

FORMER STUDENT RETURNS AS PROFESSOR

Professor Mark Radford

When Professor Mark Radford undertook his degree course in 1991, he was one of just 15 nursing students in his year.

Now Deputy Director of Nursing at University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire, he also returns to his place of study as a visiting lecturer and has seen vast changes, with thousands of students now on a nursing courses at the Faculty of Health.

"I was able to experience a great university and a great city," he says. "Ever since I qualified I have worked as a visiting lecturer and more recently as a professor so I have been involved as a student, academic and clinician."

"Staff here really take responsibility for your career and development beyond your initial degree."

Mark took up his nursing career straight after graduating but also furthered his studies with a Postgraduate Diploma and PhD at the University, researching communication between doctors and nurses in acute hospital settings.

"Now that nurses have developed new skills and knowledge, there is more collaboration. They are able to influence doctors and make decisions for patients independently," he says.

This is an important aspect of his role today, where he oversees around 3,000 nurses and midwives, and care is given in a 1,200-bed Midlands teaching hospital.

"The leadership challenges of running a university hospital are huge, but hugely rewarding," he says.

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LECTURER GAINS QUEEN'S NURSE TITLE

A nursing lecturer has received national recognition for his outstanding dedication to the NHS.

Stefan Cash, a senior lecturer in Child Health, was awarded the prestigious Queen's Nurse title for his commitment to patient values and improving practice, including the development of a pre-hospital Paediatric

Assessment course for ambulance staff.

On receiving the award Stefan said: "I am delighted to be awarded the Queen's Nurse award. I am firmly committed to both improving and maintaining the high standards of practice and patient-centred care both in the community setting and in its wider context. I believe the award allows me the opportunity to work with colleagues who share the same values as myself, and, most importantly, learn from their experiences."

Stefan worked within the NHS for 13 years before joining Birmingham City University in 2005 as a Senior Lecturer in clinical skills at the Faculty of Health. He took up his current position as Senior Lecturer in Child Health in 2008.

SHEDDING LIGHT ON CITY HISTORY

Fiona Joseph

A graduate of the University's postgraduate creative writing programme has shed new light on the history of Birmingham's Cadbury family by telling the little-known story of the heiress to the chocolate empire who turned her back on the family fortune.

Fiona Joseph published *Beatrice*, a biography of Beatrice Cadbury, through her own publishing company, Foxwell Press, making use of the writing and business-related skills she was taught as part of her course.

After completing a degree in History and English, followed by a PGCE and then a Master's in linguistics, Fiona initially worked as a university lecturer, before setting up her own business delivering English as a Foreign Language (EFL) resources. After taking a creative writing course at an adult education centre in 2004, Fiona decided she wanted to take her talent further and chose to join the creative writing course in 2008.

She said: "I wasn't one of those people who always wanted to be a writer, but I had started to write a few short stories and articles, and the trigger for me to study it more seriously was a rejection I got from a local short story magazine. They actually wrote a very nice reply saying they liked parts of it but felt it needed a bit more work and I realised that, if I was to really write successfully, I needed to put a lot more time in."

"I saw the course as an opportunity to experiment, find out what sort of writing I wanted to do and of course get better at it."

"A strong appeal was that I would be learning from tutors who were themselves published writers, so as well as the more technical aspects of the course, we were

also taught how to build a career."

The idea for the book on Beatrice came about when Fiona was chatting to a Dutch client of her EFL business from The Werkplaats School – an institution in the Netherlands well known for its free-spirited and progressive approach to education, which had been set up by a poor couple by the name of Kees and Betty Boeke, nee Cadbury. Further research proved that Betty was indeed Beatrice Cadbury, daughter of Richard Cadbury, who founded the factory in Bournville with his brother George.

Fiona said: "I was really intrigued – how someone like that ended up living in poverty in the Netherlands and it turned out she had given away her shares to the workers, declaring her inherited wealth incompatible with her Quaker beliefs, while her husband was then deported for protesting against the First World War."

"I'm now on a bit of a mission to get Beatrice's story known and am regularly giving talks at libraries and local societies, as well as promoting the book itself. What I would really like to do is turn her story into a radio documentary and even a TV drama, and I'm currently exploring different options for doing that."

Fiona now enjoys a varied career, with her work split between her EFL business, the graded readers for the publisher in America and promoting her book, and planning talks.

She said: "I would like to do another biography – I'm just looking for the perfect subject – and I hope that in future my company can publish works by other writers. I do take my work seriously but I have a lot of fun with it as well."

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BRINGING OUR EXPERTISE TO VIENNA

No matter who you are or where you're from, language and how we use it marks us out as different from other species.

The symposium *Studying Change in the History of English: New Directions in Linguistics (SCHENDL) 2012* took place on February 24 and 25, 2012, in honour of Professor Dr Herbert Schendl's 70th birthday.

The symposium was held at the Department of English and American Studies at the University of Vienna and was co-organised by Dr Ursula Lutzky from our School of English. The presentations addressed change in the history of English in its widest sense, with a particular focus on sociolinguistic and pragmatic approaches to change.

Our research into the area of linguistics formed part of the symposium with Professor Richard Ingham presenting on English/Anglo-Norman code-switching in later medieval charter boundary clauses.

