EVERY YEAR THE UNIVERSITY OF YORK CONFER HONORARY DEGREES ON DISTINGUISHED PEOPLE.

The recipients come from many walks of life and all have made a significant contribution to society. Honorary graduates are selected from nominations by members of the University and very often have links with departments or are alumni.

At these ceremonies, the honorary degree of Doctor of the University will be conferred on:

**Sir Robin Saxby**
Sir Robin Saxby is a founder and Chairman of the film, media and production company Arolla Partners Ltd. He was the founding CEO and Chairman of ARM Holdings plc, one of the foremost British engineering successes of recent times. He led ARM from its start-up in 1990 to flotation in 1998 before retiring from the company in 2007.

Sir Robin is an Honorary Fellow and past President of the Institution of Engineering and Technology which awarded him the 2002 Faraday Medal for his outstanding contribution to the electronic engineering industry. He is also a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering.

He was Chairman of the Open Microprocessor Initiative Advisory Group, a European Union panel advising on collaborative research and development activity in Europe. Sir Robin also served on the Government’s UK Science Forum, leading a sub-committee on improving science teaching in schools and encouraging students into engineering. He has been a visiting professor at the University of Liverpool since 1999.

In the 2002 New Year Honours List he was awarded a knighthood for services to the information technology industry.

**Professor John R Beddington CMG FRS**
Professor John Beddington is the Government’s Chief Scientific Advisor and Head of the Government Office for Science.

A former lecturer in population biology at the University of York, Professor Beddington’s main research interests are the application of biological and economic analysis to problems of natural resource management.

He has advised numerous Government departments and Parliamentary committees in this country as well as overseas governments and international bodies including the European Commission, the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organisation. He was a member of the Natural Environment Research Council for six years.

In June 1997, Professor Beddington was awarded the Heidelberg Award for Environmental Excellence, for his work on biological control and fish conservation.

He became a Fellow of the Royal Society in 2001 and in 2004 he was awarded the Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George by the Queen for services to fisheries science and management.

Before taking up his current post last year, he was Professor in Applied Population Biology at Imperial College, London.

**Professor Sir Alex Markham**
Professor Sir Alex Markham is Professor of Medicine at the University of Leeds and a former Chief Executive of the charity Cancer Research UK, a post he held for four years.

After completing his Chemistry PhD in 1974, Sir Alex spent 15 years in the commercial sector, experience which included the worldwide development of DNA Fingerprinting for forensic and medico-legal applications which was recognised by the Queen’s Award for Technological Achievement in 1990.

He has made significant contributions to medical science in various fields. He developed research programmes in molecular biology from the late 1970s and was one of the pioneers of molecular genetics research in the UK.

Sir Alex is a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences, a Board Director of the International Union against Cancer and former Chairman of the National Cancer Research Institute. He also holds a number of posts advising the Government.

He was awarded a knighthood for services to medicine in the 2008 New Years Honours List.

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HONORARY GRADUATES
Andrew Hunt

Andrew Hunt has played a leading role in improving the quality and relevance of the science taught in schools, both in Britain and overseas, for more than 30 years. He started his career as a chemistry teacher and went on to combine his school responsibilities with contributions to the revision of Nuffield O level Chemistry and Advanced Chemistry.

Mr Hunt moved into curriculum development full-time in 1985 with the Nuffield-Chelsea Curriculum Trust and the Association for Science Education. In 1994 he was appointed Director of the Nuffield Curriculum Centre, a post he held until 2008. During this time, Mr Hunt frequently worked in close collaboration with the University of York Science Education Group. This partnership produced a number of significant innovations in school science, including Twenty First Century Science, a new GCSE science curriculum published in 2006 and already taught in around 1,000 schools.

Kenny Wheeler

Kenny Wheeler’s versatile skills as trumpeter, cornetist, flugelhornist, composer and arranger have made him one of the most influential jazz musicians of his generation. He was born and educated in Canada but has been based in Britain since 1952. He has appeared as featured artist on countless recordings including some 20 albums as leader. Music for Large and Small Ensembles is studied in music colleges around the world. Angel Song sold an unprecedented 45,000 copies and What Now? was nominated for a Grammy in 2005. Now 79, he remains an active performer and composer.

In addition to his tremendous musical achievements, Mr Wheeler has also made a significant contribution to music education, serving on the Banff Centre’s summer jazz workshop for 17 years running, and he is currently the patron of the Royal Academy of Music Junior Jazz Course.

He has been honoured with the Canadian Jazz Laureate award and made an Officer of the Order of Canada.

Professor Kel Fidler

Professor Kel Fidler retired as Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive of the University of Northumbria in August 2008, a post he had held for the previous seven years.

He moved to Northumbria from the University of York where he had worked since 1989, holding the posts of Head of the Department of Electronics, Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Deputy Vice-Chancellor. Previously he was Head of the Electronics Discipline at the Open University and Chair of the Department of Electrical Engineering Science at the University of Essex.

Professor Fidler is currently Chair of the UK Engineering Council, EC4, a Trustee of the Engineering and Technology Board, ETB, non-executive Director of Nexus, and Chair of the Associates of the Discover Museum of Science and Technology in Newcastle. He recently completed a term as Chair of the Independent Commission on Northumberland, ICON.

In July 2005 he was elected Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering.

Dr David Atkinson

Former Chief Executive of City of York Council

Professor Tanya Bryon

Psychologist, writer and TV presenter

Professor Else Roedahl

Expert on Viking and medieval archaeology

January 2009 Honorary Graduates

The University of York conferred honorary degrees on three distinguished people at the January 2009 graduation ceremonies.