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Congratulations class of 2009

David Coverdale
Editor

This week over four thousand students of Newcastle University will celebrate their graduation with congregation ceremonies in the University's legendary King's Hall building.

Three or more years of hard work are marked by this memorable occasion as students receive their well-earned degree parchments in front of their proud families and friends and become an official Graduate.

The quadrangle, the oldest part of the University campus, will

provide a beautiful backdrop for undergraduates donned in their gowns and hoods as they pose for the photos that are sure to take pride and place on their mantelpieces at home.

Don't however expect to see any mortar boards on show. Legend has it that when Newcastle became an independent University in 1963, students celebrated their new status by throwing their traditional hats into the River and since then, Newcastle students have graduated without them.

While some students may be looking forward to pursuing their studies in the form of perhaps a Masters or PGCSE, for many, this week will signal the final stage of their formal education and the end of what is sure to have been a fun-filled

and enjoyable stay in the North East.

Stepping out of the world of care-free week night partying, deadline day 'all-nighters' and frantic 'word count' checks, students from across every subject will hope that their congregation marks the beginning of an exciting and successful adult life.

They will be leaving behind a Russell Group University whose history dates back to 1834 when it was the School of Medicine and Surgery - which then became a college of Durham University.

Since gaining independence in the 1960's, Newcastle University has gone on to become a leading research institution, especially in medicine, genetics and bio-sciences, which serves 18,000 students in many varied fields.

The University is currently

embarking upon one of the most significant periods of development in its 170 year history with a £200-million programme of investment in its campus and facilities.

The development includes a five-story, glass-front building which will house all the main student services and create a welcoming "front door". A new music building is soon to be opened and there are ambitious plans to create a state-of-the-art Newcastle University Business School in the city centre.

2011 will also see the opening of an international branch campus in Johor, Malaysia which will offer degrees in medicine and biomedical science at the Newcastle University Medicine Malaysia (NUMed).

As well as these exciting developments, this coming academic

year, Professor Sir Liam Donaldson, the UK's Chief Medical Officer, takes over the reigns as Chancellor. Sir Liam succeeds Lord Patten of Barnes, who retires at the end of this month after ten years in office.

This special, commemorative issue of *The Courier* takes a look back at the class of 2009's final year here at Newcastle University by picking out some of the best stories and features that have filled the pages of the student newspaper in the last twelve months.

The Courier would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all students graduating this week and wish them all the very best in the future.

Best stories
of the year

NEWS



Your tutor
interviews

FEATURES



Jon Snow
interview

FEATURES



A great year
for the AU

SPORT



Thank you:

For their support and advice throughout the year,
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SPORT



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news



'Education is a right, not a privilege'

Anoushka Periyar

Students and representatives from Newcastle University gathered on the Gateshead Millennium Bridge in November to take part in a nationwide 'Day of Action' campaign, to demonstrate their support for the National Union of Students' 'Broke and Broken' report.

Over 30 students, also representing Durham University and Teesside University, gathered on the 5th November to support the report which argues against lifting tuition fee caps when the government revises top-up fee funding in 2009.

The students unveiled two banners over the bridge, raising public awareness of the repercussions of allowing universities to set their own fees. The banners announced the startling statistic that 'The Average Graduate is over £25,000 in debt', whilst students on megaphones attracted attention through chants such as 'Education is a right not a privilege', 'Merit not money', and 'Keep

the cap'. The protest continued up Dean Street towards Monument.

As previously reported by The Courier, the potential lift on tuition fee caps would enable universities to decide their own fees, resulting in the possibility of higher ranking universities charging higher fees to students. The gap between the rich and the poor could therefore increase, with better universities charging elitist fees which poorer students might not be able to afford.

The campaign was attended by second year politics student Sara Hasanaia, who told The Courier: 'I feel for the cause but no one has come up with a solution. The NUS need to propose a viable model.'

Across the country, 40 events took place in support of the 'Day of Action'. Leeds University launched a postcard campaign to encourage students to directly protest to the government by sending ready-made postcards requesting increased funding for higher education, and Durham University raised awareness through a petition at their Freshers' Fair, which was signed by over eight hundred students.

Student Support Officer Pete Mercer

intends to continue rallying support within Newcastle University through campaigns in the New Year, and anticipates an ongoing protest.

Speaking to The Courier about the event, he told us: 'The unveiling of the banner will no doubt have caught the government's attention - not to mention the public's imagination too, especially after the street protest at the end of the demonstration.'

'It's important that we campaign relentlessly and engage the student population locally: only through the accumulation and tenacity of these events, and in collaboration, can we guard against the lifting of the cap on tuition fees. If every students' union in the UK plays its part in the NUS 'Broke & Broken' campaign, there will be a national outcry so monumental the government won't be able to ignore it. I implore the student body of Newcastle University to rise up against what will truly be a travesty against our right to a fair and equal education system, and hold our government to account where elitist proposal may emerge.'

Students shine at inaugural NCL+ awards

Awards ceremony highlights student achievement in extra curricular activities

Kate McCann
News Editor

In May the first NCL+ Student Achievement awards take place at The Assembly Rooms in Newcastle.

The ceremony was attended by Vice Chancellor Professor Chris Brink and 250 students, sponsors, University and Union staff.

The awards celebrated the achievements of students from all disciplines across the University for their involvement in various extra curricular activities, societies and charity work. The event was organised by NCL+, a foundation jointly supported by the Union society and the University itself, which seeks to encourage and promote personal enterprise and community engagement among the student body.

The awards attracted over 130 entries from students within eleven categories, including the surprise category, the 'Vice-Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Personal Achievement', which went to

Jodie Symington for her fund-raising and awareness-raising efforts for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust.

Jodie, who suffers from Cystic Fibrosis herself, impressed the Vice Chancellor with her expedition to Everest Base camp and for completing the Everest marathon.

Winners received £300 and runners-up £100 in prizes, which were made possible by contributions from sponsors Npower and the Alumni Association.

David Coverdale, who was nominated for an award within the 'Media and Communications' category commented to The Courier;

"It was a fantastic evening and it was brilliant to see all the amazing voluntary work that Newcastle students do recognised by these awards. Hopefully the event will continue to grow and encourage more people to get involved in extra-curricular activities at University."

The complete list of winners is:

* Outstanding Personal Achievement Award: - Jodie Symington - Applied Biology

- * Community Spirit Volunteering: - Lauren Parkinson - Dentistry
- * Community Capacity-building: - Rachel Foyster - English Literature and Rebecca Jones - Combined Studies
- * Contribution to Sport: - Ciaran Hutchinson - Medical & Molecular Bioscience
- * Environmental Volunteering: - Annette Morris - Fine Art
- * Media and Communications: - Sarah Grant - Marketing and Management
- * Academic and Peer Representation - Aimee Philipson - Combined Studies
- * Arts and Culture: - Miriam Orcutt - Medicine
- * Most Improved Society of the Year: - Power Kite Society
- * Best Society of the Year: - Malaysian Society
- * Society Officer of the Year: - Ruth Garside (Irish Dance Society) - Medicine.

For a complete list of winners and runners-up and for more information about NCL+ visit - www.ncl.ac.uk/nclplus



A. GRAY

Finally, a successful milk round...

Sam Parker
Outgoing Editor

Newcastle University has continued in its proud tradition of being at the forefront of scientific discovery by announcing in February that cows which are given a name produce more milk than cows that have not.

Media outlets as diverse as CBBC, *The Daily Mail* and the leading current affairs website in Ghana have scrambled to report on the finding which claims that by giving a cow a name and treating her as an individual, farmers can increase their annual milk yield by almost 500 pints.

"Just as people respond better to the personal touch, cows also feel happier and more relaxed if they are given

a bit more one-to-one attention," explained Dr Douglas, who works in the School of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development at Newcastle University.

Dairy farmer Dennis Gibb, who owns Eachwick Red House Farm outside Newcastle, agreed with the findings.

"They aren't just our livelihood - they're part of the family," said Dennis. "We love our cows here,

and every one of them has a name. Collectively we refer to them as 'our ladies' but each one has her own personality."

Dr Douglas and Dr Rowlinson questioned 516 UK dairy farmers and found that those who gave their cows names had a 258 litre higher milk yield than those who did not.

Sixty six percent of farmers said they "knew all the cows in the herd," and 48 percent agreed that positive

human contact was more likely to produce cows with a good milking temperament.

Almost 10 percent said that a fear of humans resulted in a poor milking temperament.

Which is presumably a finding that Newcastle University couldn't be too proud of.



R. RICHARDS

Apprentice students are challenged to 'get fruity'

Rebecca Richards

You may be forgiven for thinking that the Union resembled a fruit and veg market in March.

It was all a result of the fourth Newcastle University Apprentice task which was taking place, with students really entering into the entrepreneurial spirit of the day.

The challenge, sponsored by PricewaterhouseCoopers, involved teams sourcing fruit and vegetables from Grainger Market to sell outside the Union, with the team who made the most profit walking away with a £200 prize.

Success amongst the teams varied wildly with results ranging from a loss of £7.15 to a massive profit of £38.50. A wide range of inventive strategies were employed by the participants including making smoothies with cocktail umbrellas, selling fruit skewers, wearing 'Have

you had your 5 a day?' branded t-shirts and selling apples in aid of Red Nose Day.

The winning team made up and sold 'fruit plates' and were the team who marked their produce up most highly, a factor in their success.

"We wanted to put lots of emphasis on the 5 a day thing, as we were selling plates of fruit with 3 of the 5 a day," Ross Logan, member of the winning team, told *The Courier*. "Overall, I thought it was a really good task, really well run and it was nice to have the opportunity to interact with local suppliers."

This was the first Apprentice Challenge the team had entered, but they have said they will definitely consider getting involved in future challenges.

Francesca Cooper, whose team came second with their 'An Apple for Red Nose Day' campaign, said, "We chose to give all our proceeds to Comic Relief which not only boosted our sales but also made the task much more worthwhile. It

was a great experience and we are really looking forward to the next Apprentice task!"

The task was intended to test entrants' bargaining skills and was marked on how enterprising they were when sourcing and selling their products, as well as the amount of profit that was made.

Sarah Grant, who organises the event, told *The Courier*, "The standard and number of teams who participated was unbelievably high considering the teams had less than one day to prepare. It just goes to show how much entrepreneurial spirit these students naturally have."

The Newcastle University Apprentice is an on-going event, run by the Careers Service, which encourages students to compete in business skills for cash prizes.

The next chance to take part in the event is in April in a dragons-den style challenge, testing participants initiative, creative and persuasive skills, with the chance of winning £200 to boot.

6th July 2009

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THE COURIER INTERVIEW

In March, *The Courier* talked to **Jon Snow**: we revisit his thoughts on Obama, drugs, and his unusual taste in ties...

Kate McCann & Sam Parker

KM: What were your personal experiences of university and how do you think they might compare with going to university today?

JS: I don't think that there was much pressure on us in those days. I was at university in the late 60s, which was a very revolutionary and rebellious time. We didn't have the problem of student fees; the local authority just paid for everyone. I think that times are very different. We had time to revolt, and we did plenty of it. We were very revolting!

KM: Do you think students nowadays are more apathetic?

JS: No I don't. I feel students today have vastly more problems than we had. Students now live at a very different pace and under very different pressures. I think the thought of being a student now and carrying four, five, ten thousand pounds worth of debt (KM: £30,000!) is absolutely horrendous. The thought of going into a recession wearing that amount of debt, and bearing in mind that you might not get a job at the end of other than pulling a few pints beggars belief. Who could afford to protest with the danger of blighting your initial career? We didn't care a damn because we knew we would come out and find a way forward. We didn't have any debt. I think student debt is like the way they use drugs in America you know. If you have an inner city problem, just make sure that there is a bit of pot circulating and it keeps everybody down. That really is how it works in places like Chicago and Los Angeles. If you load students up with debt, you inevitably get some very well behaved students.

KM: Did you get involved in protesting when you were at university?

JS: I did. There were all sorts of things to protest about! In the end we concluded that the best thing to protest about was the fact that university investments were made in Tate and Lyle, which had very big holdings in South Africa. South Africa was then of course an apartheid state. But they got rid of us. I was excommunicated, sent away, sent down.

KM: So where did you go from there and how did you end up in journalism?

JS: I felt pretty desperate about being sent down, because I had tried jolly hard to get there (to university), and I wasn't very bright. I got very bad A levels; a Ca D and an E. You wouldn't get into university nowadays with that lot. I didn't know what an earth

I would do. I never thought that the university would respond like that. I went to work for a drug dependant's day centre in central London. I was meant to stay there for only 6 months and then go back (to university). But in fact I was so absorbed in what was then a very big problem in London, heroin was a major concern, that I stayed for three years. I gradually realised that I was better talking about it than doing it, so I began to look for ways in which I could write about it. I wrote in *The Guardian* and I wrote in the *New Statesman*. I then saw an ad in the *New Statesman* for a new radio station, which was going to be the first legal commercial station, LDC, and I got a job on it. My first day was the first day it started and I read the news at 6:30 in the morning.

“I make no bones about it, I cried when Obama was elected”

KM: How do you start your days?

JS: I listen to the radio. I never watch the television in the mornings ever, no matter how dramatic the news might be.

KM: Why is that?

JS: I don't know. I don't want images in my mornings. I want to think about the world. And actually, the pictures are much better on radio. I tune in at about 6 o'clock in the morning, while I'm getting myself sorted.

KM: Do you read the newspapers?

JS: I do. I read the *Financial Times* and *The Guardian* before I get to the office. And then I read the others when I get back.

KM: What did you read when you were younger?

JS: I'm a bit of a creature of habit; I read *The Guardian*. I talk to my own daughter who is a student at Leeds. She informs me that her lot don't read any papers at all. They tell me that that's common place.

SP: To what extent do you have a hand in the agenda for the news?

JS: Well of course I think I have an agenda for the news. I'm in at 9.30 in the morning to be at the first editorial meeting. Actually it's a very collegial thing. We have around 20 people, everybody who is going to be working on the programme, sat round a table and we throw stuff about. We talk about what happened during the night, what happened yesterday, what's going to happen today, the running themes. A lot of the stuff is "pre-ordered"; someone might have been in the Congo, or Afghanistan. But in the main you are

responding to events and there are plenty of events these days.

SP: How difficult is it to maintain composure when you are reporting a story that you find particularly upsetting or emotive?

JS: I think you do feel removed in the studio. But on the ground it's different. I make no bones about it, I cried when Obama was elected. I was in a room full of black students in a black university in the suburbs of D.C. and it was highly charged; extraordinarily emotional. It's hard to imagine here but virtually every student was in tears. That moment when it tipped over the emotion was absolutely fantastic and I'm just glad that my head was turned away from the camera. I was interviewing a girl who was streaming with tears.

KM: Do you find it difficult to maintain your composure when you are interviewing? I have watched you in interviews before concerning Palestine where you looked to be getting particularly frustrated.

JS: It's very tricky; they're very good at getting your goat. You've really got to hang on because it's not useful to get into a state, either to the interviewee or the public.

They don't want to see people getting in a state.

SP: How do you respond to a politician that constantly refuses to answer your questions?

JS: I think they hoist themselves up in that way to be honest. I'm just sick to death of talking to people who don't answer the questions I put to them, and come in with no interest in engaging in conversation. They alienate the viewer. The viewer wants to have an experience that is like you and me talking now, and instead you have a seriously crazy thing. You say, "Is this room pale blue", which between ourselves it is, and the answer is, "We have just built a new bypass around this town and I want you viewers to

know that."

KM: What's your proudest or defining moment as a journalist?

JS: You're only as good as your last story. But I would say that I was thrilled to be at the Obama election. However his presidency turns out, that is something that can't be rolled back.

KM: What inspires your choice in ties and socks?

JS: I have a sense of my own dullness. Someone said you should never wear bright colours on television, so I thought lets wear bright colours on television. It's remaining consistent with my Liverpool revolutionary days!



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Where to take Mum & Dad...

■ Blackfriars (www.blackfriarscafebar.co.uk) 0191 261 5945

Located just off Chinatown in Newcastle city centre, the medieval courtyard setting of Blackfriars Restaurant (pictured top right) is a world away from the hustle and bustle of metropolitan life.

All the ingredients used here come fresh from local sources - hence starters like the terrine of confit free-range chicken sourced direct from Crewgarth Farm in Cumbria. An

extensive Starters list ranges from roast pork cheek and North Sea fishcake to the vegetarian options of Elsdon goats cheese tartlet and the delicious Spring pea soup.

While the Mains only include one vegetarian option of an English garden salad, sea food fans are treated to Poached Scottish salmon or the delightful North Sea fish and hand-cut chips which can only make

the next visit to the local chippy a disappointment.

Meat lovers can enjoy Blackfriars' own burger or perhaps their home-made sausage, which while a little dry, is complemented well with the flavoured mashed potatoes and onion gravy and there can certainly be no complaints about the size of portion on any of the Mains.

The Fresh English strawberries and

cream presents a good desert option for those that are feeling a little full or want to keep the Wimbledon spirit still alive. If there is still room to fill however there is plenty of choice including the Alnwick Rum pannacotta or the sticky toffee pudding with banana ice cream and caramel sauce which certainly does not disappoint.

With a price of just £15 for three

courses or £12 for two, Blackfriars really does offer superb value for money and a great option for students and their families wanting to celebrate their special graduation day.

David Coverdale

■ The Malmaison Hotel & Brasserie (www.malmaison-newcastle.com) 0845 365 4247

TO STAY:

The Mal Maison (pictured top left) tends to have a reputation for only being affordable to either those playing up the road that night at the Metro Arena or those claiming on their constituency's expenses.

Looks can be deceiving though, and whilst there may be a classy feel in the air, the hotel is actually very relaxed. The staff are chatty and accommodating, the restaurant menu includes burger and chips, and rather than playing Vivaldi in the toilets you can sit and listen to stand up from Peter Kay or Little Britain instead. It is this lack of pretension that successfully turns the Mal Maison from posh to cool.

The rooms are fashionably furnished

and gloriously comfortable. The beds are particularly luxurious, but then stunning views over the Tyne and large bathrooms with showers that feel like waterfalls further add to the chic theme.

You need not end up paying an arm and leg either. Whilst you can't expect excellence on the cheap, there is the opportunity to take advantage of the deals on offer. You can actually get a room for a tenner, although you do have to spend £75 in the brasserie first, and it does have to be a Sunday night.

Alternatively, Monday nights can be done for just £79 too.

TO EAT:

The Mal Maison website describes the brand new brasserie as 'striking and moody' - hardly the kind of environment look to have a fancy post-graduation meal you might think. Luckily it seems that this description is off the mark somewhat, and while the lighting is low and the décor is remarkable, it seems to be more modish than anything else.

Certainly the waiting staff are far from moody. Recommendations and explanations were free flowing from the variety of people who served our table, particularly considering the trouble deciphering certain items on the menu due to a lack of fluency in French.

Two food options are presented,

both offering a French twist to local produce. A set 'home grown and local' menu is on offer providing excellent value for money. Two courses will cost £13.50, but it's well worth stumping up the extra £2 for the dessert, particularly when apple and blackberry crumble with cinnamon custard is on offer. The starters and mains under this menu are top quality too.

Wider choice is naturally available from the traditional menu, although the standard is still phenomenally high. The Shieldgate smoked mackerel pate is presented on a slab of slate, as if being served up to the judges on Great British Menu. It tastes good enough to appear on the show too. Main courses include a 'from the grill' section from which

sizeable burgers and steaks of all kinds will be perfectly cooked to taste - naturally, all of which are supplied by Donald Russell, holder of a Royal Warrant.

Vegetarians are also well catered for, with the novelty of choice being offered across all courses.

Once again a third and final course is a must, with particular attention being drawn towards the cheese trolley. A selection of British and French cheeses are wheeled to the table and presented to you (following expert waited descriptions) with accompanying biscuits and chutneys.

Altogether, £25 for a meal of this quality is almost outrageous value.

Will Richens

■ Hotel De Vin (www.hotelduvin.com/newcastle) 0845 365 4438

TO STAY:

Perched just up from the Quayside and overlooking the Tyne, the Hotel Du Vin offers a uniquely relaxing experience without the pretentious atmosphere of some boutique hotels.

The staff are friendly and accommodating and the building itself is breathtaking in its décor and attention to detail, no expense has been spared here and it shows.

My partner and I stayed in the Tattinger Suite, one of 42 rooms the hotel has to offer which afforded us stunning views of the Tyne and Ouseburn valley from the original warehouse windows. We both had to suppress a shriek as we saw the room for the first time and caught sight of the huge sleigh bed piled

high with pillows and roll top bath nestled snugly in the corner bay window. The suite itself was clean, spacious and well equipped, with plasma screen TV, DVD player and internet access, while Egyptian sheets and beauty products gave the suite an extravagant edge.

The relaxed boutique feel of the hotel, coupled with the beautiful décor and understated elegance makes Du Vin the perfect place to splash out, celebrate and really reward yourself for that well earned degree!

The Hotel Du Vin is perfectly positioned to walk easily between the Quayside, Ouseburn Valley and the centre of the city.

TO EAT:

As the name suggests, the Hotel Du Vin specializes in fine wines, and boasts an enormous menu of well over 200 different bottles to choose from, some of which are displayed in the restaurant itself behind a glass partition wall.

As beautifully decorated as the rest of the hotel, the Bistro incorporates French patio doors which stretch the length of one wall, offering fantastic views onto the courtyard area where diners can sit if they choose.

Open seven days a week and boasting 'classic European cuisine with a contemporary edge' the Bistro does not disappoint, with a wide variety of dishes to suit most tastes.

After some deliberation my partner

chose the ham to start, which he described as a 'perfectly pitched dish' and full of flavor, I opted for the tuna which came thinly sliced and accompanied by an exceptional horseradish dressing.

For our main course I chose the goats cheese, and spinach pithivier with artichoke and mushrooms. The dish itself was tasty and portion size was good, the goat's cheese was light and offered a real contrast to the subtler flavours of the spinach and artichoke. My other half settled on the lamb, which arrived beautifully arranged and cooked to perfection. My only criticism here would be that although the menu catered well for meat eaters, I felt my choice was somewhat limited as a vegetarian diner.

We both managed dessert (just!) and opted for the cheese-board and a nougat and chocolate mousse that melted in the mouth. The cheese-board arrived as a cart at our table, where we could then choose which cheeses to try, accompanied by a description of each by a knowledgeable waitress.

The atmosphere in The Bistro was relaxed, yet extravagant. Waiting staff were polite, knowledgeable and extremely attentive which made the overall experience one to savour and remember.

Expect to pay around £35 per person for a three-course meal without wine.

Kate McCann

■ Panhaggerty (www.panhaggerty.com) 0191 221 0904

Situated at 21 Queen Street just off the Quayside, an address renowned for fine dining, Pan Haggerty more than lives up to the reputation that precedes it. The emphasis here is on fine, local food, cooked well and without the fuss.

I chose the restaurant's namesake, pan haggerty as a starter, a full

flavoured and generous dish of sliced layered potato, onion and herbs topped off with a poached duck's egg which oozed creamy, rich yolk when sliced. My partner chose the black pudding that arrived nestled inside a scotch egg and accompanied by a red onion jam and bacon, a dish that achieved both rich and delicate

flavours simultaneously.

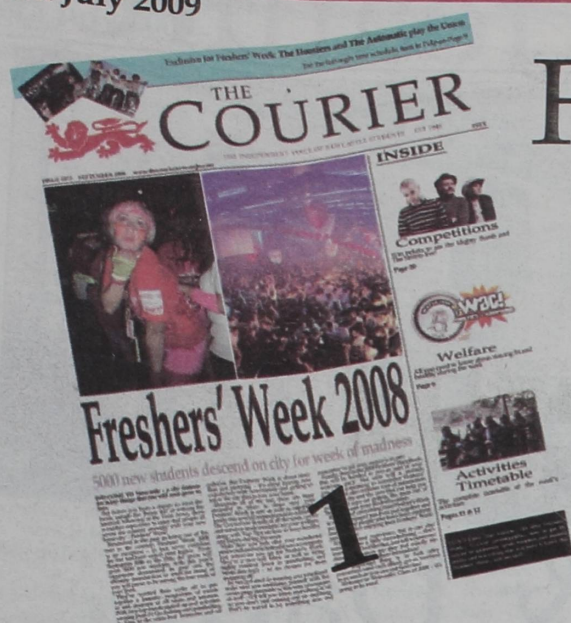
Not being a meat-eater, I always worry about the range of choice when eating out but the restaurant caters well for vegetarians and I couldn't resist the sound of the goat's cheese and asparagus tart with new potatoes. The tart itself was light and well balanced and the accompanying

asparagus was cooked to perfection. My partner was spoilt for choice but opted for the duck, a rich but perfectly judged dish served with an ample portion of fluffy potato cake.

Pan Haggerty is unassumingly impressive and boasts a varied menu packed with fresh local produce, ensuring there is something to

please even those of us typically accustomed to take-away pizza. As a stylish modern restaurant, it strikes the perfect balance; offering a relaxed atmosphere while serving rustic, high quality food without the snobbery.

Kate McCann



From Freshers' Week...

The Courier has been the best way for students at Newcastle University to get the news from in and around campus for over six decades.

2008/09 has been a vintage year, with massive changes to the style and format and some great stories all coming together.

Here we look back at your graduation year in print and remember some of the best moments, from the first issue in September through to the farewell edition in your hands.

We hope looking back at The Courier provides you with some happy memories of your time at university for years to come - as it has done for graduating students since 1948!

From everyone involved with The Courier, we wish all graduating students the very best of luck!

SEPTEMBER

Freshers' Week is ushered in with top competitions and a test drive of The Courier's new 'broadsheet' style...

OCTOBER

Just in time for Issue 2, outgoing Chancellor Chris Patten puts his foot firmly in his mouth over top-up fees, describing them as 'intolerably love' and suggesting the cap should be lifted on how much students pay for their education. Unpleasant reading for students already struggling in a recession...

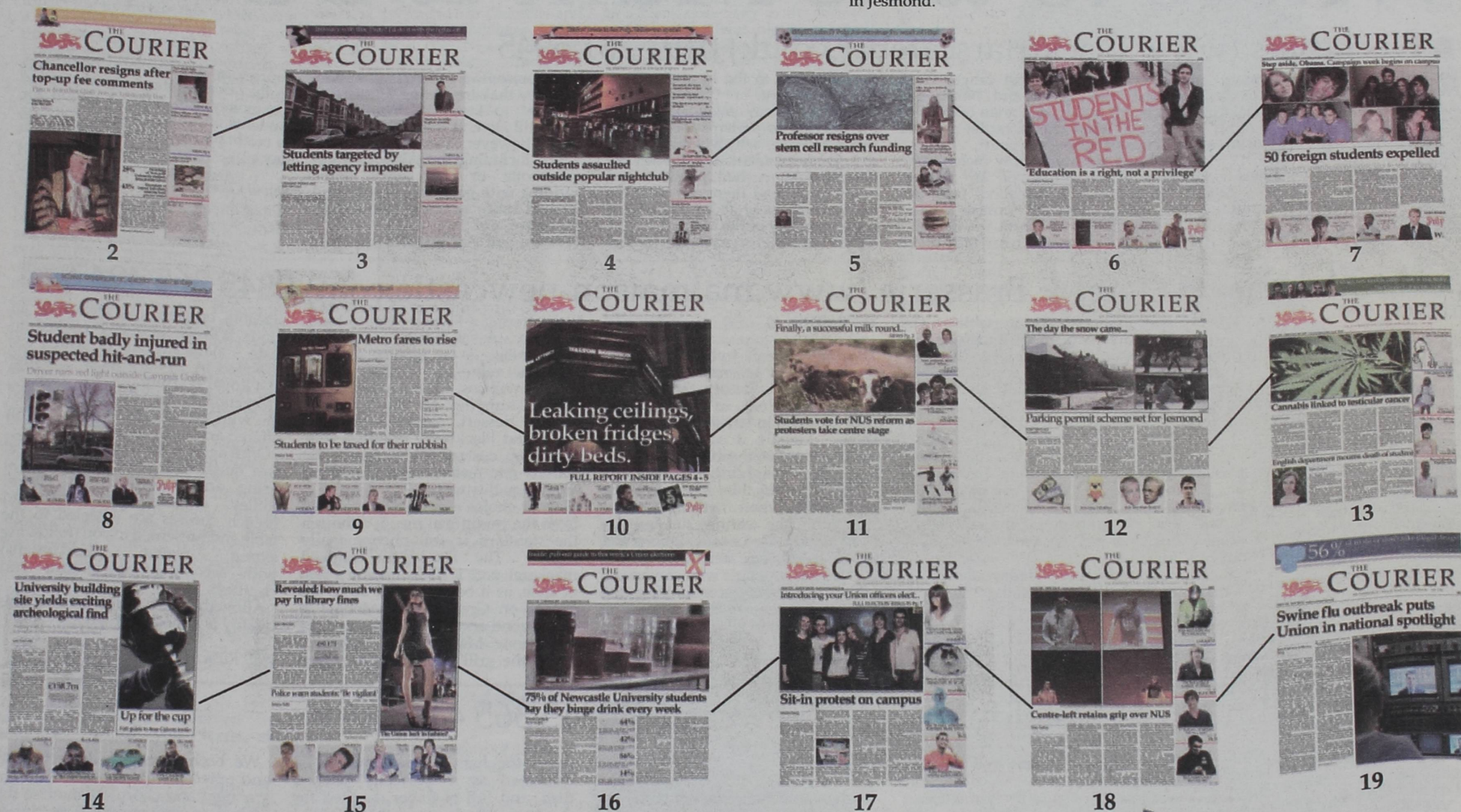
...Issue 3 reports on a mysterious man posing as a letting agency employee trying to gain access to student houses in Jesmond.

...Students are assaulted outside popular nightspot as The Courier interviews Newcastle United star Steven Taylor in Issue 4.

NOVEMBER

The University sees a prominent Professor walk over an ethical objection to stem-cell research, as the enterprising students behind the 'Beautiful Bottom' bikini grace the front cover of Issue 5...

...Student Support Officer Pete Mercer leads a group of student on a march through Newcastle in protest at proposals to raise student top-up fees as The Courier film section goes James Bond-crazy in Issue 6...



...to Graduation Week

...The Courier is first with news that 50 foreign students have been expelled over problems with their applications in Issue 7...

Issue 8 covers a hit-and-run incident outside Campus Coffee as the results of the November elections - including your new RAG Officers are announced

DECEMBER

The Courier prepare students for a planned rise in Metro fares and interview X-Factor reject Daniel Evans pops in for a chat in time for Issue 9...

...Landmark moment for The Courier as investigation into local letting agency Walton Robinson hits the stands for Issue 10. All problems for student households covered the story are subsequently resolved by the company.

FEBRUARY

NUS protestors storm stage as Uni stuns world with cow discovery in Issue 11...

...The Courier joins the nation's media in pausing to gasp at the inches of fallen snow on the front of Issue 12...

...The Courier marks Issue 13 with the debut of first ever regular cartoon character...

...Ancient wall discovered on campus as Team Newcastle prepare to defend the Stan Calvert trophy in Issue 14...

...Issue 15 exposes the amount taken in library fines by the university and Team Newcastle celebrate stuffing Northumbria...

...75% of students fulfill all expectations

and admit to regular binge drinking in Issue 16...

MARCH

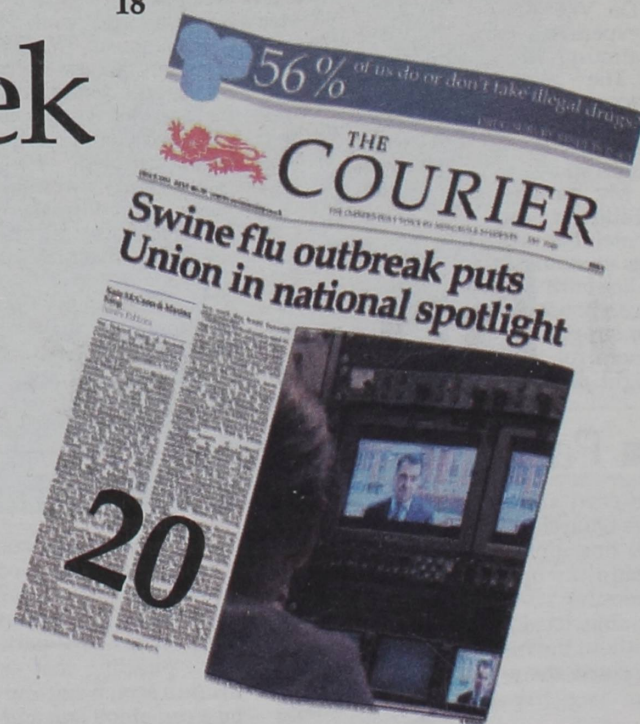
Sit-in protests disrupt campus as next year's sabbatical team are announced in Issue 17.

APRIL

The penultimate issue investigates the National Union of Students after its annual conference in Blackpool splits political opinion.

MAY

The final standard issue of The Courier is the biggest on record as sections bow out with style and swine flu draws the nation's media to campus. Courier drugs survey results go to print.





The year in photos: 2008-2009

Here are some of your best photos from the past year. Enjoy!

1. Revellers enjoy Unite, the Union's Friday night event back in October
2. Students stand in protest against global poverty at Newcastle's Grey's Monument
3. Science student John McGee enjoys a relaxing game of pool in the Men's

Bar

4. Fancy dress time at Unite!
5. The Hitch Society begin to raise donations for their charity hitch-hike to Morocco
6. *Courier* News Editor Kate McCann and her friend Danielle Roberts enjoy live music in the Union at Home-

Made Jam

7. The Dance Society celebrate success at the Inter-University Dance Competition in Durham during November
8. Two performers share a stage at Home-Made Jam during a packed night in the Union

9. RAG Week begins as the crew take to the streets to raise thousands of pounds for good causes

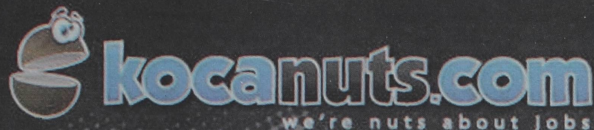
10. Betsy Powell, Lyndsay Brickles Sally Willian and Becky Turner pose for the photographer at the Snow Ball

11. Students unite on the Millennium Bridge in protest against rising levels

of student debt

12. The hopeful candidates taking part in the March elections give their speeches during hustings

Photos by: Alex Wilson, Mindaugas Miskinis, Bastien Boutonnet, Scott McLoughlin, Lucy Fenwick and Sam Parker



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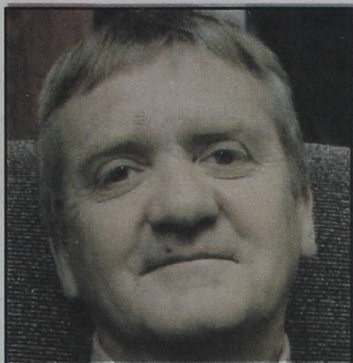
Left: Dr Martin Luther King Jr (Hon DCL 1967) signing the Roll of
Honorary Graduates at Newcastle University, 13 November 1967.

The Alumni Association
of Newcastle University

Your University, for Life

Parting words of wisdom

All year *The Courier* has challenged tutors at the university to share their wisdom over life's toughest questions. Here are three of our favourites...



Dr. Keith Brewster (History)

"If I hadn't become a university lecturer I'd have no contact with students and my life would have no meaning. Alternatively, I might have moved to the Spanish countryside, bought a small house in a sleepy village, and be enjoying breakfasts on the terrace in warm sunshine.

One thing I wish my students would do is recognise my genius. Because I am a modest person and I hide it well, I fear that my students are never quiet appreciative of the brilliance that I bring to my teaching

The best age to be is invariably the age that you're not. At a very young age, you always wish you were older. As you get older, you recognise that your body is wearing out at a faster rate than your mind. When you get to this stage, the best age to be is the age that you think you are.

One thing I wish I had known when I was a student is that academics are fallible. Scratch the surface of that suave, sophisticated exterior and you'll find liberal doses of jealousy, pettiness, and insecurity. My lasting memory as an undergraduate was of seeing a red-faced elderly professor storming out of his office shouting "Why doesn't he buy his own bloody kettle!" Genius moves in mysterious ways.

If I could have a drink with anyone, living or dead it would be preferably with someone who was alive. Otherwise, I'd have to buy the first round. Oh I see, you're after something more specific. If pressed, I'd probably choose Fidel Castro - if only to get tips on how to enthrall an audience for hours on end (what dedication - always thinking of my students).

Probably my single biggest regret is agreeing to take part in this feature. It is becoming increasingly obvious

that I'm revealing more about my life than I'd previously have thought prudent.

The key to happiness is financial independence (not to be confused with wealth). If you can get to the point where you have sufficient money to cover your overheads then you suddenly become autonomous.

If I could change one thing about Britain it would be the inane infatuation with dogs. I'm not advocating a mass cull, merely a national sterilisation programme that would lead to them being eradicated within a generation. And once we'd finished with the dog owners, we could make a start on their pets.

One thing I love about my job is its variety and flexibility. Every student is different and every year brings unexpected challenges and delights.

You wouldn't think it, but I'm actually very good at do-it-yourself. As a rule academics are pathetic at anything practical. My greatest moment was when I rendered (excuse the pun) an eminent Cambridge don speechless as I brought light to his world by changing a fuse in his house. He repaid my artisanship in a truly academic way - by giving me a book.

versity. We all live in the same world - Period. It's as real now as its ever going to be.

If I could have a drink with anyone, living or dead it would be no one. I drink enough as it is.

I can't remember a single thing I regret at the moment, honestly. Except perhaps for trivial things, like having developed a dislike for couscous. It's such a lovely grain, but I just can't stand it.

The key to happiness is letting go of the idea that there is a key to happiness.

If I could change one thing about Britain it would be its history, prior to about 1950. They were a bit mean, your forefathers.

One thing I love about my job is the intelligent, talented, kind and hard working people I get to interact with.

I also like being able to presume that they are honestly interested in what they do (this is not something you can do in a good number of other lines of work).

You wouldn't think it, but I'm actually very good at swimming. I'm a salmon in the water."



Dr. Jamie Allen (Digital Media)

"If I hadn't become a university lecturer I'd either have been a chef, or a winemaker. I should also say, I don't think of doing the job of a lecturer as 'becoming' any one thing. In my role, I get up to a whole range of activities - I get to teach, do projects, write, read, create, collaborate and perform. No one should have to 'become' their job, anyway - the trick is to find a job that suits what it is you like to do anyway. Sorry for soap-boxing that one...

One thing I wish my students would do is stop calling me a "Lecturer." It has a weird, autocratic ring to it.

The best age to be is fifty. Something to look forward to.

One thing I wish I had known when I was a student is that there's no 'real world,' as differentiated from the world you're in while you're at Uni-

Dr. Martin Farr (History)

"If I hadn't become a university lecturer, I'd have probably stayed behind the counter in the bookshop in the day, and behind the bar in the pub in the evening, where I was when I got the job, and feeling even more desperate. Which is saying something.

One thing I wish my students would



do is be curious: actually want to know about more than is merely relevant or necessary for the passing of the module at hand, and perhaps even to remember some of it afterwards. I plead with my students to buy and read at least one of the four serious newspapers every day. Some wander in brandishing Metro, or The Daily Mail, just to try and wind their lecturer up. Successfully, more often than not.

The best age to be is that brief, sweet, moment when experience complements, rather than swamps, stifles, and deadens, enthusiasm. The trouble is that one tends not to know at the time, and now I've forgotten.

One thing I wish I had known when I was a student is that Sleep Delays My Life (M Stipe).

If I could have a drink with anyone, living or dead it would be John Arlott (cricket writer, poet, politician, and oenophile [wine lover]). I've learned that joy is heightened, and misery mitigated, by an even half-decent bot-

tle of red; cricket is an almost equally civilising force. But not 20/20.

Probably my single biggest regret is About A Girl (K Cobain).

The key to happiness is three points at final whistle for a certain north London football team. When I tell you that happiness is not a frequent state of mind you can guess which one.

If I could change one thing about Britain it would be to move it south by several degrees.

One thing I love about my job is that I get to meet and teach and work with nice people, and read and talk and think about things that interest me. And get paid for it. You couldn't make it up.

You wouldn't think it, but I'm actually very good at bar work. I was fast, tidy, and - crucially - aware, as barmen (and fighter pilots) must be. And interior design. I'm neither very good, nor even merely good, at anything else."

VOX POP: David Coverdale asks...

How do you feel about graduating?

Betsy Powell - English Literature



"I'm going to miss uni - I have had the time of my life. More than anything, I will miss the amazing friends I've made but I will be plaguing their doorsteps in the near future so I'm not worrying too much. I am lucky enough to already have a job lined up as I have been asked to be the editor of a local lifestyle magazine which I worked for during my gap year."

Rowen Goldthorpe - Mathematics and Statistics



"The past three years have been amazing. I have made a lot of good friends and had some very memorable nights. I have decided to go back to Northern Ireland to study a Masters in Risk Management and Financial Regulation at Queens University. I am going to miss Newcastle but I am also looking forward to the new experiences that lie ahead of me."

Kirsten Pettit - Law



"I had an amazing time at Newcastle and it was everything I thought it would be. I never thought it would involve nearly as much hard work as it has but I'm glad all the work has paid off and I'm looking forward to doing my LPC next year. My time at university wouldn't have been anywhere near the same without netball - that alone made all the debt I am now in worth it!"

James Parker - Media, Communication and Cultural Studies



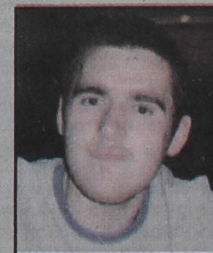
"Although I'm sad to be leaving university I'm looking forward to starting work. I've enjoyed every minute of my time here and the last three years have just flown by. I've met so many great people and made a lot of friends I will stay in touch with. As for the future, I'm soon to start on a scheme for personal trainers and am due to start working as one in January."

Vicky Tyas - Marketing



"I've absolutely loved my time at university and I am genuinely sad to be leaving student life. However, I'm really excited about starting my job as the Athletic Union Officer at the Students' Union. I know how lucky I am that I will still be living in Newcastle but will miss all the amazing friends which I have made over the past three years who are heading off to pastures new."

Ned Walker - Psychology



"It's a bit scary graduating from uni after four years at Newcastle. After the routine and structure of university life it's a bit daunting thinking about going out into the working world without any immediate plans. I'm working at the Students' Union over the summer but beyond that nothing is confirmed. I'm hoping to do a Masters in Computing Science to squeeze one more year out of my time at Newcastle! But after that who knows..."

6th July 2009

Season 2008/09

David Coverdale
Editor

SEPTEMBER

The AU announces a clampdown on initiation ceremonies for Team Newcastle's sports teams as the newly renamed BUCS (formerly BUSA) season gets underway.

OCTOBER

Courier Sport attends Newcastle United interim manager Joe Kinnear's infamous first press conference in charge in which he swears 52 times. The annual Great North Run takes place with a number of University students running the 13.1 mile course. Intra Mural action begins.

NOVEMBER

Newcastle's men's rugby firsts lose to Northumbria at Kingston Park as their bad start to the season continues. Their run of losses finally ends with a home win over Leeds. In contrast the men's football firsts are in fine form in the league but are shocked in the BUCS Cup by lowly Huddersfield.

DECEMBER

Manchester inflict a crushing 6-1 defeat on Newcastle's men's hockey first team - their fifth straight defeat. Another team struggling are the newly promoted Newcastle Knights basketball side, whose defeat at Northumbria all but ends their brief top flight stay. Team Newcastle head into Christmas having had a difficult term.

JANUARY

A 19-12 win over Northumbria marks a fine return to form for Newcastle's men's rugby first team. Castle Leazes beat Barca-Law-Na in a fascinating second round of the Intra Mural Football Cup.

FEBRUARY

Newcastle Wildcats lose to Northumbria 6-5 in their Stan Calvert ice hockey contest at Metro Arena. *Courier Sport* launches an investigation into the funding and finances of Team Newcastle, who launch their new brand and logo ahead of the main Stan Calvert event. In easily the highlight of the University's sporting year, Newcastle go on to beat Northumbria for a second successive year and retain the Stan Calvert Cup 61-51 overall.

MARCH

Netball third team captain Vicky Tyas wins the race to be next year's AU Officer. Newcastle's men's football firsts claim the BUCS Division 3 title to bounce back from last year's relegation at the first attempt. Newcastle's cricket side lose on the final ball to Leeds Met in the BUCS Indoor 6-a-side final at Lord's.

APRIL

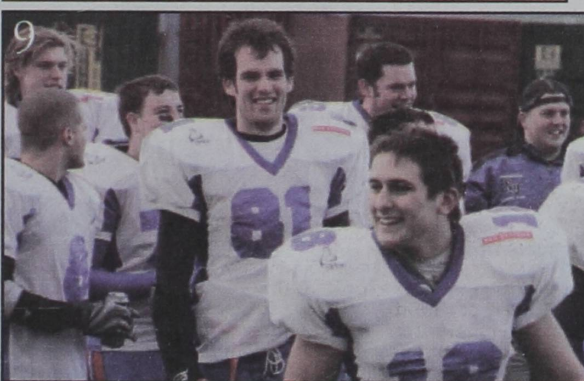
Cheeky Ladies defeat Medics 22-13 to lift the Intra Mural Rugby Cup. Football's equivalent is won by Castle Leazes who defeat Henderson Hall A in the final.

MAY

The all conquering ski and snowboard club scoop 'Club of the Year' at the annual AU Awards at St James' Park. Newcastle celebrate success at the Boat Race with Durham for the first time in their history.

JUNE

Newcastle's golf side win the BUCS Trophy with a 7.5-1.5 win over Buckinghamshire New University. The sporting year comes to a close with more success for the Boat Club at the Women's Henley Regatta.



1. Newcastle's men's cricket side ahead of the final against Leeds Met at the BUCS Indoor 6-a-side tournament at Lord's

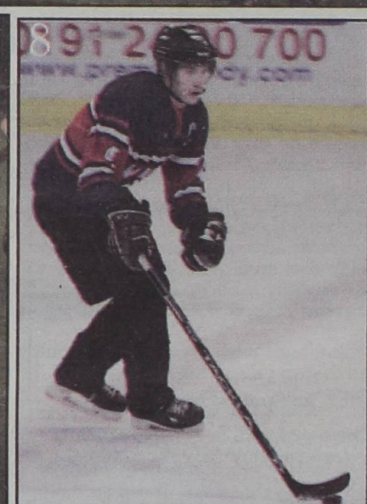
2. Jojo Gwynne-Jones with the ball as Newcastle's hockey first team beat Glasgow Caledonian 8-0 in February

3. Newcastle and Northumbria's basketball sides battle it out at the Metro Arena on Halloween

4. Falcons star Tim Swinson tackles a Northumbria streaker as he takes on mascot duties at the Stan Calvert Cup

5. Newcastle's rugby players look on in despair as they suffer a late defeat to Northumbria in November's Kingston Park clash

6. Newcastle's Northern Angels cheerleaders perform at the Stan



Calvert Cup at Gateshead

7. Newcastle's lacrosse ladies lose heavily to Loughborough at Cochrane Park in November

8. Marcus Hinkley, captain of Newcastle Wildcats, in action at the Metro Arena in February as his side narrowly lose to Northumbria.

9. Newcastle Raiders leave the pitch

in high spirits as they reach the final of the British Universities American Football League

10. Men's football first team captain Joe Foote scores his second of the game in his side's 4-0 thrashing of Northumbria in October

Photos by: Alex Wilson, Mindaugas Miskinis and Phil Haswell

courier.sport@ncl.ac.uk

2008/09 SEASON ROLL OF HONOUR

Ski and Snowboarding Club
BUCS Champions,
Alpine Championships and
BUCS Dryslope
Championships (BUDS)

Boat Club
Wins at Henley Royal
Regatta, Tyne Regatta and
Boat Race

Men's football
1sts win BUCS 2B
2nds win 3B

Women's basketball
1sts win BUCS 2B

Men's hockey 4ths
Win BUCS promotion

Netball Club
3rds win BUCS promotion
4ths win BUCS promotion

Men's rugby
4ths reach BUCS Finals

Men's squash
1sts win BUCS promotion
Undeclared all year in BUCS league
Conference Cup finalists

Women's squash
2nds win BUCS Cup

Men's table tennis 2nds
BUCS Cup finalists

Men's cricket
National Indoor runners-
up at Lord's

Men's golf
BUCS Trophy winners

Sailing Club
Qualified for the Wilson Trophy

Men's Badminton
1sts finish 3rd in BUCS Premier

American football
National finalists

Jujitsu club
2nd in BUCS Jujitsu
Championships

AU AWARDS 2009

**Outstanding Contribution
to Sport at Newcastle**
Rachel Adcock

Coach of the Year
Keith Hughston - (Cricket);
Ben Johnson (American Football);
Linda Stevenson (Karate);
Tamara Taylor (Women's Rugby);
Mick Christopher (Men's Hockey);
Angelo Savarino (Boat);
Craig Stamp (Women's
Basketball); Daniel Hall
(Women's Football).

Winner: Gill Mason (Netball)

Administrator of the Year
Oliver Briggs (Golf);
Joe Chamberlin (American
Football); Bi Kua (Women's
Volleyball); Jennifer Robertson
(Cheerleading); Kathryn
Hurrell (Netball); Adam
Pearson (Men's Football);
**Winner: Sarah McChesney
(Women's Squash)**

Club of the Year
Netball, Boat, Cricket, Sailing,
Winner: Ski & Snowboard

Most Improved Club
Sailing, American Football,
Womens Basketball, Cheerleading
Winner: Men's Squash

Team of the Year
Golf, Netball 1st, Rugby
2nd, Rugby 4th, Badminton,
Winner: Men's Cricket

Newcastle claim first Boat Race

Durham finally defeated on River Tyne

Newcastle University scored their first ever victory over Durham in the 13th University Boat Race, winning the contest by three races to one in an afternoon which saw some of the most closely fought races in the history of the event.

Newcastle were victorious in the Freshmen's, Senior Women's and Senior Men's races, giving them the overall trophy for the first time ever on a hugely successful day on the River Tyne in May.

Strong winds and a fast current delayed the start of the races by half an hour, but the waiting crowds were not disappointed once the action on the river got underway.

In the precursor to the University races, a schools' race between Tyneside and Wearside saw the Tyne crew, made up of rowers from Queen Elizabeth High School and Tyne Boat Club, race to a two length victory over a composite crew of rowers from Durham and Chester-le-Street Amateur Rowing Clubs.

The University races got underway next in the form of the Freshwomen's eights, with Newcastle rowing on the Newcastle side of the Tyne and Durham rowing from the Gateshead station.

Coming out of the Swing Bridge, Durham's women were ahead by a length. With a strong current clearly affecting both crews, Newcastle worked hard to close the gap, but Durham held on to their lead, and crossed the finish line ahead by a length.

Next came the Freshmen's eight with Newcastle knowing that a defeat here would see Durham reclaim the trophy for the thirteenth consecutive time.

Thankfully for the Newcastle fans however, Newcastle's crew took the lead in the early stages of the 1,800 metre race and stormed ahead to win easily and level the day up at one race apiece.

Durham University went into



A. WILSON

the Senior Women's race as hot favourites to win, but as the crews emerged from beneath the Swing Bridge, it was clear that the race was neck and neck.

Newcastle's women, coxed by Ruairidh MacPhee, put in an enormous effort to pull off the most dramatic and unexpected victory of the day, winning by a canvas, the narrowest of margins. The drama didn't end there, as Durham's boat, which had taken on a lot of water during the race, dramatically sank just beyond the finish line.

With Newcastle now leading by two wins to Durham's one, the pressure

was mounting on the senior men's crews.

With both crews racing towards the finish line, it was neck-and-neck, but disaster struck the Durham boat when one of their rowers caught a crab, knocking the crew off their stroke and causing them to pull up within sight of the finish, leaving Newcastle to race to an historic victory.

An ecstatic President of Newcastle University Boat Club, Mason Durant, said: "We have waited a long time for this, and it is pretty special."

Durham's President, Olly Offord, could only say: "I'm gutted, just gutted".

Chairman of the Boat Race Executive Committee, Colin Blackburn, said: "This has been a tremendous afternoon of racing, and has reaffirmed why the University Boat Race is such a highlight in sporting calendars of both universities."

"The quality of racing we have seen today, under difficult conditions, is a credit all of the rowers and their coaching teams who work so hard all year round, and to the fantastic support we receive from Gateshead Council's Events team and our sponsors, including Northumbrian Water, Port of Tyne and the Environment Agency."

Greene and Kennedy reflect on victorious year

Jamie Gavin
Sports Editor

With so much success in the 2007/08 season, Team Newcastle have had a tall task to live up to this term.

Tenth in BUCS and a resounding Stan Calvert win last time out meant AU Officer Jimmy Greene and Performance Sport Director Fraser Kennedy faced the test of keeping Team Newcastle amongst some of the best funded and most renowned sporting institutions in the country.

But live up to it they did, and with the BUCS points coming in at a resoundingly fast rate after a relatively slow start, and another memorable Stan Calvert victory in the bag, sport at Newcastle University appears to be on the up and up.

Team Newcastle currently lie eight in the overall BUCS standings and are almost certain to at least match last season's BUCS points tally and maintain the University's top ten status.

As a beaming Greene speaks to *Courier Sport* for the final time in his role, he reflects happily on what has been a rewarding year for the former hockey 3rd team captain.

"I've thoroughly enjoyed my year in charge - it's been great fun,"

explained Greene. "Across the board, Team Newcastle have been fantastic."

"We've had a great Stan Calvert win and all but one of our teams that were promoted last year have stayed in the Premiership, which is a great achievement."

Greene singled the skiing and boat club out for special praise and spoke of Stan Calvert as his ultimate highlight as he looked back on that magnificent day in February.

"I genuinely didn't expect us to take Stan Calvert and that was a fantastic victory, it was definitely my highlight of the year. The hockey and the netball on the day were fantastic and they will probably go down as my two highlights of the year."

Kennedy also has reason to be pleased. As Performance Sport Director he has overseen a period of continual improvement for Team Newcastle and he reflected on another year of hard work and success.

"Again I am proud with how Team Newcastle has done this year," the Scotsman said. "We are continually punching above our weight which shows you how much teams and individuals are dedicated to the cause."

"Although I don't like to single out any specific achievement over others I am very pleased with those teams that came up to the Premiership this

season and maintained their status, namely netball, men's badminton 1sts and men's table tennis 1sts."

So what now for Team Newcastle? Are we at our very limits in terms of getting the most out of what we have, or can we hope to make even further progress in years to come?

"Without anymore financial investment it will be hard for Newcastle to go any further" explained Kennedy.

"To currently be top ten is wonderful, but as to how sustainable this can be is debatable, with the majority of other universities significantly investing more and more in to sport."

"Sport is such a wonderful recruitment and marketing tool for universities - it therefore cannot be ignored. Providing we are clever in what we invest in, and continue to be organised, committed and dedicated to the cause then we can maintain top 12, I am confident of that."

"However, with additional funding and one or two more resources - then who knows where we can finish."

Greene also seemed optimistic about the future, and he too stressed the correlation between funding and attainment.

"If the funding comes there's absolutely no limit to where sport at Newcastle can go. We're currently competing against universities that

are throwing a lot more money at sport and staying a lot higher than them."

"I'd love to see the University take sport more seriously. I know money is tight at the moment but I genuinely think sport at Newcastle can flourish if it's given the chance to. We've got the talent in, it's just whether we can look after it and keep it."

AU Officer elect Vicky Tyas is waiting in the wings to replace Greene later this month, and after winning the election in March, she looks to raise the bar even higher for Team Newcastle.

Greene spoke highly of his successor saying, "I think Vicky will do a great job, she's been outstanding this year with the netball 3rds, and she'll definitely make a fantastic AU officer."

"I took over from a tall blonde netball player and I'm passing it back to a tall blonde netball player," joked Greene, referring to his predecessor Lydia Oxenham.

So as Greene moves on, Kennedy and Tyas will now face the familiar pressure of living up to this seasons' success when BUCS gets underway again in September. And in what will no doubt be another eventful season, it would take a brave person to bet against them living up to the challenge.



THE SPORT

Courier Sport photos
of the year inside



Uni heroes retain Calvert Cup

Newcastle topple Northumbria in Varsity showdown

STAN CALVERT CUP

NEWCASTLE
NORTHUMBRIA 61
51

Jamie Gavin
Sports Editor

Back in February, Team Newcastle sealed a famous victory over their North East rivals Northumbria, becoming the first University to retain the Stan Calvert Memorial Cup since 2002.

With the overall points score finishing 61-51, the University triumphed over the Poly on a day which will live long in the memories of those involved.

The annual competition, which was first introduced in 1994 in memory of Stan Calvert, the first Director of Sport at Newcastle University and former Chairman of the Northern Sports Council, sees Newcastle and Northumbria battle it out in a day of sporting drama.

The 2009 event saw 59 matches take place in 21 different sports and across 17 venues in the city, with two points awarded for a win and one for a draw.

And there were major successes across a number of sports for Newcastle, including a clean sweep for the hockey club, who gained all of 12 points for the team, including a thrilling comeback for a 4-3 victory for the men's firsts.

AU Officer Jimmy Greene, a former third team captain, described the game as a "true Stan Calvert story" and commended the club on a "great display of courage and desire to fight back."

There was also a big influx of points from swimming, squash, rugby league, badminton and mountain biking, and the men's cricket club got the day off to a promising start with victory for their first and second teams.

Perhaps the most exciting game of the day involved the netball second team, who pushed Northumbria's regular BUCS first team all the way in a thrilling encounter.

They were denied cruelly in the final

seconds, but their spirit epitomised the excitement and the intrigue of the day.

Despite losing the rugby at Gateshead Stadium in the event's showpiece finale, Newcastle had already done enough to seal an historic victory and the trophy was presented to a delighted Greene as celebrations ensued across the city.

Greene described the victory as "an amazing success" and he issued a "massive congratulations" to Team Newcastle.

"Not only have we thumped the Poly for two years running," said Greene afterwards, "we have again proven that Newcastle University sport is flourishing."

The victory is made all the more sweet by the fact that Northumbria focus a significant amount of their time and money into sport, as Performance Sport director Fraser Kennedy explained.

"It was an outstanding result to beat Northumbria, who pride themselves on their sporting prowess," said Kennedy. "Everyone involved was a credit to the University, to their clubs and to themselves."

Kennedy, who described the win as "incredible", commended the supporters and the team on a day to remember.

"To have so many people there showed what it means to both institutions. If we keep united like we did for this event then we can only go from strength to strength but we cannot rest on our laurels."

"We must continue to work hard to ensure we do not get left behind in the sporting world."

It was Newcastle's ninth Stan Calvert success, and as the day unfolded Team Newcastle built an unassailable advantage which meant that the events at Gateshead Stadium could do little to indent the University's lead.

By the time the showpiece event kicked off, Newcastle already had both hands on the Cup, and Northumbria's margin of victory was soon forgotten when the trophy was presented to Newcastle's AU Officer.

A jubilant Greene described the day as: "A melting pot of tension, passion and old rivalries that erupted into euphoria - quite simply perfection."



AU Officer Jimmy Greene and Performance Sport Director Fraser Kennedy receiving the coveted Stan Calvert Cup

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