



University Campus Suffolk

Honorary Graduates and Fellows 2012



Michael Morpurgo

Michael Morpurgo, OBE, is the Children's Laureate and best-selling author of over 130 books for children including *Private Peaceful*, *The Butterfly Lion*, *Kensuke's Kingdom* and *War Horse*, which first performed at the National Theatre in 2007. *War Horse* continues to be performed at the New London Theatre to sell out theatres, and recently opened in New York and Canada. It was recently released as a film directed by Steven Spielberg in January 2012.

In 1976, Michael and his wife, Clare, started the charity Farms for City Children. The charity runs three farms around the country, in Gloucestershire, Pembrokeshire and North Devon. Each farm offers children and teachers from urban primary schools the chance to live and work in the countryside for a week, and gain hands-on experience. Michael's latest book is *A Medal for Leroy*, which will be published in Autumn 2012.



Liz Calder

Liz Calder began her publishing career in 1971 at Victor Gollancz, where she published Salman Rushdie's first novel *Grimus*, John Irving's *The World According to Garp* and Angela Carter's *The Passion of New Eve*. Moving to Jonathan Cape in 1979, she published two Booker Prize winners, Salman Rushdie's *Midnight's Children* and *Hotel du Lac* by Anita Brookner. She also published the first four novels of Julian Barnes.

In 1986 Liz became a founder director of Bloomsbury Publishing, where she launched the Harry Potter series along with Booker winners Margaret Atwood and Michael Ondaatje and

Nobel literature laureate Nadine Gordimer.

She was chair of the Royal Court Theatre (2000-2003), and since 2003 has been President of the Parati International Literary Festival (FLIP) in Brazil. In 2009 she joined three colleagues to form a new Suffolk-based publishing house, Full Circle Editions.



Simon Barnes

Simon Barnes is a sport and wildlife writer. He is chief sportswriter for *The Times*, and also writes two weekly columns on wildlife where he has written for the paper since 1982.

Simon has written 20 1/2 books, including three novels and one collaboration. His most recent is *Birdwatching With Your Eyes Closed*.

He has worked on local papers for four years before moving to Asia for four years of freelance journalism. Simon returned to England with Cindy Lee Wright, whom he married and worked as a sports columnist on *GQ* magazine and later for *The Spectator*.

He has written for the RSPB's *Birds* magazine for 20 years and as a journalist for *The Times* has won numerous awards. His sports books include *Horsesweat and Tears*, a year in the life of John Dunlop's racing stable, and more recently, the roundly praised *The Meaning of Sport*. Simon, who lives in East Anglia, is a council member of the World Land Trust and a patron of Save The Rhino.



John Burton

With an extensive background in both journalism and conservation, John Burton has worked across many high profile international environmental organisations for the last 30 years including Friends of the Earth and as chief executive of Fauna and Flora International. He set up the first TRAFFIC offices of the Species Survival Commission (SSC) for IUCN, has been involved with the Wildlife Trade Monitoring Unit and was founding chairman of the Bat Conservation Trust.

John has also been a regular columnist with New Scientist, assistant editor of Animals magazine (now BBC Wildlife Magazine) and, in particular, a natural history author specialising in field guides including guides to European Mammals, North American Mammals and European Reptiles and Amphibians. In 2005, John was appointed to the Editorial Statutory Board of BBC Wildlife Magazine, and from 2007-2008 he was a Trustee of the newly created BBC Wildlife Fund.

John has also written six children's books and edited several multi-author works including the National Trust Book of British Wildlife, Owls of the World and the Atlas of Endangered Species.

In 2012 John Burton was responsible for brokering a ground-breaking multicultural agreement to protect a biosphere reserve in Argentina.



Dame Stephanie Shirley

Arriving in Harwich as an unaccompanied five year old refugee from Nazi Europe in 1939, Dame Stephanie went on to help develop the first electronic telephone exchange at Highgate Woods and was one of the two mathematicians checking the randomness of ERNIE, the premium bond computer.

She left the scientific civil service on marriage to enter the burgeoning computer industry where she found her true vocation. In 1962, noting the loss to industry of women software specialists, she founded freelance programmers for women who, at that time, were leaving industry on marriage or when their first child was expected. She called herself Steve in her business development letter so as to get through the door before anyone realised that he was a she.

After 25 years, it grew into a conventional publicly listed company. "Steve" had transferred a quarter of the company to the staff at no cost to anyone but her so that there were 70 millionaires when it floated.

Her late son Giles was severely autistic and inspired much of her philanthropy: this includes the Kingwood support service, Prior's Court School (now with its Adult Learning Centre); and Autism Cymru in bilingual Wales. An ardent philanthropist, she has given away over £60m and since 2000 has focussed on funding medical research into the causes of autism.

Dame Stephanie serves as an ambassador not just for autism but for philanthropy generally.



David Lloyd Gledhill

David Lloyd Gledhill is the Chief Executive of Hutchison Ports UK, owners and operators of the Port of Felixstowe, Harwich and London Thamesport, a business with over 3,000 employees.

Hutchison Ports UK (HPUK) is a member of the Hutchison Port Holdings (HPH) Group. HPH, a subsidiary of the multinational conglomerate Hutchison Whampoa Limited (HWL), is the world's leading port investor, developer and operator. The HPH network of port operations comprises 315 berths in 52 ports, spanning 26 countries throughout Asia, the Middle East, Africa, Europe, the Americas and Australasia.

David is a member of the CBI's infrastructure board which was established so that business can engage with senior government ministers with infrastructure remits. He holds a Directorship of the UK Major Ports Group & a commission, as Lieutenant Colonel, with the Engineer and Logistics Staff Corps.



Elena Baltacha

Elena Baltacha is one of the most accomplished British female tennis players of her generation, excelling not only as an individual but compiling an impressive record over the last 11 years as part of Great Britain's Fed Cup team. Elena is also part of Team GB for the London 2012 Olympic Games.

Despite being diagnosed with a liver condition at the age of 19, Elena is one of only two British women to break into the World's Top 50 in the last 19 years and has qualified on ranking for 11 consecutive grand slam tournaments.

Off the court, Elena has shown herself to be a fantastic role model. She is a committed patron of the Children's Liver Disease Foundation (CLDF) and in 2010 started the Ipswich-based Elena Baltacha Academy of Tennis (EBAT) to support the tennis development of girls from Primary Schools in some of the town's most deprived areas.



Gwen Parsons

Gwen Parsons was Principal of Lowestoft College from 2002 until her retirement in 2010 and was an early pioneer of UCS as a whole as well as UCS Lowestoft. She started the Waveney Learning Community, working with the voluntary sector to develop routes into FE, and was a key player in the development of Lowestoft Sixth Form College which is co-located with the FE College.

In 2000 she became Vice-Principal of a large FE college in Wolverhampton and updated herself on the English Further Education system before moving to Lowestoft College in March 2002.

In retirement Gwen is still very active within the local community. She is a governor of Pakefield High School and a trustee of DIAL Lowestoft & Waveney which is a charity run largely by disabled people providing information and advice to disabled people, their families and carers. She is also a trustee of The Community Forum in Waveney which provides support for frontline voluntary organisations as well as running two LEAP centres in Harbour and Kirkley wards. Here adults can take their first steps back into education or training.



Sarah Meelan

Sarah Meelan was the Director of Human Resources at UCS from September 2006 until June 2012. Having previously worked at Suffolk College as their Director of HR and Estates, Sarah joined the UCS project team, a group of some twenty people who together developed the organisation and framed the organisational structure and culture which is still evident in UCS today.

During her service with UCS, among other things, Sarah oversaw the transfer of some 360 staff to UCS, supported the recruitment of the present Provost, developed and implemented a wide range of policies, procedures and practices, and implement structural change affecting many staff. Throughout her career at UCS, Sarah worked hard to support and enable staff to provide the best possible experience for our students.

Sarah also contributed to the development of UCS through her leadership of a major capital works programme, which resulted in the completion of the James Hehir Building and the refurbishment of older buildings on the campus.

Until recently, Sarah also served as an Independent Member of the Ipswich Borough Council Standards Committee.

Erica Towner

Erica Towner began her career as a Research Demonstrator at Bristol University teaching parasitology to veterinary students and biology to mainly older, career change students wishing to train as doctors.

More recently Erica took on responsibility for collaborative provision as Director of Partnerships at a time when UEA was working closely with Suffolk College and was able to work with enthusiastic colleagues across Suffolk in successful UCS development, which is doing so much to widen participation and contribute to lifelong learning .