

Origins

alumni & friends

University
of Bolton



Hello I'm Penny Knipe, the Alumni and Development Officer for the University. The alumni office is the main port of call for our graduate communications. This year, we are pleased to be included in the University's special graduation edition of The Bolt. The Bolt is posted to all our stakeholders and partners, and we have now decided to post it to our current graduates. Over 2,500 graduates were awarded undergraduate, postgraduate degrees and research degrees this year and we want to hear from all of you. Some of you will be embarking on the first step of your career ladder, looking to improve your job prospects or progressing on to a postgraduate course. I hope that the graduate stories featured throughout this magazine will inspire our graduates.

Supporting your University

Volunteering has become an important part of university culture and alumni are now invited to share their knowledge and experience with the next generation of students. The alumni office has joined together with the Careers Office to launch a careers mentoring programme, 'ASPIRE Mentoring'. Alumni with more than two years' career experience are invited to assist with the mentoring programme. You can help mentor our younger, second-year undergraduate students who need help to build their confidence, explore career routes and an introduction to working practices.

Many of our alumni host guest lectures, present at career fairs and submit career profiles for our prospectuses. It's

imperative for our current younger students to hear from our experienced graduates. We have alumni whose career paths excel to the highest levels within international companies and our graduates also become hard-working professionals in careers that are the backbone of society, such as teachers, nurse practitioners, counsellors, managers, computer programmers and commercial artists. We are proud to work at a university that produces graduates that go on to become entrepreneurial contributors and innovators.

It is a difficult time for graduates, but tenacity and networking can open doors so please keep communicating and stay in touch, use the career service and register with the Alumni Association. If you register I can keep you in touch with the new courses, events and news.

New Careers Service

You can access the support and guidance from the Careers Service, for up to three years after graduation, FREE of charge. You can expect to receive the same level of service as a current student. The careers office will contact you in November 2011, about the Destination of Leavers from Higher Education Survey, which captures information on student activity six months after you have graduated. Your information remains anonymous, but it is important that you complete the survey and let us know what you are doing, as this helps us to inform prospective

students and higher education policy. So please watch out for the survey! If your contact details have changed since you left, please let us know. Visit: <http://www.bolton.ac.uk/Careers/Graduates/DestinationofLeaversSurvey.aspx> for more information.

The library's for you

As a graduate you can continue to borrow from our extensive library, which includes 170,000 books and 750 hard-copy journals, essential references to keep you up-to-date with industry news and developments.

Kick-start your career with internship

The Unite with Business scheme is open to graduates in the North West, regardless of their university of study. The scheme can provide you with paid opportunities to work in a business, on a meaningful project relevant to your studies. These short-term opportunities last for 20 days (150 hours or possibly more) and provide a real insight into the workplace. The project is funded by the European Regional Development Fund. To apply please contact alumni@bolton.ac.uk

Soccer business stars

Wayne Watkins

BA (Hons) Sports Development Graduated 2010 Multimedia Web Academy Technical Director of Omonoia A C

Ian Fitzgerald

BA (Hons) Sports Development Graduated 2010 Technical Director 'World at Your Feet' (WAYF) Soccer Academy.

Our Sports courses leaders will tell you that sports development has rapidly becoming one of the largest sectors in the sport and leisure industries. Successful graduates are now working for premier league football clubs, sports consultation companies and are volunteer coaches for social enterprises.

Two of last year's graduates, Ian Fitzgerald and Wayne Watkins, have combined academic successes and entrepreneurial flair to create a unique business, World at Your Feet Soccer Academy (WAYF). The company aims to develop the skills and capabilities of young football players with real talent. They deliver courses that have been influenced, designed and created by top UEFA coaches and professional football players.

The business is internationally focused, partnering with the Middle East's largest football club in developing their youth academy. They have strong links with clubs and academies in Greece, Indonesia and China and the UK, running talent identification courses. As a result they have identified six potential footballers and they have been invited to some of the UK's largest clubs.

One year on, Ian is pleased with the progress of WAYF. Despite the conditions of the economy, the company is doing well. Since the business lends itself to night time, weekends and term times, Ian has decided to progress his education and is studying on the PGDE full time at our University. Ian is a UEFA qualified coach and for 11 years he played for Manchester United, including a three-year professional contract. He has represented England as a schoolboy international and is a graduate of the FA National School Scholarship Programme. Ian has this advice for our new graduates: 'Gain as much experience as possible by



volunteering, build up your CV and profile. Use as many online resources as possible. It is possible to get that job you want. Stay focused, no matter how frustrated you get.'

Wayne Watkins is still involved with WAYF, assisting in developing academies in Cyprus and is currently Academy Technical Director for the football team AC Omonia, Nicosia, Cyprus. He is directing all the football coaching for AC Omonia. This is a challenging project, having to negotiate the many political agendas and cultural issues. Wayne has worked all over the world in football, including the Far East, Singapore, Italy (at Juventus), Ireland, Dubai and Manchester United.

He said: 'I manage a large team consisting of coaches, physiotherapists, administration workers, support workers and the entire infrastructure required to manage a large football team's youth academy. All this requires day to day leadership and regular communication at board level, with regular media interviews on the television, in the papers and over the internet via sports web pages.'

'Trust me when I say that the course I undertook at the University of Bolton equipped me in being able to fulfil this role in so many aspects. But briefly, planning, presentations, coaching theories, report writing, deadlines and many, many more skills.'

Web master with app-peal

Kasoma Eric Siamuwele

BSc (Hons) Multimedia Web Development 2010

During the past 18 months Kasoma has worked for two very different companies. He made press headlines last year with his digital achievements for Totesport, Wigan. Now he works as a web developer for a new company Jungle Media, Manchester.

During his degree, Kasoma worked with Totesport on his final year project. Kasoma developed an app for Facebook, but it wasn't a betting app, in the traditional sense, it only encouraged friends to exchange competitive declarations of who may win in any sporting event.

After graduation the company was keen to carry on the app's development and it was launched in November 2010. However, in July 2011 the company was sold by the Government to UK Bookmaker BetFRED. Kasoma said: 'I enjoyed my time at Totesport and producing the Facebook app.



However, I am now enjoying my new role. I'm privileged to work with and talk to everyone at the company. It is starting to bring in business from big brand clients.'

Kasoma is a valued member of our alumni. He recently presented at the Digital Futures event, designed to introduce young pupils from local schools to creative digital careers.

Multi-tasking, professional development champion

Neal Andrews

MA Photography 2010

Neal is a professional photographer, multimedia producer and director of digital marketing company, Pivotal, based in Manchester.

In February 2011, Neal was presented with the Chetham's Library Award at the Voices MA Photography art exhibition, for his outstanding photographs of hill farming. His documentary photographs had been on show in China and the Liverpool 2011 International Photography Exhibition. The hill farming project has recently been featured in Lancashire and Cumbria Life.

The project features Braesteads Farm, set in the Grisedale Valley. It has been a family-run working farm for more than 200 years and they are now managing approximately a 1,000 sheep. A keen fell walker, Neal wanted to document life on the farm. In Cumbria Life he said: 'I'd often wondered how such farms survived. I witnessed incredible sights, including a lot of sheep being



gathered by dogs and Paul lambing a ewe, but what touched me most was the family's hospitality and openness. It shows the symbiotic relationship between farmer, animals and landscape.'

Being a social documentary photographer is a challenging career route, often involving photographing people unawares, seeking permission and pointing cameras into people's personal daily lives. Neal took a career sabbatical to do the MA Photography,

specialising in social documentary, his intention was to hone his skills as a multimedia photographer and film producer. The hill farming project started as part of his MA Photography course and it is still ongoing. The Hill Farmer is available as a book and an atmospheric short film featured at www.nealandrewsphotography.co.uk

What is impressive about Neal Andrews is he bears testimony to continuous professional development. His first degree is Geography, graduated 1996 and he achieved a Diploma in Marketing from Manchester University. Neal has worked in the advertising industry for 12 years. Now he has returned to digital marketing and set up his own business. Neal has some good advice for this year's graduates. He said: 'Get on the radar; it is about whom you know. Networking is key. Discover who the key influencers are in your chosen career path, get to know them. Stay positive. Explore internship programmes, it is hard when so many internship programmes offer little or no money, but they can be of real value to you.'

Rob reaps benefits of scholarships

Rob Church

BA (Hons) Business Studies 2009

Rob Church is the former Vice-President of the Student Union.

During his time at the University he won a prestigious scholarship award, the only UK representative to take part in the Global Village Event in America – a six-week summer school for 'future leaders of business' at the Iacocca Institute, Pennsylvania one of America's leading business schools.

This Spring he was selected to take part in an international conference, Education Without Borders (EWB) in Dubai. Rob said: 'These opportunities kept coming and I kept getting selected. It is been great for my experience, I am learning new skills, creating new networks and applying them to my work.'

As a result of his educational and volunteering achievements, he has secured a career in supply chain management working at the UK office

for DFDS Seaways, a Danish shipping company. Rob undertook his induction for DFDS in Copenhagen, and then travelled to France, the UK and Amsterdam. He now manages operations in Dover; but is hopeful of expanding his involvement covering other UK Ports that DFDS operate from.

He said: 'I was really inspired by the other amazing students at the US event. I have created a lifelong network of friends around the world. I am interested in international issues now, and I am learning German. I like working for an international company because they value diversity, as I do. I am hopeful and optimistic about the future because of my student experience at Bolton, but also because of how the University supported me in my learning outside of the classroom too.'

The Alumni and Development office recently recruited Rob Church to be one of the University's scholarship ambassadors for a small fundraising



campaign. As the recipient of a travel scholarship, he said: 'I think scholarships, prizes and bursaries help students to stand out in the job market after they graduate. Potential employers will see that the student has great determination, drive and motivation. The University has seen something special in that student and has given them the opportunity to strive for something more and given them the funding to do so. Employers will respect that, and these types of awards set you apart from other potential job applicants.'

To learn more about supporting the university, visit www.bolton.ac.uk/giving or contact Penny Knipe, Development officer p.knipe@bolton.ac.uk

Our generous Rotary Club

Three of our research graduates and students currently benefit from the Marriott Trust which was generously donated to the University by the Bolton Le Moors Rotary Club.

The University was presented with a £100,000 development fund legacy from the trust fund of a founding member of the Rotary Club of Bolton Le Moors, John Marriott, in 2008. The Marriott Trust has been developed to fund research and scholarships.

Abdul Siddique has been awarded funding for his MPhil where his research focuses on the government's model for social cohesion and its impact on Bolton's Asian communities.

Mohammad Sanami, who is carrying out research in the field of biomedical applications for auxetic materials at the University's Institute of Materials Research and Innovation, has also received support. Mohammad has been awarded the prestigious international award, Auxetnet Young Researcher of the Year.

And Researcher Dr Peter Swain has been awarded funding to produce a book that will be an oral history of leisure in Bolton, from 1900-1999, working with is working with Dr Bob Snape, the University's Reader in Leisure and Sport.

The Trust currently funds a three-year photography scholarship, called the Humphrey Spender John Marriott Scholarship. It is now in its second year. Talented photographers from Greater Manchester are encouraged to apply.

Each scholarship explores the themes of the Mass Observation Project and in particular pays homage to Humphrey Spender who was a social documentary photographer of the 1930s. His photographic style captured the people of Bolton unawares and revealed the life and times of an industrial town.

Caroline Edge, who graduated with an MA Photography in 2010, was the first recipient of the scholarship. At the Voices MA Photography Exhibition she was awarded by Rachel Spender, Humphrey Spender's widow, a silver plate in recognition of her work on the scholarship. She said: 'I had no idea I was going to receive the award, my photographs capture street society – not getting to know the people, but



capturing them there and then. The pictures reflect the mood of society at the time. They seem gloomy, but they were taken at a time when people seemed to sense what was to come.'

The second recipient of the Humphrey Spender John Marriott Scholarship is Anna White, MA Photography graduate 2010. 'The Scholarship, supported by the Marriott Trust fund, has challenged me professionally and personally.

'At the conclusion of my project, I would like to leave a body of work in the Bolton archive that the people of Bolton will have contributed to.'

If you are interested in helping with the project please contact Anna -missannawhite@gmail.com or visit her blog - boltonphoto.tumblr.com.

Advertising for the final photography scholarship begins soon. If you are interested, please contact Ian Beesley, E: I.Beesley@bolton.ac.uk.

Finally, the Marriott Trust will support a graduate on a special Rotary Ambassadorial role. A graduate will be chosen to undertake a student mentorship role and will work for the Academic Director, Zubair Hanslott, at the Ras Al Khaimah campus. They will work with the University, local business community and international Rotary clubs.

The Development team at the university would like to make a special thank-you to the Rotary Club Bolton Le Moors, in particular David Tomlinson who continues to work closely with Mike Lomas, Director of External Partnerships and Penny Knipe, Alumni and Development Officer. All these projects have been outstanding and exciting for all involved.

A special focus on our other donors and supporters will be featured in a separate newsletter

If you would like further information about Marriott Trust funding, please contact E: P.Knipe@bolton.ac.uk

Alumni Educational Discount

If you have completed an undergraduate or postgraduate degree you may be eligible for a discount on your next course. UK alumni are eligible for 25% off CPD Postgraduate level HE 6 & HE 7 and Masters courses. International alumni starting their first year in Jan 2012 are eligible for 10% off on a selected number of courses, CPD Postgraduate level HE 6 & HE 7 and Masters courses. International Students who have received a 2.1 or above and applying for a Masters course can now apply for a 20% alumni discount at our Bolton campus, on a selected number of courses. There is a 10% discount for postgraduate University of Bolton alumni UK/EU/International who progress on to a research degree.

Full details visit www.bolton.ac.uk/alumni or email alumni@bolton.ac.uk

How can you stay in touch?

An easy and effective way of communicating with us is via our online communities. One of our alumni, Mark Whitfield, featured in The Bolt, Spring 2011, has established a Linked-In group for our professional graduates. This is a great forum to network with international graduates, professional peers and your lecturers. Our communication team is very active on Facebook and Twitter too and they invite all graduates, students and friends to get involved.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/universityofbolton

Linked-In: www.linkedin.com University of Bolton and Bolton Institute Group

Twitter: @boltonuni

www.bolton.ac.uk/alumni