



Edge Hill University



Annual Review | 2018/2019

WELCOME FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

Dr John Cater CBE



Despite continued uncertainty in the Higher Education sector, it has, once again, been a good year for Edge Hill University.

While applications have remained stable this year, we have seen a marked rise in conversions – one in three people who apply to Edge Hill now go on to take up a place – demonstrating that Edge Hill is increasingly being seen as the place to study in the region.

The fact that Edge Hill is rising up the league tables is also a factor in our success this year. We moved into the Top 50 of *The Guardian* University Guide 2020 and are now in the Top 1000 global universities, according to the *Times Higher Education* World University Rankings 2019. The WhatUni Student Choice Awards shortlisted Edge Hill for University of the Year and also placed us in the top 10 in five categories this year – accommodation, job prospects, facilities, student support and international – all areas in which we are traditionally very strong.

In terms of research, we continue to grow our capacity and reputation. We will enter double the number of staff into the forthcoming Research Excellence Framework (REF) in 2021 and we expect to significantly improve our results from REF 2014.

The University has also enhanced links with external organisations this year, ensuring Edge Hill's facilities and expertise are key resources for a range of communities. A new Productivity and Innovation Centre is boosting the regional economy by providing local companies with training, support and advice to address challenges and develop business skills. Our new Medical School focuses on providing training and support for the North West NHS and is developing partnerships with major health providers in the region. We have also recently won a £1m contract to deliver an MSc for Physician Associates to help meet regional demand for this emerging role.

It's been another year of campus improvements aimed at enhancing the student experience. Catalyst, our new flagship building, was officially opened this year by HRH The Princess Royal, bringing together all student services under one copper-plated roof. We also established a new Clinical Skills and Simulation Centre, a fantastic resource for all Health, Social Care and Medical students, which is also the new home for the North West Institute of Radiology (NWIR). This partnership will not only see Edge Hill hosting the NWIR's postgraduate training for doctors but will also provide opportunities for collaboration in the future that will benefit staff and students.

Edge Hill is a place that is moving forward. Every year we continue to make sustainable improvements to ensure we attract and retain students from all backgrounds, giving them an accessible and high-quality experience that will improve their life chances. Thank you for being part of this.

CONTENTS

A Royal appointment	3
Students' double success	5
Research Institutes relaunched	7
Examining Thailand's coastal change	9
Mental health survey first	11
Biosciences labs opened	13
Aiding children's hospital experience	15
Experts share their experiences	17
Robot learns dementia from soap storyline	19
Desert challenge achieved	21
Life's a beach	23
The science behind literature	25
Games expo experience	27
Graduations 2018/19	29
The University's new Professors	31
Credits	33



A ROYAL APPOINTMENT



Edge Hill's new campus development is given the Royal seal of approval.

Catalyst, the new £27m home for the library, careers and student services functions, was officially opened by Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal.

Her Royal Highness toured the state-of-the-art building and met with students, staff and alumni, plus key people involved in its development and construction, before officially opening the building.

During her visit, Her Royal Highness had the opportunity to learn about research in the Biology department, which focuses on the eradication of major global health threats. This included work on insecticide resistance in mosquitos and research aimed at developing new antibiotics from strains of *Streptomyces* bacteria.

Professor Clare Austin, Director of Medical Education, gave an overview of the Edge Hill University Medical School, and Her Royal Highness viewed *Remember Me*, a multimedia art installation by Professor Helen Newall, exploring the fragmentation of memory and identity in the context of WWI. She examined archive items relating to the University's history and links with the suffragette movement, viewed demonstrations by the student wellbeing and campus life teams and met student volunteers, scholarship winners and alumni. She also saw a rehearsal of a suffragette-themed play and learned about the University's work with Tate Liverpool.

Edge Hill's Vice-Chancellor, Dr John Cater, said: "The University is exceedingly proud of our iconic Catalyst building, which is transforming learning and support opportunities for over 10,000 students. We're honoured that Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal, kindly and generously agreed to formally open this stunning facility."



L-R Alice Waddington, Eve Hesketh and Emily Kavanagh

Healthcare Cards

The following Makaton Symbols and Signs have been selected to use as a prompt. The symbol and sign will be printed back to back; they should then be laminated and then attached to a ring for quick reference.

Nurse	Ill
Doctor	Tablet
Pain	Medicine

1
© The Makaton Charity 2018. copying restricted

Learning Disability Week

Bunched hands move up and make contact with forehead + Dominant hand makes D against non-dominant index finger. Twist dominant hand forward pivoting on thumb tip. Sign finishes at fingertips.

Learning Disability Week

Flat on chest. Directional.

My name is... (finger spell initial first letter of your name)

I am a Nurse. I am a Doctor.

Thumb traces cross on outside of arm. With index finger and thumb, mime taking pulse.

Are you in pain? Where does it hurt?

Position hand of sight of pain and shake hand. Outward circling movement. Position hand of sight of pain and shake hand.

Can I help you? Please lie down.

Dominant flat hand, palm up, makes short movement towards dominant side. Directional.

You can go home now, goodbye.

Small arced movement placement can be varied to suit context. Wave hand.

5
© The Makaton Charity 2018. copying restricted

STUDENTS' DOUBLE SUCCESS



**Nursing students collected national awards for Makaton healthcare cards
which help people communicate more easily.**

A team of nursing students who collaborated on a project to highlight the difficulties faced by young people with communication issues picked up two major national awards recognising their pioneering work.

Alice Waddington, Emily Kavanagh and Eve Hesketh won the Student Innovation in Practice accolade in the 2019 Student Nursing Times Awards, and the Andrew Park Student Nurse Award at the 2019 RCNi Nurse Awards, after receiving widespread acclaim for the creation and promotion of Makaton healthcare cards.

Makaton is a language programme that uses symbols, signs and speech to enable people to communicate. Signs are used, with speech, in spoken word order. This helps provide extra clues about what someone is saying. Using signs can help people who have no speech or whose speech is unclear. Using symbols can help people who have limited speech and those who cannot, or prefer not to sign.

Inspired by a mother's story of her daughter's struggles to relay information to healthcare professionals, they have continued to raise awareness of Makaton signing via workshops and social media. Working with The Makaton Charity, their cards quickly became the most downloaded resource on their website.

Following their second success, they said: "We are so excited to have won these awards and aim to use this platform to raise further awareness around inclusive communication and the profile of learning disability nursing."

Alice added: "To know that we have been able to influence the approach to care is a major highlight. We knew nurses were not receiving sufficient learning disability training and have found that students want this training, and have found it beneficial."

RESEARCH INSTITUTES RELAUNCHED



Edge Hill University's thriving research community continues to grow and develop, focusing on areas that can have a positive impact on communities, locally, nationally and internationally.



*Professor Sally Spencer,
Director of the Health Research Institute*

This year, Edge Hill has made some changes to its three Research Institutes to reflect its evolving research portfolio and to better respond to society's changing needs and priorities. As well as updated names, the Institutes have repositioned what they do to make it easier for academics and external organisations to connect, share and benefit from the wealth of collaborative research taking place at Edge Hill University.

Health Research Institute (HRI)

Established as the Postgraduate Medical Institute (PGMI) in 2015, the newly named Health Research Institute's remit has evolved from facilitating research in medicine and allied health professions at Edge Hill to providing a platform for driving and supporting innovative collaborative healthcare research from a range of academic and healthcare perspectives, beyond those traditionally associated with medicine. The cross-faculty, interdisciplinary, partnership focused Institute will now be concentrating its work on clusters of research excellence in:

- Children, young people and families
- Health and wellbeing (including the Arts and wellbeing)
- Improving professional practice
- Public health
- Supporting care

Director of the Institute, Professor Sally Spencer, said: "Twenty-first century healthcare is all about bringing people together. The purpose of the Institute is to support research of direct relevance to patients, service providers and healthcare communities. We achieve this by hosting collaborative research with colleagues in the NHS, health-related industry and academia, publishing findings and supporting development of the next generation of health researchers."

To date, the Institute has developed a range of postgraduate programmes, supports a diverse group of doctoral students, and has attracted £4m in external research funding.

Institute for Social Responsibility (ISR)

Formerly the Institute for Public Policy and Professional Practice (I4P), the Institute's scope and remit has expanded from its initial vision to critically examining broad conceptualisations of social responsibility, from equality, gender and sexuality to community engagement.

Director, Professor Jo Crotty said: "The Institute's name no longer reflected what it does. Social Responsibility better expresses the range of research we are involved in, and is much more inclusive and externally facing. It makes more sense to people. Rather than just communicating the research we're generating at Edge Hill, our focus now is on enabling co-production and exchange of knowledge between academics and practitioners that will contribute to debates on social responsibility and inform policy-making."

As well as co-ordinating and supporting research, the ISR brings together academics, practitioners and the wider public through a range of seminars, workshops and lectures. It also promotes practitioner and community engagement through knowledge exchange and assesses the effectiveness of public policy through a dedicated evaluation unit.

Institute for Creative Enterprise (ICE)

Although the Institute's name remains the same, ICE is making some significant changes to support its vision of being the gateway for researchers within Edge Hill to collaborate with external partners across the cultural industries and the creative and digital economy in the North West, nationally and internationally.

The Institute is developing a new taught postgraduate degree in Creative Enterprise, with a view to establishing a PhD cohort to address the real-life research issues faced by partner cultural institutions. The aim is to establish collaborative awards that are embedded in cultural institutions in the North West. ICE is also exploring the possibility of a spin-out company, ICE Media, as a vehicle for co-production with external partners in media, film and the creative arts, and to commercialise the Institute's research.

Other new ICE initiatives include a weekly podcast on culture in the North West and the introduction of a new peer-reviewed journal, the *Journal of Creative Enterprise*, to record the activities of ICE and to contribute to critical, historical, theoretical and policy debates within culture and the creative economy.



*Professor Jo Crotty,
Director of the Institute for Social Responsibility*



*Professor Martin McQuillan,
Director of the Institute for Creative Enterprise*



Naithung, Thasala in Nakhon Si Thammarat province, one of the research locations.



Ao Nang Bay in Krabi province, one of the research sites.

EXAMINING THAILAND'S COASTAL CHANGE



A study led by Edge Hill aims to improve understanding of the vulnerability of Thailand's shoreline and coastal communities to storms, floods and erosion due to climate change.

In Thailand, the problems of coastal erosion and flooding require immediate attention because 17 per cent of the country's population are affected by it – more than 11 million people.

The Thai-coast project sees the study's principal investigator Professor Cherith Moses, Head of Geography, working together with Dr Kanchana Nakhapakorn from Mahidol University in Bangkok to examine and improve understanding of the vulnerability of the country's coastline to storms and flooding as a result of climate change.

The research has received £381,024 from the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) and the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) to support the UK component of the project, and £123,000 from the Thailand Research Fund to support the Thai component, funded through the Newton Fund in Thailand. The wider public, who inhabit Thailand's coastal communities either permanently or temporarily for work or leisure, will benefit through the awareness of identified problems and learning processes to address them.

Cherith said: "We aim to establish the links between climate change, coastal erosion and flooding, and use this information to assess the interaction of natural and social processes to enhance coastal community resilience and future sustainability."

Professor Moses is working with colleagues at the Universities of Brighton and Sussex and Ambienta Technical Solutions in the UK, Mahidol, Chulalongkorn and Thammasat Universities and the Government in Thailand, and the US National Center for Atmospheric Research, on the three-year collaboration.

A complimentary project, led by Professor Irene Delgado-Fernandez is studying climate change, coastal erosion and the risks of flooding to low-lying coastlines subject to tropical storms in Thailand. Professor Delgado-Fernandez is examining sandy coastlines and river sediment transport to consolidate the Thai-coast project team's understanding of sediment transport from river catchment to shoreline.





MENTAL HEALTH SURVEY FIRST



More than 1,200 people involved in sport responded to the first national survey into their mental health.

Edge Hill University, in partnership with DOCIAsport, conducted a groundbreaking UK survey into the mental health of people involved in sport.

Supported by high-profile sporting figures, including Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson, the results raised concerns over the number of people who experience poor mental health at all levels.

Responses from men and women (aged 16+) involved in more than 50 sports and activities revealed figures which suggest that 57 per cent of respondents had experienced a mental illness, with women (64 per cent) more likely to report this than men (51 per cent).

Significantly, 70 per cent of young women aged 16-24 said they had experienced mental illness with more than half (54 per cent) currently doing so. Men were more likely to experience mental illness from the age of 35.

Anxiety, depression, panic disorders, self-harm, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD) were the most commonly reported illnesses for both sexes, with men also reporting conditions such as substance use disorders (including alcohol), and women, anorexia and bulimia.

The survey also concentrated on the likelihood of experiencing mental illness in grassroots sport compared to top level, sports which report the highest instance of mental illness, roles within sport – on and off the field – and their links to mental illness, lifetime mental illness and perceptions inside and outside the workplace.

Andy Smith, Professor of Sport and Physical Activity, who led the research, said: "We hope our findings bring about important cultural change in the sector so mental health becomes the responsibility of everyone and is taken more seriously."





BIOTECHNOLOGY LABS ADVANCE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES



The University's new facility is at the forefront of genetic technology.

As part of the continued investment in teaching and learning facilities, Edge Hill University has unveiled hi-tech Biotechnology laboratories.

Located in the University's £13m Tech Hub, which is part-funded via the Lancashire Growth Deal, the Biotechnology labs include some of the best equipment for carrying out research in ecological genetics, insect disease vectors, antibiotic discovery, biomedical sciences, microbiology and genetic engineering.

The facility will allow staff and students from the Biosciences department to use industry-standard equipment, helping enable new and exciting research, such as cloning and the treatment and prevention of diseases.

The labs house a wide variety of equipment, such as: a DNA Sequencer, which reads DNA code enabling samples to be compared or identified; a Bioreactor, used for tissue engineering; and a Fluorescence-activated cell-sorting machine, which can rapidly and accurately identify, characterise and separate different cells into populations using their size and morphology.

Professor Paul Ashton, Head of Biology, said: "This facility puts Edge Hill at the forefront of cutting-edge genetic technology. This presents an incredible opportunity for students to work with this equipment and develop both their biological knowledge and their employability."





Children Coming to Hospital

Edge Hill University

What to expect & what might happen

Visiting a hospital can make you feel all kinds of things...

Sometimes it can be...

REALLY BORING!

or seem...

SCARY!

Whatever you feel is okay.

It is normal to wonder what will happen while you're there.

I'm worried...

Doctors and nurses and your mum or dad are there to listen... and help you feel better.



AIDING CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL EXPERIENCE



Research helps enhance hospital experience for young people

An Edge Hill University team has worked directly with children and their parents to improve their experiences of attending hospitals for procedures.

Professors Lucy Bray and Bernie Carter observed and interviewed parents and their children who were having procedures like X-rays and blood tests. They also carried out international research to discover health professionals' practices when treating children who may be upset at having procedures. They learned children are less likely to be distressed if they know what will happen and can make choices to help them cope with the procedure.

The team, along with Senior Lecturer Ed Horowicz, facilitated drama workshops to explore what was important to children in hospital. Their ideas and the team's previous research were brought together to create the Children Coming to Hospital animations and comic strip, launched at a special event for families and professionals.

The work has had a real impact with children who need to go to hospital, as nine-year-old Esme Rice explains: "Lucy's animation is amazing, it tells children to speak up and be brave about asking questions. In the video the girl said that whatever you feel is okay and I think that's a really important thing to remember.

"I'd like my doctors to watch this because sometimes they don't realise how scary some things at hospital can be. I think it's because they're adults now and they have forgotten what it's like to feel scared about things they don't understand."

EXPERTS SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES



We welcomed a variety of guests this year to share their experiences and host workshops, Q&As and masterclasses to benefit our staff and students, as well the local community.



Gail Honeyman

Award-winning author Gail Honeyman visited Edge Hill to discuss her debut novel *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine* with Roy Bayfield, Director of Corporate Communications. Gail spoke about her book being chosen as The Big Read, which saw the novel given to new students to give them a conversation starter when they arrived on campus.



Heidi Thomas

Multi-award-winning screenwriter, producer and playwright Heidi Thomas visited Edge Hill to share her experiences of working in film and television. Honorary Doctor of the University and best known as the creator of the BBC series *Call the Midwife*, Heidi discussed her career with media students, as well as talking to scholars and staff working at the frontiers of modern midwifery.



Andy Burnham

A group of Paramedic Practice students were eight months into their studies and on placements with the North West Ambulance Service when the Manchester Arena attack occurred on May 22nd 2017. The Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, visited Edge Hill's St James' facility in Manchester to show his appreciation to this unique group of students, thanking them for their services on that horrific night.



John Rigby and Nikki Woollaston

Acclaimed conductor and Honorary Doctor of the University John Rigby, and celebrated director and choreographer Nikki Woollaston, held masterclasses and discussion sessions with Edge Hill's Dance and Musical Theatre students.



Mike McGear

Artist and photographer Peter Michael McCartney, known professionally as Mike McGear, joined forces with Edge Hill Animation graduate Peter Miller to bring to life his 'Weirdo' series of sketches in the form of a series of animations. Peter created a video storyboard with Mike's sketches, with the finished product showcasing short vignettes in black and white with flashes of bright colour. Mike recorded the audio in Edge Hill's recording studios and sound editing suites, working with Senior Lecturer in Music Sound and Audio Production, Gary Westhead.



David Yates

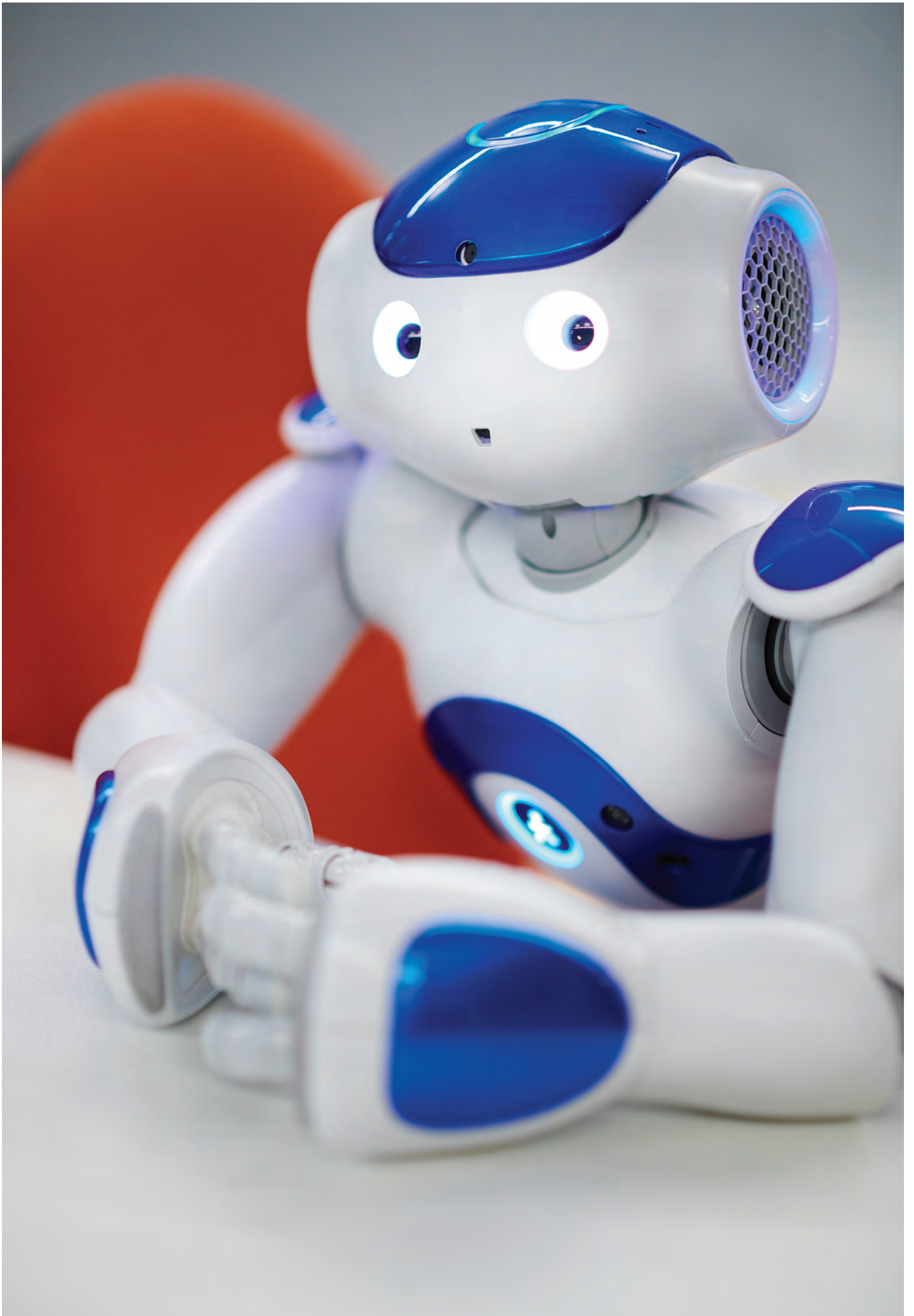
Renowned filmmaker David Yates, who was made an Honorary Doctor of the University last year, recently returned to Edge Hill to talk to students about his films and inspire the next generation of filmmakers.



Frank Bruno

Popular former world heavyweight boxing champion, Frank Bruno was guest of honour at the Emergency Services Mental Health and Wellbeing Conference, hosted at the Faculty of Health, Social Care & Medicine, where he shared his thoughts on his career inside and outside the ring, his struggles with mental illness and subsequent recovery and approach to improving his quality of life.





ROBOT LEARNS DEMENTIA SIGNS FROM SOAP STORYLINE



The Computer Science team behind Robbie the Robot are fighting the growing dementia issue – thanks to a soap storyline

Edge Hill's Robbie the Robot made international headlines when he became a soap fan after watching *Emmerdale* to learn about dementia.

Robbie watched several episodes featuring the storyline of dementia sufferer, Ashley Thomas. As a result he can now recognise signs of depression and aggressive behaviour and the hope is that robots will be able to help people living with the condition, proving a valuable aid for carers.

Ardhendu Behera, Senior Lecturer in Computer Science, led the project with three students, choosing specific episodes described by the Alzheimer's Society as a 'realistic portrayal' of the condition.

They broke down the episodes featuring Ashley into over 65,000 images, teaching Robbie to recognise facial expressions and body language. In test situations, Robbie was accurate at identifying aggressive and depressive behaviour when compared to happy and neutral actions.

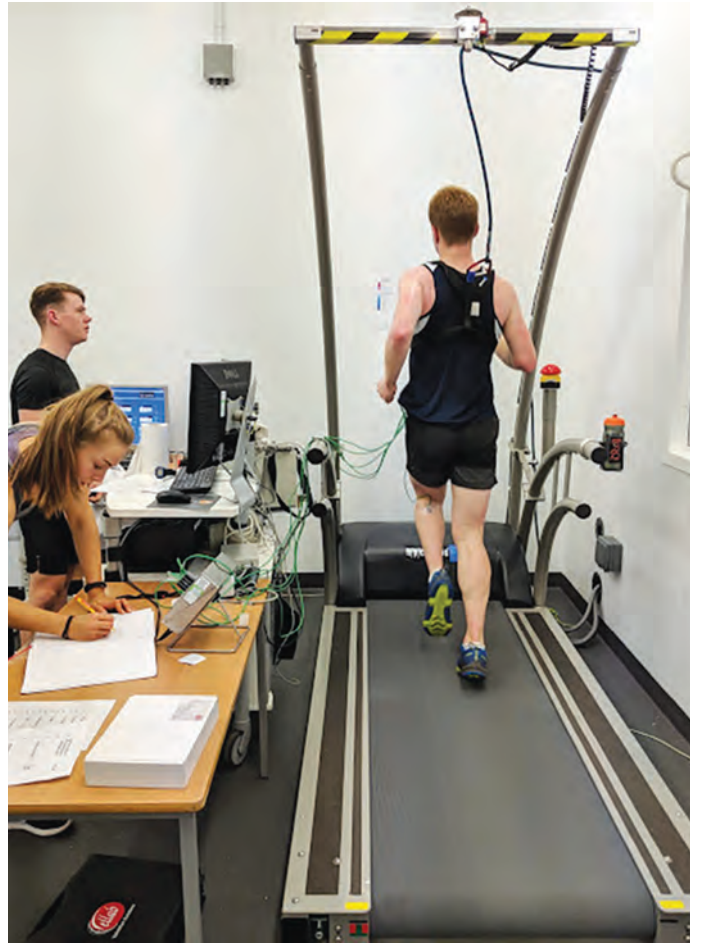
Ardhendu has presented the research to Alzheimer's Research UK, palliative care organisations, the IEEE (the world's largest technical professional organisation for advancing technology for the benefit of humanity) and other universities.

He said: "Currently the only ways to monitor and manage dementia is by direct observation which is labour intensive, time consuming and can be costly from a care perspective or there's wearable bio-sensing devices.

Monitoring and recognition is still in its infancy and we believe Robbie is the first robot to use vision-based recognition to identify several behaviours including; aggressive, depressive, happy and neutral."

Through previous projects, Robbie has been trained to recognise over 80 objects, human actions and emotions. He can be used as a companion to support people of all ages, checking how many times they have a drink and take medication, to how active they are.

The research was supported by Edge Hill University's Student Opportunity Fund and Research Investment Fund (RIF).



DESERT CHALLENGE ACHIEVED



James Thompson, a student who cheated death following a cycling accident, completed an ultramarathon thanks to support from the University's specialist staff and equipment.

Sport and Exercise Science student James Thompson completed one of the world's toughest races thanks to Edge Hills specialist facilities and bespoke training programme.

James has been a keen fundraiser for Cancer Research North West and the Walton Centre, who aided him in his recovery from life-threatening injuries when he was given only a 10 per cent chance of survival following a serious cycling crash in 2014.

And having previously participated in several challenge events, he targeted the Marathon des Sables, covering more than 140 miles across six days in some of the harshest terrain in the Sahara Desert in southern Morocco.

James utilised the state-of-the-art facilities at Edge Hill to aid his preparations, running in an environmental chamber from which Dr Andy Sparks, Reader in Exercise Physiology, and final-year students Kiara Holmes, Levi Osborne, Georgia Maudsley and Ben Dobson, undertaking their work placement module, could set and monitor conditions to mirror those which he was likely to experience.

"James struggled at first, but we worked with him several times a week, and gave him advice on how he could adapt his training to promote his ability to thermoregulate in the heat," said Andy.

"That advice was vital. Even when trained enough to cope with the event's demands, if you can't deal with the heat it would be impossible to complete."

James added: "I arrived on the start line feeling completely prepared... I'd acclimatised and trained hard on most terrains.

"It was the most amazing week. It was an incredible experience and it has changed the way I look at most things: that a lot of things I thought to be essential just aren't."



LIFE'S A BEACH



Edge Hill is leading the way with research into Beach Schools.
With the coastline on its doorstep, it is ideally placed to examine
the idea of a classroom without walls.

A team of academics have conducted research which could play an instrumental role in the future of Beach Schools.

Cait Talbot-Landers, Senior Lecturer in Primary Education, founded a schools' and organisations' network developing Beach Schools in the North West, along the Sefton and Fylde coasts, working alongside the Faculty of Education's Dr Bethan Garrett and Louise Hawxwell.

After the success of the Forest School movement brought to the UK from Scandinavia in 1995 there is a push towards beach-based teaching and learning, which can benefit children, teachers and the community.

Research suggests children can be inspired by an outdoors environment, enhancing motivation, awakening imaginations and boosting emotional wellbeing, as well as providing a greater understanding of ecology and instilling community pride. For teachers, Beach Schools can enable them to re-engage with the curriculum.

A steering group was formed by the network, representing relevant voices including schools, coastal landowners, environmental organisations and academics from the Department of Children, Education and Communities, who devised six principles that will develop the way the schools are practiced.

These include supporting subject knowledge and curriculum development, risk benefit management, developing engagement with ecological and conservation issues and identifying effective ecological practice for coastal teaching.

"Nature Deficit Disorder is an increasing problem across the world," said Cait. "Children are spending more time indoors and becoming disconnected from the natural world. Beach Schools allow children to discover the natural environment on their doorstep and understand more about the world and their place in it."



THE SCIENCE BEHIND LITERATURE



Dr Jekyll's Study, a unique exhibition by Edge Hill researchers explained the discoveries and advances in 19th century science and medicine.

Academics developed an exhibition highlighting the pioneering ideas of 19th century medical science, hosted by The Atkinson in Southport.

Dr Jekyll's Study: Science and medicine in the 19th century explored the connections between medicine and the literary works it influenced, such as *Frankenstein* (1818), *Dracula* (1897) and *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* (1886).

The exhibition, sponsored by Alcohol Research UK and the Past and Present Society, was developed and curated by Edge Hill academics Dr Laura Eastlake, Dr Andrew McInnes and Dr Bob Nicholson, from the Department of English, History and Creative Writing; and Dr Douglas Small, a Wellcome Trust Research Fellow from the University of Glasgow.

It followed Edge Hill's 2018 conference *Substance Use and Abuse in the Long Nineteenth Century*. The conference explored the use and abuse of substances – from opiates to beef tea – to see how cultural understanding of drugs and addiction has changed and what it tells us about contemporary issues of drug use, public health, criminality and addiction.

The medical equipment, which included anaesthetic and ophthalmological instruments, was loaned to the exhibition by the Thackray Medical Museum, Leeds.

Andrew explained: "We wanted to explore the fear and wonder that existed in Victorian times linked to medical technology. While people were afraid of the surgeon's knife, they appreciated that developments were cutting edge and life-saving and could make things better."

Laura added: "We showed how literature becomes a space where cultures can explore the wonder, but also fear of new medicines and therapies. In this respect, Frankenstein's monster and Dracula are like superheroes created from radioactive spider bites or experiments gone wrong."



GAMES EXPO EXPERIENCE



Students' tabletop skirmish game product launch goal realised at national exhibition showcase

A product launch at the UK's largest Gaming Expo proved to be the culmination of two years' hard work for Creative Writing students, as part of Edge Hill University Press.

Tabletop skirmish game *7TV: Pulp*, released as a partnership between Edge Hill University Press and game design studio Crooked Dice, was showcased at the three-day event held at Birmingham NEC, which attracted over 45,000 visitors and more than 350 exhibitors.

Team member and student Callum France said: "The Expo was a fantastic experience, having the chance to meet industry leaders and potential employers was a brilliant opportunity."

The 16 students, led by Dr Peter Wright, Reader in Speculative Fictions, collaborated on the company's third boxed set tabletop skirmish game, taking its inspiration from 1930s and '40s US cinema serials and pulp magazines.

The students worked as a professional design team on all aspects of the game, from research, development and artwork to compiling stand-alone rules, character and script development.

The process also included playtesting and filming complementary videos to ensure accessibility and playability.

Owner of Crooked Dice, Karl Perrotton, guided the designers and editors throughout the process, ensuring students obtained professional support and real-world experience to enhance their learning and career development opportunities.

Edge Hill University Press is a project of the Department of English, History and Creative Writing, involving students in the production of annual publications.

The first EHU Press publication, *Head Land*, celebrated 10 years of the Edge Hill Prize for the Short Story; the next was *Atlantic Drift: An Anthology of Poetry and Poetics*, with the third being *Scenes from the Revolution*, which explored 50 years of political theatre.

GRADUATIONS 2018/19



The 2018/2019 graduations saw more than 3,500 students graduate and four inspirational people with links to the University and the region be awarded honorary doctorates.



**Lady Brenda Hale,
Baroness Hale of Richmond DBE**

Lady Hale, the first female President of the UK Supreme Court, appointed in 2017, was also the first woman and the youngest person to be appointed to the Law Commission.

Her career began as a junior lecturer at the University of Manchester. She qualified and practised as a barrister while teaching, then devoted herself to academia, publishing on Family Law, Mental Health Law and Women and the Law.

In 1994, she was appointed a High Court Judge and went on to become the second woman to be appointed to the Court of Appeal and then the first and only female Law Lord, before the Law Lords were translated into Justices of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom in 2009.

She said: *"The great thing about a university education is that...it gives us the habits of curiosity, of thinking for ourselves of fair-minded evaluation of the evidence, of respect for the truth and of making ourselves work hard... But it gives us much more. It gives us the opportunity of meeting interesting people from different places, races and cultures, the values of understanding, tolerance for other people's points of view, of respect for the diversity of humanity."*



Gary Everett

Gary Everett is a freelance curator and cultural activist whose work has enhanced the profile of lesbian, gay, bi and trans* artists. He spent the last 20 years programming, commissioning and producing work by a range of LGBT artists for regional, national and international audiences.

In 2003, Gary founded the international arts and heritage organisation Homotopia, working as its Chief Executive and Artistic Director.

A decade later, he produced and curated *April Ashley, Portrait of a Lady* at the Museum of Liverpool. The exhibition was the museum's biggest project, attracting record audiences of close to one million people.

Speaking to Edge Hill graduands, he said: *"You have a unique role in shaping future cultural policy and can make huge inroads in creating an even more thriving and liberal cultural and arts scene. Art has the untapped potential to cross boundaries, change and influence opinions and create conditions that foster greater global cultural acceptance, and champion the wider diversity of our shared experiences."*



Gill Burns MBE

A women's Rugby World Cup winner in 1994, Gill Burns MBE made 73 appearances for England between 1988 and 2002.

As captain for five years, she appeared in the first four editions of the tournament, also helping her country reach the final in 1991 and 2002.

Gill was amongst the first six women to be inducted into the World Rugby Hall of Fame in 2014 and the first woman to referee at Twickenham.

During Gill's career she has picked up *The Sunday Times* Sportswoman of the Year Team Award and represented her teammates at the BBC Sports Personality of the Year. She received her MBE from the Queen in 2005 for services to sport and in 2013 was voted all-time hero at Waterloo RUFC.

In 2017, the national county rugby competition was re-named the Gill Burns County Championship, and in June 2019 Gill became President of Lancashire County Rugby Football Union. Gill continues to teach PE at Range High School in Formby.

She said: *"Make the most of every opportunity, no matter how daunting, grab it with both hands. Commit wholeheartedly and make sacrifices that need to be made so you can give it your best."*



Sir Robin Saxby

Sir Robin Saxby, a leader and pioneer of innovation, can lay claim, with his team, to transforming how we live.

After gaining an Engineering degree in Electronics in 1968, he worked for Rank Bush Murphy Pye Ltd, Motorola and Henderson Security – where he took his first CEO role – and European Silicon Structures.

The first CEO of Cambridge-based technology company Arm in 1991, Sir Robin was instrumental in it becoming a global giant. Having recruited 12 engineers from Acorn Computers into the new joint venture between Acorn and Apple Inc, he transformed them into a management team which introduced the licensing model for selling microprocessors.

Success in other areas such as car technology, robotics and medical monitors made Arm the world's most successful processor company, with offices worldwide.

Knighted in 2002, Sir Robin is a tireless promoter and champion of young entrepreneurs and continues to be involved in numerous start-ups.

He said: *"It's important to live your life to the full, life is your oyster. Life's about experiences, gaining an all-round education, not just studying. Make the most of it – there are enough pressures. Enjoy your friends, enjoy your time. Don't worry about making mistakes, it's part of learning – but don't make the same mistake twice!"*

THE UNIVERSITY'S NEW PROFESSORS



Nine new professors at Edge Hill delivered their inaugural lectures during the last 12 months.



Lucy Bray - Professor of Child Health Literacy

Lucy Bray has worked within acute children's nursing for more than 20 years, specialising in children's procedures and surgery. Her research interests include the education, information needs and preparation of children, young people and their parents for surgery, procedures and interventions. Her work explores how children and young people can be provided with information in a meaningful and timely way. Lucy is also involved in programmatic work focused on children and young people living with long-term conditions and complex needs.



Kim Cassidy - Professor of Services Marketing

Prior to joining Edge Hill, Kim held academic positions at a number of universities and previously worked in retailing for Marks and Spencer Group Plc and Pedigree Petfoods. Kim is passionate about encouraging knowledge exchange activities which maximise the impact of academic research on retailing and has worked closely with the Economic and Social Research Council on this agenda. Kim has published widely on all aspects of customer engagement and is a frequent keynote speaker at international practitioner conferences.



Ming Cheng - Professor of Education

Ming joined the Faculty of Education in November 2018 and has more than 13 years' international experience of teaching and research in British and Chinese universities. Ming is interested in exploring ways of improving the quality of university education, enhancing academics' professionalism and improving students' learning experiences. Her research interests include international student learning and social experiences, graduate employability, university governance and academic professionalism. She has a track record of winning research grants from external funding bodies such as the Quality Assurance Agency, Higher Education Academy, QA-QE SIG funding, Society for Research into Higher Education and Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC).



Alisdair Dobie - Professor of Accounting

Before joining Edge Hill, Alisdair lectured at Newcastle University, the University of the West of Scotland and Stirling University. He read History at Edinburgh University before working for a major Scottish investment trust and qualifying as a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales with one of the big four accounting firms. He completed his PhD at Durham University where he worked on one of the most significant collections of medieval accounting material to be found in Europe, and has published widely on the history of accounting.



Amanda Fulford - Professor of Philosophy of Education

Amanda is Head of the Department of Professional Learning and has previously held academic positions at a number of higher education institutions. Amanda's professional background began in further education where she worked within adult literacy, and teacher education and development. Her work has involved significant consultancy at a national level shaping the development of specialist routes of initial teacher education. Her research interests are in philosophy of education and the philosophy of higher education. Her recent research in community and public philosophy is related to her public engagement work, and to a commitment to knowledge exchange and the public role of the university.



Saville Kushner - Professor of Educational Evaluation

Saville has a career background in educational and programme evaluation with extensive engagement in social policy. His research and evaluation has taken him into fields of action as diverse as international development, schooling, higher education, criminal justice, health and the performing arts. Most recently, Saville's interests focus on Humanism and curriculum, with a current focus on Renaissance art and literature as a basis for understanding the European legacy of Humanism, and the early development of narrative forms of representation.



Helen Newall - Professor of Theatre Praxis

Helen is a professional playwright, photographer, director and digital artist. Her research involves installations, performative documentation and immersivity with a specific interest in commemoration, the WWI and site-responsive community writing. She has written for a number of prestigious institutions including The Nuffield Theatre, Southampton and The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra. Helen advocates strongly for Practice-as-Research, an arts and drama-based methodology used internationally, and where different kinds of knowledges are generated by artists through self-reflexive artistic endeavour.



Rod Nicolson - Professor of Psychology

Rod is Head of the Psychology department with his academic passions being positive psychology and human learning. For many years he has explored the factors – from motivation to learning to stress – that contribute to our ability to succeed. His research reputation comes from his work on dyslexia and its underlying learning differences. He has been particularly interested in applications of positive psychology to individual and group success, and created a new approach to dyslexia – positive dyslexia – which is aimed at finding, developing and living strengths rather than weaknesses.



Matthew Pateman - Professor of Popular Aesthetics

Matthew is Head of the Department of Performing and Media Arts and has made a career out of teaching, and writing about, the novels, poems, plays, films, TV shows, music, ideas, cultures and histories that "enthrall, amuse, affect, delight, challenge, embolden and move" him. He has been head of department at a number of higher education institutions, as well as teaching in India. His research interests include 20th and 21st century fiction and poetry, Quality TV, avant garde film and documentary, critical theory and popular culture, while his recent projects include a cultural history of the year 1997.



Image credits

P1, P8, P17, P18, P25, – Phil Tragen Photography

P2, P3, P5, P7, P8, P13, P19, P21, P23, P29, P30, P31, P32, P33, P34 – Stuart Rayner Photography

P5 – Makaton symbols and line drawings of signs are reproduced with permission from The Makaton Charity (Makaton.org) ©2019

P9 – Naithung, Thasala in Nakhon Si Thammarat province
Dr Suparee Boonmanun

P9 - Ao Nang Bay in Krabi province
Dr Kanchana Nakhapakorn

P15 – Laura Bell

P15 – Children Coming to Hospital comic
MisterMunro

P17, P18 - Brian Sayle Photography

P17 - Paul Heyes Photography

P21 – Dr Andy Sparks

P27 – David Finchett Photography



Edge Hill University
St Helens Road
Ormskirk
Lancashire
L39 4QP
United Kingdom

 edgehill.ac.uk
 Edge Hill University
 @edgehill
 edgehilluniversity
 ehusnap