INDEPENDENTS’ DAY
The city’s small traders have two new champions

Inside:
- Modern slavery
- 175 years of Cunard
- Victoria Derbyshire
Welcome to the 2015-16 edition of your Alumni magazine.

In February we welcomed our new Vice-Chancellor, Professor Janet Beer to the University. Find out more about her ambition for the University on page 4.

Thank you to everyone who completed the alumni survey last year. There was some really good feedback and we will use this to continue to shape our engagement programme. One thing that emerged from the survey was the large number of alumni who are interested in volunteering for the University.

We are lucky to have so many willing volunteers from around the world. From organising events, mentoring, delivering careers talks and offering placements, there are many ways alumni have enhanced the student experience.

Over the next 12 months we will be offering new volunteering opportunities, so please look out for more information about this.

Lastly, I would like to welcome our Class of 2015 to our alumni community. We had great fun at graduation and you can see some of the photos on pages 36 and 37.

Best wishes

Anita Irving
Head of Alumni & Supporter Relations

P.S. If you have any questions or comments, please get in touch: alumni@liverpool.ac.uk.
What excites you about being at the University of Liverpool?
So many things; it’s a great university with a fantastic history and an even better future; it’s located in one of the most vibrant cities in Western Europe and has the capacity to capitalise on activity and developments in the city. One of the first things I heard when I started was that applications to the University had increased by 20%, so I’m delighted that students recognise the same potential in Liverpool as I do.

How did you make the transition from teaching to a leadership role?
I had quite an unusual career path as I went from a teaching role to spending seven years in local government. During that time I worked for the Inner London Education Authority in a variety of leadership roles, which gave me a taste of how it felt to be able to make changes for the better. When I returned to academia I was given the opportunity to become Acting Head of Department, which allowed me to use these leadership skills alongside doing the things that I love, which is research, learning and teaching. So from there I looked for a permanent position, which I got, and then - through a combination of right place, right time, and thinking hard about how I wanted my career to go - I moved to a Pro-Vice-Chancellor role. After a few years I began to get head-hunted for Vice-Chancellorships and joined Oxford Brookes, where I stayed for seven years before coming to Liverpool.

What would you say are the University’s strengths?
Firstly I would have to say its location - the city of Liverpool is a huge draw for our students and staff. The University’s spirit is also key; particularly our entrepreneurial character and commitment to partnership working, which is evidenced by our joint venture with Xi’an Jiaotong University in China; and our work with Laureate, delivering online postgraduate degree programmes to more than 10,000 students across the globe. The other thing that sets us apart is our commitment to widening participation, which reflects our values as a University. And this is all before I’ve even mentioned our brilliant research.

You are currently leading a strategic review for the University. What would you say are our key priorities and how will Liverpool’s strategic vision be different?
I think our priorities are the same as other universities, but they’re expressed in a different way.

We are unusual amongst our peer group in that our commitment is to an international student population, which is reflected through our online programmes. If we commit to educating global citizens, we need to make that a living reality when it comes to our curriculum; both in terms of how we craft our classrooms, and in giving students the opportunity to study abroad.

In terms of research, I think we need to focus on the things that we are good at and maximise knowledge and intellect in order to excel in these areas.

There are more than 195,000 alumni worldwide - how can we help to make the University a success?
The worldwide alumni network is vital to the University because our graduates are the most influential brand ambassadors of all! There are lots of advantages to alumni staying in touch with the University and each other through our 40 alumni associations and our Professional Interest Networks. As lifelong members of the University community, they can be involved in supporting today’s students through our highly successful mentoring scheme. They can also benefit from a range of speaker-led events we organise specifically to connect graduates working in all walks of life across the globe, and we always want to offer opportunities for alumni to be involved in University developments and share their opinions and expertise.

What is most exciting for you about being at the University of Liverpool?
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On 25 April 2015, a major earthquake hit central Nepal. Earthquakes occur in the area approximately once every 70 years, but this one was overdue. It was the worst natural disaster of its kind to strike the country since 1934.

The media reported dire straits: in Kathmandu, buildings were razed to the ground in seconds; world heritage sites reduced to rubble; roads torn apart; people crammed into what little open ground the rampant capital has. The situation in rural Nepal was even worse: representing the country’s poorest and having endured the quake, they were now being afflicted by ensuing landslides, and for the most part cut off from aid. Preliminary death tolls suggested 10,000. Others predicted three, four, even five times this.

“It’s one of the most disaster prone countries in the world,” says Philip Smith (BA Hons Geography 1991). “Earthquakes, floods, monsoons, landslides, avalanches - every disaster you might think of afflicts Nepal.”

Philip would know; he spent six years in the country coordinating the UK Government’s overseas aid programme there, supporting education, health, community development, women’s empowerment and, of course, preparing for an imminent earthquake. “One of the big focus areas for the Department for International Development (DFID) is helping countries which we know are prone to disasters; whether that’s seismic events, floods, droughts, etc. We help these countries prepare in advance of big disasters so that the loss of life is reduced.”

DFID’s work proves that the management of such crises extends beyond the all-important post-crisis efforts of international humanitarian response teams: there’s crucial work to be done beforehand, too. In Nepal, the focus was on developing national resilience through governmental support, and building community preparedness, assessing how people can prepare for disasters, communicate effectively, preposition equipment, and plan settlements accordingly.

The work proved invaluable: “What really struck me was the amazing resilience of the people in Nepal,” says Philip. “Before the big internationals came in, the Nepali people were organising themselves: mounting search and rescue missions, creating big communal kitchens, cleaning up, providing water - basically just getting on with it. They were awe-inspiring.”

The science of disaster
Also inspiring, and likewise crucial, is the work that goes into understanding the exact mechanics of such events around the world. As Philip says: “We can’t yet predict earthquakes, but using the science and technology that we have available to us to provide early warning is critical, alongside the preparedness, the training, and national level resilience building.”
Seismic events are by no means feasibly predicted, but making steps towards such an objective is imperative, and to this end the University of Liverpool is firmly committed. The Department of Earth, Ocean and Ecological Sciences collaborates worldwide in advancing the knowledge of earthquake dynamics, active tectonics, fault behaviour and basin evolution.

Following the 8.8 magnitude earthquake in Chile in 2010, the Department implemented an 18-month observational programme, the resulting data of which is currently undergoing analysis. Similar research is being conducted on the Tibetan plateau, an area which has recently experienced much seismic activity.

The Department is also heavily involved with seismic studies on the Carboneras fault in southeast Spain and the Parkfield area of the San Andreas fault in California, developing a critical understanding of fault structures and properties.

Using analysis techniques developed at the University, Professor Andreas Rietbrock and his team are collaboratively investigating the seismic-tectonic processes which led up to Nepal’s devastating earthquake.

“Before the big internationals came in, the Nepali people were organising themselves...they were awe-inspiring.”

Making a safer world
The Institute for Risk and Uncertainty is deploying the knowledge afforded by the University’s research in these areas in order to advise on the uncertainties, associated risks and appropriate mitigations of such disasters. “Working at the interface between Engineering and Earth Sciences is challenging,” says Andreas, “but it’s absolutely necessary to develop meaningful earthquake mitigation strategies.”

Opening at the beginning of 2016, the Liverpool Earth Observatory will be providing the observational basis and focus for research conducted by the University, bringing together every aspect of Earth research with a special emphasis on hazard and mitigation. “Over the last decade the University has gained an international reputation in earthquake seismology and its associated hazard,” says Andreas.

And that’s a reputation the University is proud of. With the planet becoming more densely populated, the need for institutions and countries to collaborate and ensure global protection from seismic disasters - especially in the poorest areas of the world - becomes increasingly more pressing every day.

Below: The rubble-strewn streets of Chautara, Sindhupalchok. More than 90 per cent of homes in the town were reportedly destroyed along with the only hospital.

For more information on the Institute of Risk and Uncertainty, visit: www.liverpool.ac.uk/risk-and-uncertainty.

In September we welcomed our first cohort of Excellence Scholars, thanks to generous donations received from our alumni and supporters.

Following the launch of these scholarships last year, we have received more than £435,000 to support this important initiative and we are delighted to be awarding more than 350 Excellence Scholarships to first-year students this year. Awarded to undergraduate students from low to middle income households with A Level grades of AAA or above (or equivalent), Excellence Scholarships receive a £2,000 per year scholarship, in addition to a £1,000 Liverpool Bursary.

The Excellence Scholarships are testament to the University’s commitment to widening access. We believe that education and opportunity should be made available to all, regardless of background, age, or financial circumstances. However we could not do this without your support, and with the University’s student intake up 18% on last year, we anticipate demand for these scholarships will continue to grow.

To find out more about our Excellence Scholarships, or if you would like to make a gift towards this fund and invest in a bright future for the next generation of scholars, visit: www.liverpool.ac.uk/giving/excellence-scholarships.
He meet Victoria Derbyshire just minutes after wrapping up the latest episode of her eponymous BBC2 current affairs programme. She is still buzzing from the show, which flitted from breaking news on an airline crash to issues like migration and the impact of loneliness on elderly people, and she obviously thrives on the variety and pace of live broadcasting.

“There’s an unpredictability about live radio and TV which I love,” she says. “I think that there’s a drama to it—not that it’s a performance at all—but sometimes stuff happens that you’re not expecting and that’s interesting.”

Victoria’s spiritual home was radio, and she plied her trade on BBC Radio 5 live for 16 years. She jokes that after three months on the television she is only now “occasionally enjoying” the show, but will always be tense before a broadcast begins.

“I am a novice when it comes to the technology, terminology and presenting on TV. But in terms of being a journalist, I have done that for many years and the skills remain the same. I don’t miss the radio yet, but I am aware that on TV there are more people you need to zone out in order to achieve the same sense of intimacy with a guest.”

Her journey onto the airwaves began during her time at the University of Liverpool where she graduated with BA Hons in English Language & Literature in 1989. While writing for the University newspaper, she realised that she wanted to be a journalist, but broadcasting beckoned because she had never rated her own writing. She completed a postgraduate degree in broadcast journalism after a brief stint in PR (“the biggest scream ever!”) and worked in commercial radio in Birmingham (“nerve-wracking every single day but amazing experience”), before joining the BBC in Coventry.

She describes herself as a pretty diligent student. The University was initially her fifth choice as she wanted to move further away from her home in Lancashire, but Liverpool’s vibrancy and dynamism on a lively open day won her over.

“I don’t miss the radio yet, but I am aware that on TV there are more people you need to zone out in order to achieve the same sense of intimacy with a guest.”

“While I was in Liverpool there was a lot of rejuvenation going on and it felt like things were changing in a good way, but that was just the backdrop. The main reason I had an amazing time was that I made some wonderful friends, some I am still very close to now. My course opened my eyes to so many novels and plays and texts that I would never have read otherwise. And that’s one of the points about university,” she says.
As an interviewer, she is known for her adaptability - equally adept at gently coaxing vulnerable subjects to tell difficult personal stories and pinning evasive politicians with her directness. As an interviewee she is measured and succinct, becoming most animated when discussing the stories she’s covered.

Victoria reported from New York in the immediate aftermath of 9/11 and was in the room as London won the right to host the 2012 Olympics. She has covered numerous elections and relishes the chance to put real people on a platform alongside politicians to shift the debate away from the safe and sanitised.

But the personal stories have had the most profound impact on her. She singles out an alcoholic GP who called into her 5 live show shortly before checking into rehab and could be heard opening a can of beer on air, describing the interview as “a visceral insight into the life of an alcoholic”.

Another notable broadcast came from the home of the late locked-in syndrome sufferer and campaigner Tony Nicklinson tackling the issue of assisted dying. And it is story-telling like this that Victoria is most proud of. “Original stories, unusual interviews, that to me is the biggest compliment you can pay the audience,” she says. ●

Quickfire inquisitor quiz

Have you ever been star-struck by an interviewee? Only cricketer Graham Gooch. I thought, “Oh my God I don’t know what to say to him.”

Your dream interviewee? Rhianna – if she would open up about some of her relationships.

Proudest achievement? My children, two boys aged eight and 11.

Best quality as a journalist? Being able to listen. And always wanting to do preparation.

Your one desert island disc and luxury item? Elbow, “One Day Like This”, and a radio.

Build your professional network

The University of Liverpool Management School has launched a series of Professional Interest Networks (PINs) for alumni.

PINs enable you to connect with fellow graduates all over the world, providing professional development support, networking opportunities, and access to cutting-edge research.

For more information visit: www.liverpool.ac.uk/alumni/pin.
These entrepreneurial spirits and keen champions of the underdog are already unlocking the best of independent eating, drinking and retail establishments in Liverpool – but they’re not stopping there.
city that’s always prided itself on its individuality and character, Liverpool’s retail scene has been transformed over the last few years, with a growing number of independent businesses emerging on the high street.

Two recent graduates, Oliver Press (LLB Hons 2013) and David Williams (BA Hons Business Studies 2012), have capitalised on this by developing Independent Liverpool, a company that enables members to benefit from discounts and special offers from some of the most unique retailers in the city.

The idea was sparked by a shared love of independent eateries and coffee shops, coupled with a growing disillusionment of the chain stores that were dominating Liverpool’s high street. “We wanted to show our support for the underdogs, so we started a blog in our spare time to tell people about the city’s best independent places to eat, drink, and shop,” explains Oliver.

The pair – who are lifelong friends and both born and bred Liverpudlians – were keen to showcase the places where they were spending most of their free time at university. Within six months, the website quickly established itself as a ‘go-to’ guide for everything independent in the city and Oliver and David realised the potential to convert the blog into a profitable business.

Launched in 2013, the Independent Liverpool Membership Card offers discounts to some of Liverpool’s best independents. Today, the company boasts 100 participating businesses, 15,000 cardholders, and two very happy graduates.

“We’ve now expanded across the UK with websites and membership cards available in Birmingham and Sheffield,” says David. “The next step is to expand even further and launch the card in every major city in the UK.”

Alumni can claim £3 off an Independent Liverpool card until 1 December 2015. Simply enter discount code LIVALUMNI at: www.independent-liverpool.co.uk.

High hopes: Oliver and David plan to launch their membership cards in every major city in the UK.

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Developing nanomedicines for HIV therapy

An estimated 34 million people around the world are infected with HIV, however, global manufacturing capacity for some commonly used drugs is insufficient to meet the needs of all patients requiring therapy and there is a lack of suitable formulations for children.

To address this, a team from the Institute of Translational Medicine and the Department of Chemistry are applying nanomedicine formulation strategies to develop the antiretroviral medicines to combat HIV infection. This will enable reduced doses by increasing the amount of drug absorbed into the body. Nanomedicines can deliver small quantities of a drug, which has the potential for cost savings, fewer side-effects and the treatment of more patients with existing drug supplies.

Alder Hey: supporting life changing research

A new Research and Education Centre, built alongside Alder Hey's new children's hospital, will build on Liverpool's position as the UK's leading centre for research into medicines for children.

The new facility will allow University of Liverpool researchers and Alder Hey clinicians to work with industry to develop safer, better medicines and therapies for children to use in the NHS and throughout the world.

The first phase of the centre, which has been funded by generous donations from donors including many alumni, opened in September 2015, and we are currently working with Alder Hey Children's Charity to fund the essential second phase.

Reducing losses in the food chain

Across the globe, rodents are a serious threat to food security. In addition to eating and contaminating human food, they also spread livestock and human diseases.

Current pest control strategies are based on poisons delivered in food or water baits, but there is increasing concern that these chemicals persist in the environment and have negative impacts on non-target species.

A research team led by Professor Jane Hurst from the University's Institute of Integrative Biology, in conjunction with agricultural research station Rothamsted Research, is investigating the scent signal mechanisms that rodents use to navigate around their habitat, communicate with each other, and reproduce.

The team aims to use these signals to monitor and manipulate rodent behaviour to inform future rodent-control strategies and reduce the damage they cause to food resources around the world.
Microfinance policy in rural India

Research undertaken by Dr Supriya Garikipati from the Management School has identified that microfinance is most beneficial to women when it enables them to enhance their livelihoods and participate in the local enterprise economy. It also highlighted that more than 80% of the loans in Andhra Pradesh, India, did not meet these conditions.

Using these research findings, Supriya directly lobbied the government of Andhra Pradesh. This has had an impact on banking organisations and other stakeholders within the microfinance industry and led to the introduction of the Livelihood Enhancement Plan (LEP), used at the time of loan application. Supriya’s research impacts 500,000 women per year who join the programme, enabling participants to enhance their livelihoods.

Patricia Routledge supports bursary for degree in English

Merseyside actress, Dr Patricia Routledge CBE (BA Hons English Language & Literature 1951, Hon LittD 1999) best known for her portrayal of Hyacinth Bucket in the BBC comedy series, Keeping Up Appearances, is supporting up to three University of Liverpool bursaries for students studying English Literature.

Patricia will support the Reading In Practice masters programme, which invites investigation into the therapeutic role of reading, in relation to human health and wellbeing.

The first of its kind in the country, the degree course focuses on the ways in which serious creative literature connects with people on a personal, emotional and imaginative level.

To find out more about our scholarships visit: www.liverpool.ac.uk/giving.

Castell Henllys and the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park

Within Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, Castell Henllys is a visitor centre that turns the clock back to the Iron Age. The park has been on the archaeological radar since Dr Harold Mytum, the University’s Director of the Centre for Manx Studies, started excavating its grounds in 1982. The project lasted 26 years and included the design and completion of three archaeologically supported reconstructed roundhouses and one four-post structure.

The research and reconstructions benefitted the park through integration of the results into its visitor resources, educational programmes and management plans, developed with guidance from the Castell Henllys project.

As the Celts are a feature of the national history curriculum at Key Stage 2, the Castell Henllys facility has now been included as part of the history component of the new curriculum for Wales and the previously unvisited site has become a major educational centre and significant local tourist attraction.

The power of digitality

Research by the University’s Centre for Architecture and the Visual Arts, and its cultural partners, is investigating the role of digitality (such as computer-aided design, audio-visual quality of space or moving image visualisations) on the design of contemporary urban spaces.

Using a range of methods and techniques, including mapping, filming, projecting, 3D animations and augmented reality, the aim is to provide insight into the representation of, and engagement with, architectural and urban forms, narratives and practices.
A Chemical Revolution

The University of Liverpool, Unilever, and the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), are co-investing £62 million to establish the Materials Innovation Factory (MIF) - a new type of ‘knowledge factory’ based on a strong partnership between industry and academia.

The MIF will house leading scientists from academia and industry under one roof, sharing equipment and ideas, and collaborating on new and exciting areas of materials chemistry research. The facility will be unparalleled in Europe, providing a new template for how researchers will work together in the future to meet society’s grand challenges and support the UK economy.

The focus will be on creating a vibrant research community helping to attract the best talent from across the globe and in doing so providing the unique opportunity for students to explore a spectrum of research and development, from fundamental science through to product development.

State-of-the-art simulation software and facilities

Combining in-house and partner expertise with emerging technologies, the University’s Virtual Engineering Centre is the only centre of its kind that fully supports and delivers the accelerated development of new products, technologies and processes across the product life cycle, reducing risk and maximising efficiency and sustainability, and delivering powerful solutions to business and research organisations.

The Hydra foundation also offers a revolutionary Immersive Simulation System to allow students to practise and improve decision making, communication and leadership skills in an environment that replicates the complexities of real critical incidents. High Performance Computing facilities, available via the Hartree Centre and the Virtual Engineering Centre, also support the demand for complex, multi-physics simulations, driving real-time simulation and enabling thousands of different scenarios to be evaluated in shorter timescales.

Demonstrating Artificial Intelligence

Researchers from the University’s Centre for Autonomous Systems Technologies have been using Lego robot dinosaurs to demonstrate ideas from artificial intelligence, robots, and space science to visitors to the Cheltenham Science Festival, the largest and most well known public science festival in the country.

The Lego robots were part of the Science and Technology Funding Council’s DinoZone area and were used to demonstrate to school children and the general public some of the concepts of autonomous robotics, such as the use of sensors, and artificial intelligence style programming.

Engineering students break British Land Speed Record

A team of Engineering students have broken the human-powered British Land Speed Record at an international competition, held in the Nevada desert.

The students designed and built their recumbent bicycle, ARION, from scratch thanks to sponsors including Rathbone Brothers Plc and the Friends of the University of Liverpool. The team achieved an impressive 75.03mph to take the British title, but fell short of the world record of 83.13mph. They plan to try again next year, with work on ARION2 already underway.
Tipped by the US Vice President and nominated as a judge by the President himself, Wendy Beetlestone is a Liverpool alumna shaping the US legal system.

There can be few jobs in the world requiring applicants to tick more boxes and jump through more hoops than US Federal Judge. Following a stellar legal career, would-be Federal Judges must convince a panel of respected peers, complete a lengthy application, be hand-picked by senators of both political persuasions, and undergo an FBI investigation into all they have written, everyone they have met, and everywhere they have travelled since the age of 18. They then face an evaluation by the American Bar Association, an interview at the White House, an appearance before a senate committee, and a vote by senators.

But, according to Liverpool alumna Wendy Beetlestone (BA Hons Philosophy 1984), the reward fully compensates the effort. “You are rarely given the opportunity to do something that fits precisely your skills and what you love to do. I feel it is a gift and is the best possible job I could have for who I am,” she says.

Wendy was nominated to the role by President Barack Obama and sworn in on 5 January this year, more than 20 years after his Vice President, Joe Biden, had told her as a junior lawyer: “We need people like you on the bench.” Presiding in the District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, Wendy’s jurisdiction reaches everything from constitutional challenges and violations of federal statute to drug and gun crime, Mafioso and other organised crime activity, and complex fraud.

“Today, my job is to go in every day and do the right thing, and do it in a wide variety of legal areas,” she says. “Given that the President has said, ‘here’s a lifetime job you love’, why would you want to be anywhere else?”

Tipped by the US Vice President and nominated as a judge by the President himself, Wendy Beetlestone is a Liverpool alumna shaping the US legal system.

Born in Nigeria, and educated at a Yorkshire boarding school, Wendy came to Liverpool in 1980 to study philosophy. “Philosophy really forces you to dig deep into an issue that might seem evident on the surface,” she says. “I loved the fact that it wasn’t just: read it, understand it, write something about it. My brain would hurt thinking about it. That really made me much more disciplined in my thinking.”

She was heavily involved in student life, enjoying debating, student politics and editing the student newspaper, and was later elected as the Welfare and NUS Officer. “I have always been tremendously grateful to Liverpool. It was a great start. I had a huge amount of fun, I was educated well, and I felt that whatever I put my mind to I could get done. It gave me a level of confidence that carried me through.”

After a year as a sabbatical officer, Wendy joined the BBC Journalist Trainee Programme and was soon poached by CNN to work in the US. She worked for a series of channels across the US before attending law school in Philadelphia in 1990. She joined a local law firm working as a complex commercial litigator, becoming partner after eight years. She left seeking a role that would allow her to fire on all cylinders. Wendy says she was seeking a “legal, logistical and political nightmare” to use all her skills, and found it as the General Counsel for the School District of Philadelphia, helping manage a $2 billion enterprise. A final stint at a law firm convinced her that she needed a new challenge and she switched her focus to becoming a judge.

“You are rarely given the opportunity to do something that fits precisely your skills and what you love to do. I feel it is a gift and is the best possible job I could have for who I am.”

Wendy at University in 1983.
In 1839, Samuel Cunard (1787-1865), a ship owner from Nova Scotia, founded the British and North American Royal Mail Steam Packet Company. Its purpose was to provide a scheduled steamship service to carry mail across the Atlantic – the first of its kind.

Cunard has played a major role in Liverpool’s maritime history since its maiden voyage set sail from the Liverpool waterfront in 1840. The Cunard building, the company’s headquarters, opened in 1916 and became one of the city’s iconic ‘Three Graces’.

Earlier this year, to celebrate Cunard’s 175th anniversary, Liverpool welcomed back three of its famous liners - Queen Mary 2, Queen Victoria and Queen Elizabeth - who were reunited in the city for the first time. The fleet performed a water ballet together, attracting more than one million people to the banks of the Mersey to watch this spectacular event.

On 4 July 1840, the Britannia set sail from Liverpool for Halifax and Boston, marking the beginnings of transatlantic travel for the British and North American Royal Mail Steam Packet Company. In 1879, the firm was renamed the Cunard Steamship Company Ltd and, over the course of the 19th century, the company revolutionised passenger travel, making long-distance journeys faster and safer with its huge fleet of ships.

Now in its 175th year, Cunard is one of the longest-serving names in shipping history. To celebrate this anniversary, the University’s Special Collections & Archives has been showcasing its extensive Cunard archive, which includes most of the surviving business records produced by the company since 1878.

The archive offers a rich insight into the company’s history and provides a unique resource for researching Cunard’s growth and development. Highlights include the passenger list from 1842 when Charles Dickens travelled on board Britannia, a bound copy of the Lusitania Daily Bulletin from 1912, and photographs depicting Cunard’s service during the second world war.

More than 200 ships have sailed under the Cunard flag and the company has accomplished a number of significant ‘firsts’, including the first ever wireless transmission at sea between two of its ships, the first world cruise in 1922, and – perhaps their biggest achievement – the first regular transatlantic service. Since then, the company’s ships have crossed and re-crossed the Atlantic each year.
t’s often thought that the end of the transatlantic slave trade signalled the end of slavery, but the reality is very different. Once a legitimate enterprise, during the last century slavery was forced underground, and its modern manifestations have since become insidiously prevalent.

For Dr Alex Balch, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Politics, the question is obvious: “Why haven’t we solved the problem of slavery when you’d imagine that all sides of the political debate would be united against it?” Unfortunately, he explains, the answer is more complex: “Modern forms of slavery are about criminality and opportunities due to the political and economic environment, which unfortunately allows various forms of exploitation to occur.”

The realisation of ‘modern’ slavery surfaced in the 1990s. Growth in the American sex industry gave rise to suspicion that some of the people involved were being coerced in. The resulting moral outrage was sufficient enough to instigate legislation through Congress. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act was passed in 2000, as was a UN protocol, which reflected the political debate in the US. “That was the starting gun for a new war against human trafficking,” says Alex.

Yet it was only the tip of the iceberg: “Early anti-trafficking efforts were focused on the sex industry, but it soon became clear that people were being trafficked in large numbers in other sectors of the economy, for the purposes of forced labour.”

The lengthening of supply chains in the global economy means hidden exploitation, with global businesses - particularly retail - admitting that they can struggle to track and monitor human rights across all the industry they do business with. The developing world is especially involved to this end, with lower protection of labour standards providing opportunities for forced labour to increase profits. “Exploitation in supply chains means many of the products we consume are connected to the global economy,” says Alex. “We are all part of global production networks, and some of these are dependent on slavery.”

The global hospitality industry is similarly vulnerable to the problem. “If you go to a hotel in the US, the person who cleans your room or serves you at the desk may well not be directly employed, with possibly two or three links in the chain,” says Alex. “The complexity of employment relations is multiplying as companies try to reduce their costs.” Today, international migration patterns play a major role in the supply of vulnerable individuals for such purposes, a concern very much evident around the current Mediterranean crisis.

Cultural tradition also dictates much in the way of modern slavery. Alex cites the caste system in India as a prime example. Born into such circumstances, Dalits (literally ‘the oppressed’) are consigned to abject poverty and often compelled into debt bondage with members of upper classes. Domestic servitude is likewise involved, as it is within other cultures around the world.

The illegal sex industry still exploits vulnerable people across the world, and trafficking for such purposes is a massively widespread issue. It is the industry which arguably best reveals the criminality inherent within modern slavery. “Organised criminality is simply taking advantage of vulnerable people, abusing them, and exploiting them,” says Alex.

The multifaceted nature of modern slavery makes it difficult to identify and define. Two centuries ago, money was openly made from the ownership of slaves; now, lucrative interplay between criminality and the labour market motivates a global enterprise that is hidden in plain sight.

Alex believes that collaboration is key in successfully tackling the enterprise: “The solution can’t just be a question for government. It can’t just be the non-governmental organisation sector. It can’t just be business. It has to be a joint effort.” He and his colleagues at both the University and our Centre for the Study of International Slavery (CSIS) are integral to this effort, raising public academic awareness of slavery in both its historical and contemporary manifestations around the world. “It’s ultimately a political question: can we get everyone on board? If we can, I think we can start to reduce it.”
A GIFT TO THE FUTURE

Leave a gift to the University of Liverpool in your will and you could help future generations to enjoy a life-changing university experience at one of the world’s leading institutions.

Whatever your motivation to give – whether to recognise the support of inspirational teachers, to acknowledge the impact the University has had on your career, or simply to give others the same opportunities you may have benefited from - your gift could be truly transformative.

We would like to thank those alumni, staff and friends who have already chosen to remember the University in their will. Below, two of our recent pledgers explain what motivated them to offer their support.

Joan Kenworthy worked as an assistant lecturer in the Department of Geography and Planning for 17 years in the 1960s and 70s and many alumni will also remember her as Warden of Salisbury Hall and Morton House in Aigburth. She has chosen to remember the University in her will to support undergraduate students in need of financial assistance.

“Receiving my awards as a student made me push myself even further. I would like my legacy to help these scholarships and prizes continue, and also to establish awards for all the excellent work students do outside of their degree courses which should be recognised and celebrated in the same way.”

“I spent a great deal of time thinking about how my will would reflect who I am and what I wanted, and Liverpool - and specifically the education I received there - was a big part of that reflection.”

As an undergraduate, Dr Eileen Pollard, (BA Hons English Language & Literature 2006, MA 2007) benefited from a number of scholarships and prizes for academic excellence. At just 29 years old, she became our youngest legacy pledger to date.

If you are interested in discussing a legacy gift, we would love to work with you to make sure any bequest is used in the way you wish and we can talk you through the important steps to consider before you consult a solicitor.

For further information, including suggested wording for inclusion in your will, please contact Stephen Kehoe on +44 (0)151 795 4637 or email: stephen.kehoe@liverpool.ac.uk.

Find more online: www.liverpool.ac.uk/alumni/class-notes
Footsteps in Summer, published by Troubador which is available from: www.footstepsinsummer.com, recently published a book about cancer in 2002 she changed career and opened a B&B, which appeared on Channel Four’s Four in a Bed.

Russell George (BComm Hons 1981) completed a 944 mile solo charity walk from John O’Groats to Land’s End raising £14,000 for Cancer Research UK. He has recently published a book about his walking adventure, Footsteps in Summer, published by Troubador which is available from: www.footstepsinsummer.com, with all royalties donated to Cancer Research UK.

Peter Millea (BA Hons Political Theory & Institutions 1983), after 34 years of involvement with Liverpool City Council (LCC) as both an officer and an elected member, he is now working for the Legal Aid Agency as a caseworker. In recognition of his long public service, he has been made an Honorary Alderman by LCC.

Belinda Goldman (née Lester) (BA Hons Psychology 1991) recently organised a reunion for alumni who attended the University between 1988 and 1991. More than 300 people joined her Facebook reunion group and in July this year 65 people came back to campus from Australia, California, Spain and Italy. To reconnect with old friends from 1988 to 1991 visit: www.facebook.com/groups/Liverpoolreunion88to91.

Dr Maha Kheif (MA 1992) is CEO/Dean at Majan College in the Sultanate of Oman and was ranked one of the top 100 best CEOs in the Gulf Countries in the Middle East by TRENDS magazine.

Muriel O’Driscoll (née Foreman) (MA Ethnic Studies 1995) was awarded a British Empire Medal (BEM) in this year’s Queen’s Birthday Honours for services to nursing and health of young people at Brook Centres. She works in Wirral and Liverpool as a psychosexual therapist and life coach.

Dr Matt Taylor (MPhys 1997) is a Project Scientist on the ESA Rosetta Mission. He recently received a Spirit of Hammer award (presented by Brian May) from Metal Hammer magazine.

Daisy Ball (BA Hons Comparative American Studies 2012) has been working as a freelance TV researcher making and developing factual TV programmes for the last two years, working for companies including the BBC, Ten Alps and most recently Fresh One.

Dr Kristian Blackhall (BSc Hons Botany 1988 to 1991) visit: www.facebook.com. He is a professional after-dinner speaker, an avid physical trainer, and spends three days a week running and weightlifting, but at aged 81 thinks it’s time to slow down. He is a professional after-dinner speaker, an avid physical trainer, and spends three days a week running and weightlifting, but at aged 81 thinks it’s time to slow down.

Dr David Kumka (MSc Information Technology 2005) completed a PhD in Information Systems at Nova Southeastern University in 2012 and is currently working as an Enterprise Architect on a $60m project that is receiving international acclaim for the use of cutting-edge database technology to revolutionise land and resource management.

Dwight Pereira (BArch 2005) has just released his third album on his own record label Blk.25 Records, Straw, which has been two years in the making, consists of 13 songs picked from over a 13-year period and is available from Amazon.

Joe Ericson (TT 2010) is a Digital Journalist for CBS News covering the 2016 Presidential Campaign. He will be covering several of the republican candidates through the primary process and into the general election, with responsibility for both the editorial content as well as shooting video of all the events contributing to CBS News broadcasts, CBS Radio, CBSN, a 24-hour live streaming network, and www.cbsnews.com.

Dr David Harrison (MA Local History 2000, PhD History 2008) had his PhD thesis published as The Genesis of Freemasonry in 2009. He has gone on to write five more publications on the subject, the latest being Freemasonry and Fraternal Societies. He also lectures on Liverpool history, specialising in maritime and local industry.

Dr Kristian Blackhall (BSc Hons Botany 1988 to 1991) visit: www.facebook.com. He is a professional after-dinner speaker, an avid physical trainer, and spends three days a week running and weightlifting, but at aged 81 thinks it’s time to slow down.
In memoriam

Dr Frank Howard Beddow (MBChB 1948, MD 1950)

Dr Mai Barford (née Constance Margaret Bacon MBChB 1958, MD 1960)

Samuel Alan Appleton (MEd 1981)

Dr June Pope Arnold (BSc Hons 1974)

Dr Ernest Gradwell (MBChB 1961, Hon MD 1964, MEng 1968)

Priscilla Mary Cottrell (née Roaf) MRCVS (BVSc 1962)

Eric Michael Bottomley (BSc Hons 2006)

Charles Heeketh Bessey (Eing 1947)

Sir Maurice Flanagan KBE, CBE (BA Hons 1973, PhD 1977)

Betty Hill (née Steventon) (BSc 1960)

Dr Andrew Bruce Brown (BSc Hons 1973, BSc Hons 1974)

Roger Nicholas Dent (BArch Hons 1968)

Rowland Diggle (MEd 1975)

Dr John Frederick Lynch (MBChB 1945)

Alka Douglas Macqueen (BSc 1947, MSc 1949)

Professor Anthony Ledwith CBE (PhD 1957, DSc 1971, Hon DSc 2000), Lecturer, Senior Lecturer, Reader and former Campbell Brown Professor of Industrial Chemistry until 1984.


Dr Michael McKenzie, Director of the Management School since 2015.

Gordon Brian Blyth (MBChB 1969, MChOrth 1970)

Kevin Patrick Boyle (BSc Hons 2006)

Dr Charles Richardson Chappell (BEng Hons 1967)

John Roderick Sharvell (BSc Hons 1977)

David Samuel Barnes (BSc Hons 1974)

Dr Farah Saad Saeed (MChOrth 1989, BA Hons 1989)

Dr Lewis Edward Bond (MEd 1975)


Charles Hilary Hewitt (Eing 1960)


Mary Harris (née Steventon) MBChB (BEng Hons 1947, MEng 1948, MEng 1950)

Dr Leonidas Christou (BSc 1960, BSc Hons 1961, MSc 1963)

Dr Kenneth Stanley Proctor (MBChB 1953)

Rowland Diggle (MEd 1975)

Dr Robert Dittman (MBChB 1957)

Dr Mary Hughes (BEng Hons 1963, PhD 1969)

Priscilla Mary Cottrell (née Roaf) MRCVS (BVSc 1962)

Dr David John Hall (Eing Hons 1963, PhD 1968)

Dr Leonidas Christou (BSc 1960, BSc Hons 1961, MSc 1963)

Professor Anthony Ledwith CBE (PhD 1957, DSc 1971, Hon DSc 2000), Lecturer, Senior Lecturer, Reader and former Campbell Brown Professor of Industrial Chemistry until 1984.

Dr William Edward Lewis (MBChB 1942, MEng 1945)

Charles Heeketh Bessey (Eing 1947)

Dr Robert Peter Balfour (MBChB 1966, Dip in Tropic Med & Hygiene 1967)

Professor Geoffrey Barber-Riley (BSc Hons 1955, MBChB 1958, MD 1960)

Dr Mai Barford (née Constance Margaret Bacon MBChB 1958, MD 1960)

Paul Henry Bossett (Diploma 1989)

Dr Andrew Bruce Brown (MEd 1975)

Dr William Caplan (MBChB 1956, MD 1960)

Riley TropMed & Hygiene 1967)

John David Wilson MRCVS (BEng 1977)

Dr William Edward Lewis (MBChB 1942, MEng 1945)

Charles Heeketh Bessey (Eing 1947)

Dr Ian Gibb Bogle CBE (MBChB 1961, Hon MD 1999)

Paul Henry Bossett (Diploma 1989)

Dr Andrew Bruce Brown (MEd 1975)

Dr William Caplan (MBChB 1955)

David Charles Richardson Chappell (BEng Hons 1967)

Dr Christopher Cheyne (MBChB 1957, MChOrth 1968)

Laurence Joseph Clancy (BSc Hons 1951)

Dr James Stanley Comaish (MBChB 1954, MD 1975)

John Corlett. (BSc Hons 1940, BSc 1947)

Pricilla Mary Cattrell (née Roal) (Cert in Social Science 1946)

Christine Janet Cutner (née Witham) (BA Hons 1976)

Barbara Edward Dower (BVSc Hons 1976, PhD 1981)

Wenjia Lei (BSc Hons 1983, PhD 1988)

Professor Anthony Ledwith CBE (PhD 1957, DSc 1971, Hon DSc 2000), Lecturer, Senior Lecturer, Reader and former Campbell Brown Professor of Industrial Chemistry until 1984.

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Charles Heeketh Bessey (Eing 1947)
This year we welcomed more than 6,000 graduates to our alumni network, growing our alumni community to 195,000 graduates worldwide.

The first graduates from the University of Liverpool in London were awarded their degrees, and we also presented honorary degrees to The Most Reverend and Right Honourable Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury; The President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins; The Honourable Mr Justice Henry Globe; and Professor Paul Preston CBE.

To view all the pictures from Graduation please visit: www.facebook.com/liverpoolalumni.
ROB ZEPP

Alumni catches up with professional ice hockey goaltender Rob Zepp (MBA 2008) who has just completed his 14th season with the National Hockey League (NHL) in North America and Europe.

Why did you choose to come to the University of Liverpool?
I wanted to study whilst continuing my professional hockey career so, I needed a programme that could travel with me. I searched extensively to find the most prestigious and highly regarded institution that offered an online Masters in Business Administration (MBA) and found the University of Liverpool to be the obvious choice.

You’re a successful sportsman, what made you decide to do your MBA and how did you combine this with playing?
I realised having an education was important and something that couldn’t be taken away from me, so I needed to achieve something that would help me in my future career once I stopped playing. It’s also a safety net should my playing career be cut short by injury. Studying for my MBA also helped me on the ice. It gave me a diversion away from the rink and the confidence knowing that I do not need to solely rely upon the game.

What do you enjoy most about your job?
Like any job, it has its pros and cons, but I’m not complaining; I feel very fortunate to have played the game professionally for so long. I enjoy the intensity of being involved in the professional game as well as the camaraderie that is shared with team mates.

What is the next step for you?
Once my playing days are over, I’d like to move into a career that combines my passion and knowledge of the game with my education and interest in business.

What advice would you give yourself as an 18 year old?
Relax, enjoy the moment, and only focus on the things that you can control, not what others around you are doing.

What does ‘Your Liverpool’ mean to you?
It means the world to me. I hold my MBA from Liverpool in the highest regard. It is part of my identity and a great source of pride.

Snapshot
Here are just a few of the events and reunions that the University has hosted over the last 12 months.

For the diary

2015
24 November Science and Society public lecture with Professor Trevor Wishart, University of Durham
25 November Policy Provocations - International policy with Colonel Tim Collins
10 December Science in the Snug with Professor Peter Myers

2016
3 February Willem Gous Coaching Webinar
3 March Science in the Snug with Dr Corina Continen
cue
10 March London Pub Quiz
17 March Liverpool Pub Quiz
22 March CSIS Lecture with Professor Stephen Small
June Charity Golf Day, Liverpool
9 June Alumni Up-Close Lecture Series, London with Sir Robin Saxby
23 November Lucrezia Zaina Bequest Lecture with Professor Richard Dyer

Keep up to date:
For full details of all of our upcoming events, visit: www.liverpool.ac.uk/alumni/events.
Join us at one of our postgraduate open days to discover the exciting range of professional, creative and industry focused taught and research programmes starting in September 2016.

**Liverpool campus:** 9 March 2016  
**London campus:** 16 March 2016

As a valued graduate, you’re also entitled to receive our Postgraduate Progression Award; a 20% reduction in taught tuition fees.

[www.liverpool.ac.uk/progress](http://www.liverpool.ac.uk/progress)