We started in 1975.
And now we continue.
This book is for you. You’re part of Linköping University. You work here, you helped create what we are today, and you’ll contribute to what we will be tomorrow. You’re our most valuable asset.

Read this book. Read it carefully, read between the lines, read it however you like – but read it. We share the same story of why we exist, who we are and what we offer. This boosts our strength and appeal, which is absolutely vital for a university that aims to enhance the well-being of people and society.

We asked a number of our employees and students to talk about what motivates them, in the hope that it will inspire you to do the same.

With combined energies, mutual understanding and strong engagement, we can continue to do good. Inside and outside our campuses, and for many years to come.

We started in 1975. And now we continue.

Helen Dannetun
Vice-Chancellor
“Driving change is in our genes.”

“Our forgiving atmosphere is unique. We can do things that no one else can.”

It wasn’t by chance that Anders Ynnerman ended up at LiU, as Sweden’s first professor of visualization. Anders’ and his colleagues’ research laid the foundation for the visualization table. He is one of the driving forces behind the Visualization Center C, and has been involved in building up the MSc in Media Technology and Engineering. Special effects from there have made it big in Hollywood.

One thing that motivates him is finding the mechanisms whereby first-class research can deliver real-world benefits. Another is taking advantage of people’s ability to see things in images, in order to interpret and disseminate science.

“With visual metaphors we can communicate across cultural and generational boundaries, and between all disciplines. Getting schoolchildren to be fascinated by science is a huge kick. After all, they’re the ones who will take it to the next level.”
“We have a nerve that keeps us together.”

Ann Holmlid loves to influence. As a student she got involved, and was the youngest person ever to join the University Board. The “inner life” of the university has been her arena ever since, always with the relationship between students and management at the top of her agenda.

“I’m extremely proud of this profound trust – as far as I know it hasn’t developed this far at any other university. Engaged students raises the quality of everything we do, I’m convinced of this.”

As administrator the challenge is to meet the efficiency requirements in a way that enables students and staff to advance themselves as well as the operations, and to ensure that there is space for people’s ideas and creativity – despite the size of the organisation.

It’s a challenge, but it simply has to work. Ann calls this being both sharp and warm at the same time.

“Our strength and competitive advantage is all the resources that are devoted to teaching and research. And it’s from here that we can build engagement. We built this together, and we’re going to keep doing that.”
“I always wanted to give my lectures first thing Monday morning. Great to start the week by meeting the students!”

Ingemar Ingemarsson came to LiU in 1971 and at 32 years of age was the university’s youngest professor. During his career he has conducted successful research in information theory, started the IT programme and co-founded the company Sectra. Still, Ingemar always considered himself first and foremost a teacher, whose goal was to revolutionise the engineering programmes and positioning them in a global context.

“We have to help ensure that people get an education, and supply society with students who take humanity forward. A well-educated – not necessarily highly educated – population is a prerequisite of a true democracy. Actually, why is there not a Nobel Prize in Teaching?”
“Injustice makes me courageous.”

Maria Jenmalm suddenly realised there were more young researchers than herself who were being held back by chaotic career paths and insecure working conditions. The vice-chancellor supported her commitment, and in 2007 Junior Faculty was founded, to address the wishes and needs of early career researchers.

“A brilliant decision! It would be a disaster if these highly motivated people decided to quit the research world. For the university and society as a whole, nurturing young talent is a matter of sustainability. We have to make use of all available capacity and help each other, if we are to find solutions to complex problems – in time.”

Maria’s research field is no exception.

“I want to be able to predict which children will be allergic, and find ways of preventing allergies. It’s urgent, with one in three Swedish children experiencing allergic symptoms.”
Mats “Raggar’n” (The Greaser) Claesson has worked at LiU for 30 years. Studying here has never been an option, but helping the staff at Campus Valla is high on his list.

“People say academics are a bit different. Some even think you can’t joke with them, but that’s not true. I have to say I like them. I’ve had hilarious times with some of them over the years.”

One of Mats’ favourite co-workers is Gun Mannervik. When she retired a few years ago, all she wanted was a ride in his ’57 Plymouth. And she got it.

“Universities aren’t for me.”
To enable individuals to take on the challenges of the day.
Every year we enable thousands of students to attain relevant skills, we conduct world-leading research and our collaboration with the public and private sectors is intensive and fruitful.

But this is not enough for us. The aim of our existence is even more significant; our reason for getting out of bed in the morning is far more critical.

Linköping University exists so that it can use new ideas and concrete opportunities to aid the evolution of societies worldwide. Building a durable world is our goal. Allowing people close to us to build upon their inherent strength and equipping them with knowledge-based tools is our method.

This is why we want the best students in the world to choose our programmes. This is why we want the best researchers in the world to come to our campuses. This is why we want the best companies and organisations in the world to collaborate with us.
“We took every chance.”

The university’s journey is also Mats Arwidson’s. In 1968 he studied here in minimally equipped sheds. On his retirement day 46 years later, his business card said Deputy University Director.

“Claiming that there was a special Linköping spirit might be snobbish, but that’s how it was. We were bold and curious, we took hold of our problems and solved them. Free from traditions, we created a modern organisation that could rapidly incorporate new ideas we had seen abroad, such as TEMA. And most of all, we were happy to close ranks and work together to achieve results. The joy and the atmosphere when the Faculty of Health Sciences was established – I’ll never forget that!”

Developments in the 1970s, 80s and 90s laid the groundwork for the LiU of today. Mats is proud of this, but also a bit concerned.

“Maybe it’s going too well. We have to keep refusing to rest on our laurels.”
Anna Söderström is coordinator at the Information and Communication Technologies Studio – rooms filled with every kind of technical equipment. It’s a place where students and teachers can discover new ways of learning and teaching.

“Actually I’m not interested in technology, but I’m fascinated by what we can do with it. So many opportunities for learning! Clever young people are expected to be on top of this stuff. And teachers too.”

Anna firmly believes that using technology creatively doesn’t have to do with price or version.

“It’s a myth that you always have to buy more and more new stuff. Learning to use what you have is an excellent start.”

This applies at Anna’s home as well. This weekend she’s off to a flea market.

“Technophobia? Get over to the ICT Studio.”
When we understand, we can change.”

Peter Hedström has been driven by the same vision ever since he was a doctoral student at Harvard. In 2014 he came to Campus Norrköping to establish his dream project: the Institute for Analytical Sociology.

“Finally I’m able to build up the research field I’ve been passionate about for so long. And it seems natural that it happens here. I realised right away that LiU is special; here there’s an acceptance for unusual solutions when they benefit operations.”

The aim is to better understand what it is that guides societal development, for instance what gives rise to phenomena such as segregation. With new methods for analysing enormous volumes of population data it’s possible to achieve understanding and change, for society as well as for the university.

“I see that we can take a position of global leader in computational social science. It’s research at the borderlands of social science and computer science, which of course is one of our strengths.”
From hairdresser to counsellor to coordinator at the Psychology Programme – Marie Delsander’s pathway to Student Health Services was not a clear one, but turned out perfect for her. And for our students.

Every year over one thousand students need support to manage university life. To finish their studies, to overcome various challenges and occasionally, to survive at all.

“I meet young people every day with massive potential and all the talent in the world. We can’t let them be held back by anxiety or things like that, we have to help them make progress. It’s our mission. And seeing desperation turn into smiles, that’s my reward.”

“To help a single person is to succeed.”
Michael Hörnquist is a physicist who teaches mathematics, does research in biology, collaborates with senior secondary schools and has the titles of professor, deputy head of department, and director of studies at the Department of Science and Technology. But he calls himself an odd-jobber and wishes he could devote more time to meeting students.

“Universities are about knowledge and personal development, and for me also about the joy of seeing other people grow. Being selected Teacher of the Year a few years ago was a surprise, but of course it also made me very proud.”

Michael’s aim is to create a place where both students and teachers find education, personal development and intellectual stimulation. Helping students develop into creative problem solvers – with capacity for analysis, an awareness of the importance of a sustainable society and a sense of every person’s equal value. This is what makes him happy. Truly happy.
The new Campus Valla is underway, to the delight of University Architect Karolina Ganhammar.

“Lots of people wonder if we could really afford to build a new student building. I wonder if we could afford not to. Offering attractive, supportive and innovative study and work environments is one of the things that makes us more competitive. And because we always try to take care of our students, this project makes perfect sense from that point of view as well. Because they want to be on campus around the clock!”

Karolina explains that the new student building will reflect the welcoming, open, intelligent climate that has kept her commuting from Jönköping for six years – so far.

“Prestige has been banished from the building – from the day it’s opened.”
“We have to be best.”

“It doesn’t matter what your job is, each and every one of us helps the university achieve its goals. Human Resources becoming a strategic issue is absolutely the most important thing that has happened during my time here.”

HR Director Randi Hellgren first came to LiU in 1972 – to study. More than 40 years later she is more involved in the university and happier with her job than ever.

“I’m privileged. There isn’t a single day where I don’t leave work with new challenges to take on or new details to consider. I’m energised by all the exciting people, all the knowledge and skills I come in contact with. It’s completely fascinating. Still.”

Despite lots of interesting offers, there’s only one that can get Randi to leave her university – a holiday in the forests of northern Sweden.
“It’s what you do that counts.”

Image and reputation mean nothing here at LiU – what matters is how you perform. We have our graduation ceremony in an ugly conference centre, not a beautiful hall. That says it all.

Niclas Söör has certainly performed. He has been head of the Union of Technology and Science Students, where duties included organising its 40th anniversary, and been project manager for New Students’ Day. And that is just a few of all the projects he has worked on, and that actually influenced his choice of career. Niclas graduated from Industrial Engineering and Management, but looks forward to a future in the events and entertainment business.

“I hadn’t exactly planned on that. But our entrepreneurial spirit, and the atmosphere where you constantly try out new and different things rubbed off on me. Thank you, LiU!”
Eva Reimers is a pastor who became a professor in pedagogic practice. After a tough start, she has loved every minute along the way.

“I was refused employment in my church because I lived with a woman. Being discriminated against was a big blow, but it also gave me pathos for certain issues and opened the door to new opportunities.”

Alongside her research on baptisms and funerals, Eva has focused on gender, sexuality and class in school.

“I want to see an inclusive school that fuses society together and reduces inequality. A school that gives everyone the same opportunities in life – good ones. This is what I try to convey to my students.”

“My life has been a piece of cake.”
We are not traditionalists.
We are not newcomers.
We are innovators.
We have the same mission as all Swedish universities, but we have our own way of managing it. We are innovators. To achieve what we want, we push limits and challenge preconceptions about how a successful institute of higher education has to be.

We have always done this.
We always will.

When required, we’re ready to question what is familiar, champion creativity and fight off stagnation. It is not easy; it requires courage and resolve, but it gives us the energy to accomplish more.

This innovative spirit is very much our own – but of course it’s there for the whole world to see. Show it as often as you can!
"I never give up."

Ten million people in queues for a new cornea and declines in the donor register got May Griffith to devote her life to regenerative medicine. In 2009 she left Canada for LiU and more clinical studies, the warm weather (!) and her strong desire to do “something useful for others”.

It was a good decision. May’s team has developed the world’s first functioning human cornea, built from cells and nerves from the eye. Now more and more patients can return to work, live without pain and enjoy sunlight again.

“Looking ahead, regenerative medicine is the way of the future and naturally I want my team to be part of this. But what we do is extremely competitive and to succeed I need to be surrounded by the very best people. Finding these devoted individuals and making sure they’re happy, that’s my biggest challenge.”
Lisa Floxner’s enthusiasm is well known at the university. It’s obvious that she loves her busy job in customer relations at LiU Print.

“It’s always super urgent, so it’s extra fun when we’re still able to exceed the customer’s expectations. And of course, they do give us quite a few cakes.”

Working in a university environment makes her work more interesting and meaningful.

“I meet loads of fun people and it’s fascinating to tap into their expertise. The other day I read the latest research on corneas. Helping all this new research and knowledge reach the community is the single most important duty of the printing office.”
"Anything can be solved."

Vinod Pongolini left the Swedish west coast to study teacher’s training in 1998. Not primarily to be a teacher, but to put his own skills to the test.

“The training gave me the tools to manage in life. To see the pitfalls, to plan things and to communicate. To make my own decisions and be secure in them. I didn’t become a teacher, but I use my teaching skills every day.”

For eleven years Vinod has been the students’ hero at the Student Service Desk. Fairness and equality are his guiding lights and no student problem, no matter how small, is left to chance.
Entrepreneurship is visible. And it’s contagious!

Thirty-odd patents and a handful of successful companies – Fredrik Gustafsson is professor of sensor informatics and a perfect representative of our vibrant entrepreneurial spirit.

“I collaborate with many different industrial partners, and when basic research has led to suitable results I’ve created spin-offs. It’s a great way to make use of our expertise. And as a researcher, seeing my research results being used by the general public is hugely satisfying.”

Entrepreneurship has several benefits for LiU, Fredrik explains. It makes our research visible and can inspire other researchers. It can attract students by showing the close connection between education and employment. And it increases our links to industry and opportunities for graduation projects.

It could also improve our chances for seeing the “Big Five”. Fredrik’s sensor technology is currently being tested, with the aim of protecting Kenya’s endangered rhinoceros from poachers.
Psychology student Nils Isacsson was completely sure about his choice of education. But he was pleasantly surprised by LiU’s non-traditional teaching practices and regular use of PBL – problem-based learning. So pleasantly that he made films about how PBL works. “I love problem-based learning, it’s the highlight of my week. But I also noticed that lots of students didn’t see the educational idea behind it, and missed out on its benefits. This is why I made the films, and now I hope to be able to make more.”

But PBL isn’t the only thing Nils mentions, when he praises his programme. “We’re trained from semester one to constantly read new research, not just the introductory textbooks. Which I know sets us apart from other universities. That’s nice to know.”
“To understand and explain what no one else has understood previously. For a researcher this is the strongest motivator of all. We want to find new ideas, so we can understand complex circumstances and ultimately make things easier for people. Our research on LEDs and lasers is a step down this path, and our colleagues in the US and Japan being awarded the 2014 Nobel Prize in Physics is proof.”

Professor and graduate programme director Per Olof Holtz left Lund in 1983 and came to a university that he felt lacked boundaries and internal competition. And that offered the most important of all: freedom.

“Our ability to find new paths is strong, and in particular the interdisciplinary approach has influenced our teaching and research. When they head out into industry or the broader community, our graduates have several legs to stand on, which is a big advantage, I’m sure of that.”
“For students, knowing how to find information is vital to their results. The more teachers who devote a small portion of all their teaching time to an introduction to the library, the better results we’ll see. I’m certain of this.”

Kajsa Gustafsson Åman is library manager at the university library in Norrköping. With detective-style methods she helps frustrated students search for, and find, the right source of information. Because as she says while most of us like to find, librarians like to search.

But the library serves another, very important purpose.

“We’re the hub of the university, a neutral meeting place where everyone is welcome, where valuable networks form – across discipline boundaries. Of course I’m proud!”
“In fifteen years I’ll be a CEO.”

“No, no, not a doctoral student!”

Sara Magnusson is done with theory. She wants to get out into reality as soon as possible, and is already well on the way. Sara runs the Experiment Factory, which has science courses for children in elementary school, and a summer research school for young people, in collaboration with AstraZeneca.

The toughest challenge during her studies wasn’t the exams, it was being physically present when the exams were held. Combining studies and business wouldn’t have been possible without the university’s flexibility and the accommodating teachers, which she is very grateful for.

“Industrial Engineering and Management enabled me to work with what I enjoy – now I just have to make up my mind. Entrepreneur or engineer, that’s the question!”
"When I devote myself to something, I give 110%.”

Andres Nilsson was a top-flight badminton player when he decided to become a designer. He hasn’t lost his competitive spirit – in February he won a scholarship at Lammhults, just one of his successes as a student at Carl Malmsten Furniture Studies.

“Of course it’s fun when it goes well, but actually I do my best when it doesn’t. I’m a workaholic through and through, and I perform best when working towards unachieved goals.”

Andres refuses to be defined or placed in a particular genre. He constantly searches for new challenges, defying accepted truths and staying true to his multidisciplinary approach. A norm-breaking furniture series for the elderly is one of his latest projects.

“I thought about why furniture for seniors is so ugly, when everything we need can actually be made beautiful. Not until I get a smile back am I satisfied.”
“We hope that the students who leave here will improve and revitalise Sweden and the world in their field. And of course I do everything I can to help them along the way.”

If there’s anyone who knows the university’s operations inside out, it’s Inger Lindell. Today she’s senior faculty coordinator at the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, but when she arrived in 1976 it was to master an ultramodern automatic IBM typewriter.

“I had the job interview in the summer. The campus was deserted. Then a man came walking up, dressed in cut-off jeans and with a bunch of pearl necklaces around his neck. Oh, is that what students look like, was my reaction. It turned out he was the head of Human Resources. I thought: At this place you can be any way you like. And that’s still true.”

“Never have time to stagnate.”
Ameya Bhide came to Linköping in 2003 for his master’s. On completion he went back to India, before returning to the Department of Electrical Engineering in 2011, this time as a doctoral student with a clear vision.

“I want to make technology available to more people. In my country many people have never held an iPad in their hands. Cheaper, smarter technology would improve their lives, especially in terms of education.”

Ameya looks forward to returning to the Indian industrial sector in autumn 2015. To seeing his knowledge transformed into light, smart, inexpensive computers – or why not modern medical technology. Continuing as a researcher is not an option.

“No, now I want to put my knowledge to real use. I want to ensure that my ideas become reality, I want to create new products and see people using them. That will make me happy.”
“Seeing possibilities and daring to fail. I’m good at these things.”
Innovation is our only tradition.
A university that has decided to enable individuals to take on the challenges of the day must never grow complacent.

We promise to always be in motion.
We promise to always promote openness and interaction across all types of boundaries.
We promise to encourage each other’s creativity and vision.
We who work here. We who study here. Together we are Linköping University, and innovation is our only tradition.
“Revolutionising the Swedish postal system was exciting.”

When Rolf Adell left the military in 1971 to work at LiU as building manager, no one – especially not himself – could imagine he would build up the services we have today.

“It has been a journey from nothing. When we started, the phone exchange was a black Bakelite phone hanging on a string. A few years later we were handling 10,000 postal items a day, and we had to bring everything from living frogs and pigs to enormous supercomputers through customs.”

The volume of mail was a huge challenge. One day in the supermarket queue he had a stroke of genius – instead of manual stamping, his idea was to use bar codes, a method which later was introduced at every mail handling facility in Sweden. The university’s car pool, with its eco-friendly cars, is also Rolf’s work.

“I received the LiU Environmental Award in 2014. Of course I’m proud, but I didn’t do it alone. Fellow workers are always the most important resource. Soon it’s time to phase out myself, and let them continue this exciting journey.”
“Why do we have a university?”

“The knowledge generated here must be implemented in reality, and benefit others. Otherwise it doesn’t matter how much research we do.”

After her master’s, occupational therapist Moa Yngve was appointed project manager at LiU’s Innovation Office, with a focus on the Faculty of Health Sciences and counselling for its students.

“I’m driven, always trying to support others, make their process easier and help them achieve their goals. Getting creative students to move their ideas forward, and understand that it’s not always about starting a company, but about improvement. In their case, improvements for the patients.”

As for Moa, her next five years will be spent as a doctoral student, investigating how technical aids can help high school students get through school.

“I know what I’m going to do. Find solutions that change things – hopefully people’s lives.”
“Each of us knows a little. Together we know tons!”

“The human body is very complicated. To find the solutions we’re looking for, researchers from the whole world have to work together.”

Jaya Prakash Chalise came to LiU for the opportunity to carry out biomedical research and to develop new types of medicines. His dream is to one day see a finished medicine that can cure rheumatoid arthritis. This disease today affects about one per cent of the world’s population – but the number of patients is increasing constantly.

“Working for all people’s happiness, for me that’s what being a researcher is. And thanks to LiU, I’ll have the privilege of continuing to do research, anywhere in the world.”
Sofie Alexandersson, head of cleaning service, has never hesitated when faced with a new challenge. On the contrary.

At the age of just 24, in 1994, she was given a leadership role where she had to tell the “old ladies” how to do their job.

“I’ve always stuck my neck out. Now one of my goals is to lift the status of service and cleaning. You often hear that anyone can clean, but I know that’s not true.”

A long-time champion of sustainability, Sofie started the waste separation system at LiU, and ensures that we maintain our green certifications.

“Cleaning isn’t a highly educated profession, the Waste Group has no academic status and we don’t attract research funding. But we’re an important part of the machinery, I know that.”
Stefan Jonsson is professor at REMESO – the Institute for Research on Migration, Ethnicity and Society. He is worried about many things – but he’s also happy to be able to influence new generations of world citizens.

“I believe we must scrutinise the prevailing order, I believe the university must be a place where people learn to question historical narratives. This is the basis of a more enlightened, democratic future and it’s incredibly important that we preserve this.”

With his extensive experience of both academia and the cultural sphere, he stresses the importance of pushing the established academic boundaries from time to time.

“You have to work crosswise to solve complex problems. Everyone knows this, but only an interdisciplinary, humanistic, social science setting like ours has the potential to do it.”
You can’t just talk about visions, you have to do something.”

Helena Carlewald is study and career adviser at the Department of Behavioural Sciences and Learning. She loves coaching, has loads of ideas on how to motivate students and is driven by making them more than simply employable. Boosting their self-confidence and encouraging them to find the place in the labour market that suits them best.

Helena’s department is the only one that works with career counselling in groups, and the waiting list is long. Meeting her means a lot to the students – and vice versa.

“Today it’s rare that young people get to meet someone who has time to listen to them. Joining them on a short bit of their journey through life, hearing their thoughts and helping them understand themselves a bit better, these are the best things about my job.”
“Everything has to get a bit better, all the time.”

From blogging poker player to communications officer at the Faculty of Health Sciences – Johan Jäger has found his place. Here, as with the rest of his life, what drives him is the ability to change things for the better.

“My job is to describe the world in a way that’s easily understood and factually correct, while also attracting motivated students – who will graduate and go on to build a better healthcare system.”

He praises the open, trusting and supportive atmosphere where he soon felt secure enough to question what he saw could be developed, well, into something better.

“Who am I off the job? A connoisseur in search of the perfect bolognese sauce.”
“The more famous you are, the better you do.”

“It doesn’t matter how big or small we are, the important thing is that people can find what we publish. Why do research if your results aren’t seen?”

David Lawrence maintains that there is a direct correlation between dissemination of research results and international ranking. As chief editor of LiU Electronic Press he stresses the importance of making all the good work that is done at the university visible – and especially – searchable.

“What motivates me is to ensure that the research that’s conducted here is seen internationally. And as a mid-sized Swedish university, we have to work a little harder to succeed with this.”

Which David has done. LiU is best in Sweden at making its publications accessible.
“Design should drive change. Our skill is listening and visualising ideas, it’s creating furniture and settings that make people feel good, based on aesthetic, ergonomic and sustainable perspectives.”

Kersti Sandin Bülow is professor of design and she knows from experience what she’s talking about. Throughout her career she has successfully influenced people and their environments, and has been involved in everything from design exhibitions to government work.

She is passionate about raising the status of design as society advances, and she has great faith in every one of the university’s students. This is impossible to overlook.

“I want them all to understand what has to be improved, and how they can contribute in this process. In this respect the academisation of the design field is a positive. We are better structured and better at explaining what we’re doing, which is a must if we are to have an influence.”

“We’re not decorators, we’re doers.”
3-7 JUNI ONS - FRE 12 - 18, LÖR - SÖN 12 - 16
Carl Malmsten - furniture studies, Renstiernas gata 12
www.studentsofmalmstens.se

Inspiration och försäljning

CARL MALMSTENS SKOLA
presenterar 1998 års skap

Oj!

Fint
Praktiskt
Verktygsskäp

MALMA HÖG

MY ALVA II

(Mounted: Boat, Ship, Nautical)

(Various knives and tools)

(Artistic illustration of a totem pole)

(Mounted: Abstract geometric art)
40 years of innovation.
Right from the start, innovation was an integral part of what would become Linköping University in 1975. And it still is. Here are just a few examples of when we have thought in new ways, done things differently and chosen untested pathways.

1975
Linköping University, which had already broken new ground with an engineering programme in industrial engineering and management when it was still a university college, starts Sweden’s first engineering programme in computer science.

1980
The Department of Thematic Studies – TEMA – is formed. It organises research into interdisciplinary themes, such as technology and social change and water and environmental change, an innovation in the Swedish research world.

1986
The Faculty of Health Sciences is opened. It is the first in Sweden to use problem-based learning in healthcare training, and first in the world to have student-managed training wards, where students care for real patients.

1997
Campus Norrköping is opened in the town’s old industrial precinct. Several interdisciplinary programmes are started, including Culture, Society and Media Production, which are not offered anywhere else in the country.

2000
Carl Malmsten Furniture Studies, with its excellent programmes, becomes part of Linköping University, giving the school’s expertise in design and crafts an academic superstructure.

2005
Linköping University is first in the country to establish a senior lecturer in gender issues at each faculty. The aim is to increase diversity and gender equality, and to integrate gender perspectives into the programmes.

2002
Knowledge in medical imaging and visualisation is gathered at the CMIV research centre, a new type of environment with researchers, technicians and doctors in tight collaboration, close to the patients.

2011
Europe’s most precise electron microscope goes operational, for use in materials research.

2013
We are first in Sweden to have faculty-wide courses where students develop business ideas.

2014
Linköping University gets Sweden’s, Europe’s and probably the world’s first professor of environmental logistics.
Linköping University was born in an era of opportunity. Decades of industrial prosperity had delivered a welfare state and social model that were admired worldwide.

Further success beckoned – provided Sweden could produce enough well educated people to spearhead its workforce. Assisted by generous state-funded student loans, the next generation was ready to sign up en masse for higher education.

There was just one problem: the universities were full. So, in late 1967, a group of young, ambitious academics agreed to leave promising positions and seek new careers on the plains of Östergötland.

They were an eclectic bunch, but all shared the same goal: to drive Sweden’s welfare-based society forward through education, research and a spirit of cooperation. So we knew what we wanted to do. We just didn’t know how.

We had no foundations to build on, no pillars to lean against. Sometimes we even lacked heated buildings. But we believed strongly in our mission: to challenge the university system; to open up academia; to share knowledge; to reform research and be a natural part of society and the business sector.

Working alongside our students, we gave it all we had. Problems became opportunities. Small became large. Openness to other disciplines gave our ideas the strength to reach far beyond the muddy soil beneath our feet.

We were united in our ambition to revitalise Swedish higher education. Which is exactly what we did.

In 1975 we became Linköping University. Twenty years later we moved beyond our home city to embrace Norrköping, making the entire region our own.

In the 1970s our interdisciplinary programmes were controversial; today they are prestigious and highly regarded.

Our idea of conducting research across academic boundaries caught on and has since proved an excellent method to address complex problems.

Our well-honed innovation systems not only deliver eye-catching results; they also make them relevant and attractive to domestic and international markets alike. Our students are highly sought-after by employers and command good salaries.

Of course we are proud of what we have achieved. But most of all we believe strongly in what we do.

Enabling individuals to take on the challenges of the day is, and will forever be, our ultimate goal. For this reason, innovation is our only tradition.