



Sesame

Reaching the Open University community worldwide

Honorary graduates 2003

Open University honorary graduates for 2003 are:

Dr Dominique Abrioux
Shami Ahmed
Chief Emeka Anyaoku
Prof Frances Ashcroft
Dr Diane Bailey
Iona Brown
Prof Marilyn Butler
Prof John Cowan
Prof Richard Dawkins
Sister Frances Dominica

Robert Fisk
Dame Rennie Fritchie
Kenneth Grange
Jackie Kay
June Mendoza
Heather Mills-McCartney
Beverley Naidoo
Dr Elizabeth Nelson
Torstein Rekkedal
David Robinson

Dr Mary Robinson
Bryn Terfel
Polly Vacher
Sir John Wall
Sheelagh Watts
Simon Weston
Michael Wood
John Yip
Prof Sir Christopher Zeeman

Follows details about each of the honorary graduates, information about each of them is preceded by details of their award, ceremony location and ceremony date.

DUniv indicates that the recipient will receive a Doctorate of the University award; MUniv indicates that the recipient will receive a Master of the University award.

Shami Ahmed

MUniv *Notable contribution to the educational or cultural wellbeing of society*

Saturday 6 June

Manchester

At 24, Eathasham (Shami) Ahmed launched Joe Bloggs, among the most successful jeans manufacturers in the UK. The organisation has a 2,000-strong team across the UK and throughout the world. He left school at 15 to join his father in setting up a wholesale clothing business, Pennywise. In the nine years that he worked with his parents, he identified a number of profitable, but unexplored, niches in the market. The Joe Bloggs empire is still privately owned, with the Ahmed family continuing to run the business.

Chief EleazarChukwuemeka (Emeka) Anyaoku

DUniv *Notable contribution to the educational or cultural wellbeing of society*

Monday 6 October London

Chief Eleazar Chukwuemeka (Emeka) Anyaoku served as the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth from 1990 to 2000. His career has also included periods with the Commonwealth Development Corporation, the Nigerian Diplomatic Service (including three years as a member of Nigeria's permanent delegation to the United Nations), and the Commonwealth Secretariat, London, where he was elected Deputy Secretary-General in 1978. His present roles include chairman of the Presidential Advisory Council on International Affairs in Nigeria and a member of the United Nations Eminent Persons Group on Racism.

DrDominique Abrioux

DUniv *Work in areas of special educational concern to the University*

Saturday 13 September

Paris

A pioneer in open and distance learning, Dr Abrioux has been with Athabasca University, Canada, for 25 years and was appointed its President in 1995. Under his leadership, the university – Canada's open university – has more than doubled

its student complement. It now has 26,000 adult learners in 65 countries. He has held a number of positions with international open education organisations.

Prof Frances Ashcroft

DUniv *Academic and scholarly distinction including academic achievement by those without the normal academic opportunities; and Notable contribution to the educational or cultural wellbeing of society*

Saturday 11 April

Cheltenham

Prof Frances Ashcroft is currently the Royal Society GlaxoSmithKline Research Professor at the University of Oxford and holds a professorial fellowship at Trinity College, Oxford. Her research focuses on adult diabetes and on how a rise in the blood sugar concentration stimulates the release of the hormone insulin from the pancreas. She is actively involved in the public understanding of science and has taken part in television work for schools.

Dr Diane Bailey

MUniv *Services to the University; and Work in areas of special educational concern to the University*

Saturday 31 May

Ely

Dr Diane Bailey joined the Open University in its first year as an arts tutor-counsellor and went on to tutor on several undergraduate and postgraduate courses. She took up a full-time post as senior counsellor at the Open University in the East of England in 1987, before becoming the university's director of equal opportunities. She returned to the East of England region, becoming deputy regional director until her retirement in 2000. She now works part-time for the Higher Education Equality Advisory Service.

Iona Brown

DUniv *Services to the Arts and Sciences*

Friday 6 June

London

After many years as a successful solo violinist and director, Iona Brown has extended her activities to develop into a notable conductor. As artistic director of the Academy of St Martins in the Fields, she has made a series of recordings and tours worldwide with this group. She has a number of honours, including an OBE for her services to music; the Royal Philharmonic Society awarded her the Instrumentalist of the Year 1994 title.

Prof Marilyn Butler

DUniv Academic and scholarly distinction including academic achievement by those without the normal academic opportunities; and Notable contribution to the educational or cultural wellbeing of society
London

Saturday 7 June

Prof Marilyn Butler has been Rector of Exeter College, Oxford, since 1993. Her academic career includes periods as a junior research fellow, fellow and tutor and lecturer at Oxford. She moved to Cambridge University to become King Edward VII Professor of English Literature from 1986 to 1993, later becoming Professorial Fellow of King's College, Cambridge, from 1988 to 1993. Her works have been published since 1972.

Prof John Cowan
Saturday 24 May

Emeritus Professorship
Glasgow

Prof John Cowan entered academia after a successful career as a structural engineering designer. He developed pioneering academic programmes. His research at Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, where he was the first Professor of Engineering Education in the UK, concentrated on student learning and the learning experience.

On moving to the Open University in Scotland, he encouraged creative developments for curriculum development and campaigned nationally for rigorous formative evaluation in higher education. In retirement, he remains an active teacher and educational project developer.

Prof Richard Dawkins

DUniv Academic and scholarly distinction including academic achievement by those without the normal academic opportunities; and Notable contribution to the educational or cultural wellbeing of society
Birmingham

Saturday 31 May

Prof Richard Dawkins, the International Cosmos Prizewinner for 1997, is the first holder of the newly endowed Charles Simonyi Chair in the Public Understanding of Science at the University of Oxford. An Oxford graduate, he was appointed Assistant Professor of Zoology at the University of California at Berkeley in 1967; he returned to Oxford in 1969 and has been a Fellow of New College since 1970. A bestselling author, his titles include *The Selfish Gene* (1976); more recent titles include *River Out of Eden* (1995), *Climbing Mount Improbable* (1996) and *Unweaving the Rainbow* (1998).

SisterFrances Dominica

MUniv Notable contribution to the educational or cultural wellbeing of society
Milton Keynes

Wednesday 25 June

Sister Frances Dominica is the founder and chair of trustees of Helen House, the world's first children's hospice, which opened in Oxford in 1982, and of Douglas House, which will provide respite for people aged from 16 to 40; it is due to open in June 2003. She continues as a Sister of All Saints Sisters of the Poor and is a Deputy Lieutenant of the County of Oxfordshire. A former nurse, she also lectures and writes on the care of children and young people with life-limiting illness and their families.

Robert Fisk

DUniv Notable contribution to the educational or cultural wellbeing of society
Portsmouth

Saturday 21 June

The holder of 24 British and foreign press awards, Robert Fisk is Middle East correspondent for *The Independent* – a position he has held since 1988. In a career with British national newspapers that spans more than 30 years, he has covered the Lebanese civil war and two Israeli invasions (1978 and 1982), the Iran-Iraq War (1980-88), the 1991 Gulf War and the conflicts in Algeria, Bosnia and Kosovo. He is also the author of two books on modern Irish history and of *Pity the Nation*, a history of the 1975-90 Lebanon war.

Dame Rennie Fritchie
Friday 11 April

DUniv Public Services
Cheltenham

As Commissioner for Public Appointments and a Civil Service Commissioner, Dame Rennie Fritchie's role is to regulate, monitor and advise on ministerial appointments.

An Honorary Visiting Professor with a chair in creative leadership at York University, she also holds a number of other positions, including president of the Pennel Initiative (which focuses on the health of women in later life), vice-chair of a building society, Fellow of the University of Gloucestershire and

Pro-Chancellor of Southampton University. She is a co-author of a number of books and publications, including titles about conflict resolution.

Kenneth Grange**DUniv Services to the Arts and Sciences****Saturday 29 March Torquay**

The holder of a number of design awards and prizes, Kenneth Grange contributed to the designs of some of the most common household items over the last 40 years, including disposable razors, pens, blenders and the Kodak Instamatic Camera. His many appointments include Master of Faculty of Royal Designers for Industry (1987), President of the Chartered Society of Designers (1988) and Director of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre (1987). He holds ten Design Council Awards and the Prince Philip Designer's Prize (2001).

Jackie Kay**DUniv Services to the Arts and Sciences****Friday 6 June****Manchester**

Award-winning writer Jackie Kay is well-known for her work in a number of areas. She has published three collections of poetry for adults and three for children. Among prizes awarded to her first novel, *Trumpet* (1998), was the Guardian Fiction Prize. She has also written for the stage and television and is currently Northern Arts Literary Fellow and a fellow of the Royal Society of Literature.

June Mendoza

DUniv Services to the University and Services to the Arts and Sciences

Saturday 31 May**Ely**

Artist June Mendoza's work includes portraits of the Queen, the Prince of Wales and Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother. Her group portraits include the House of Commons in session and The Rt Hon Baroness Boothroyd, the Open University's Chancellor. June Mendoza is a member of the Royal Society of Portrait Painters and of the Institute of Oil Painters and an honorary member of the Society of Women Artists.

HeatherMills-McCartney**DUniv Public Services****Saturday 21 June****Portsmouth**

Philanthropist Heather Mills-McCartney is a patron of Adopt-A-Minefield and a United Nations Association Goodwill Ambassador, who has campaigned to raise funds and awareness to rid the world of landmines. She counsels people from across the globe who have lost limbs in accidents, through illness or as a result of terrorist activities. Her work has earned her a Nobel Prize nomination and a number of UK awards. In August 1993, she was involved in a road accident with a police motorcycle and suffered the loss of her left leg below the knee.

Her prosthetic leg had to be regularly replaced – prompting her to instigate a nationwide appeal for the donation of unwanted prostheses for amputees and survivors of landmine explosions around the world.

Beverley Naidoo

DUniv Notable contribution to the educational or cultural wellbeing of society

Saturday 3 May**Cardiff**

Author Beverley Naidoo grew up as a white child under apartheid in South Africa and, as a student, she became involved in resistance to the movement. She was exiled from South Africa in 1965 and came to England. She began to write and her *Journey to Jo'burg* won awards in the UK and USA; it was banned in South Africa until 1991. Her other works include its sequel *Chain of Fire, No Turning Back* and the award-winning *The Other Side of Truth*, which explores life for young people who are forced overnight to become refugees.

Elizabeth Nelson**DUniv Services to the University****Wednesday 25 June Milton Keynes**

Liz Nelson is the founder chairman of Taylor Nelson, which – now as TNS plc – is the world's fourth largest market research company. She was a member of the Visiting Committee of the Open University and went on to serve as deputy chair of the University's Council. A former CEO of the Princess Royal Trust for Carers, she is now a consultant to the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and chair of the Wellbeing executive committee.

Torstein Rekkedal

DUniv Notable contribution to the educational or cultural wellbeing of society

Saturday 14 June**Newcastle upon Tyne**

Torstein Reddekal is director of research and development at NKI Distance Education, the leading distance education institution in Norway. He has been active in distance education research since 1970. In 2000 he was awarded the *Roll of Honour* from the European Association for Distance Learning and in 2001 he

received *The Prize of Excellence* for Lifelong Contribution from the International Council for Open and Distance Education. He chairs the Norwegian Standing Committee on Quality in Distance Education.

David Robinson **DUniv Work in areas of special educational concern to the University**
Friday 6 June **London**

David Robinson is the founder of Community Links, a network of projects run by local people that tackle practically and creatively inner-city problems in east London. Their experiences are shared with policy makers nationally through demonstration projects such as the Social Enterprise Zone, publications and training activities. Last year more than 30,000 people benefited directly from Community Links projects at 60 sites. David Robinson is a trustee of Timebank and Pilotlight, chair of the Children's Discovery Centre and a director of Stratford Development Partnership and of Business in the Community.

Dr Mary Robinson **DUniv Notable contribution to the educational or cultural wellbeing of society**
Saturday 13 September **Paris**

Former President of Ireland Dr Mary Robinson has enjoyed a long political and legal career. A member of the Irish Bar (Senior Counsel) and the English Bar (Middle Temple), her recent occupations and appointments include: United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (1997 to 2002); Secretary-General, Durban World Conference against Racism (2002); Chancellor of Dublin University (1998 to present); and a member of the Board of the Global Fund for Children's Vaccines (2001 to present). Her medals of honour for outstanding achievements include the J William Fulbright Prize for International Understanding and the Indira Gandhi Peace Prize.

Bryn Terfel **DUniv Notable contribution to the educational or cultural wellbeing of society**
Saturday 3 May **Cardiff**

Welsh bass-baritone Bryn Terfel is renowned for his portrayal of Mozart roles and has sung the role of Figaro at many of the world's opera houses. A winner of many awards, he has also performed at the Hollywood Bowl, the Rugby World Cup, the BBC Promenade concerts and the Edinburgh Festival. He also hosts his own annual festival at The Faenol, north Wales.

Polly Vacher **MUniv Notable contribution to the educational or cultural wellbeing of society**
Saturday 5 April **Brighton**

Polly Vacher flew solo around the world in a single-engined Piper Dakota to raise funds for and awareness of The Royal International Air Tattoo Flying Scholarships for the Disabled. The project raised more than £185,000 for the scholarship scheme, whose main aim is to help disabled people to come to terms with their disabilities and to help them rebuild their lives as they gain confidence and self-esteem through learning to fly. She taught music for many years before obtaining her private pilot's licence in 1994.

Sir John Wall **DUniv Notable contribution to the educational or cultural wellbeing of society; and Work in areas of special educational concern to the University**
Saturday 7 June **London**

John Wall is President of the European Blind Union. With an Oxford law degree, he became a solicitor and worked for a trade union before transferring to private practice. In 1990, he was appointed a deputy Chancery Master – the first blind person to be appointed to the judiciary in England. He joined the trustee board of the Royal National Institute for the Blind in 1962, later becoming its vice-chairman and then chairman. He has also led the British blind chess team. He was awarded the CBE in 1994 and was made Knight Bachelor in 2000.

Sheelagh Watts **MUniv Services to the University**
Saturday 21 June **Portsmouth**

Sheelagh Watts held the position of Regional Director of The Open University in the South from 1986 until her retirement in September 2001. She joined the The Open University in the North-West as a part-time tutor in 1972 and joined the full-time staff in 1977 as a senior counsellor. She later became Deputy Regional Director before her move to The Open University in the South. Throughout her time with the university, she has been responsible for many projects to improve the support offered to students.

Simon Weston **DUniv Services to the educationally underprivileged**
Saturday 31 May **Birmingham**

The road to recovery for Simon Weston – who returned from the bombing of the Sir Galahad during the Falklands Conflict with 46 per cent burns – saw him active in a number of successful ventures, including The Weston Spirit, a Liverpool-based young people's charity. He remains a tireless worker for the Royal British Legion and the Royal Star and Garter Home. TV and radio appearances, including a number of major BBC documentaries, have been complemented by literary success. He is also a popular business speaker.

Michael Wood **DUniv Notable contribution to the educational or cultural wellbeing of society**
Monday 6 October **London**

Author, journalist and film-maker Michael Wood has more than 50 documentary films to his name; his most recent work includes *Conquistadors* and *In the Footsteps of Alexander the Great* for the BBC. He is also the writer and presenter of the new BBC TV series *Shakespeare*. A regular contributor to *BBC History* magazine, he is also the author of several books including *In Search of the Dark Ages*, *In Search of the Trojan War* and *Domesday: A Search for the Roots of England*.

John Yip **DUniv Services to the University; and Work in areas of special educational concern to the University**
Thursday 10 July **Singapore**

As CEO of the Singapore Institute of Management, John Yip led the evolution of the institute's open university degree programme to one of an accredited institution of the UK Open University. He was also responsible for setting up the Singapore International School in Hong Kong and played a role in the setting up of Singapore's first private university, the Singapore Management University. He has also been active in regional and international programmes in education and leadership development.

Prof Sir Christopher Zeeman **DUniv Notable contribution to the educational or cultural wellbeing of society**
Saturday 10 May **Derby**

As a Foundation Professor at Warwick University, Prof Sir Christopher Zeeman founded the Mathematics Institute and Mathematics Research Centre there. In 1988, he was elected Principal of Hertford College, Oxford, and Gresham Professor of Geometry at Gresham College, London. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1975 and was knighted in 1991. His research interests include topology, dynamical systems and the application of catastrophe theory to the biological and behavioural sciences.