

Staffordshire University Announces 2015 Honours List

Inspirational women role models are among those who have been selected by Staffordshire University to receive its highest honour.

Beauty entrepreneur and founder of charity Live Twice, Liz Earle MBE; Theresa Heskins, Artistic Director of the New Vic Theatre; and Patricia Wain, Deputy Director of Nursing, South Staffs and Shropshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust are all being recognised with honorary degrees at the Awards Ceremonies next month.

Honorary degrees are also being bestowed upon individuals who have achieved notable success in their field.

These include Mick Hocking, Vice President of Sony Computer Entertainment's (SCE) UK studios; Chris Sands, founder of the Totally Locally and TownKit movement; animators and puppet makers Ian Mackinnon and Peter Saunders of Mackinnon & Saunders; and Dr Russell Bromley, Knowledge Transfer Programme Adviser for the West Midlands.

Champions of social justice, Rev Steve Chalke MBE and Owen Jones, award winning author, journalist, commentator are also on the University's honours list.

And Staffordshire businessman, farmer and Executive Director of Dunstall Holdings Ltd, Simon Clarke DL, will be honoured, in part, for his role on the University's Development Board.

A posthumous award will be received by the family of playwright, Peter Whelan, who continued his association with Stoke-on-Trent, the place of his birth, through links with the University and the New Vic Theatre.

More than 3,600 graduates will receive degrees and be congratulated on their achievements by Professor Gunn and Chancellor of Staffordshire University, Lord Stafford, at the awards ceremonies held at Trentham Estate from July 6 to 10.

And the University is welcoming back double Olympic gold medal winning graduate Andrew Triggs-Hodge MBE who will be inaugurated as Pro Chancellor of Staffordshire University.

Professor Gunn said: "As well as being fantastic occasions for celebration by each and every one of our graduating students, awards ceremonies are also an opportunity for the University to honour individuals who have made special contributions, or achieved a distinction in any field relevant to its work."

The full list of Honorary Graduates in ceremony order is:

Monday, July 6, 10.30am – Faculty of Health Sciences

Patricia Wain

Pat is Deputy Director of Nursing for South Staffordshire and Shropshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust. Pat has made an extensive contribution to the education and development of student nurses in partnership with the University, and has pioneered Nurse Prescribing.

Monday, 6 July, 2.30pm – Faculty of Health Sciences

Owen Jones

Award winning author, journalist and champion for social justice.

Tuesday, 7 July, 10.30am – Faculty of Computing, Engineering and Sciences

Mick Hocking

Mick graduated with a first class degree from Staffordshire University in 1994 and is now Vice President of Sony Computer Entertainment's (SCE) UK Studios. He is a games industry pioneer, entrepreneur and responsible for Sony's global partnership with academia.

Tuesday, 7 July, 2.30pm – Faculty of Computing, Engineering and Sciences

Dr Russell Bromley

Russ is KTP Adviser for the West Midlands, and for the University. He engages business with the world of academia, having developed over 70 projects with 50 companies in the region.

Wednesday, 8 July, 10.30am – Faculty of Business, Education and Law

Simon Clarke DL

Executive Director of Dunstall Holdings Ltd, Simon is also a farmer, businessman, and member of Staffordshire University's Development Board, which importantly serves to generate income to support disadvantaged students.

Wednesday, 8 July, 2.30pm – Faculty of Business, Education and Law

Liz Earle MBE

Principled businesswoman and entrepreneur, Liz founded award winning company Liz Earle Beauty in 1995, which she sold in 2010, and more recently Liz Earle Wellbeing. She founded the charity Live Twice to support disadvantaged people both in the UK and in developing countries.

Thursday, 9 July, 10.30am – Faculty of Business, Education and Law

Chris Sands

Founder of Totally Locally, Chris's vision of connecting people with local shops and businesses is increasingly being taken up by communities around the world. He has been involved introducing Staffordshire University Business Studies students to the Totally Locally TownKits.

Thursday, 9 July, 2.30pm – Faculty of Arts and Creative Technologies

Rev Steve Chalke MBE

As well as being a Baptist Minister, Steve's impressive achievements include founding the Oasis Charitable Trust, which strives to build inclusive communities both in the UK and around the world. Steve also regularly appears on radio and TV.

Friday, 10 July, 10.30am – Faculty of Arts and Creative Technologies

Theresa Heskins

Artistic Director of the New Vic Theatre, North Staffordshire, Theresa also writes for BBC Radio. Her work contributes to the cultural richness of the area and to the enriched learning of the University's drama department.

Peter Whelan (1931 – 2014)

This posthumous award will be received by Peter's wife, Ffrangcon. Peter's playwriting received national and international recognition, and included The Herbal Bed for the Royal Shakespeare Company, and Overture for the New Vic Theatre, North Staffordshire.

Friday, 10 July, 2.30pm – Faculty of Arts and Creative Technologies

Ian Mackinnon and Peter Saunders

Ian and Peter, founders of award winning animation and puppet making company, Mackinnon & Saunders, and supporters of students of the University in providing industry opportunities in stop-motion and animation.

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Staffordshire University is developing to meet the needs of modern day learners and current and emerging industries. Vocationally inspired, the University offers courses across a wide range of subject areas. The Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014 determined that 78 per cent of the University's research is world leading or of international importance.