCIENCE FICTION LIBRARIAN IN THE UNIVERSITY'S SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND ARCHIVES, CHARTS THE CITY'S CONTRIBUTION



1970

Ramsey Campbell gives a talk at Quarry Bank School. In the audience is **Clive Barker**. After studying English and Philosophy at the University of Liverpool Barker becomes an artist, playwright, film director and best-selling novelist of dark fantasy and horror. **Rob Grant** and **Doug Naylor**, creators of the successful *Red Dwarf* television series also studied at the University during this period.

1892

Sonia Haft Shaferkin leaves the Liverpool area, where she had been living with relatives, bound for the US where she later marries and supports **HP Lovecraft** – the central figure in 20th century American horror fiction.

1920s-30s

GG Pendarves (Gladys Gordon Trener) is published in *Weird Tales* magazine alongside Lovecraft. She was the daughter of a Liverpool Master Mariner and her sister was an English lecturer at the University.

1925

Philosopher and social reformer **Olaf Stapledon** gains his PhD at the University. His novel *Last and First Men* changed sci-fi and was championed by one of the earliest science fiction fan groups in Britain, later formed in Liverpool in 1931 as the Universal Science Circle.

1945

Following the Second World War many Liverpool fans turn to professional writing themselves including **Eric Frank Russell**, **John Christopher**, **John Burke** and **Charles Eric Maine**. They are known collectively in science fiction circles as the Liverpool group.

1950s

In Liverpool, **Ramsey Campbell** discovers the work of **HP Lovecraft** aged eight. He goes on to become the greatest living British writer of the macabre with novels such as *The Darkest Part* and *Children of the Pool*. **Stephen Baxter** attends the same school as Campbell 10 years later and goes on to become the acknowledged heir in visionary science to **Olaf Stapledon**.

1953

Wallasey-born bibliographer **IF Clarke**, one of the most important scholars of the *'Future-war Story'* completes his master's dissertation at the University. It is the beginning of his ground-breaking research completed at the University of Strathclyde. Curator of Special Collections at the time was **David I Masson**, who later published a series of stories in *New Worlds* magazine, reprinted as *The Caltraps of Time*.

WELCOME TO THE CLASS OF 2016



In September, a special graduation ceremony was held to award honorary degrees to two veterinary alumni, more than 65 years after they finished their studies.

The Honorary Bachelor of Veterinary Science degrees

were awarded to Gwendolen Collinson Stokes and Philip Ayrton-Grime, who notably spent a number of years as the Queen's personal vet in Windsor and was honoured with the Commander of the Victorian Order award in recognition of his contribution.



Last year, we welcomed more than 9,500 new graduates to the Class of 2016, including the first cohort to graduate from the University's Criminology and Security bachelor's degree through the Singapore Institute of Technology.

Honorary degrees were awarded to 14 figures, including six University of Liverpool alumni: Frances Crook OBE (BA Hons Medieval & Modern History 1976); Dr Mehmood Khan MRCP, FACEB (MBChB 1981); Sir Jonathan Murphy QPM (LLB Law 1990); Professor Sir David Greenaway DL (MComm Commerce 1975); Professor Phil Scraton (BA Hons Sociology 1972, MA 1977), and Peter Cresswell, who was expelled for his part in the occupation of Senate House in the 1970s.

XJTLU marked its 10th anniversary in July with a week of celebrations that included graduation ceremonies presided over by Vice-Chancellor, Professor Janet Beer, XJTLU President, Professor Wenquan Tao, and Executive President, Professor Youmin Xi. ●





SENSOR CITY

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF SENSOR INNOVATION

Sensor City is a £15 million bespoke innovation space in Liverpool city centre, supporting start-ups, SMEs and collaborative projects to develop and implement new sensor applications.

As a UK Government flagship University Enterprise Zone, Sensor City is a joint venture between the University of Liverpool and Liverpool John Moores University.

Sensor City will build on a strong track record of leading-edge research in sensor-related technologies and business engagement. It will provide a platform for both universities to share their expertise and knowledge with industry and offers a dedicated environment for the support of entrepreneurial activity to drive sensor-related innovation on a local and global scale.

Alumni are invited to get involved by offering their knowledge, support, and investment to future start-ups and aiding them on their journey into the business market.

Find out how you can help by emailing Joanne Phoenix via: joanne.phoenix@sensorcity.co.uk or call +44 (0)7796 927 209.



Class NOTES

Where has life taken your classmates since graduation?

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

» 1930s



Joan Bone (née Wilson) (BSc 1937) celebrated her 100th birthday in 2016 along with friends and family at the farm she has lived on for the last 65 years.

» 1940s

Robert Jackson (BEng Hons Mechanical Engineering 1943) had a career spanning 73 years, gaining more than 40 patents and presenting almost 40 papers. He has worked in the UK, Algeria, France and Japan; lived and worked in China and the US; and now lives in Houston, Texas. He has three children, eight grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren.

» 1950s

Dr Jim Leavesley (MBChB 1953) emigrated as a '10 Pound Pom' in 1957 to Western Australia. A retired GP, who has spent the last 35 years as a medical historian, authoring 12 books and is a regular broadcaster on the subject. Jim still meets with a group of fellow medical graduates, called 'The DoDo Club', along with fellow 1953 Medicine graduates, **Dr David Alltree**, a retired anaesthetist; and **Dr Peter Woods**, a retired GP.

Peter Lowden (BArch Architecture 1954) has spent most of his working life on architectural projects in Sweden and the Arabian countries, mainly living in Stockholm with his Swedish wife and three children. Peter has written a book about his time at Liverpool, *The House on Canning Street*, under the nom de plume of James Lowden, available to purchase on Amazon Kindle.

Reverend Anne Kiggell (née Wilson) (BA Hons French 1957) worked in the Prime Minister's Office at 10 Downing

Street, serving Harold Macmillan, Sir Alec Douglas-Home and Harold Wilson as Duty Clerk in the Private Office. Anne married and had two sons, later training in theology before being ordained as a priest in the Church of England. Anne looked after a country parish in Berkshire for 16 years, before retiring to Oxford.

Dr Michael Goodrick (MBChB 1957) lives in Seattle in the US and is organising a 60th anniversary medical school reunion in 2017.

» 1960s



Anthony John Mackay (BArch Hons Architecture 1961) has had a long and varied career in architecture, becoming Assistant Chief Architect on the design team for Milton Keynes new town. Anthony set up his own consultancy in 1982, winning an international competition for the first new city in China (post Mao Zedong) at Songjiang, Shanghai, which has been fully realised and now has a population of more than half a million.



Dr Iain Morle (MBChB 1967) after 47 years of diagnostic radiology, Roger is still yet to completely retire. He lives in Hawkes Bay, New Zealand, and is developing a new career as a boat builder.

Elsbeth Julian (née Eyres) (BSc Hons Psychology 1969) has worked in social work, teaching people with special needs and now works as a counsellor in a local hospice. Elspeth married **David Julian** (BSc Hons Chemistry 1965, PhD 1968), they have three children and three grandchildren.

» 1970s

Susan Quilliam (BA Hons Social Studies 1971) coaches individuals and couples, develops and trains classes for the global organisation

The School of Life, and has written 22 books on relationships, to date.

Professor Gillian Parker (BA Hons Psychology 1973) retired from the post of Director of the Social Policy Research Unit at the University of York in 2014 and enjoys working part-time as a researcher on models of care for people with dementia.

Christopher Graham (BA Hons History 1973) retiring after seven years as UK Information Commissioner, Chris is now Chair of the Public Services Lab, a new joint venture company in Liverpool which aims to help community organisations, social enterprises, and charities to fill the gaps in public services left by cuts in public spending. Chris has also joined the governing body of the University, coming full circle over 45 years - from Guild President to Vice-President of Council - and is excited about being involved in Liverpool again, both town and gown. Chris lives with his wife Mary in Hale near Altrincham.

Jacqui Birnie (née Richardson) (BA Hons German 1976) now lives in Warrington and has been a freelance technical translator for 25 years. She was recently awarded runner-up in the Freelance Supplier category at the Association of Translation Companies' 2016 Language Industry Summit Awards.

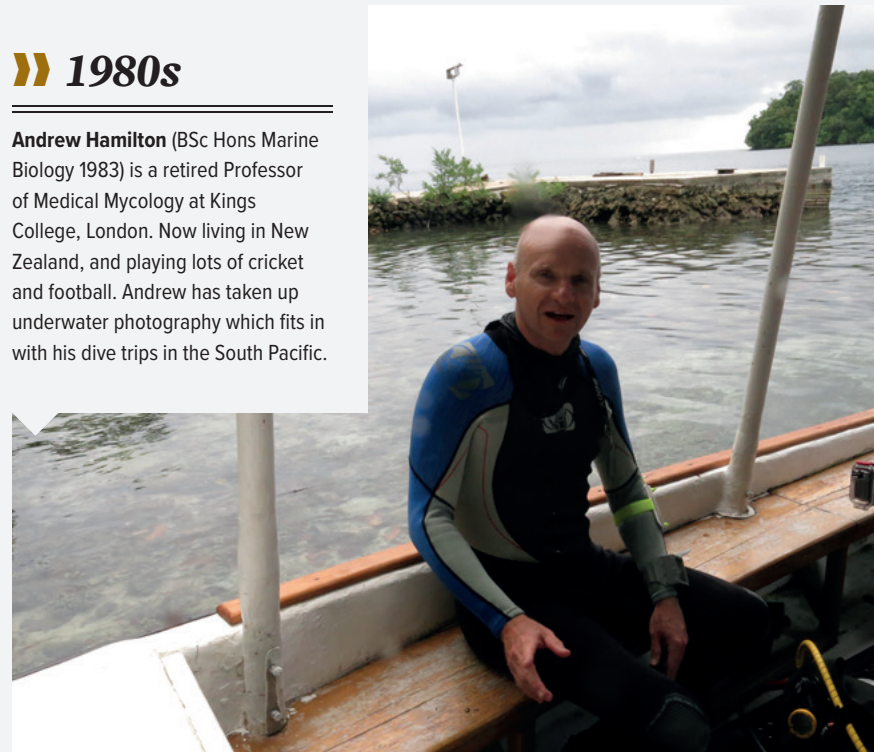
Christopher Fox (BA Hons Music 1976) 40 years after leaving the Music department in Liverpool, Christopher's music has just become the subject of a book, *Perspectives on the Music of Christopher Fox, Straight Lines in Broken Times*, available on Amazon.



Jane English (BEd Education 1978) was presented with a Pearson Gold Lifetime Achievement teaching award by University of Liverpool honorary graduate, **Dr Alison Steadman OBE** (Hon LittD 2006).

» 1980s

Andrew Hamilton (BSc Hons Marine Biology 1983) is a retired Professor of Medical Mycology at Kings College, London. Now living in New Zealand, and playing lots of cricket and football. Andrew has taken up underwater photography which fits in with his dive trips in the South Pacific.



Dr Stuart Penn (BSc Hons Physics 1988, PhD 1992) works on visual effects for films and TV, including *Gravity*, *Guardians of the Galaxy*, *The Dark Knight*, *Avatar* and *Iron Man 3*. Stuart is currently a visual effects supervisor on Ridley Scott's *Alien: Covenant*.

» 1990s

Dr Anthony Deakin (MSc in Information Systems 1992, MPhil in Groupware and Management 1993, PhD in Evolving Strategies with Genetic Programming 2003) was a Senior Researcher, software designer and data analysis specialist in the School of EEE & CS and also the Institute of Integrative Biology at the University of Liverpool, contributing significantly since 1994 to Impact through novel monitoring systems in medical, social, industrial and biological domains, IP, conferences, journal publications and to a book "*Chromatic Monitoring of Complex Conditions*", as well as to knowledge transfer including projects with partners in the UK, India Malawi and Malaysia. These activities substantially assisted with funding and attracting the £ multi-million Sensor City initiative to Liverpool. He is also a Chartered

Accountant and former Area Financial Controller for an international subsidiary of a US major in the oil and gas industry. From 2016 he is an Honorary Fellow at the University.

Jonathan (Jon) Gordon (BA Hons Psychology 1994) has spent the past 20 years in a variety of advertising, marketing and media roles. Jon was a Games Maker at the London 2012 Olympics, and has raised more than £30,000 cycling on sponsored bike rides for Norwood, a charity which supports children and families with learning disabilities.

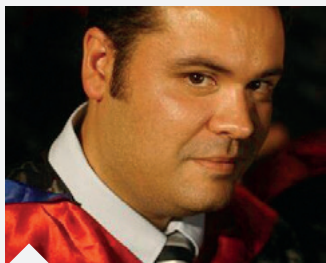
Edward Amor (BSc Hons Chemistry 1995) since graduating, Edward has policed the streets of Bristol as a Constable, Sergeant and an Inspector within Avon and Somerset constabulary. He was recently awarded a long service and good conduct medal. →

Dr Marta Bernassola (DTMH 1996, DTCH 2005) worked in Sierra Leone from 1999 to 2004 as a field doctor with added medical coordination functions in UNICEF and ECHO supporting child protection programmes for the care and reintegration of child combatants. She is now working as a hospital paediatrician in Sardinia, Italy.

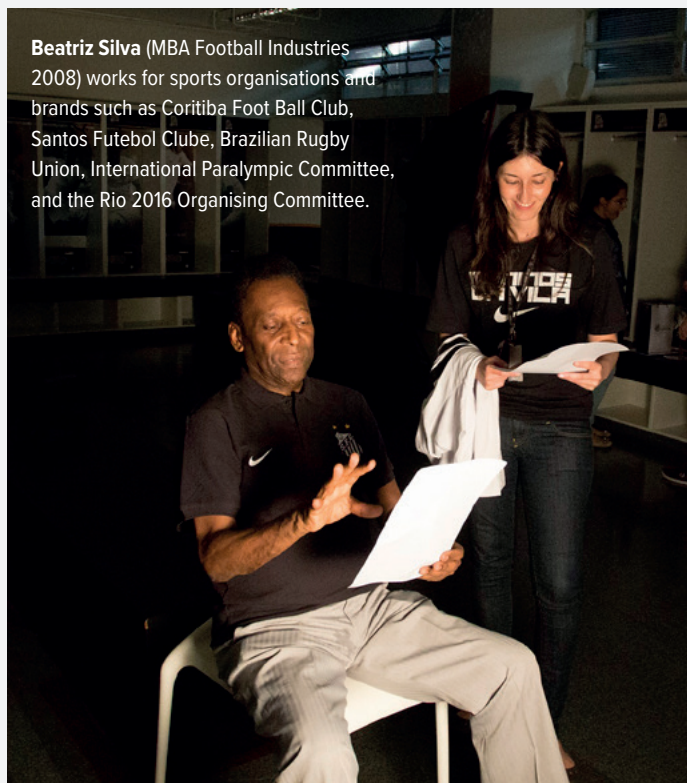


Dr Kate Chhatwal (née Taylor) (BA Hons Politics 1997) has spent her years since graduating from Liverpool researching, designing and implementing policies and programmes to improve educational outcomes, particularly for disadvantaged children.

2000s



Dr Ioannis Pandithas (MSc Eng Microelectronic Systems and Telecommunications 2000, PhD Electrical Engineering and Electronics 2003) after teaching and working



Beatriz Silva (MBA Football Industries 2008) works for sports organisations and brands such as Coritiba Foot Ball Club, Santos Futebol Clube, Brazilian Rugby Union, International Paralympic Committee, and the Rio 2016 Organising Committee.

as a freelance engineer mostly in Greece and the EU, Ioannis is now an Associate Dean of Engineering and Informatics at New York College and has been awarded a special Congressional Recognition from the US House of Representatives for teaching science and engineering to the young generations.

Dr Lydia Hopper (BSc Hons Combined Honours 2004) completed a Psychology PhD at the University of St Andrews and now works at Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago, US, coordinating behavioural and cognitive research with the resident primates as Assistant Director of the Lester E Fisher Center.



Dr Charles Phillips (PhD Chemistry 2004) started his own company, Bee's Paradise, breeding honeybees and selling organic tree farm honey.



Sarabjit Kaur (MA Woman and the Word 2007) runs a nonprofit educational venture, The Training Cafe, in Bangalore which promotes compassion, communication and mindfulness among individuals and organisations with special focus on children in rural areas. Find out more here: www.sarabstri.wordpress.com.

Dr Gabriel Novelo Sierra (MSc Tropical and Infectious Diseases 2009) works in the humanitarian aid field, specifically in the area of disaster coordination in countries like Haiti, Philippines, DRC, Libya and Myanmar. Currently working as Technical Officer for the Global Health Cluster with the World Health Organization, based in Geneva.

2010s

Chika Chukwumerije (MSc Operation and Supply Chain Management 2010) after winning a bronze medal in taekwondo for Nigeria at the Beijing Olympic Games, Chika now runs a Foundation which teaches taekwondo to help disadvantaged students. He was recognised by the British Council with their Social Impact Award at the 2016 Education UK Alumni Awards.

Jose Carlos Diaz (MA Cultural History 2011) is now working as the Milton Fine Curator of Art at the Andy Warhol Museum in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, US.

Alexandra Jarvis (BA Hons Combined Honours 2011) works with Syrian and Sudanese refugees as an ESOL teacher in Liverpool, helping them get through ESOL exams and integrate into the community.

Rahul Pushp (MBA Business Administration 2012) co-founder and Director of i-Solarlite, which helps villagers in India find safer and cheaper alternatives to kerosene lighting by providing eco-friendly solar lamps. Rahul was named as one of AACSB's prestigious Class of 2016 Influential Leaders.

Gerson Brandao (MSc Global Human Resource Management 2013) works for the United Nations, coordinating disaster response while also advocating for the rights of people affected by disasters. He is now posted in Bamako, Mali.

Miranda Jordan-Smith (MBA Business Administration 2013) is CEO of the Edmonton Humane Society, one of the most well-recognised charitable organisations in the province of Alberta. Miranda, her

husband, and their two daughters share their home with two lovely cats, Mickey and Dweezle, and their dog, Jun-Jun.

Miguel Montenegro (DClinPsy 2013) is a senior clinical psychologist for a national charitable organisation, working with people with brain injuries and other cognitive difficulties.



Joseph Chamberlain (BSc Hons Physics with Astronomy 2015) during his time at Liverpool, Joe built a learning analytics dashboard called Unisocs, allowing students to track their study for free. Since then, he has co-founded Heart IT, the fastest growing Liverpool Digital Agency with the aim of offering affordable digital solutions to the people of Liverpool. Find out more: www.heartit.co.

Allan Muhari (Postgraduate Diploma in Public Health 2015) is working as an independent consultant, mainly in monitoring and evaluation of HIV health projects, based in sub-Saharan Africa.

Joshua Brown (BEng Hons Aerospace Engineering 2016) on completion of his degree, Joshua was accepted into the Royal Air Force to start his training as a Pilot. He begun his 24 week Initial Officer Training at RAF Cranwell in October 2016.

IN MEMORIAM

› **Wahdani Begum Abbasi**
(BA Hons 1983)

› **Nicholas Alexander**
(BA Hons 2001, MA 2002)

› **Margaret Allen (née Bournier)**
(BA Hons 1954)

› **Professor Graham William Ashworth CBE**
(BArch 1958, MCD 1959)

› **Jennifer Margaret Baldock (née Greaves)**
(BA Hons 1984)

› **Dr John Threlfall Barber**
(BSc Hons 1959, PhD 1962)

› **Dr John Scrivener Birch**
(MChB 1952)

› **Emeritus Professor Paul Brenikov**
(BA Hons 1948, MA 1956)

› **Patrick James Brennan**
(BA 1956)

› **Emeritus Professor Dennis Basil Bromley**
(PhD 1962)

› **Caroline Charmayne Burgess (née Gay)**
(BA 1983)

› **John Callaghan**
(BEng 1954)

› **Richard Callison**
(LLB 1962)

› **Philip James Carder**
(BCom Hons 1972)

› **Dr Leo Joseph Carroll**
(BEng Hons 1953, BSc Hons 1961, PhD 1965)

› **Kau Sik Chui**
(MEng 1976)

› **Francis David Waddington Clarke**
(MCD 1969)

› **Susan Ann Cobley (née Jennings)**
(BDS 1976)

› **Reverend Canon John Clifford Penn Cockerton**
(BA Hons 1948)

› **Sarah Ellen Colwill**
(BA Hons 2008)

› **Christopher Martyn Cooke**
(BSc Hons 1989)

› **Dr Norman Francis Cunningham**
(BSc Hons 1954, PhD 1957)

› **Peter Geoffrey Daniel**
(BArch Hons 1953, MCD 1954)

› **Dr Norman Basil Dean**
(BSc Hons 1949, PhD 1952)

› **Jemma Louise Doran**
(BSc Hons 2013)

› **Christine Anne Durrant (née Farrer)**
(BA Hons 1965)

› **Dr George Burt Eagleton**
(PhD 1966)

› **Dr Henry Elderfield**
(BSc Hons 1965, PhD 1970)

› **Dr Sheila Helen Elizabeth Fairweather**
(MChB 1950)

› **Roger Boyd Farley QC**
(LLB 1965)

› **Margaret Elizabeth Flanagan (née Morris)**
(BEd 1979)

› **Maureen Fleet (née Ambrose)**
(BSc Hons 1974)

› **Bernard Joseph Foley**
(MA 1968)

› **Charlotte Grace Foster**
(BA Hons 2014)

› **Dr Conal Gallagher**
(MChB 1956)

› **George Garza**
(MSc 2007)

› **William Norman Bruce George**
(BArch Hons 1937)

› **Timothy Richard Graham**
(BSc 1958, MSc 1960)

› **David Anthony Green**
(BSc 1968, Certificate in Education 1969)

› **Leslie Gregory**
(BA Hons 1955, Diploma in Education 1956)

› **Dr Edward Alfred Harris**
(MChB 1945, MD 1966)

› **Julia Cecilia Reicher Harris**
(BA Hons 1977)

› **Barbara Anne Horrocks (née Moore)**
(BA Hons 1960)

› **Warwick Henry George Housden**
(BArch Hons 1956)

› **Stuart Philip Hunt**
(BEng Hons 1990)

› **Kenneth Hutton**
(BEng 1952)

› **Robert Neil Jessop**
(BA Hons 1986)

› **Olwen Margaret Jolley**
(BA Hons 1981)

› **Robert Jolley**
(MA 1966)

› **Arthur Leslie Jones**
(Diploma in Education 1952)

› **Stephen Mark Jones**
(BSc Hons 1997)

› **Audrey Kelbrick (née Pritchard)**
(Certificate in Social Science 1955, DSA 1956, MSc 1992)

› **Dr Alison Ruth Laliere (née Husband)**
(BDS 1987)

› **Dr Joseph Owen Lavelle**
(MChB 1957)

› **Jean Lee (née Matsell)**
(BA Hons 1948)

› **Geoffrey Hesketh Lewis**
(BEng 1952)

› **Professor David Iwan Lewis-Jones**
(MChB 1972, MD 1983)

› **Dr Ian Valentine Lishman AM**
(MChB 1953, Diploma in Tropical Medicine & Hygiene 1998)

› **Lisbeth Lloyd (née Ridley)**
(BA 1945)

› **Alan Gordon Lovgreen**
(BA Hons 1951, Diploma in Education 1952)

› **Dr Alexander Gordon Mackinnon**
(MChB 1948)

› **Andrew Wareing March**
(MBA 1978)

› **Ann Marks (née Kenyon)**
(BSc Hons 1963, MSc 2009)

› **Dr Lucy Mary Martinez (née Sutcliffe)**
(MChB 1939)

› **Dr James Mason**
(BSc Hons 1950, PhD 1953)

› **Mary Veronica Maxwell**
(MA 2000)

› **Claire Louise McCleary**
(BSc Hons 1998)

› **Sally Anne McGrady**
(Certificate in Higher Education 1995)

› **Michael Peter McKenna**
(BA Hons 2009)

› **Claire Justine Morgan**
(BA Hons 1992)

› **Arthur Trevor Morgan**
(BEng 1959)

› **Alan Moss**
(BA Hons 2005)

› **Dr Terence Walter Murphy**
(MChB 1956)

› **Leslie John Myatt**
(BDS 1960)

› **Brenda Murray BEM (née McElroy)**
(BA 1945)

› **Elizabeth Emma Nankabirwa Nyanzi**
(BSc Hons 2005)

› **Stanley Aldborough Old**
(MSc 2002)

› **Katharine Susan Ormerod**
(BA Hons 2008)

› **Professor Jack Pearce**
(BSc Hons 1964, PhD 1967)

› **Dr Jean Dorothy Phillips (née Birtles)**
(MChB 1951)

› **Dr George Albert Jordan Pitt**
(BSc Hons 1951, PhD 1959)

› **Professor Jane Anne Plant CBE (née Lunn)**
(BSc Hons 1967)

› **Brenda Russell Poole (née Howourth)**
(BA Hons 1954, MA 1961)

› **Hugh Lawrence Potter**
(BSc 1959)

› **Betty Pownall**
(BSc 1942, MSc 1976)

› **Dr Nicholas William James Pumphrey**
(BSc Hons 1961, PhD 1965)

› **Mary Patricia Reid (née Angus)**
(BA Hons 1965)

› **Margaret Elizabeth Robinson**
(LDent Sci 1960)

› **Reverend Dr Norman Leslie Robinson**
(BSc 1971)

› **Dr Suzete De Almeida Alves Rudland (née Silva)**
(PhD 1998)

› **Norman Keith Scott CBE**
(BArch Hons 1949, Diploma in Civic Design 1950, MA 1952)

› **Shirley Yvonne Searl (née Blissett)**
(BEd Hons 1975)

› **Mary Louise Seddon MRCVS**
(BVSc 1990)

› **Alec Edgar Stables**
(BSc 1952)

› **Dr Dennis William Stainer**
(BSc Hons 1955, PhD 1958)

› **Reverend Simon Mark Starkey**
(BA Hons 1978, MA 1996)

› **Anthony John Stevens MRCVS**
(BVSc 1949)

› **Dr Brian Godfrey Street**
(BEng Hons 1948, PhD 1951)

› **Professor Geoffrey Sumner-Smith MRCVS**
(BVSc 1951, DVSc 1990)

› **Professor David Marshall Taylor**
(BSc Hons 1952, DSc 1972)

› **Mary Christina Thomas (née Andrews)**
(BA Hons 1999, MA 2001)

› **Dr Huw Owen Thomas**
(MChOrth 1973)

› **Dr Robert Harold Thomas**
(BSc 1959)

› **Susan Gillian Town (née Davenport)**
(BSc Hons 1968)

› **Mary Rose Trigg (née Caunter)**
(LLB Hons 1992)

› **Alan Scott Wallis MRCVS**
(BVSc 1955)

› **Dr Norman Philip Watson**
(MChB 1945)

› **Dr Jennifer Mary Wess**
(MChB 1986)

› **Michael Noel Whelan**
(BEng 1948)

› **David Forster Wicks**
(BArch 1956)

› **Alan Irving Wright MRCVS**
(BVSc 1954)

Staff, students, Friends of the University of Liverpool and Honorary Graduates

James (Jim) Atherton, who was studying for a PhD in Biological Sciences.

David Attwooll, former Chair of Liverpool University Press.

Wayne Bickerton
(Hon LLD 1997)

Professor Christopher Brooke, former Professor of Mediaeval History.

Elizabeth Clark, former University Teacher in the English Language Centre.

Emeritus Professor Philip Edwards CBE, former King Alfred Professor of English Literature.

Lt Colonel Charles Henry Elston TD
(Hon LLD 1997)

Emeritus Professor Erwin Gabathuler OBE, former Head of the University of Liverpool's Particle Physics Group.

Alan Vincent Green, former student in the Institute of Popular Music.

Emeritus Professor Thomas Grimley, former Professor of Inorganic, Physical and Industrial Chemistry.

Joseph Hart, former member of staff in Estates Management.

Desmond King, a Friend of the University of Liverpool.

Professor Sir Harold Kroto
(Hon DSc 2004)

Carl Little, former member of staff in the School of the Arts.

Derek Morris
(Hon LLD 1996)

Emeritus Professor Brian Moss, former Professor of Botany.

Dr Jerzy Paprotny, from the Department of Chemistry.

Emeritus Professor Harold Perkins, former Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Professor of Microbiology, Friend of the University of Liverpool.

Jean Philips (née Preston), former Secretary in the Faculty of Education and Extension Studies (Continuing Education) and the Ceremonial Office and Secretary to the Friends of the University.

Emeritus Professor Niall Rudd, former Professor of Latin and Honorary Research Fellow in the Department of English.

Russell Savage, former Research Technician in the Institute of Ageing and Chronic Disease.

Emeritus Professor Michael John Ramage Shave, the University's first Professor of Computer Science.

Bernard (Bernie) Smith, former Porter in Derby and Rathbone Halls of Residence.

Alan Sutton, a Friend of the University of Liverpool.

Geoffrey Thompson, former Senior Lecturer in the Department of English and Honorary Senior Research Fellow.

His Grace The Duke of Westminster KG CB CVO OBE TD CD DL
(Hon LLD 2000)

Sir Alan William KCVO
(Hon LLD 2001)

Carol Woods, former member of staff in the School of Engineering's Student Experience Team.



LEARNING ON THE JOB

IN AN INCREASINGLY COMPETITIVE JOB MARKET, PLACEMENTS CAN HELP STUDENTS STAND OUT. MBA GRADUATE JENNA BIRCH WAS MENTORED BY LIVERPOOL ALUMNUS ED FISHWICK, THE GLOBAL CO-HEAD OF RISK & QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS AT INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT CORPORATION BLACKROCK, FOR HER THREE-MONTH PLACEMENT. HERE THEY DISCUSS WHAT THEY EACH GAINED FROM THE EXPERIENCE.

Ed Fishwick (BA Hons Economics 1981), Global Co-Head of Risk & Quantitative Analysis, BlackRock

What sort of skills and attributes will benefit the business most?

Jenna learned over a very short space of time who a variety of people were across the department, what they were expert in and what they could do. Any time she hit a roadblock, she could go to the relevant person; they would understand who she was and the context of what she was trying to do, which means she received a rapid resolution.

When I look at people who thrive over the years, something they tend to have in common is a combination of technical skills, communication skills and genuine interest and that's a really important thing. We like people who are really keen to get stuff done and approach things with some excitement.

How do you feel placements are beneficial for students and for businesses?

Helping students think about what they are doing and how they are going to take their careers forward is clearly beneficial to graduates. These kinds of placements help students understand what the working world might entail.

In every case, students have done projects for us that were useful and that have helped us understand particular questions



that we had set. But it's also interesting from a personal perspective, because helping them take their careers forward is also very satisfying.

How did Jenna get on at BlackRock?

Jenna spent a lot of time at BlackRock working alongside a variety of people in my department; it's the kind of interaction that wouldn't happen at university. Educational establishments are set up to provide a supportive learning environment, whereas in the workplace there's support but that's not the overarching objective – in some senses there's greater pressure to deliver. We treated Jenna like any other young employee and there was a great emphasis placed on her to deliver to those guidelines.

Jenna Birch (MMath 2011, PhD 2015, MBA 2016)

I hadn't been expecting to do the MBA because realistically I couldn't afford the tuition fees. I was lucky enough to get a scholarship to

support me from an anonymous MBA alumnus donor.

When I was first accepted for the internship at BlackRock I was still based in Liverpool and so I was working by email and telephone with a supervisor within the company. Eventually I continued my work with them in London.

As it was a part of the University course, I had to link it to what I'd been doing in my MBA. Because of my background – I'd specialised in financial mathematics – my work was quite useful to them, and it linked to my financial modules in the MBA. I could see my studies being put into a real-life context.

A degree right now is not enough – it's so competitive. I've had a fantastic nine years at University; but the three months spent at BlackRock helped me to learn more about myself and what interests me, and ultimately what career I want to go into. While you're a student you get into routines: you have your own spot in the library, your own friends, your own things to do. Getting taken out of that comfort zone and being thrown into the deep end really does challenge you. For me that was the best experience. →

Support future graduate success

There are many ways in which alumni can continue to be involved with the University; your gift of time can help support future generations of students to achieve their potential.

As a graduate, you can become involved by:

- Advertising your graduate career opportunities
- Offering paid student vacation internships
- Becoming a mentor
- Sharing your career insights at an event or webinar.

Our Careers and Employability service can help alumni to access the most talented and enthusiastic students for graduate positions, year-long placement opportunities or holiday internships within their organisations. •

If you think that your business could benefit from a student placement, contact the University's Careers and Employability Service via: alumni@liverpool.ac.uk



Beyond Dredd and Watchmen – The Art of John Higgins
From 10 March - A major retrospective of the work of Liverpool-born John Higgins, comic book artist and writer.



Open Days
June to October - Take a trip down memory lane by joining us for our alumni tours on University Open Days.



House of Lords Alumni Reception
23 June - Join the Vice-Chancellor and Lord Storey for an exclusive reception in the beautiful House of Lords.



Vet Reunion Celebration Weekend
8-9 September - Meet up with fellow veterinary alumni at our second annual reunion weekend.

CALENDAR

HERE ARE JUST A FEW OF THE EVENTS AND REUNIONS THAT THE UNIVERSITY WILL BE HOSTING OVER THE NEXT 12 MONTHS. VISIT: WWW.LIVERPOOL.AC.UK/ALUMNI/EVENTS TO SEE WHAT ELSE WE'VE GOT COMING UP.



Benefactors' Fund 10th Anniversary
August - We will be celebrating 10 years of alumni generosity! Find out how you can help: www.liverpool.ac.uk/giving.



Christmas lights switch-on
29 November - Get in the festive mood with carols and songs from our University Choir and Brass Band.



Don't miss out!
 Be the first to hear about events near you by updating your contact preferences online: www.liverpool.ac.uk/alumni/update.



Improve your career prospects

Our Graduate Connect webinar series is designed to offer you new ways of thinking about international business issues and trends in the workplace, tips for advancing your career and professional development support, right from your computer. All of our online seminars are recorded so even if you can't attend, you can access our webinar library online and listen at your leisure.

UPCOMING WEBINARS

WEDNESDAY 22 FEBRUARY
Technology transforming business
 Join John Hanley (BEng Hons Mechanical Engineering 1979), Founder of Run the Change, as he looks at the evolution of business models for companies such as NASA, Twitter, Uber and Airbnb.

FROM WEDNESDAY 29 MARCH
Your first steps to success
 Over three webinars, serial entrepreneur Willem Gous (MSc Information Systems Management 2015) will help you design the life you have always wanted; helping you to consider the obstacles that hold you back, and understanding what success looks like.

VISIT: WWW.LIVERPOOL.AC.UK/ALUMNI/EVENTS/WEBINARS TO REGISTER FOR EITHER OF THESE **FREE** EVENTS.



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