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news release

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Innovative educators, broadcasters, journalists, an architect, a Paralympic athlete, a poet and the Archbishop of Canterbury are among the Open University honorary graduates for 2004.

The complete list is:

Brian Black

Prof Sally Brown

Prof Gordon Conway

Sir Terry Farrell

Tanni Grey-Thompson

Margaret Harrison

Prof Jean La Fontaine

Prof Nicola LeFanu

Mike Lucas

Prof Arthur Marwick

Roy Palmer

Gerry Ryan

Jack Vettriano

Roger Wheeler

Anthony Wilson

Benjamin Zephaniah

Prof Margaret Boden

Margaret Busby

Andrew Davies

Ann Gall

Dame Heather Hallett

Fergal Keane

Prof Clive Lawless

Michael Longley

Prof Grazia Marchianò

Jill Moss

Alan Plater

Fr Richard Sullivan

Kirsty Wark

The Most Rev Rowan Williams

Prof Peter Woods

m/f

Details about each of the honorary graduates follows; 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.

Brian Black **MUniv** *Notable contribution to the educational or cultural well-being of society*

May 22 **Belfast**

Brian Black was awarded 'Environment Journalist of the Year' in 1998, 1999 and 2000 and is Northern Ireland's most respected and prolific environmental filmmaker. As UTV's environment correspondent (the first within the UK Independent Television Network), he later became an independent programme maker with his talent for making complex environmental issues comprehensible recognised outside the media. His many documentaries include the award-winning *Natural Selection* series (UTV), an expedition to collect poisonous frogs in China to the plight of seals in the Caspian Sea. In 1999 he was awarded a Visiting Professorship in Environmental Studies at the University of Ulster.

Prof Margaret Boden **DUniv** *Academic and scholarly distinction including academic achievement by those without the normal academic opportunities*

April 17 **Torquay**

Margaret Boden is Research Professor of Cognitive Science at the University of Sussex, in the Centre for Cognitive Science. She was awarded an OBE in 2002, for 'services to cognitive science'. Margaret has lectured around the world, and her work has been translated into seventeen languages. Her books *Artificial Intelligence and Natural Man* (1977/1987) and *The Creative Mind* (1990/2003) were best-sellers in many countries. Her major current project is a history of cognitive science.

Professor Sally Brown *DUniv Academic and scholarly distinction including academic achievement by those without the normal academic opportunities*

May 29 **Glasgow**

Sally Brown received an OBE in 2002 for services to educational research. She is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and a past President of the British Educational Research Association. Her chairing of the 2001 RAE Education Panel and of national and regional committees for child protection, disability, Gaelic research, the arts in Scottish education and adult and continuing education reflects her breadth of concerns. Her research and publications in science education, assessment, special educational needs, equality and teachers' thinking are well known.

Margaret Busby *DUniv Services to the Arts and Sciences*

June 5 **Ely**

Writer, editor and broadcaster Margaret Busby (Nana Akua Ackon) was born in Ghana, West Africa, and was educated in Britain. On graduating from London University she co-founded the publishing house Allison & Busby Ltd, of which she was editorial director for twenty years. She was subsequently also editorial director of Earthscan Publications. She contributes widely to many national and international publications, is a regular broadcaster, has been a consultant and on the boards of various notable organizations, and has served as a judge for many literary competitions.

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

June 4 **London**

Gordon Conway is the 12th President of the Rockefeller Foundation and the first non-American appointed to the post and a Fellow of the Institute of Biology and of the American Academy of Arts and Science. He was Professor of Environmental Technology at Imperial college from 1980 and established the Centre for Environmental Technology and its highly successful masters program. He subsequently worked at the International Institute for Environmental Development establishing its sustainable agriculture program. He has published papers and articles, and several books and reports, including *The Doubly Green Revolution: Food for All in the 21st Century* and *Islamophobia; a challenge for us all*.

Andrew Davies

DUniv *Services to the Arts and Sciences*

May 1

Birmingham

Andrew Davies has been writing for the screen since 1965. He has won five BAFTA awards, most recently in 2002 for *The Way We Live Now*, and he was also awarded a BAFTA Fellowship in 2002. He has film credits for *Circle of Friends*, *Bridget Jones's Diary*, and *The Tailor of Panama*. He has also written children's books (including *Marmalade Atkins* and *Conrad's War?*), stage plays (*ROSE* and *PRIN*), two adult novels (*Getting Hurt* and *B Monkey*) and a book of short stories, *Dirty Faxes*.

Sir Terry Farrell

DUniv *Notable contribution to the educational cultural*

well-being of society

June 5

London

Principal of Terry Farrell and Partners (TFP), Sir Terry Farrell is an internationally recognised architect and urban designer with offices in London, Edinburgh and Hong Kong. Sir Terry has worked on high-profile building schemes and masterplans in cities as diverse as Seattle, Hong Kong, Dubai, Lisbon, Seoul and, of course, London, where he has been based for more than 40 years. In his many buildings and masterplans around the world, Sir Terry has embraced the wider, inclusive view of architecture. In his view, the richness and complexity of our modern cities should be enhanced and displayed for the benefit of all.

Ann Gall

MUniv *Services to the University*

May 1

Birmingham

Ann Gall left school at the age of 16 with few formal qualifications. Years later a colleague talked her into taking an Open University course that resulted in a BA (Hons) in 1992. In 1995, she returned to her studies with the OU having developed a passion for earth sciences while taking her first degree and became actively involved in the Open University Students' Association (OUSA), working her way to president. During her term she was responsible for improving support to students and communications between the Association and the University – and the wider academic world.

Tanni Grey-Thompson

DUniv Public Services and Work in areas of special educational concern to the University

June 12

Newcastle

Tanni is Britain's best-known Paralympic athlete, having performed at world-class level for the past 14 years in distances ranging from 100m to the marathon. Her 13 Paralympic medals, six gold medals in the London Marathon and her comprehensive set of British and World Records make her achievements second to none in the disability sport arena. She was awarded an OBE in the Millennium New Years Honours List for her services to sport.

Dame Heather Hallett

DUniv Public Services

June 5

London

Dame Heather was called to the Bar by the Inner Temple in 1972 and married a fellow barrister in 1974. Dame Heather was appointed High Court Judge and made Dame Commander of the British Empire in 1999, and elected Honorary Fellow of St Hugh's College, Oxford in the same year. She was appointed Presiding Judge of the Western Circuit in 2001. During her career at the Bar she has been a member of various committees and commissions, usually dealing with the criminal justice system or equal rights.

Margaret Harrison

DUniv Public Services and Work in areas of special educational concern to the University

May 15

Derby

Margaret Harrison is the founder and life president of Home-Start, the UK's largest voluntary family support organisation, which she began in Leicester in 1973 and led for 25 years. In 1998, Margaret founded Home-Start International in response to more than 30 other countries wishing to adopt and adapt the Home-Start approach. She was awarded an OBE in 1989 and a CBE in 2001.

Fergal Keane **DUniv** *Notable contribution to the educational or cultural well-being of society*

May 22 **Portsmouth**

Fergal is a Special Correspondent for BBC News. In his ten years with the BBC he has reported from some of the world's major trouble spots, from Northern Ireland to Rwanda, and won a string of awards for his hard-hitting, often moving reports. Fergal's reporting has attracted widespread critical acclaim, such as the overall winner of the Amnesty International Press Award, the James Cameron Award for war reporting and the Voice of the Viewer and Listener Award for *Letter to Daniel*, broadcast on Radio 4's *From Our Own Correspondent*. In 1996 Fergal was awarded an OBE for services to journalism.

Prof Jean La Fontaine **DUniv** *Academic and scholarly distinction including academic achievement by those without the normal academic opportunities and Work in areas of special educational concern to the University*

June 5 **London**

Jean La Fontaine was born in Kenya, but her university education was in England. She taught at the London School of Economics, taking early retirement in 1984 to undertake freelance research and consultancy. Research in England resulted in a monograph on the sexual abuse of children, articles on incest and on the relevance of social problems for anthropological theory. Her most recent research, a study of allegations that rituals of witchcraft and devil-worship were taking place in England, was funded by the Department of Health and resulted in several articles and her most recent book, *Speak of the Devil*.

Prof Clive Lawless **Emeritus Professorship**

June 23 **Milton Keynes**

As director of the Open University's Institute of Educational Technology, Clive Lawless placed IET firmly at the centre of the university's activities, creating a flexible structure of programmes for the Institute's work. He headed the working group that produced the 'Lawless Report' on a comprehensive framework for the classification of the university's courses and qualifications. His work evaluating courses and the effectiveness of the university's teaching forms the basis of his research. He continues to investigate the wider issues concerned with the quality of students' learning experiences.

Prof Nicola LeFanu **DUniv** *Services to the Arts and Sciences and work in areas of special educational concern to the University*

April 3 **Harrogate**

Nicola LeFanu is the daughter of the composer Elizabeth Maconchy. She studied at the University of Oxford, the Royal College of Music and as a Harkness Fellow at Harvard. She has composed some 60 works, which have been played and broadcast all over the world. Recent works include *Duo Concertante* for violin, viola and orchestra (2000), *Catena* for eleven solo strings (2001), *Mira Clar Tenebras* (2002) for chamber ensemble and *Piano Trio* (2003). She has a particular affinity for vocal music and has composed five operas.

Michael Longley **DUniv** *Services to the Arts and Sciences*

May 22 **Belfast**

Michael's *Selected Poems* was published in 1998. His collections include *Gorse Fires* (1991), which won the Whitbread Prize; and *The Weather in Japan* (2000), which was awarded the Irish Times Prize for Poetry, the Hawthornden Prize and the T S Eliot Prize. He received the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry in 2001, and the Wilfred Owen Award in 2003. A Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and a member of Aosdána, he has also worked through the Cultural traditions Group to encourage in Northern Ireland acceptance and understanding of cultural diversity.

Mike Lucas **MUniv** *Notable contribution to the educational or cultural well-being of society*

April 3 **Harrogate**

Mike Lucas gained a Law degree from the London School of Economics and went on to study drama at Webber Douglas Academy of Dramatic Arts. In the early 1970s, Mike decided to take live theatre on the waterways and, every year since then, Mikron Theatre Company has travelled by narrowboat, performing to audiences all over the country in pubs, village halls and community centres. He has actively campaigned for the regeneration of the waterways and has written more than 30 plays on social, political and environmental themes, and his book, *I'd Go Back Tomorrow*, describes Mikron's years on the waterways.

Prof Grazia Marchianò

DUniv *Academic and scholarly distinction including academic achievement by those without the normal academic opportunities*

September 18

Paris

A scholar in comparative philosophy and aesthetics, Grazia Marchianò in the last 30 years has vastly contributed to disseminating Indian and Far-Eastern studies in the international aesthetic community, and instilling the consciousness that transcultural aesthetic research has a remarkable role to play in the building up of a planetary humanism. She has promoted and coordinated several intercontinental scientific events.

Prof Arthur Marwick

Emeritus Professorship

May 29

Glasgow

Arthur Marwick, a graduate of Edinburgh and Oxford, was appointed the first Professor History at the Open University in 1969, after lecturing at Edinburgh for ten years. He has held visiting professorships at: the State University of New York at Buffalo; Stanford; Rhodes College; Memphis' L'École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris. He has written extensively on: Total War and Social Change; The Nature of History; Class; The Arts and Society; The International Cultural Revolution of the 1960's; Contemporary Britain; and The History of Human Beauty.

Jill Moss

DUniv *Work in areas of special educational concern to the University and Services to the educationally underprivileged*

June 23

Milton Keynes

Jill founded a playgroup before training as a teacher of the deaf. She attained a Master's degree in Special Educational Needs followed by an Open University degree. Following 18 years teaching, Jill was forced to retire with the illness ME. Whilst recovering, she met five children with ME and wrote a book for them, explaining their illness. She won the 1995 BT/Childline 'Services for Children' award, and founded the Association of Young People with ME (AYME), which now has over 3,000 young members. Working with the Open University in 2000, AYME published a unique research report giving young people a voice on their own illness for the first time. In 2002, AYME was awarded the much-coveted Whitbread award for Volunteer Action.

Roy Palmer **MUniv** *Notable contribution to the educational or cultural well-being of society*

April 23 **Cheltenham**

Roy Palmer has been a participant observer in the folk music revival for more than 40 years, and since the 1970s has edited or written many books on traditional song, street balladry and folklore, with particular reference to their place in social history. The extensive collection of his field recordings of traditional singers is now in the National Sound Archive of the British Library. He is chairman of the Friends of the Dymock Poets, an organisation dedicated to the work (among others) of Rupert Brooke, Robert Frost and Edward Thomas.

Alan Plater **DUniv** *Services to the Arts and Sciences*

June 4 **London**

Alan Plater is a former president of the Writers' Guild of Great Britain. He has more than 200 assorted credits in radio, television, theatre and films – plus six novels, occasional journalism, broadcasting and teaching. His first plays were written for radio, a medium he still loves. A trilogy: *The Devil's Music* was heard on Radio 4 in the summer of 2001. Alan's television career began with a string of single plays and contributions to the pioneering *Z Cars* series. Subsequent award-winning work has included *Barchester Chronicles*, the *Beiderbecke Trilogy*, *Fortunes of War*, *A Very British Coup* and *The Last of the Blonde Bombshells*.

Gerry Ryan **MUniv** *Notable contribution to the educational or cultural well-being of society*

April 24 **Dublin**

Gerry Ryan studied law at Trinity College, Dublin, and went on to work as an apprentice solicitor but broadcasting took over his life. After an early start on pirate and community radio, Gerry now hosts the biggest chat show on Irish radio, the *Gerry Ryan Show*. As well as writing a column for the Irish Star on Sunday, Gerry has also presented a selection of television programmes since 1980 including the *Eurovision Song Contest* in 1994, *Ryan Confidential* and *The Hit List*.

Fr Richard Sullivan

DUniv *Public Services*

April 3

Torquay

Richard took part in liberating German prison camps at the end of the Second World War, and it had a profound effect on him. He joined the Society of the Divine Saviour and after ordination his Superior required him to teach science and to obtain a science degree. He did both and has lectured and done chaplaincy work at colleges of education, Aston and Keele Universities and a number of Polytechnic colleges. In 1991, after open heart surgery, he was given up for dead but a second operation saved his life. He continues his vocation of encouraging others to exceed their prospects.

Jack Vettriano

DUniv *Services to the Arts and Sciences*

June 5

Ely

Jack Vettriano has gone from Scottish coal miner to Britain's best known contemporary artist. He is entirely self-taught. He has only been painting full-time since 1988 after his work first came to public prominence at the Royal Scottish Academy open exhibition. Since then, there have been sell-out exhibitions in Edinburgh, London, Hong Kong, Johannesburg and New York. Aside from his exhibitions, Vettriano has acquired a vast following through the posters and cards of his paintings that are distributed worldwide. He was awarded an OBE for services to the visual arts in November 2003.

Kirsty Wark

DUniv *Notable contribution to the educational or cultural well-being of society*

May 29

Glasgow

Kirsty Wark is one of Britain's most highly regarded and versatile presenters. While keeping strong roots in Scotland, she has for more than a decade been firmly established with audiences throughout the United Kingdom as a presenter of flagship national current affairs programmes. In 1993, Kirsty joined BBC Two's flagship current affairs programme *Newsnight*, and along with Jeremy Paxman, is one of the main presenters of the programme. She also presents many BBC Arts programmes including *Ominibus*.

Roger Wheeler

DUniv *Academic and scholarly distinction including academic achievement by those without the normal academic opportunities*

May 29

Glasgow

Roger Wheeler retired as Director of The Royal Zoological Society of Scotland in 1988 and has been Chairman of the National Trust for Scotland since 2000. In his career he became deeply involved in the emergence of zoological collections as organisations promoting environmental education, non-invasive research, conservation breeding programmes, training programmes for animal keepers and standard setting for animal welfare and husbandry. He was elected to the Royal Society Edinburgh in 1985, awarded the OBE in 1991.

The Most Rev Rowan Williams

DUniv *Notable contribution to the cultural well-being of society*

September 25

London

Rowan Williams was enthroned as the 104th Archbishop of Canterbury in February 2003 in Canterbury Cathedral. Dr Williams has written a number of books on the history of theology and spirituality and published collections of articles and sermons – as well as two books of poetry. He has been involved in various commissions on theology and theological education. Dr Williams is a Fellow of the British Academy.

Anthony Wilson

MUniv *Notable contribution to the educational or cultural well-being of society*

June 11

Manchester

Anthony Wilson's television journalist credits include *Granada Reports*, *Which Way, So it Goes*, *World in Action*, *Flying Start*, *Up Front* and *The Other Side of Midnight*. His independent work included being a founding presenter of Channel 4's legendary *After Dark* as well as fronting the award-winning Channel 4 documentary *The Amber Room*. Working as a TV journalist in the arts field led to putting a variety of bands on television for the first time, from the Sex Pistols to Dire Straits, from Blondie to the Stone Roses. More recently, he gave Steps their first outing.

Prof Peter Woods

Emeritus Professorship

September 25

London

Peter Woods has contributed to a range of Open University courses, some as chair. For a number of years he was Director of the Centre for Sociology and Social Research. He was also Director of the Education and Society Programme Area. He has been a Distinguished Visiting Fellow in Japan, and is an honorary Research Fellow of Charles University, Prague. In later years, he ran several research teams working in the general areas of 'creative teaching', and of the effects on schools and teachers of government reforms. He continues in this research and in seeking new ways through which to represent ethnographic work.

Benjamin Zephaniah

DUniv Services to the Arts and Sciences

May 1

Birmingham

Benjamin Zephaniah's poetry is strongly influenced by the music and poetry of Jamaica and what he calls 'street politics'. By the time he was fifteen he had developed a strong following in this home town of Handsworth, where he had gained a reputation as a young poet who was capable of speaking on local and international issues. In the nineties his book publications, record releases and television appearances increased, but he concentrated on performing outside Europe. He feels at home anywhere the oral tradition is still strong and he lists South Africa, Zimbabwe, India, Pakistan and Colombia as some of his most memorable tours.

Journalists looking for more information are asked to contact a member of the university's media relations team on 01908 653248 or at

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